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SMART IDEAS FOR INDEPENDENT RETAILERS | MAGAZINE

## Let the good times

What plants are hot plants for 2010? Here are our "best bets" to help you make the most of spring. p. 16

# Roll!



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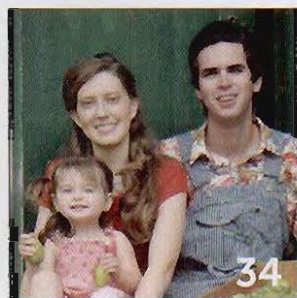
SMART IDEAS FOR INDEPENDENT RETAILERS | MAGAZINE



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Let the good times

Roll!



What plants are hot plants for 2010? Here are our "best bets" to help you make the most of spring

If the random generic New Year represents a fresh start, what we're christening this month is a shaken Etch-A-Sketch, a Jumbo Pencil erasure and an 11th-hour governor's pardon all in one.

AND on steroids.

The year past was many things, few of which were of the "write home" variety – unless you make a habit of writing really depressing letters to the loved ones. A wretched economy teamed with crazy weather to send many hort businesses reeling. And the consensus feeling was that 2010 couldn't arrive soon enough.

Well, now it's here, signaling the start of the turnaround everyone is hoping for – and the leap forward the prudent-thinking garden center operators plan and then take.

While there will be all manner of new products for 2010, the ones that remain the lifeblood of the industry flow red – and yellow and green and blue and ... well, practically every other hue you can do in the garden. With that in mind, we recently did some storming of the brain, as well as some tanking of the think and ...

And then we said, "What the heck, why don't we just suggest some great plants for 2010?"

Here are our best bets for the garden – and the garden center – listed in alphabetical order. Oh, and lest you think we're just throwing things to see if they'll stick, we've also offered evidence to show why our choices should be yours as well.

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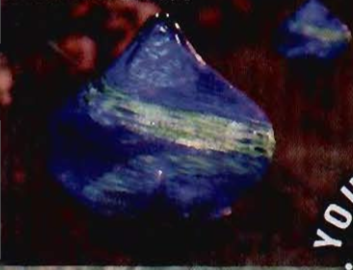
BY YALE YOUNGBLOOD, EDITOR

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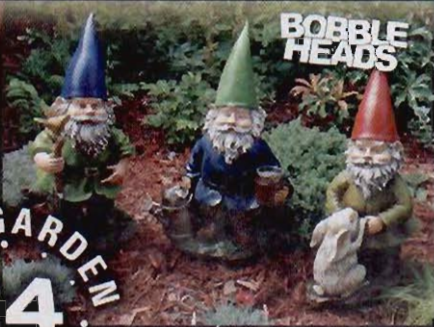
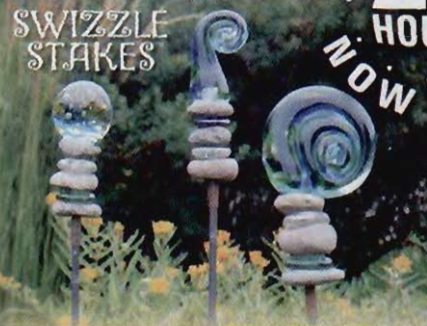


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COVER STORY



Illusion ipomoea series



Echinacea 'Hot Lava'



Heuchera 'Berry Smoothie'

**I**llusion Ipomoea series (Proven Winners). Cool new colors and shapes bring more interest to an annual staple, and what annual staple couldn't use a little more interest-bringing?

**J**ust when you thought we were going to leave out Echinacea 'Hot Lava' (Terra Nova Nurseries), you find it here, smack in the middle of our list. 'Hot Lava' features wide petals of deep orange-red tint to a deeper red at the orange cone. Extra petals give this plant a fuller look, and super-strong stems make it a natural for cut flowers. Take a dip! Yes, it's hot, hot, hot!

**K**ings, queens, dukes and even some earls will tell you: Heuchera 'Berry Smoothie' (Terra Nova Nurseries) is one smoothie operator in the landscape.

*Leucanthemum*  
'Banana Cream'



Banana Daiquiri  
Patio & Garden  
Orchid



Mammoth  
Pansies



*Miscanthus*  
'Huron Star'



Crape myrtle Delta Jazz



Mandevilla 'Vivian'



'Hot Lava' features wide petals of deep orange-red tint to a deeper red at the orange cone. Extra petals give this plant a fuller look, and the super-strong stems make it a natural for cut flowers. Take a dip! Yes, it's hot, hot, hot!

**L***euca**nthemum* 'Banana Cream' (Walters Gardens). You read it here first: Customers want to have "happy" gardens this spring, full of bright colors. This is as bright as it gets.

**M**ammoth pansies (Goldsmith Seeds) are to the garden what the Dallas Cowboys' new home is to stadiums: Big and showy. Gotta love that.

**N**ew crape myrtles, such as Delta Jazz (Southern Living Plant Collection/PDS1). A versatile medium-size shrub, Delta Jazz features bright medium-pink blooms contrasting brilliantly with dark burgundy-capped leaves. Tough and colorful. A winner.

**O**rchids need to be on the list, for sure, especially the Banana Daiquiri Patio & Garden Orchid (Hort Couture). These orchids love the heat, direct sun and humidity.

**P**lease, please, please don't forget to point your customers toward *Miscanthus* 'Huron Star' (Walters Gardens) – this is one great ornamental grass.

**Q**uit complaining that we've left out Mandevilla 'Vivian' (Southern Living Plant Collection/PDS1). How could anything so prolifically pink be left out of any list of important/sellable plants – especially during this, the happy garden year?

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Sunpatis

Voltage Yellow osteospermum

Majestic Skies  
northern pin oakCharisma  
Nuttall oakEuphorbia  
Breathless  
BushZahara  
zinnia

Heatwave Salvia series

Baptisia australis

Trees remain oh-so-very-important to garden center operators – the prudent ones, anyway. All retailers should be prudent and continue encouraging customers to plant trees this year. Doing so helps the environment and the nursery industry. And encouraging customers to buy Majestic Spires northern pin oak (Bailey Nurseries) makes you look all the wiser.

Unless you're, like, just totally square, you'll be rounding up beaucoup quantities of *Baptisia australis* to sell this spring. The 2010 Perennial Plant of the Year, baptisia – a.k.a. blue false indigo or wild indigo – is one of the more adaptable native species.

Voltage Yellow osteospermum (Ball FloraPlant). This new introduction is ideal for large baskets and containers – it's the first osteo in bloom and the last osteo out of bloom.

We think that we shall never see a poem as lovely as this tree: Charisma Nuttall oak (Monrovia). Fantastic fall foliage color. That's three F's and a C – reminiscent of my oldest son's first college grade report. He got A's later in life. This plant gets A's now.

X-Men ... World ... of calamitous developments ... The category here is "Series." And one of the best around is the Heatwave Salvia series (Monrovia). This plant is drought-tolerant and colorful. A winner.

Yale really likes Euphorbia Breathless Blush (BallFloraPlant), the first euphorbia with red-flushed leaves and pink-flushed flowers. It can be used alone or in combinations, as well as for holiday gift planters. Maybe that's why Yale really likes it.

Zahara series of zinnia (Pan American Seed). With the largest flowers and most vivid colors (six in all, plus a mix), Zahara zinnias are sure to attract tons of attention. ☺

SOURCES: Anthony Tesselaar: [tesselaar.com](http://tesselaar.com); Bailey Nurseries: [baileynurseries.com](http://baileynurseries.com); BallFloraPlant: [ballfloraplant.com](http://ballfloraplant.com); Centerton Nursery: [centertonnursery.com](http://centertonnursery.com); Conard-Pyle: [conard-pyle.com](http://conard-pyle.com); David Austin Roses: [davidalexanderroses.com](http://davidalexanderroses.com); Eastern Shore/Hollybrook Orchard: Fall Creek Farm & Nursery: [fallcreeknursery.com](http://fallcreeknursery.com); Goldsmith Seeds: [www.goldsmithseeds.com](http://www.goldsmithseeds.com); Hort Couture: [hortcoutureplants.com](http://hortcoutureplants.com); Jackson & Perkins: [jacksonandperkins.com](http://jacksonandperkins.com); Monrovia: [monrovia.com](http://monrovia.com); Novalis: [novalis.com](http://novalis.com); Pan American Seed: [panamseed.com](http://panamseed.com); Proven Winners: [provenwinners.com](http://provenwinners.com); Sakata: [sakata.com](http://sakata.com); Southern Living Plant Collection/PDSI: [southernlivingplants.com](http://southernlivingplants.com); Syngenta: [syngenta.com](http://syngenta.com); Terra Nova Nurseries: [terranovanurseries.com](http://terranovanurseries.com); Walters Gardens: [waltersgardens.com](http://waltersgardens.com); Weeks Roses: [weeksroses.com](http://weeksroses.com)

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