

Celebrate the new year with brand new perennials



**NICOLE HACKETT
GARDEN GIRL**

Happy New Year, Clayton Valley gardeners! This year holds many surprises for our yards and gardens in the form of great new perennial selections to try in 2008. Terra Nova Nurseries and Proven Winner Growers, as well as Flower Fields, have all been busy breeding the newest of the new perennials for our yards and gardens.

I love the new introductions. Some prove themselves to be spectacular, and a few forget to read their own tags to see what they are supposed to do. But overall, searching for and eventually planting a new introduction is exciting for any level of gardener.

There is a new **campanula** on the scene in 2008. This perennial does great in our climate and soils. The new kid on the block is the campanula called *Blue Eyed Blonde*. The initial description claims that this perennial can take full sun in our zone. However, to be on the safe side, give slight protection from late afternoon summer sun.

Blue Eyed Blonde has brilliant gold foliage and 1-inch blue bell shaped flowers that stand on stems over the base of the plant. Install this selection among your hardy geraniums, like Johnson's Blue or Rosanne; the punchy foliage color will make the other blues pop. Do not over-water this or any campanula; they like to dry out slightly between waterings.

Heuchera Georgia Peach is another new introduction. It does best in mostly sunny spots, with some shade during the afternoon. Those of you who know of the fancy leafed coral bells will be excited by the newest selection. Georgia Peach has huge, peachy colored leaves, with a showy white overlay and large lush growth, almost hosta-like in size, but as evergreen as a shrub. Plant this heuchera in



HEUCHERA GEORGIA PEACH

rich soil that is not heavy in clay. You will need to amend the hole for this selection. Use this selection with your delphiniums; the evergreen foliage will compliment the herbaceous delphinium, and the subtle white blossom of the Georgia Peach will not clash with its spiking color.

Those gardeners that crave a tropical look in their gardens

should keep their eyes peeled for the newest bears breech in town. **Acanthus Tasmanian Angel** has striking bold leaves with white margins resembling a philodendron of sorts. This aggressive perennial forms large clumps that may reach 4 feet wide and tall at the time of bloom. Ornamental flower stalks of pink and cream appear in late summer. Often the *Bears Breech* will go dormant in early fall and return during the spring rains. Therefore, you need not worry about the frost with this tropical looking selection.

Lavender is a commonly planted shrub in Clayton Valley landscapes, and there is a new one this year. *Ob La Lavender Red* has a compact growth with a powerful bloom. This fragrant shrublet makes a great middle in a bed or filler in a container. The recognizable foliage is both heat and drought tolerant, and the flower is a dark crimson cluster that will have all your garden friends wondering where you got such a find.

Every year we have a new **Echinacea** to enjoy. This year, there is *Purity*. This robust white cone flower has the potential to be a star in any full sun, cut flower garden. Pristine white blooms reach 4-5 inches across on sturdy stems; expect over 25 large blossoms after a year of establishment. One big mistake with the cone flowers is our desire to over-water these perennials. Once established, coneflower will be fine with water every second to third day during the summer months. Too



ACANTHUS TASMANIAN ANGEL

much water means early dormancy or rot. Be careful to install all coneflower in a drought-tolerant garden.

Hellebores have long been an evergreen perennial for the true plant collector. This year introduces *Mellow Yellow*, a new solid yellow selection with lots of promise. The breeders at Terra Nova Nurseries have been working on a yellow helleborous for 15 years. This is the year of the Hellebores. Install this selection in the shade of your garden, and protect it from any afternoon sun. Prepare yourself to pay dearly for this evergreen perennial. Common hellebores can set a gardener back \$12-\$18; it will be interesting to see how

expensive this selection initially is.

Brandywine Viburnum is a new selection for the colorful berry lovers. This deciduous selection comes from a family that has long been common in Clayton Valley yards and gardens. Brandywine has a beautiful berry display of green, vivid pink and blue, all on the same plant. This shrub has an upright habit, and needs full sun with a little room. Brandywine Viburnum eventually becomes a hedge. Another bonus is the fall color, a definite crowd pleaser.

Cerveza n'Lime plectranthus is a new selection of Swedish ivy great for your hang-

ing basket or trailing plant needs. Soft foliage and a pleasant fragrance make this selection even more appealing. The name is also clever and easy to remember. This perennial is heat and drought tolerant, as well as deer resistant. Green leaves have yellow overtones, nice texture to heavy bloomers.

The new year holds lots of opportunity to extend your garden's palate. Keep you eyes open for the new introductions. Happy gardening.

Nicole is the Garden Girl at R&M Pool, Patio, Gifts and Garden Contact her with questions, comments or suggestions at gardengirl@claytonpioneer.com

Discover The Possibilities With Lynne French



Concord \$689,980

Pine Hollow Estates – This wonderful, richly updated 4BD/2.5BA w/over 2,100 s.f located at the top end of road enjoys privacy, with no homes in front or behind. New fencing, beautiful pool. Master w/double doors & family room w French doors & fireplace.



Concord \$639,980

Chapel Hills – Private drive back to this 4BD/2.5BA "Tahoe-style" home with nearly 2,000 s.f. Huge, gorgeous redwood deck and lovely stone patio areas in back. Inside is luxurious with bright, open rooms and an updated kitchen with granite. Great windows & views!



Concord \$544,980

Clayton Valley Highlands – Upgraded 3BD/2BA w/nearly 1,700 s.f. features expanded master suite w/elegant bath incl. jetted tub. Recessed lighting, neutral paint, raised panel doors & spacious bedrooms w/mirrored closet doors. Inside laundry & poss. RV Prkg.



Concord \$479,980

A 10+ Property – Remodeled 4BD w/fantastic curb appeal! This gardener's paradise has an eat-in kitchen w/newer cabinets, stainless appliances, stone counters. Refinished hardwood floors & designer paint add class to living & dining rooms warmed by a fireplace.



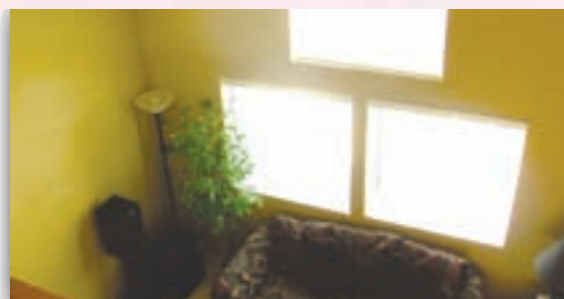
Concord \$399,000

Ayers Ranch – Great location & endless possibilities! 3BD/2BA home has a roomy kitchen and large dining area with new vinyl, and an open family room w/fireplace. Front and back lawns are amply sized and out the back door you have a large covered patio & storage.



Pittsburg \$376,000

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Concord \$335,000

Newhall Village – Rare condo w/attached 2-car garage! Gorgeous 2BD/1BAw/vaulted ceilings, oversized windows, updated flooring & paint + inside laundry. Open living space makes this home light & bright 2-story feel like a townhome. Call Shelly Gwynn (925) 207-3069.



Concord \$310,000

La Terraza Condo – Completely remodeled 2BD/1BA upper unit has a large balcony w/storage & great view of pool & greenbelt. Kitchen offers maple cabinets & granite counters; bath w/dual marble vanity; master has a walk-in closet. Convenient inside laundry a big plus!



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