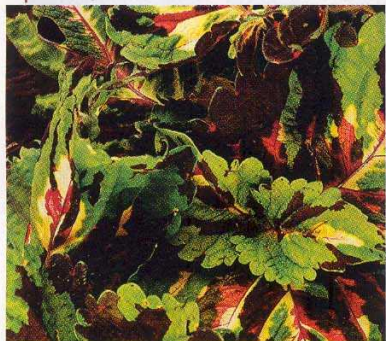


What's New!

Find the latest—and most fashionable—plant varieties and garden art.

New Varieties Bloom Longer



Coleus in The Kong™ coleus series grow to be 18 to 22 inches tall in weeks.

Big garden, small garden? Increasingly, Americans are choosing the latter for practical and personal reasons. For some, small is a must because space is limited. Yet even those with generous outdoor spaces are jumping on the small-is-beautiful bandwagon. For one thing, a series of small gardens is a lot more interesting than a single large garden. Small gardens also are easier to care for and require less of your time and energy. To meet this new interest

in small, low-maintenance gardens, growers are developing varieties of familiar plants that are easier to care for, have a longer season or offer a showier display.

“Plants that need heavy maintenance or that don’t provide four seasons of color are out,” says Joe Gray, general manager of Hines Horticulture. New varieties of old favorites are often bred to be showier than their parents, says Gray. The Kong® series of coleus grows 18 to 22 inches in weeks and the plants have large leaves in bold colors. These take over the bed. Because the leaves are large, they can crowd out weeds and therefore reduce the amount of bed maintenance required. The new ‘Fiesta’ impatiens are said to offer a fuller looking planting from the same number of plants. These impatiens, which look like roses in the shade, come in colors ranging from rose through purple to bright red.

GREAT GARDEN ART REPRODUCTIONS

Longwood Gardens’ collection of early 20th century garden accents creates ambiance at the famous botanical garden in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Now, home gardeners can have some of the same planters, birdbaths and decorative items, thanks to a reproduction collection created from a collaboration with garden container manufacturer



A pineapple finial reproduction lends elegance to any garden. It’s available from Longwood Gardens and Campania International.

Campania International. The reproductions, including a finial, flower basket, frog, basin, pedestal birdbath and three garden urns, come in cast stone with patinas for a weathered look. The collection will be sold at Longwood Gardens and at garden centers nationwide. Suggested retail prices range from \$65 to \$270 with proceeds going to support programs at Longwood Gardens. For information, contact Longwood Gardens at 610-388-1000 or www.longwoodgardens.org; or visit www.campaniainternational.com.

Foliage Plants Are Back

Foliage plants have come into vogue just in time for busy gardeners who want plants in the easy-care category. But don’t think only in terms of green. Silver, chartreuse, hot pink and plum are a few colors found in foliage plants of special interest today. Look for the following colorful foliage plants at your local garden center or on the web.

● **PERILLA** has purple leaves slashed with pink, green and white. It looks like a giant coleus and loves heat. Use it alone in a container or mixed in beds. It will flourish in full sun to full shade.



● **DICHONDRA** forms a dense mat that chokes out all but the most stubborn weeds when planted in a bed or border. Tiny fan-shaped leaves dangle from baskets, window boxes and over rock walls, trailing up to three feet in a single season. It likes full or partial sun.

● **ALTERNANTHERA** is a tall groundcover with dark metallic leaves that look lovely under birches and other light-bark trees.

● **MILLET** is a dramatic background plant. Young shoots look great in flower arrangements and the birds love the fully developed seed plumes.