

# Garden Inspiration

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**BEAUTY**  
*in detail*

**YOUR OUTDOOR IDEA BOOK**

**AWARD-WINNING GARDENS • NEW PLANTS FOR 2011**

Welcome to

# Garden Inspiration

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**Green for Life** celebrates the joys of living, being outdoors, and connecting you to Ontario's landscape, nursery and horticulture industry professionals — the members of Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association. We take great joy in beauty and stewardship, and Green for Life is our commitment to help you enjoy your living space.

The first stop on your green journey needs to be **www.landscapeontario.com**. Here you will find a wealth of information about living Green for Life. Browse our library of how-to articles to assist you with plant selection, design tips and answers to your questions. View outstanding and inspirational photos of landscapes, water features, gardens, lighting, and plants, all to inspire you in your own Green for Life dreams.

Connecting with Landscape Ontario's professional members as you search for a product or service is as easy as entering your postal code into our 'Contact a Company' page. Choose from landscape, maintenance, and snow management contractors; landscape designers; lawn care operators; garden

centre owners; arborists; interior landscapers; and irrigation and lighting contractors — the sector groups of professionals that comprise Landscape Ontario. These experts can help you with your Green for Life dream.

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# Garden Inspiration

Spring 2011

## Elements of garden design

*Inspiring gardens from the winners of this year's Landscape Ontario Awards of Excellence*

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*Shades of Summer Landscaping & Maintenance*

# Beauty, health, value



## **Ontario's landscape pros are in the business of enhancing family living, one property at a time.**

Their work is lovely, as seen in the pages that follow. That beauty draws families outdoors, for more fresh air and fun. And homeowners investing in upgraded landscaping enjoy the improvements, which enhance their home's value.

*Garden Inspiration's* pages feature winners from **Landscape Ontario's Awards of Excellence program.** The program recognizes creative design and excellent workmanship; expert judges award points on detailed criteria, and they consider excellence to be an absolute threshold. If no projects in a given category earn sufficient points, no winners for that category are announced.

Visit [www.landscapeontario.com](http://www.landscapeontario.com) to view more stunning Awards photos, under the Find a company tab. You may browse winners from years past, or search the Professionals Gallery; perennial borders, fences and theme gardens are examples of the many photo tags.

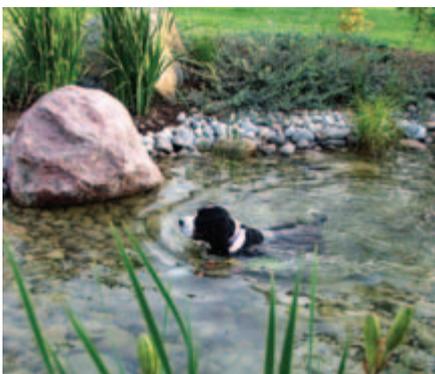
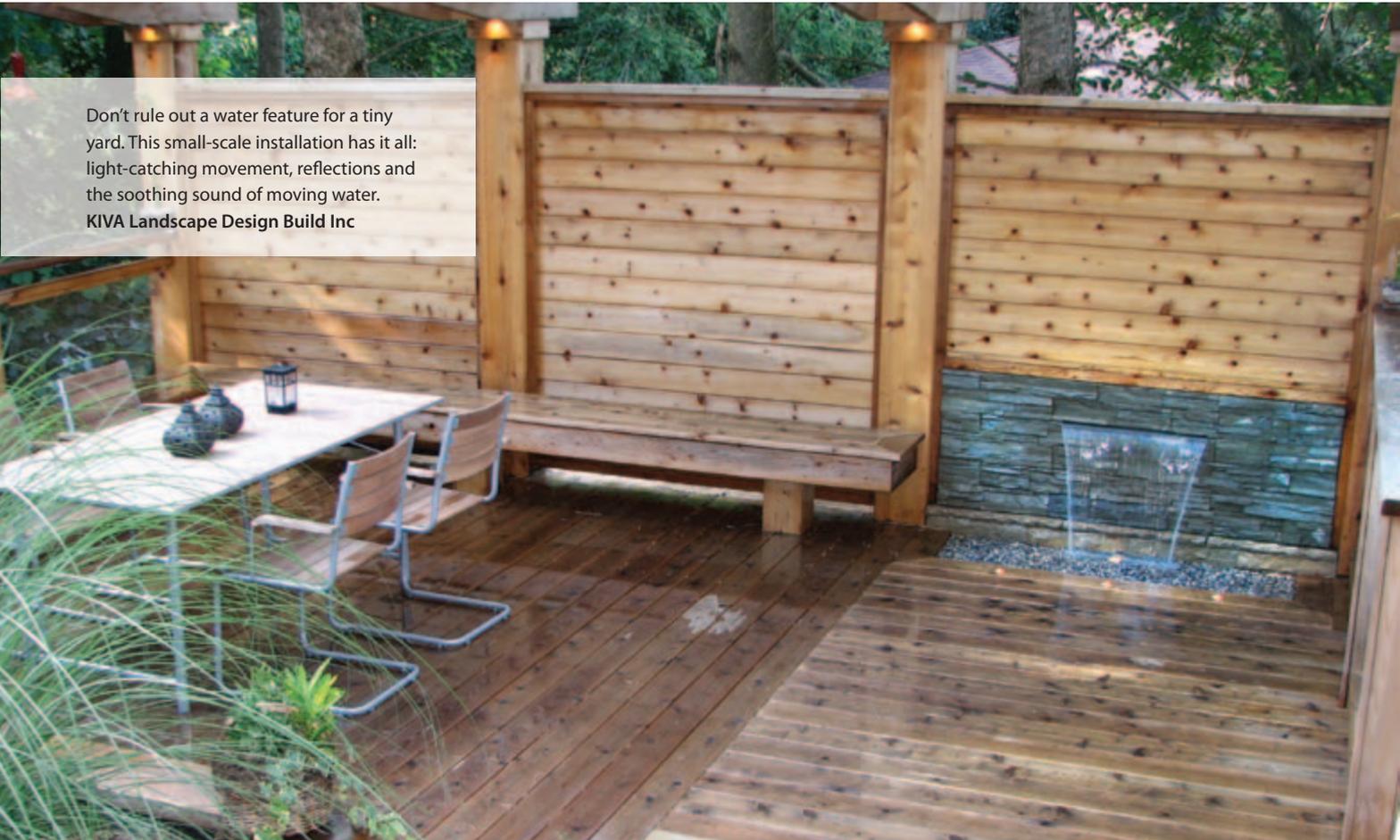
**Welcome to *Garden Inspiration* 2011.**

# Living water

Formal or casual, city or country, both garden designers and homeowners understand the appeal of water. As a garden element, water seems to have magic power to generate serenity.

Don't rule out a water feature for a tiny yard. This small-scale installation has it all: light-catching movement, reflections and the soothing sound of moving water.

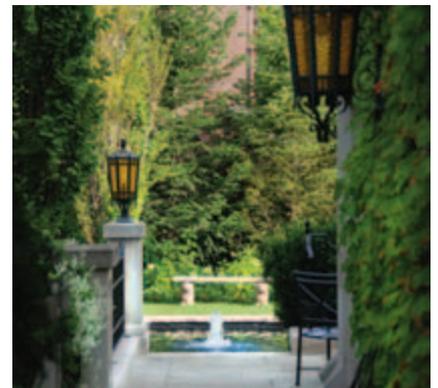
**KIVA Landscape Design Build Inc**



Where does nature stop and art begin? The designer has used fist-sized river rocks at the edge, that are equally interesting seen through the clear water, iris and shrubs; simple elements that evoke a trout stream.  
**Naturally Maintained Ltd**



Pond designers think about water as moving sculpture. Small installations use levels, shapes and proportions to make water come alive.  
**Yards Unlimited Landscaping Ltd**



Can you imagine this corner without the pool and bubbling fountain?  
**Oriole Landscaping Ltd**



# Pockets of colour

Annuals can have lots of impact, even on a small scale. Just use a few on a small deck or balcony to make a big statement. Whether your pockets are containers, window boxes or small beds, use a tip from the pros, and make it a point to fertilize every week or so — results are dramatic.



Bright red hibiscus, actually a woody tropical, adds extra punch to this windowbox.  
**Aden Earthworks Inc**



A beautifully-designed riot of colour and texture. The splash of red fuchsia in the urn stands out dramatically among the cool colours of this cottage-style garden. **Kent Ford Design Group**



Blue is rare in flowers; this collection of cobalt-blue planters creates a jewel-like effect. **Shades of Summer Landscaping & Maintenance**

# Coneflower explosion

*Echinacea*, a prairie native, is suddenly everywhere. Health claims aside, ornamental plant breeders have developed many new colours and forms of this easy-to-grow perennial.



A white cultivar holds its own against a wall of ornamental grass. Coneflower is not a dainty plant, but quite coarse and fibrous, a grassland survivor.  
**Eco Landscape Design**



*Echinacea's* tried-and-true rich magenta sets yellows off well. It can compete with weeds, making it a good choice for naturalized drifts of colour.  
**Gelderman Landscaping Ltd**



Cheery purple coneflowers and dwarf daylilies provide lots of show with tiny water requirements — both are happy in dry conditions. This homeowner looks to be a smart water conservationist.  
**R J Rogers Landscaping Ltd**

# Carpets of turf

Turf continues to be a soft, safe and popular outdoor surface, whether its purpose is for children, sports or to show a homeowner's pride.

Square-cut stones surround a fire ring; the sense of relief they provide is enhanced by the surrounding dense turf. **The Landmark Group**



This cool, green lawn provides a respite for the eyes and soul. Ontario's lawn care pros are using multi-pronged strategies, including fertilizer and aeration, to grow turf with strong pest resistance. **Shades of Summer Landscaping & Maintenance**



In even the smallest spaces, an expanse of green, healthy lawn rests the eye and complements surrounding plantings and structures.

**Land Effects Outdoor Living Spaces Ltd**



A formal koi pond and rill greet guests at the front of this home. The movement of the grasses, fish and water fascinate all who enter.  
**R J Rogers Landscaping Ltd**

# Grass as bones

Take a fresh look at perennial grasses; they can serve as the backbone of a landscape. Form, colour and texture is endless — and they can provide as much structural presence as a woody shrub. Dormant grass in the snow has special appeal. And if you don't like where your grass clump sits, just move it for the next season.



Sophisticated entrance features grass, but no turf. Fine-textured *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' is set off nicely by the taller, equally robust purple Russian sage.  
**Eco Landscape Design**



At least four grass cultivars contribute distinct sizes, colours and textures to create a rich and complex statement, using almost no flowers. Selections include *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Silberfeder' and 'Variegatus', *Pennisetum alopecuroides* and *Calamagrostis brachytricha*.  
**Earthscape Ontario**



The centrepiece of this planter is a new papyrus cultivar. Though not technically a grass, but a sedge, its bold, sculptural shape carries on the tradition beautifully.  
**KIVA Landscape Design Build**

# Light and air

Plants are more than alive; they move with the wind and change with the light. Add in fragrance, touch and taste, and understand how green spaces enhance your family's quality of life, every day and every season.



Anyone would call this nook beautiful on a cloudy day, but low afternoon sunlight makes it irresistible. The designer cleverly echoed the natural stones with hydrangeas.

**The Landmark Group**



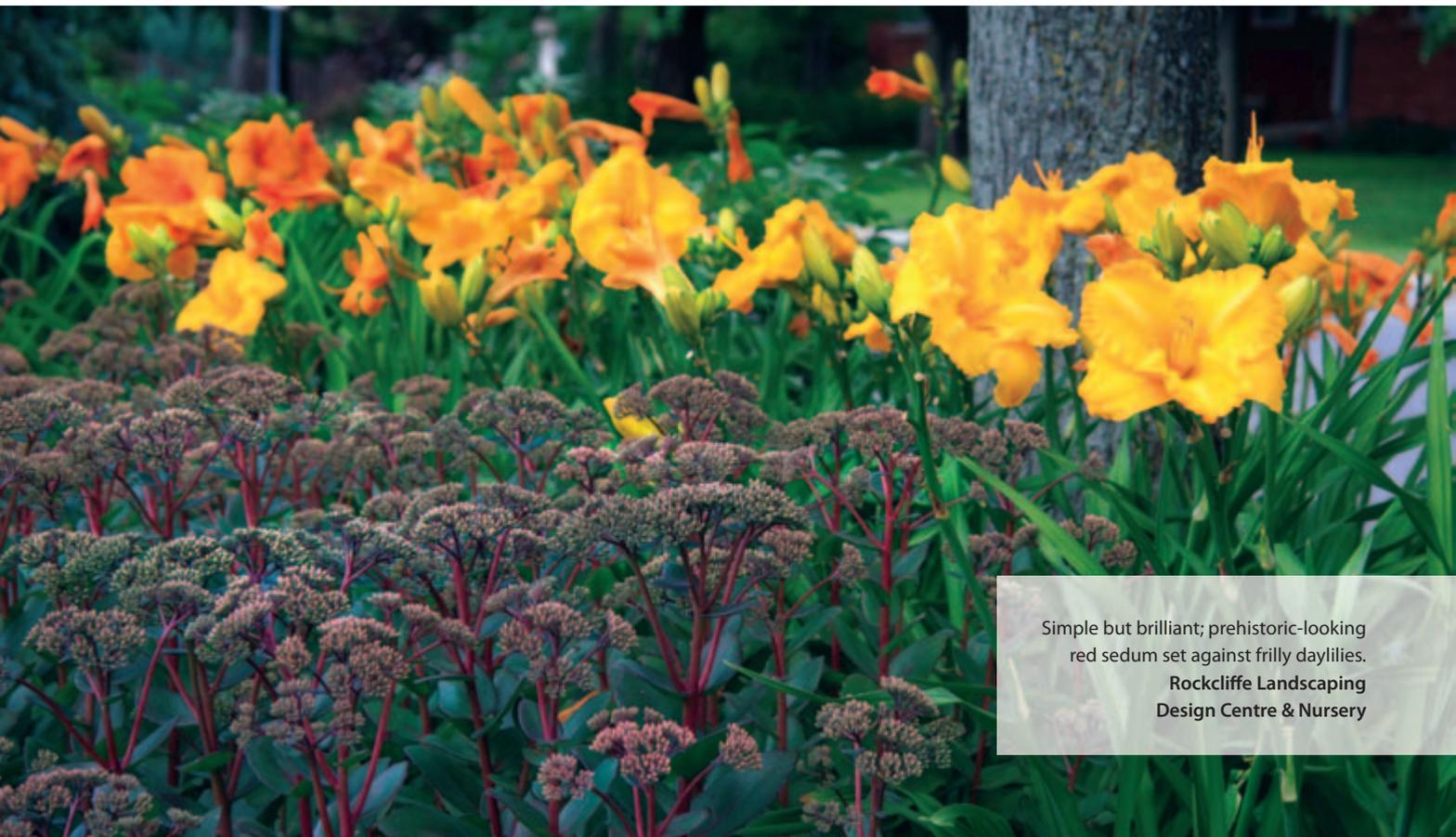
Light and shadow intensify colours and shapes; Mother-of-thyme on natural stone steps. **The Landmark Group**



Today's landscape designers take a page from theatre lighting pros and use light to create many moods in the night garden. **Griffith Property Services Ltd**

# Texture and shape

Why not think about feel and shape, before you consider colour? Even if you limit yourself to a few plants, you will never exhaust the design options.



Simple but brilliant; prehistoric-looking red sedum set against frilly daylilies.  
**Rockcliffe Landscaping Design Centre & Nursery**



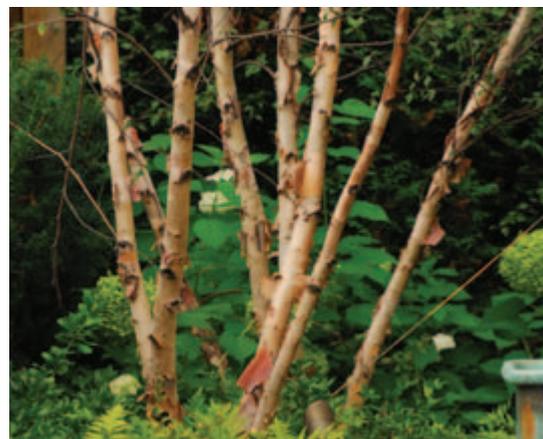
Feathery fountain grass defines spheres, as do the adjacent stones.

**Earthscape Ontario**



*Perovskia*, Russian sage, creates a robust texture in the landscape; enjoy its scent of sage.

**Eco Landscape Design**



River birch is prized for its bark. Note the light fixture at the base of the tree; these homeowners enjoy its texture at night, as well.

**Oriole Landscaping Ltd**

# New take on tradition

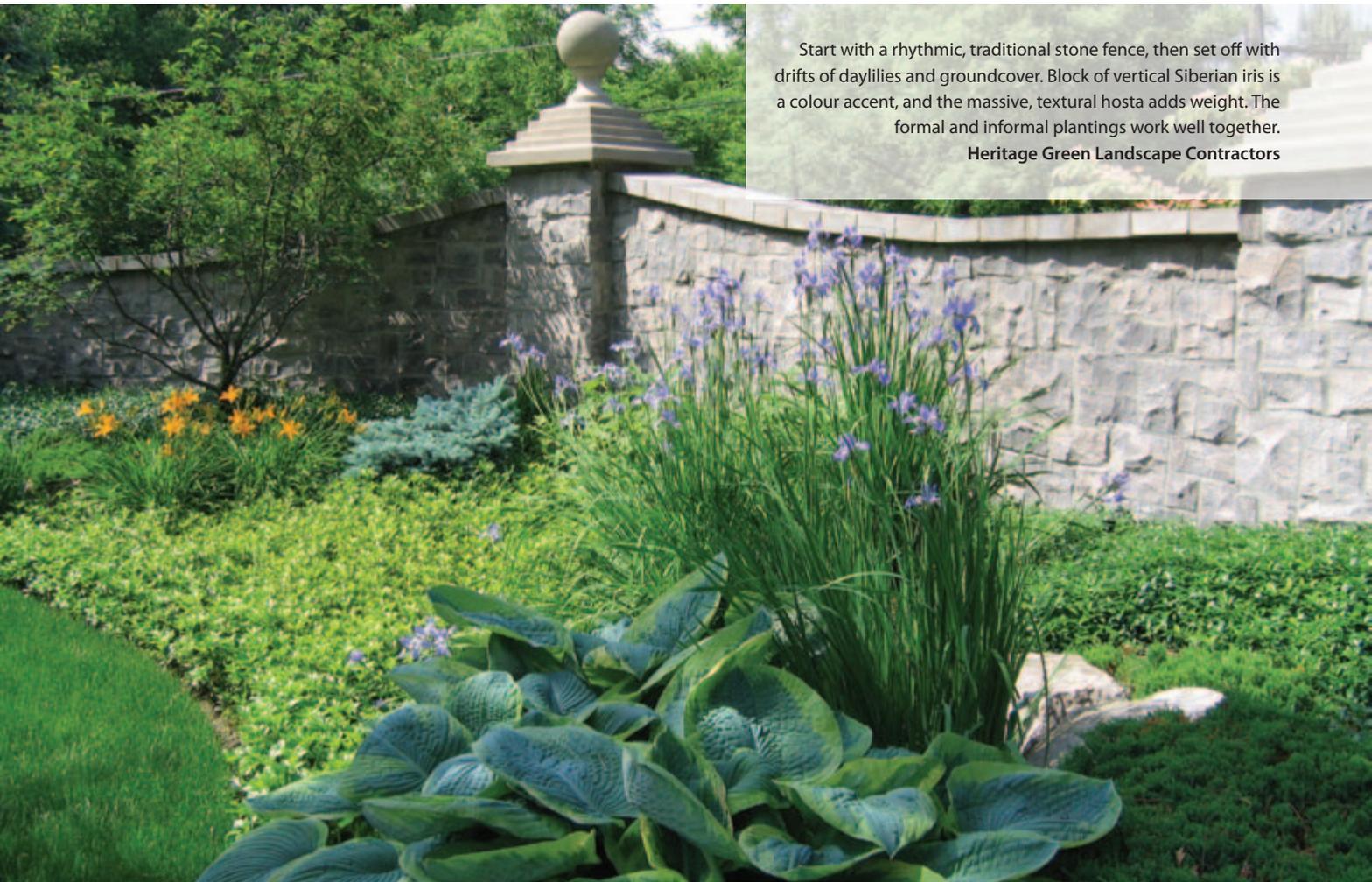
Fences, foundation plantings, beds and shrubs are often same-old same-old. A design pro can take the same elements and create a fresh, new statement. In all the photos, the hostas look exceptionally full and healthy, due to professional care and feeding rather than by accident.



Using only a golden chamaecyparis and variegated hosta, the designer created a corner with a fresh feel and interesting composition. **Snider Turf and Landscape Care Ltd**



Modern details make the difference with this intimate courtyard garden. The sound of water trickling down a stylized water feature created from stainless steel and copper blocks out the din of the city just feet away. **Inside and Out Garden Design**



Start with a rhythmic, traditional stone fence, then set off with drifts of daylilies and groundcover. Block of vertical Siberian iris is a colour accent, and the massive, textural hosta adds weight. The formal and informal plantings work well together. **Heritage Green Landscape Contractors**



An elegant marriage of paving, privacy and plantings. The screen becomes much more than a fence; it creates privacy very effectively, but lets light dapple through. While the structure is simple, when combined with evocative plantings the Oriental feel is unmistakable — enhanced by a restrained colour palette. **Aden Earthworks Inc**

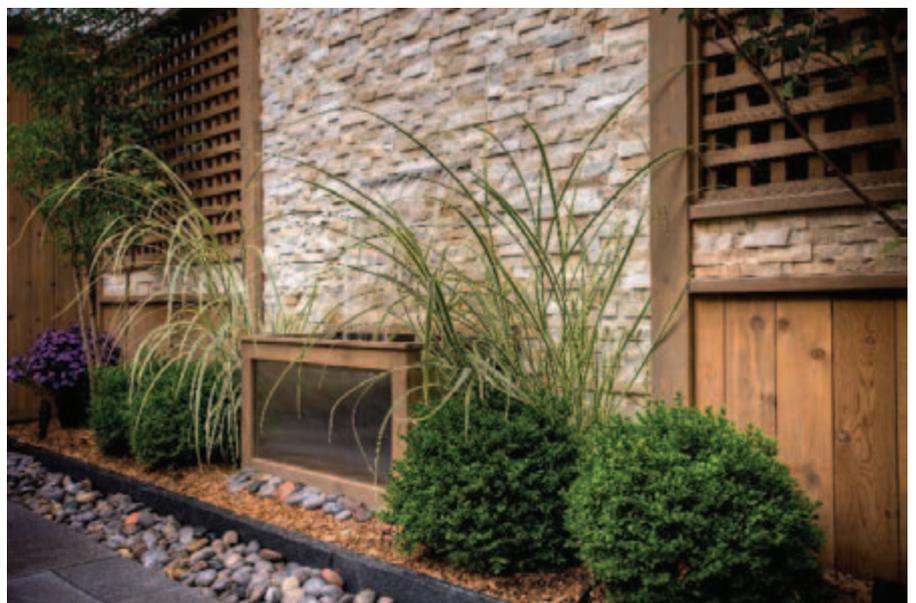
# Build and grow

Think about hard structures in your garden, and how plants complement them in a way that changes through the seasons.



This handsome entrance features a strong architectural statement, and entrance steps of fine materials, workmanship and proportions. Siberian iris and perennial geranium provide the colour, softness and light to complete the welcome.  
**R J Rogers Landscaping Ltd**

Dramatic centrepiece features sensitive hard structure: the stone panel with water weir, set off with lattice. Only expressive grass and boxwood are needed on each side to complete the composition.  
**Land Effects Outdoor Living Spaces Ltd**



# Trial gardens

## RATING THE NEW PLANTS

BY RODGER TSCHANZ, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH TRIAL GARDEN

Plant breeders worked overtime to develop some new black-flowered petunias, but how did they hold up in the unpredictable weather in Southern Ontario? Here's a look at some of the best performers trialed at the University of Guelph, Landscape Ontario in Milton and the Vineland Centre for Research and Innovation.



'Picnic Light Pink' petunia



'Supertunia Sangria Charm' petunia

### Petunias and Calibrachoa

'Picnic Light Pink' is a small-flowered petunia that is more compact and upright than trailing petunias such as the 'Wave' series. It has excellent rain tolerance and a prolific all-season long bloom habit. It is suitable for both container and ground bed applications.

'Supertunia Sangria Charm' and 'S. Indigo Charm' are the two colours in this new series of small flowered petunias. Of the two, Sangria Charm blooms more freely. This series is unique because of its exceptionally small flower size – a size approaching that of calibrachoa. Suitable for both ground bed and container applications; it has a moderately vigorous trailing growth habit and good rain tolerance.

The newly released 'black flowered' family of petunia includes 'Black Velvet', 'Pinstripe' and 'Phantom' and has received a lot of attention from visitors to the 2010 trials. 'Black Velvet' is the first all-black (very dark purple) petunia flower to reach the market although under very warm growing conditions the 'Black Velvet' flower may partially revert to the black and pale yellow star pattern of 'Phantom'. 'Pinstripe' has a fine white strip running the length of the petals. These plants will show best if protected from challenging weather conditions; all can be used in both ground beds and containers. Interplanting with contrasting colours (i.e. yellow, orange or white) may help bring out the uniqueness of this flower.

'Superbells Coralberry Punch and Blackberry Punch' are flowers with 'black eyes' and as such present a unique colour combination to the calibrachoa world; of the two, Coralberry Punch blooms the best.

### ***Pelargoniums* – annual geraniums**

The 'Calliope' and 'Caliente' series are examples of interspecific crosses between zonal and ivy type geraniums. 'Calliope Dark Red' was one of the best performers this year with its large inflorescence, continuous blooming and healthy foliage. It did well in both ground beds and containers under both high and moderate nutritional levels. The 'Caliente' series has a smaller inflorescence size but it is equally prolific in bloom. 'Caliente Orange' was one of the series with exceptional bloom performance.

'Frenza Hot Coral', is the new name for 'Schone Von Rheinberg Coral'. It is another interspecific geranium hybrid. The coral-coloured blooms are prolific and consistent throughout the summer. There are three colours in the 'Schone Von Rheinberg' series, all bloom well but the coral colour stood out for me in 2010.

The 'Horizon' series of seed-propagated geraniums (*Pelargonium*) has three new colours: 'Deep Red', 'Neon Rose' and 'Tangerine'. Of the three, 'Deep Red' had the best summer-long bloom performance; the 'Tangerine' colour is quite unique for a seed-propagated geranium.

### **Something different**

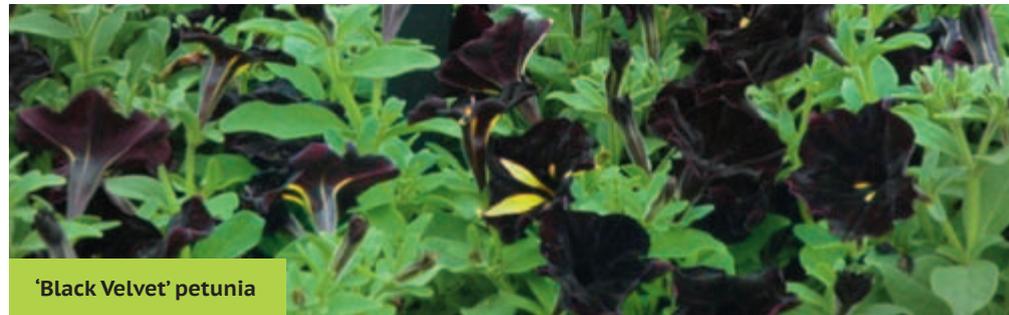
*Mecardonia* is a relatively new addition to the horticultural world. 'GoldDust' is the cultivar that was trialed in 2010. It is a mat-forming, ground-hugging plant with small dark green leaves that contrast nicely with its tiny golden yellow flowers. I grew this plant in both containers and ground beds with equal success. It is a relatively slow grower, so in mixed containers, it should have companions of equal vigour. In the ground this plant would look great trailing over rocks or along a gravel verge as long as the soil is moist.

'Spring Celebrities' is a series of hollyhock that blooms readily in the first year, producing multiple flower stalks throughout the growing season, never exceeding three feet in height. At this height it can be grown successfully in containers. Although susceptible to leaf rust, the quantity and quality of bloom remained the focus for the plant.

**Come see for yourself how this year's crop of new plants fares. The Trial Garden Open House at Landscape Ontario (7856 Fifth Line South, Milton), takes place on Saturday, August 13, 2011. Updates and more information can be found at [www.plant.uoguelph.ca/trialgarden](http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/trialgarden).**



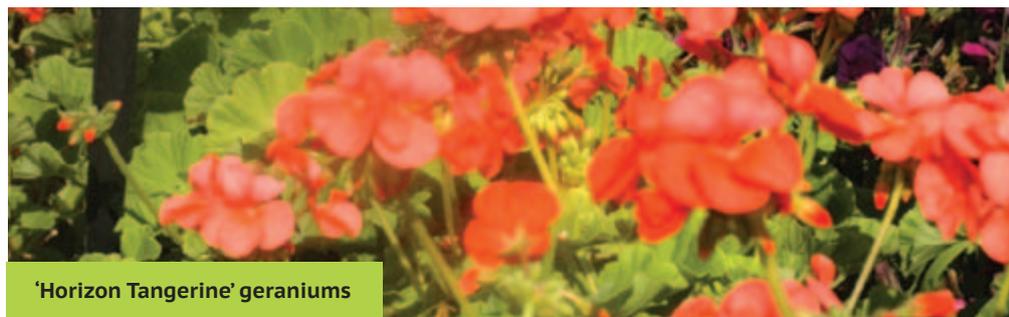
**'Pinstripe' petunia**



**'Black Velvet' petunia**



**'Superbells Coralberry Punch' petunia**



**'Horizon Tangerine' geraniums**



**'GoldDust' mecardonia**

# NEW INTRODUCTIONS 2011

Our exclusive new plants coverage is your first look at cultivars introduced to Canada this year. Plant breeders are finding ingenious ways to succeed with selective breeding, and to spark gardeners' imaginations. Who could resist getting excited about a spreading snapdragon, a double columbine or a deep-purple floribunda rose? First stop to buy the new introductions is a Landscape Ontario member independent garden centre; find one near you at [www.landscapeontario.com](http://www.landscapeontario.com).

## NEW Woody plants



*Clematis* 'Sunset'

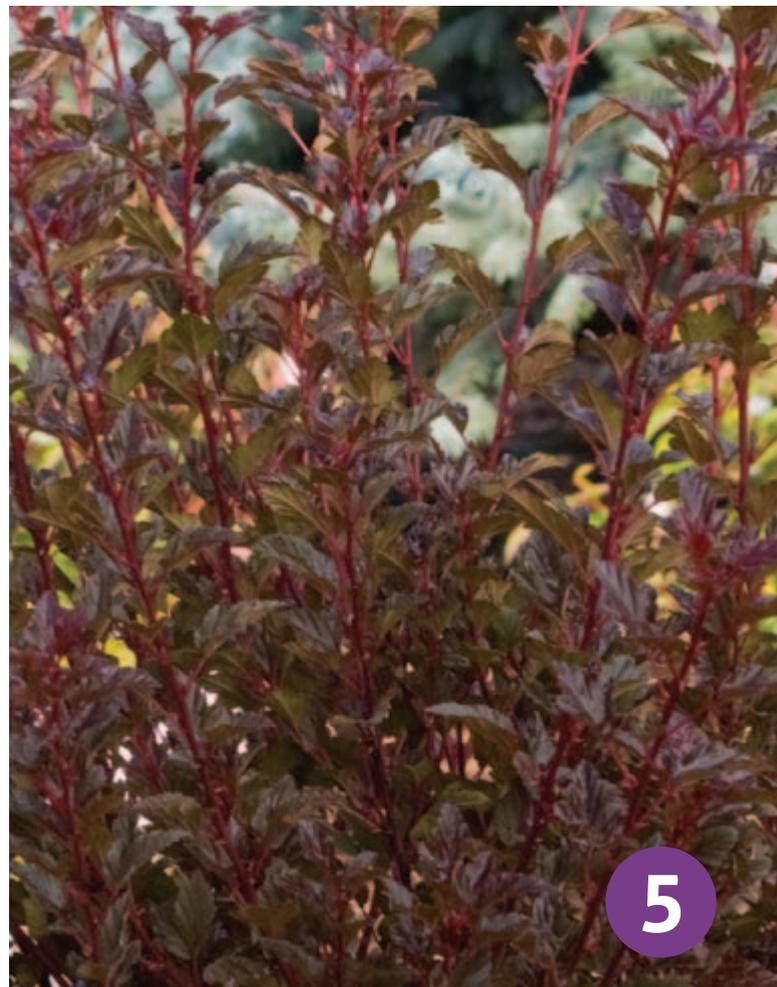
### 1) 'Sunset' clematis

This lovely clematis has reddish-pink flowers with a deeper bar and contrasting yellow stamens. Good-sized 10–15 cm-diameter flowers will cover the plant in June and July. Will twine up to 2.5 m tall. A type 2 clematis, meaning it will bloom primarily on growth produced the previous year, with a lighter, second flush later in the season. Prune hard every second or third year. Grows best in full sun to partial shade. Hardy to Zone 4.

*Clematis* 'Tie Dye' PP18913

### 2) 'Tie Dye' clematis

'Tie Dye' has very unusual violet-purple flowers with white marbling throughout the petals. It has a vigorous habit and is a profuse bloomer. Developed from the well-known Jackman clematis, 'Tie Dye' is a type 3 clematis, meaning it flowers on the current year's growth, blooming later and longer. Hardy to Zone 4 and will grow to 3 m.



*Hydrangea arborescens* 'PIIHA-1' PPAF

### 3) Endless Summer® Bella Anna™

The newest addition to the Endless Summer® collection of hydrangeas, Bella Anna was selected for its strong, upright stems that support the weight of the colourful and long-lasting pink blooms. This is the first *arborescens* hydrangea worthy of being part of the Endless Summer series. Bella Anna comes from the work of Dr. Michael Dirr, the noted horticulturist. Easy to grow, and blooms on new wood, meaning it will bloom from summer 'til fall. Grows 90 cm (3 ft) tall and wide. Hardy to Zone 5.

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Renhy' PPAF

### 4) First Editions® Vanilla Strawberry™ hydrangea

First Editions® Vanilla Strawberry™ offers triple the delight for hydrangea lovers. This hydrangea's enormous cone-shaped blooms start out a creamy vanilla-white, changing to a soft pink and finally to a ripe strawberry red. The unique red colour lasts for three to four weeks. New blooms keep the multi-coloured show going throughout the summer and early fall. Grows in full sun to 180 cm tall. Hardy to Zone 5.

*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Donna May' PPAF

### 5) First Editions® Little Devil™ ninebark

Little Devil features beautiful, deep burgundy foliage throughout the season, and small white-pink clusters of flowers in June. This shrub is an excellent choice for any home garden because of its smaller size, and strong colour. Grows to 120 cm tall. Little Devil is disease and pest resistant and requires very little maintenance. Grows in full sun to part shade. Hardy to Zone 4.

# NEW Roses

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*Rosa* 'BALmas' PPAF

## 1) Easy Elegance® Pinktopia rose

Easy Elegance® Pinktopia packs masses of dreamy, medium-pink 8 cm blooms, backed by dark green leaves. Pinktopia's growth is a stunning red. Makes a great low-maintenance accent plant in a border, or great as an informal hedge. It's grown on its own roots, and can grow 120 cm tall and spreads 90 cm wide.

*Rosa* 'KORfeining'

## 2) Maxi Vita® floribunda rose

A floribunda with sprays of semi-double blooms of charming orange-pink with a yellow-orange base. Will produce waves of colour in the garden throughout the season.

*Rosa* 'WEKsmopur' Pat #10478

## 3) Ebb Tide™ floribunda rose

Striking smoky, deep plum-purple double flowers with an intense clove fragrance. Beautiful deep-green foliage sets off the flower sprays nicely.

*Rosa* 'ZLEMarianne Yoshida' PPAF, CBR AF

## 4) Oso Happy™ Petit Pink shrub rose

A Proven Winners ColorChoice selection. The sprays of petite, bubble gum-pink flowers and small green leaves are reminiscent of a miniature rose, but this new variety is comparable to 'The Fairy' in its mature size. A very refined mound with a strong continuous bloom and good disease resistance. A great rose for the shrub or perennial border. Grows 75-115 cm tall. Hardy to Zone 5.

# NEW Perennials

*Aquilegia* 'Dorothy Rose'

## 1) 'Dorothy Rose' columbine

A new outstanding, truly unique columbine. Hose-in-hose style (several flowers set inside each other which look like Granny's Bonnets hence the common name) in a lovely soft pink with blue-green foliage. Hardy to zone 3. Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens.

*Delphinium* 'Black-eyed Angels'

## 2) 'Black-eyed Angels' delphinium hybrid-bee

A fabulous addition to the New Millennium delphinium series bred by Dowdeswell's Delphiniums in New Zealand. These hybrids are hand crossed in order to produce the highest quality seeds. Tall spires of frilly white flowers with a black bee on strong stems. Best in full sun and hardy to zone 3. Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens.

*Echinacea* 'Marmalade'

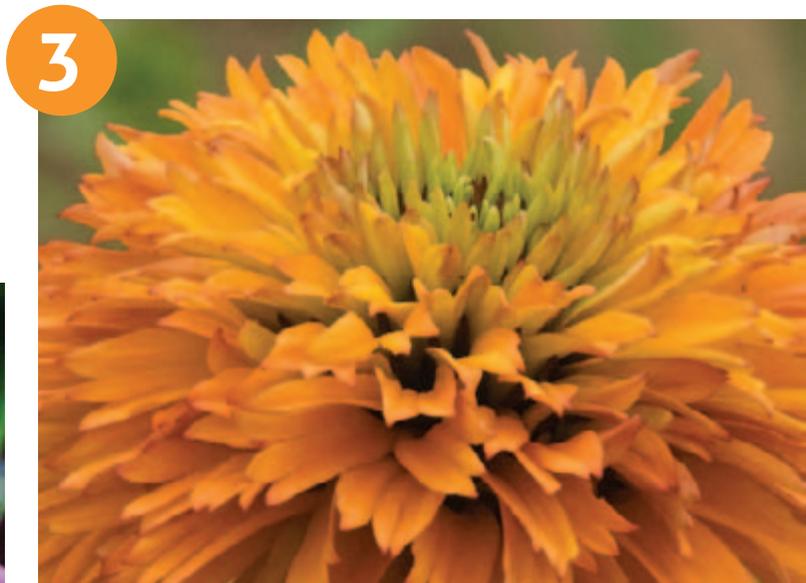
## 3) 'Marmalade' coneflower

A whole new colour for the beautiful and versatile coneflower. Strong well-branched stems hold the fragrant blossoms from mid-June into August. Depending on the climate, flowers can range in colour from tangerine to golden orange. Excellent cut flower. A low maintenance choice that grows best in full sun. Hardy to zone 4. Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens.

*Echinacea* PowWow Wild Berry

## 4) PowWow Wild Berry coneflower

PowWow Wild Berry is packed with colour in a compact form. Large deep rose-purple blooms that keep going all summer without deadheading. A 2010 All-America Selections award winner. Grows 50 cm tall. Zone 3. Photo courtesy All-America Selections



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*Helleborus* Winter Jewels™ 'Onyx Odyssey'

**5) Winter Jewels™ 'Onyx Odyssey' hellebore**

The Winter Jewels™ Hellebores have been carefully hand-bred to produce a range of new and exciting flower forms and colours. These form a mound of leathery, evergreen foliage bearing upright stems of saucer-shaped blooms from late winter through spring. This strain features double blooms in shades of midnight purple and slate to black. Great in partial shade. Prune back before flowers buds emerge. Bred by Hellebore hybridizer Marietta O'Byrne of Oregon. CAUTION: Harmful if eaten/skin irritant. Hardy to zone 4. Photo courtesy of Terra Nova Nurseries.

*Heuchera* 'Shanghai'

**6) 'Shanghai' coral bells**

The breeder's description reads: "Tight mounds of silvery-purple leaves set forth white flowers on dark stems. 'Shanghai' had the best foliage through the worst winter in the last 40 years at the Terra Nova test gardens. Ice, snow and rain didn't faze it! As Shanghai is a beacon to China, so *Heuchera* 'Shanghai' can be an inviting beacon of metallic silver to your garden. Reblooms all summer." Hardy to zone 4. Photo courtesy of Terra Nova Nurseries.

*Pardancanda* 'Heart of Darkness'

**7) 'Heart of Darkness' candy lily**

Also known as *Iris* x *norrisii*, these plants appreciate lots of sun, resent wet soil and require regular dividing. They are drought tolerant and don't mind extreme heat. Their growing needs are similar to bearded irises. *Pardancandas* will bloom from July through August for about three to four weeks. Flowers are small and only open for a day but are produced in profusion on tall, strong stems. 'Heart of Darkness' is deep royal purple with red highlights and very dark signals. It will produce 200 – 250 blooms per stalk. Hardy to zone 5. Photo courtesy of Vitro Westland b.v.

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# NEW Annuals

## *Canna* 'Tropicanna Black' PPAF 'Tropicanna Black' canna

With its purplish-black leaves and coral-coloured blooms, Tropicanna Black is one more colourful way to add a tropical touch to gardens and containers. Tropicanna Black not only works well in landscapes, beds and borders, but since it's a water plant, it's ideal for water gardens, bogs and ponds.

## *Colocasia* Maderira Keep'em Coming™ elephant's ears

Large leaves with a velvety green base and large deep black veins. A dwarf selection, that provides huge impact in summer containers. Will grow to 80 cm tall.

## *Petunia x hybrida* Easy Wave® O'Canada Mix Improved Easy Wave® O'Canada Mix petunia

Grow beautiful containers and flowers beds quickly with Easy Wave spreading petunias. One of the best attributes of Easy Wave® is that it has the same great spreading habit and easy maintenance as Wave, but with more height mounding. Plant them any sunny place you want loads of bold colour. New O'Canada Mix features a rich red and crisp white.

*Continued on next page*



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## Use water wisely — We do!

We are Ontario's irrigation industry professionals. We understand that all life depends on water, and our respect for Canada's precious water resource is boundless.

**Homeowners**, you can participate in important conservation efforts!

- Plant right.
- Invest in an efficient irrigation system.
- Water wisely.
- Maintain and upgrade your system.
- Work with an irrigation professional.



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4

*VioViolla x wittrockiana*  
Matrix® Jewels Mix

#### 4) Matrix® Jewels Mix pansy

Large-flowered Matrix® pansies offer superior structure and strong branching with superb colour show for cool spring or late fall. This low-maintenance pansy series is frost-tolerant and perfect in the landscape, baskets or mixed containers.

*Sedum rubens* 'Lizard'

#### 5) 'Lizard' stonecrop

Drought tolerant or low maintenance, whatever you want to call it, 'Lizard' takes a lot of abuse. Sedum 'Lizard' is at home in sunny dry locations. An easy, low-care choice for mixed containers, topiaries and dish gardens.

*Zinnia marylandica* Double Zahara®

#### 6) Double Zahara® zinnia

These true-double Double Zahara® zinnias boast all of the same exceptional traits as the single Zahara zinnias: bigger flowers for more colour shows, outstanding disease tolerance, low water needs, and superior all-season performance in beds and planters. Both the new Cherry and Fire colours are All-America Selections winners.

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