

Newer Plants Showing Promise

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Agastache 'Queen Nectarine' – anise hyssop (Zone 5-9) Full Sun

Soft peach flowers with pinky purple calyces, 1¼ in. long, mid-June to frost; robust, upright habit, 33 in. tall × 36 in. wide; pollinator plant; well-drained soils

Ajuga 'Parrot Paradise' – bugleweed (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Yellow, orange-bronze, and green leaves, low, spreading habit, 6 in. tall × 24 in. wide; blue flowers in spring; partial shade in warm zones but grows in full sun with consistent moisture

Allium 'Lavender Bubbles' – ornamental onion (Zones 4-8) Full Sun

Dark purple flowers, 3 in. wide, late summer to early fall; twisty blue-green straplike leaves; 24 in. tall × 27 in. wide; darker flowers and later-blooming than 'Millenium'

Amsonia ciliata var. tenuifolia 'Verdant Venture' – fringed bluestar (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Light blue-violet flowers, mid-May to mid-June; 28 in. tall × 60 in. wide; dark green threadlike leaves; golden yellow fall color; new to the market from Chicagoland Grows®

Armeria pseudarmeria 'Dream Clouds' – pinkball thrift (Zone 5-9) Full Sun

White flowers, 1¼ in. wide, early June to mid-September; strong blooming selection; 11 in. tall × 12 in. wide; dense bushy mounds; DREAMERIA® series are heat tolerant and longer blooming than typical; 'Sweet Dreams' light lavender-pink, 12 in. tall × 17 in. wide

Astrantia major 'Sparkling Stars Pink' – masterwort (Zones 4-7) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Pink flowers, 2 in. wide, early June to September; medium green leaves and robust habit; 26 in. tall × 24 in. wide; prefers moist, well-drained soils; pollinator plant

Baptisia 'Blonde' – false indigo (Zones 4-8) Full Sun

Golden yellow leaves; ages to chartreuse; chocolate and yellow flowers, inflorescences to 8 in. long, late May to mid-June; 31 in tall × 42 in. wide

Betonica officinalis 'Summer Romance' – wood betony (Zones 4-8) Full Sun

Bright magenta-purple flowers; mid-June to mid-August with repeat bloom to October; 32 in. tall × 25 in. wide; dark green leaves; robust habit and especially floriferous; formerly *Stachys*

Calamagrostis 'Cheju-Do' – feather reed grass (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Green leaves with silvery hairs, soft texture; clumping, mounded habit; 32 in. tall × 50 in. wide; inflorescences ornamental from August onward and russet-tan in fall

Calycanthus ×raulstonii 'Dark Secret' – allspice (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Maroon flowers, 3 in. wide, prominently pointed petals; late spring to midsummer; darker flowers than 'Hartlage Wine'; 80 in. tall and wide after three years; expected to be 12+ feet tall at maturity

Echinacea 'Balsomsolst' – SOMBRERO® SUMMER SOLSTICE coneflower (Zones 4-9) Sun to Partial Shade

Yellow flowers with white bases and orange cones; 3¼ in. wide, June-October; compact, well-branched habits; 19 in. tall × 25 in. wide

***Eriocapitella japonica* 'Curtain Call Pink'** – Japanese anemone (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Rose-pink flowers, 2 in. wide, semi-double, mid-August to mid-October; 18 in. tall × 24 in. wide; good habit and size uniformity

***Geranium pratense* 'Boom Chocolatta'** – cranesbill (Zones 4-8) Partial Sun to Full Sun
Blue-purple flowers, 1½ in. wide, early June to mid-August; dark bronze overlay on green leaves, darkest before flowers open; bushy upright habit, 32 in. tall × 42 in. wide; best deadheaded

***Geum* 'TNGEUPP' – PRETTICOATS™ Peach** avens (Zones 4-9) Full Sun
Peachy flowers (yellow with pink and peach tones), semi-double, 1½ in. wide, mid-April to mid-June; exceptionally floriferous; compact mounded habits; 14 in. tall × 18 in. wide

***Heuchera* 'Wildberry'** – coral bells (Zones 4-9) Full Sun to Full Shade
Pink flowers, late June to early September; glossy dark purple leaves; foliage color strongest in spring and fall; strong habit; 18 in. tall (10 in. to top of leaves) × 24 in. wide

***Hibiscus* 'RutHib3' – Head Over Heels® Adore** rose mallow (Zones x-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Pink flowers with red eye, 9 in. wide, overlapping petals, early August to early September; even flower coverage; beautiful foliage with silvery cast and burgundy highlights early; 60 in. tall × 64 in. wide

***Kniphofia* 'Lady Luck'** – red hot poker (Zones 5B-9) Full Sun
Chartreuse and creamy white flowers, 7 in. long, mid-July to frost; faded blossoms detract less than most other cultivars; 52 in. tall × 36 in. wide

***Nepeta* 'Bokratune' – NEPTUNE®** catmint (Zones 4-9) Full Sun
Dark purple-blue flowers, burgundy calyces, mid-June to early September; 30 in. tall and wide; robust uniform habits, long-blooming, pollinator-friendly

***Origanum* 'Drops of Jupiter'** – ornamental oregano (Zones 4-9) Full Sun
Purple-pink flowers with dark purple calyces, late June to mid-October; calyces colorful late; yellow to chartreuse leaves; stronger yellow in spring and fall; 33 in. tall × 48 in. wide

***Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Tiff PA5' – HUSH PUPPY™** fountain grass (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Light Shade
Pink to purple flowers, 6 in. long and 3 in. wide, early August to early November; compact habit, 56 in. tall × 56 in. wide; sterile selection

***Phlox* 'Fashionably Early Princess'** – phlox (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Fuchsia-pink flowers, late May to early August; some repeat bloom in late season; good mildew resistance; 25 in. tall × 40 in. wide

***Salvia nemorosa* 'Rose Marvel'** – wood sage (Zones 3-8) Full Sun
Dark rosy-pink flowers with burgundy calyces, 8 in. long, early June to late July, minor rebloom; significantly larger individual flowers than most wood sages; 17 in. tall × 31 in. wide

***Salvia yangii* 'Blue Steel'** – Russian sage (Zones 4-9) Full Sun
Dark lavender-blue flowers and purple calyces, mid-July to October; green leaves; 32 in. tall × 34 in. wide; seed cultivar that compared favorably to vegetative cultivars; formerly *Perovskia atriplicifolia*

***Sanguisorba hakusanensis* 'Lilac Squirrel'** – lilac squirrel burnet (Zones 5-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Purple-pink, nodding flowers, 6-8 in. long, late June to early October; attractive blue-green leaves; compact foliar mounds with tall, arching flower stems; 38 in. tall and wide

***Sanguisorba officinalis* var. *microcephala* 'Little Angel'** – burnet (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Purple-red flowers, ½ in. long, drumstick-like, early July to mid-August; gray-green leaves with creamy white margins; reversions noted but not serious; compact mounded habits, 7(13) in. tall × 21 in. wide

Spigelia marilandica – Indian pink (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Light Shade
Red and yellow flowers, 2 in. long, one-sided inflorescences, mid-June to late August including repeat bloom; dark green oval leaves; 24 in. tall × 22 in. wide; prefers moist soils; '**Little Redhead**' is a superior clonal selection with dark red flowers to 24 in. tall and wide; '**Ragin Cajun**' has orange flowers

***Stokesia laevis* 'Blue Frills'** – Stokes' aster (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Light Shade
Lavender-blue flowers, 3 in. wide, mid-July to mid-October; 22 in. tall × 24 in. wide; persistent in heavy soils and strong performer

***Symphotrichum* 'Billowing Pink'** – aster (Zone 4-8) Full Sun
Pink flowers, 1½ in. wide, late September to mid-November; 26 in. tall × 48 in. wide; dense mounded habit; hybrid cultivar of New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) and aromatic aster (*S. oblongifolium*); disease-resistant

***Symphotrichum ericoides* 'Snow Flurry'** – heath aster (Zones 5-8) Full Sun
Small white flowers, mid-September to late October; low, mounding habit, 8 in. tall × 48 in. wide

***Symphotrichum* 'Bridal Veil'** – hybrid heath aster (Zones 5-8) Full Sun
White flowers, ½ in. wide, late September to late October; 24 in. tall × 54 in. wide

***Vernonia* 'Summer's End'** – ironweed (Zones 4-8) Full Sun
Red-purple flowers, ⅝ in. wide, early September to mid-October; 42 in. tall and wide; highly resistant to powdery mildew and rust; more attractive to pollinators than other cultivars in series; drought tolerant

https://www.chicagobotanic.org/collections/ornamental_plant_research/plant_evaluation

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