



### Singing the blues

*Viola cornuta* 'Shangri-La Marina' F1 from **Tokita Seed** is an early-flowering, mounding viola in a vibrant new color for this type. In trials, the 6-in.-tall plants kept a low-growing mounding habit. Colorful and prolific 1.25-in. blooms have light-blue petals with a velvety dark-blue face that is surrounded by a narrow white border. Flower color is a consistent deep marina blue throughout the season. This vigorous, frost-tolerant biennial provides a solid mat of fall color until covered with snow, followed by a recovery in spring. Grow in full sun as a low edging in the landscape bed or in hanging baskets and pots.

[TokitaSeed.co.jp/eng](http://TokitaSeed.co.jp/eng)



### Must-have color

It's official: Honeysuckle is the Color of the Year for 2011, according to the Pantone Color Research Institute. With that in mind, **Anthony Tesselaa International** turns the spotlight on its Flower Carpet Coral ground-cover rose. It blooms in profusion from late spring through fall and exhibits natural disease resistance in the landscape. The honeysuckle-hued petals don't fade in the sun, but rather darken over time to a deep reddish-coral. The flowers are arrayed in large clusters of about 25 blossoms. Throughout the bloom season, the plant continues to look fresh with glossy green leaves unmarred by spent blossoms as its petals fall away after flowers have peaked, according to the company. [Tesselaar.com](http://Tesselaar.com)

### Purple reign

**PanAmerican Seed's** Ornamental Pepper Purple Flash combines striking coloration with an interesting plant architecture and heat tolerance to enhance in-ground plantings and mixed containers. Purple Flash grows with a layered, scaffolding habit to create an exotic look. Leaves are almost black, with pops of bright purple foliage. The small fruit is glossy, black and hot to the taste. It performs best under high light and warm temperatures. [PanAmSeed.com](http://PanAmSeed.com)



### 2011 Plant Select winner

Discovered and introduced by David Salman of **High Country Gardens**, 'Blonde Ambition' *Bouteloua gracilis* PPAF ornamental grass offers big, showy chartreuse flowers, held horizontally 2.5 to 3 ft. above the leaves. These flag-like flowers rise up out of the blue-green foliage in mid-summer and are held on stiff, weather-resistant stems. It also provides winter interest, as the stems of seed heads pop up even after a heavy snow and remain standing through winter, giving the grass 6 to 8 months of garden color and texture. It was recognized as a winning choice by Plant Select, a cooperative program among the Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado State University and the regional Green Industry that evaluates and recommends trees, shrubs and perennials for performance in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains states. This hardy grass grows in a wide range of soil types and is ideal for low-maintenance landscapes. [HighCountryGardens.com](http://HighCountryGardens.com)



### Sage advice

'Summer Jewel Red,' a *Salvia coccinea* bred by **Takii & Co. Ltd.**, was consistently rated "superior" or "above average" by the AAS judges because of its early and generous flower blossoms, continuing from spring to autumn. Each dwarf and densely branching plant of this hummingbird sage grows to 20 in. tall. The bright red flower spikes are covered with half-inch blooms, acting as a magnet for hummingbirds. Goldfinches also swarm the plant for seeds. Even the leaves add beauty with their finer-textured, dark-green color. Expect long season performance and superior holding ability in both wind and rain, especially in full-sun containers, mixed beds and borders where uniformity is desired. [Takii.com](http://Takii.com)