



**Year of the zinnia**

The **National Garden Bureau** declared 2011 as the year of the zinnia. We'll announce the Bureau's picks for flower, perennial and vegetable for 2012 in the January issue, but in the meantime, check out new *Zinnia elegans* 'Art Deco' from **Botanical Interests**. These 5-in., fully double zinnias in shades of pink, lavender and royal purple will power all through summer up to the first fall frost. At 2 to 3 ft. tall, they are suited to border plantings, in large containers, or as a backdrop to shorter plants. They can also be used for cut flower or dried bouquets. [BotanicalInterests.com](http://BotanicalInterests.com) or [NGB.org](http://NGB.org)

**The whole *Echinacea***

Selections for the new *Echinacea* 'Sombrero' series from **Darwin Perennials** were made from overwintered plants that are hardy to at least Zone 5. The brightly colored, single-flowered Sombreros feature the same well-branched and compact habit as the floriferous PowWows. The long-blooming coneflowers have coppery maroon centers and attract butterflies to a wide range of landscape settings. Easy to grow, they tolerate dry, poor soils. Colors include Hot Coral, Salsa Red (pictured) and Sandy Yellow. [DarwinPerennials.com](http://DarwinPerennials.com)



**Tall, dark and handsome**

*Colocasia esculenta* 'Black Coral' is **Plant Delights Nursery's** latest introduction in the Royal Hawaiian series from Dr. John Cho. This breeding breakthrough takes elephant ears to a new level, with large glossy-black foliage on a 4-ft.-tall clumper. *Colocasia* 'Black Coral' is used as a container specimen or tender perennial for bedding north of Zone 7b. It thrives in partial to full sun. [PlantDelights.com](http://PlantDelights.com)

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