

How New, Superior Plants Can Make Your Landscape Designs Stand Out

By David House, CEO, Village Nurseries,
Orange, Calif.



Agapanthus orientalis 'Benfran' "Baby Pete" produces an abundance of flowers just above the foliage.

You have an opportunity to design an exceptional project. Securing this project would really set you apart from your competition. But just how are you going to do that?

Your competitors will submit designs with the same old reliable standbys that have always been used. But you yearn for something more—you want a creation that says current, fresh, with the latest introductions and the best plants available to wow your client for years to come. Something different. Something bold. Something to say, "My design really pops!"

This article illustrates how easy switching to new plants can be. Note: Plants recommended here are not available at all wholesale nurseries, and some are exclusively available at only a few. Call your suppliers to find out what's available in your region.

Turning Your Vision Into Reality

Landscape architects and designers are no longer hampered by the past. Over the last decades a new generation of plants has emerged from trusted growers like Monrovia, Tesselaar, PlantHaven, PDSI and others.

Now you can give your designs that "wow" factor with plants that are more compact, that offer more exciting foliage and bloom color and that bloom longer, while reducing maintenance costs and water requirements. The artist in you now has an entirely new palette to work with, to stimulate your imagination and to deliver a unique landscape that will be admired for years to come.



A two or three year old flower carpet rose plant can produce about 1,000 blooms per bush!



'Abelia 'Kaleidoscope' has the most striking and dramatic leaf variegation of any plant," says David House, CEO of Village Nurseries in Orange, Calif.



Encore Azaleas bloom spring, summer and fall.

Here is just a small sampling of the vibrant options available to you today:

- *Agapanthus orientalis* 'Benfran' "Baby Pete" is an evergreen perennial great for mass plantings and with very low maintenance. More dwarf and compact, it produces an abundance of flowers just above the foliage. It blooms weeks earlier than other varieties and rarely sets seedpods.
- Flower Carpet roses for ground cover is known for its long flowering period, easy care, exceptional disease resistance and low water requirements. A two or three year old plant can produce about 1,000 blooms per bush!
- *Abelia* 'Kaleidoscope' has the most striking and dramatic leaf variegation of any plant. Its long blooming period stretches from late spring to late fall, because it is frost, drought and heat tolerant.
- Encore Azaleas are the only patented azaleas to bloom in spring, summer and fall. These attractive and hardy azaleas can endure more sun than traditional azaleas, while offering the same easy care and low maintenance.

To get your imagination going, use this easy-to-follow chart of 24 plants as your guide to what's happening today. See how simple change can be.

New & Superior Selections	Current Selections	Reason to Switch	New Uses
Agapanthus orientalis 'Benfar' PP#21,705 'Baby Pete'	Agapanthus orientalis Peter Pan', Liriope	More dwarf and compact, abundance of flowers, evergreen perennial. Blooms weeks earlier than other varieties. Rarely sets seed pods.	Great for mass planting and very low maintenance.
Encore® Azaleas	Azalea Southern Indica, Hydrangea, Hypericum	Blooming nearly all year long. These attractive and durable azaleas can endure more sun than traditional azaleas, but offer the same easy care.	Dramatic color banding opportunity for large areas offering year around color.
Flower Carpet® Roses	Acacia redolens, Cotoneaster 'Lowfast', Lantana, Trachelospermum	Colorful, tough, more disease resistance, long blooming time. Not picky about soil type. Sun or shade	Large area ground cover
Abelia x grandiflora 'Kaleidoscope' PP#16,988	Abelia g. 'Edward Goucher', Phoradendron, Euonymus, Pittosporum variegated	Various foliage color year round. Flowers attract butterflies in spring. Compact with little maintenance required	Colorful foliage
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Roman Beauty' PP#18,192 Roman Beauty Rosemary	Rosmarinus o. 'Prostratus'	Good for culinary use. Tidy, mounding habit for containers or herb garden	Add edibles to the ornamental garden
Salvia leucantha 'Santa Barbara' PP#12,949	Salvia leucantha, Alyogyne, Cistus, Euryops	Excellent color, very compact, low water requirements	Containers, borders, Mediterranean garden
Dianella varieties (Plant potent numbers specific to variety)	Diets varieties, Phormium, Ferns or mid-size grasses	There's a variety for any purpose - larger or small!	Use to replace spiky foliage, like Diets, Phormium, large grasses
Bougainvillea 'Monika' PP#6959	Bougainvillea 'La Jolla', Plumbago, Hedera, Rosemary, Lonicera	Longer blooming, more compact and dwarf	Excellent for containers, large area ground cover
Oo-La-La® Bougainvillea			
Buddleia 'Flutterby' Petites™ Series	Cistus, Lantana, Spiraea, Penstemon	Grow in full sun, purples, pink and white color range, little to no pruning. Heavy summer/fall blooming	Butterfly gardens
Mahonia corymbocata 'Soft Caress' PP#20,183 'Soft Caress' Mahonia	Nandina, Gardenia, Pittosporum	Few plants offer the texture that 'Soft Caress' provides the shade garden. In early winter, bright yellow flowers stand atop the slender bamboo-like foliage resembling fingers of light	Asian garden element, bright winter color
Diets x 'NolaAlba' PP#21,460	Diets vegeta & bicolor	Prolonged blooming time, soggy soil and humidity tolerant	Excellent for Southern humid gardens
Katrina® African Iris	Cistus, Escallonia, Rhabdolepis, Callistemon 'Little John'	Easy to grow, low maintenance, low water requiring, brilliant colors.	Add splash of color for low water areas
Mimulus Georgie Series PPAF	Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Golf Ball' PP#15,329 Golf Ball Kohuhu	Dense, formal, compact and very low maintenance.	Add interest with perfect, formal slopes
Nandina domestica 'Monfa' PP# 14,693	Nandina 'Compacta'	Brilliant fiery red color on new growth then cool green in summer. Evergreen	Striking effect when planted in mass. Perfect for Asian garden element
Sienna Sunrise® Heavenly Bamboo			
Nandina domestica 'AKA' PP#19,916	Nandina domestica 'Nana'	Pink glow in growing season leading to gorgeous fall color.	Unexpected color palette of brilliant color for mass plantings
Blush Pink™ Nandina			
Rhabdolepis umbellata 'RutRaph' PP#20,730	Rhabdolepis umbellata 'Clara', Carissa, Escallonia 'Newport'	Very showy white flowers. Self-mounding. Disease resistance.	Clean, fresh look for a better garden performer
Southern Moor® Yedda Hawthorn			
Buxus microphylla 'Peergold' PP#16,052	Buxus microphylla or sempervirens, Euonymus	Cream variegation, small rounded leaves, tidy grower.	Adds bright color to containers, edging or contemporary landscape
'Golden Dream' Boxwood			
Cordyline 'JUReef' PP#14,224	Phormium, taller grasses, Strelitzia reginae	Looks great ALL year! Bush form. Deep burgundy foliage. Low maintenance.	Dramatic effect and color in a container plant. Interesting selection for a parking lot median.
'Festival Grass®			
Cupressus sempervirens 'Swane's Golden' PP#3839	Platycladus/Thuja, Cupressus sempervirens	Excellent substitution for Italian cypress, easy care, tolerates coastal exposure.	Screen, formal containers, complements brilliant accents
Swane's Golden Italian Cypress			
Cupressus sempervirens 'Monsiel' PP#12,933	Cupressus sempervirens, Buxus sempervirens, Upright Ilex, Syzygium	A unique, compact form with exceptionally dense blue-green foliage. Maintains its narrow, columnar form with a tidy, well-groomed appearance without pruning.	Containers, focal plant for a garden, screening.
Tiny Tuxer® Italian Cypress			
Elaeagnus decipiens 'MonProud' PP#17,611	Podocarpus, Dodonea, Juniper Blue Point, Eugenia	Very versatile - privacy screen, informal or formal garden.	Nice container plant, adding fragrance and year round interest
Little Emperor™ Japanese Blueberry-Shogun® Series PP#17,611			
Podocarpus elongatus 'Monnal Icee Blue® Yellow-Wood	Podocarpus, Prunus caroliniana, Syzygium, Ficus Nitida, Cupressus arizonica	Distinctive blue foliage! New growth is lime-gray-blue maturing to a cool gray-blue-green on this excellent specimen tree. One of the most beautiful and decorative conifers for the South.	Attractive screen choice adding interest while being utilitarian
Loropetalum chinense 'Peak' PP#18,441	Lantana, Vinca minor, Philodendron 'Xanadu'	Super cute! Dwarf, weeping habit. Deep burgundy/purple foliage for interest and contrast.	Ground cover, container, hanging baskets
Purple Pixie™ Loropetalum			
Berberis thunbergii 'Monom® Can. PBR pending 'Cherry Bomb® Japanese Barberry	Spiraea, Potentilla, Nandina, rosemary	Colorful filler between shrubs or in a perennial garden. Creates definition in garden or park.	Unexpected burst of color and interest