



### Blast of color

According to **Garden Debut**, Orange Rocket Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) (PP#18411) was awarded Best Shrub for 2010 at the Oregon Association of Nurserymen's Far West Show. It offers a tight missile-shaped habit, ultimately reaching 6 to 8 ft. in height but only 2 ft. in width in 10 years. Plants have vibrant coral-orange new foliage that matures to mid-green. In early summer, pale yellow flowers are followed by small, crimson red berries that do not set viable seed. By autumn, the foliage is bright orange-red. For best foliage color, grow in full sun. **GardenDebut.com**



### Peonies from heaven

Itoh Peonies are named for Toichi Itoh, who successfully crossed a tree peony with an herbaceous or garden peony. The resulting hybrid features the colorful and exotic flowers of tree peonies, with the perennial growing cycle of herbaceous peonies. They tend to resemble tree varieties, with a domed, vigorous growth habit and large double flowers with disease-resistant lacy, dark-green foliage. Once established, they have an extended blooming period, with as many as 50 blooms in a single season — thanks to their ability to produce primary and secondary buds. They offer an increased color range, greater vigor and excellent resistance to peony blight (*Botrytis paeoniae*). **Monrovia** introduced 'Takara' (treasure) and 'Misaka' (beautiful blossom, pictured) this spring.

**Monrovia.com**

### Hardy honey

New Mahogany Splendor joins the **Pan American Seed** Fantastic Foliage lineup, adding color and, at 3 to 5 ft., height. It's ideal for landscapes, and great in containers with other vigorous sun lovers. The hibiscus features deep burgundy, maple-shaped leaves with serrated edges — a look similar to a Japanese maple. It's resistant to heat, drought and deer, and can be a great addition as a pond plant, as well. Spread is 24 to 30 in., and it thrives in USDA hardiness zones 8 to 9. **PanAmSeed.com**



### Scottish celebration

The repeat-flowering Rosa 'Tam o' Shanter' (Auscerise) from **David Austin Roses** features approximately 25 petals. Its deep cerise, rosette-shaped flowers are loosely formed, held on long, gracefully arching branches that bear blooms along the full length. It has a light, fruity fragrance. It was named to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Scottish poet Robert Burns, and the hero of one of his most famous narrative poems. It grows to 6 x 5 ft., and is hardy in USDA zones 5 through 9.

**DavidAustinRoses.com**



### Exotic flair

Lily of the Nile Blue Storm, a patented Agapanthus from **Anthony Tesselaar International**, consistently blooms up to three weeks earlier and longer than most Agapanthus, according to the company. It flowers on average 70 days per season. It produces an abundance of stems topped with light violet-blue flowers. When mature, this vigorous plant blooms in flushes, bearing up to 100 stems on a mature plant per season. It grows to a compact 30 in.

**Tesselaar.com**

### BALL VARIETY FOCUS: ZAHARA® ZINNIA

The Zahara® series of heat-loving zinnias has 20% larger flowers than other varieties and a unique array of colors. AAS winners Double Zahara Fire (shown) and Zahara Starlight Rose make an impact in the landscape, and have superior disease tolerance where *Z. elegans* varieties fail. These "Hot Summer Survivors" bred by PanAmerican Seed have very low water needs — a must for water-restrictive areas — and are outstanding in sunny, hot and dry conditions. [www.BallLandscape.com](http://www.BallLandscape.com)

