

Happy New Year from all of us at Viaduct Gardens

As I sit here, bundled up in blankets and the thermometer has not read above 0 degrees today, I can still get all warm and fuzzy looking through all of my seed and plant catalogues. I am the queen of plant catalogues and a corner of my room is being taken over by all of them, it is easy for me to get carried away. I am like a kid in a candy store, so I have to look, then look again, then go back and add sticky notes on the items that still catch my eye. Then I still have to look over the catalogues several more times before I can place my orders. (perfect example; I have 10 different paste tomatoes picked out.)

I thought it might be nice to get the rest of you in on some of the excitement. I can't keep all of the fun to myself, so between now and planting time I will try to update you every other week on some of the highlights. I would like to share some of the newest items to come out, some of my all time favorites, some gardening tips and some photos and links to some really cool web sites.

Hope springs eternal is you are a true gardener. Who else could plant a seed beneath the sod but the optimist? 2008 was a difficult year for many of us – I'm thinking that 2009 is going to come through. I know that I have changed many of my ways over the last year, and the one major thing I have vowed for this year is to do a better job on my vegetable garden. (maybe save a few bucks at the grocery store.)

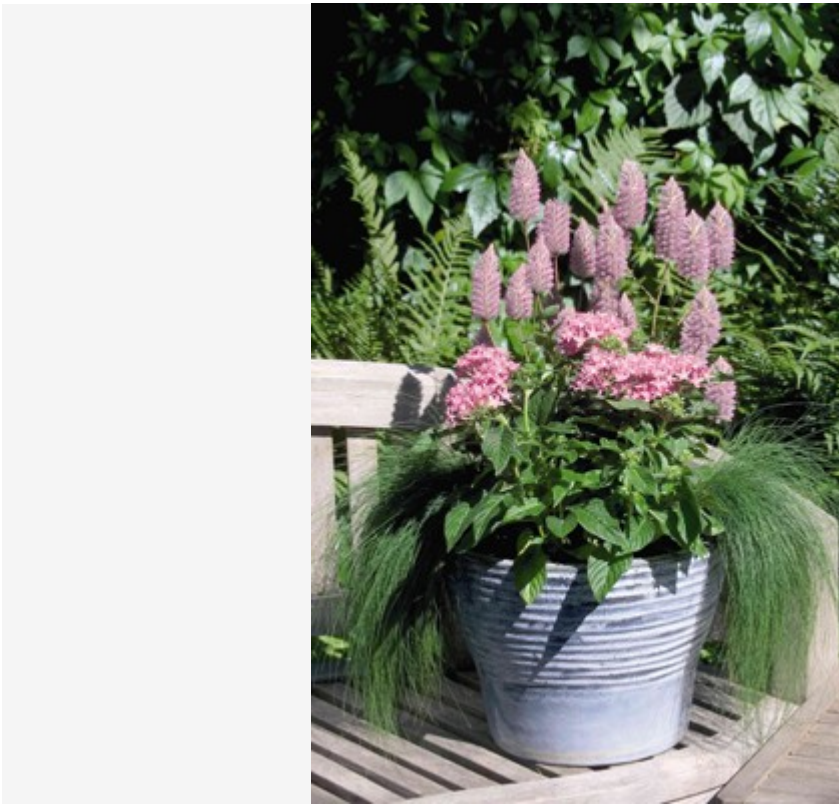
Those of you who have talked veggies with me know that I am a big fan of the "Goliath" tomato. It has consistently out produced every other tomato in my garden for the past 12 years. Only 65 days to mature with resistance to VFFNTASt (if you know what all of those are, sorry for you) fruits average 15 oz of a smooth, red, sweet flavored tomato. Doesn't that make you hungry for a BLT? The "Goliath" brand has really taken off, there are more than a dozen different kinds if tomato and peppers. You won't be disappointed if you give one a try. New this year is the Goliath Paste tomato. (one of those 10 that I spoke of earlier.)

I have been impressed with the "Giant Valentine" tomato. This tomato will earn your love in many ways. Huge 6 to 10 oz plum/paste, and they are ALL heart. Fruits are 3 to 4 times the size of a regular Roma. It has been a big time saver making salsa!!!

It has also been fun to play around with the "new heirloom" veggies, so many of these varieties have been saved for generations because of the unbelievable flavor. We will talk more of veggies later.

New and exciting for this year!!!!!!!

Joey Ptilotus



When growers and consumers alike see the new ptilotus 'Joey' the first question asked is, "What is that?" The next question is, "How do you pronounce it?" Benary says, "Just call it Joey!"

The new Ptilotus 'Joey' is truly a breeding breakthrough. A native to central Australia, ptilotus offers exceptional beauty, and the side benefit of heat and drought tolerance. Large, conical spikes of feathery flowers top thick silver green foliage. The 3- to 4-inch bottlebrush flower spikes are glistening silver with a darker neon pink color near the tips.

Excellent as an accent in mixed containers or as a compliment in annual flower beds, 'Joey' is a natural in any sunny garden location. 'Joey' is truly an exceptional plant to offer to customers who are constantly in search of what's new. Pair 'Joey' with eucalyptus 'Silverdrop,' pentas 'Northern Lights Lavender,' and salvia 'Evolution' for a show stopping combination. Perfect for those looking for exceptional heat and drought tolerance.

Life Cycle: Annual

Garden Height: 12 to 15 inches

Uses: Pot plant, mixed combination, landscape plantings

Natural flower time: Continuous

How's that for new and different? Proven Winners are always up to something new and exciting. This year they have 2 new begonias that I

can't wait to get my hands on. Bellagio and Mandalay, we don't even have to go to Vegas to get high class!!



Bellagio Apricot

Go to the Proven Winner website and check it out. www.provenwinners.com. They have a fantastic page, loads of info and great pictures , you might just get as excited as I do. Make sure you go to the combinations page.

I am often asked what my favorite plant is – how can you pick just one? Lately, I have become a fan of foliage, different colors and different textures, who needs blooms? Coleus has become a big thing for me , I believe that I have collected over 30 different varieties. They look good all of the time, don't need a bloom, they can grow in sun or shade, plant in pots or beds. Pretty versatile.

But for blooms, you just can't beat the new vista supertunia. Bubblegum was absolutely incredible in my pots this year. Bubblegum mounds beautifully and blooms all throughout the plant. It will sell fast this year. Check it out at Proven Winners.

Have a look and start doing some dreaming. Maybe we can melt the cold away.

Feel free to email me with any questions- or send me photos. I have a young man helping me with my web site, it would be really fun to see all of your gardens on it. Will be back in a few weeks for more... until then....

Proven Winners Plant of the Week!

Lemon SYMPHONY

A compact habit with continuous blooming power, and bright yellow blooms with plum hearts, Lemon shines from spring to winter. Its compact habit makes an ideal mingle partner for magnificent hanging baskets, and is unmatched in the landscape.

Remember, when life give you Lemons, make unforgettable combinations!



P.S. Check out our web page at www.viaductgardens.com