**Brooklin Horticultural Society Presentation for August 28, 2013 meeting**

Sofie’s Picks - A listing of plants presented at the Brooklin Horticultural Society meeting August 28, 2013, a combination of new and newer introductions and other interesting plants and tips. I live on a 10 acre property located in zone 5b in Whitby, Ontario, Canada and I love to garden.

**SOME GARDEN PLACES I SHOP AT IN THE DURHAM REGION:**

***Please support our local nurseries so we don’t end up shopping at box stores!***

Here is a list of places I frequent. If you know of anyone in this area that you would like to add, please let me know. For anyone reading this blog out of area, these are located in Ontario, Canada, zone 5, 5b or thereabouts, most of them in the Durham region where I live.

***Below are websites of garden centres that list all the plants they sell at their nursery or by mail order.* Most allow you to pick up your order if you do not want to pay for shipping. I refer to these websites to see if they carry the plants in my presentations and include them in my “Where to Buy” column. I prefer to shop locally in the Durham region. You may find the plants I feature at many other nurseries as well.**

[www.gardenimport.com](http://www.gardenimport.com) Mail Order Company, Thornhill, Ont. 1-800-339-8314 Pick-up allowed – Bayview Highway 7 area.

[www.goldenbrookhostas.com](http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com) Blackstock, Ontario (located just east of Port Perry) Mail order (Canada only) + pick up. Great website listing a huge selection of hostas with photos, prices and latest varieties. Tour their garden to see many varieties for sale.

<http://www.lamrockscountrygarden.com> – hostas, roses, some perennials. Varieties & prices listed on website – they have not updated their website since 2012 so don’t know what is happening there – located in Port Perry

[www.masonhousegardens.com](http://www.masonhousegardens.com) 3520 Durham Road #1(Brock Rd), RR 4 PO Box 886 Uxbridge, ON L9P 1R4, south of Goodwood Rd.  
905-649-3532 – New introductions, unusual plants, perennials, grasses, vines, shrubs, tropicals, succulents, vegetables + a huge selection of heritage tomatoes. *All varieties listed on their website – this is not a mail order company – a family owned specialty nursery. You can tour the gardens as well.*

<http://pickeringnurseries.com> Mail order company specializing in roses – hundreds of varieties available. Located in Port Hope, you can pick up your order if you wish – call ahead. Bare root spring and fall delivery, plus potted roses once the delivery season is over.

[www.richters.com](http://www.richters.com) Goodwood, Ontario Located on Highway 47, west of Brock Road. Mail order & pick-up. For all things to do with herbs in a greenhouse setting – plants, seeds, books, & a huge selection of dried herbs & teas. Sample for free various tea mixes. Check under events on the website for free seminars presented by guest speakers in the greenhouse. All lectures are now taped & available on the website if you cannot attend. You can also order or pick up a printed catalogue.

***The following websites do not list their plants so I don’t know what varieties they have for sale.* Therefore, you won’t see them listed on my “where to buy” column even though they may stock the plant**s. I will include these nurseries if I have visited in person and know they have the plants for sale.

**Century Home & Garden Greenhouses** at 1431 Hwy 7a, Port Perry ON L9L 1B5, 905-985-2672.

**Country Market Garden Centre**, 2535 Taunton Rd. E., Bowmanville, L1C 3K2, 905-263-2090 – has a good selection of perennials, roses, trees, shrubs, conifers, annuals and tropical plants at very reasonable prices. Also local produce, baked items and giftware. He always has something unique every year. No website.

[www.kingswaygreenhouse.com](http://www.kingswaygreenhouse.com) Oshawa, Ontario 905-434-3851 A family run business – Plants are not listed on their website

John’s Perennials, <http://johnsgarden.wordpress.com> 905-862-8175, Uxbridge, ON Perennials, annuals, roses, shrubs, trees, rare conifers + more. Open weekends only

<http://www.ottergreenhouses.com> 315 Medd Road, Port Perry, Ontario, L9L 1B2 | (905) 852-4187 Annuals, hanging baskets, perennials, - a family owned business

**Peter Keeping**, Bowmanville, Ontario – sells unusual & hard to find **clematis** as well as perennials at very reasonable prices– Peter imports clematis from Europe/England. Phone 905-697-7842, e-mail peterkeeping@hotmail.com. Call or e-mail for his list of current clematis for sale. Peter and Sheila grow over 250 clematis on their property. They also have assorted perennials and other plants for sale. Does not have a website.

**Pineridge Garden Centre** 2215 Brock Rd, Pickering, ON L1V 2P8 905-683-5952 No website.

[www.rekkers.com](http://www.rekkers.com) Rekker's Garden Centre, 2258 Regional Highway 2, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K7 905-623-2300

[www.sheridannurseries.com](http://www.sheridannurseries.com) Whitby location, 410 Taunton Road West, Whitby, ON L1P 2A9 905 686-0844

[www.vandermeernursery.com](http://www.vandermeernursery.com) 905-427-2525 588 Lakeridge Rd. S., Ajax, ON (corner of Lakeridge and Bayley). Plants not listed. They carry a huge selection of various plants – trees, shrubs, roses, perennials, annuals, seeds, giftware, etc.

It is August 28th, 2013

***Garden Quote****: “Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread, and pumpkin pie”. Jim Davis*

Birds are gone, robins on back porch no corn formed on the corn

I wasn’t going to do a presentation for August because I have already told you about most of what’s new for this year, but a couple of visitors to my August open garden persuaded me to do so. So, I thought I would tell you a little about what has been going on this spring and summer, all the wonderful plants blooming at this time of the year and later about my plans for a “hibiscus sampler” garden and provide you with an extensive list of perennial hibiscus to grow in your garden. I will also talk about some interesting rudbeckias, phlox and provide you with another list, this one on hydrangeas – there are so many to choose from and it becomes confusing. I will also tell you which ones to avoid buying and finally, I will tell you about a few new plants that I have discovered over the summer.

A few years ago, it took me until the end of May to get everything cleaned up and planted. Then it went to mid-June, then to the end of June. This year it was mid-July – I couldn’t keep up with all the work – planting, weeding, planning, maintenance, and then when everything was in place, the deadheading started. It took us three hours to deadhead all the daylilies for the Whitby in Bloom tour on July 27th this year. Plus, my groundskeeper husband was mostly out of commission with a Baker’s cyst behind the knee. A newly started patio has been put on hold – a patio which will include a wooden pergola with stained glass pieces, and a huge junkyard metal arched window with a dream weaver string design replacing the glass – something we purchased from Brookside Cottage artists in the garden (Corinne 905-263-4285. (Corinne also dog sits if you go on vacation.) Another find from the artists in the garden last year was a large carved wooden beaver – we call him “Justin Beaver” with beautiful wooden buck teeth. He was a great hit at the Whitby in Bloom tour.

It has been so busy I can’t believe that we are into the last week of August, and the kids will be back to school in a week. I used to work in a high school for many years (one of my favourite jobs), so the new year for me was always September, not January. A fresh start in the fall, when things get back to a routine, fall fairs, apples and apple crisp on a cool fall day. I can’t decide whether I like spring better or fall – both are so different – from ascending anticipation for glorious gardens in the spring to descending but mind blowing fall colours, asters and chrysanthemums changing the entire ambience in the garden.

June was busy, four family birthdays and father’s day all at my house, a speech to prepare for a 50th wedding anniversary, the Brooklin blog, and the Brooklin members tour on June 26th. In July, I hosted the Peel Garden Society and the Claremont Hort. Society, had two or three private tours, my open garden on July 20th (which was not well attended), a family picnic in the garden, and the Whitby in Bloom tour on July 27th which was well attended – about 328 visitors. I enjoyed this one the most as everything was looked after by the Whitby in Bloom committee who did a fantastic job of organizing the entire day. They also got lots of donations for the food bank. Thanks to all the volunteer members – many from Brooklin Hort. – job well done.

I don’t know where August went, but foolishly I had scheduled one more open garden on the August 25th which went very well – a steady stream of visitors and I was able to chat to most of them. Three more major events upcoming in the garden - in September a memorial for a friend who died of brain cancer, October - Thanksgiving and garlic planting time for the grandkids and finally in November – Mothers and Daughters Deck the Pots with Boughs of Holly – friends for breakfast and then assembling boughs and berries for Christmas planters – all of the evergreen boughs and berries cut fresh from our property. Something to consider for your group of friends – it is a fun event. Forty Hallowe’en masks will be added to 40 fence posts along the front of the property – the masks will go over a one gallon garden pot covered with a plastic storage bag and then slipped over the wooden barn posts. We never get any kids but I love Hallowe’en – my theme in the black garden last year was Hallowe’en – sambucus black lace with orange flowers.

**Hummingbird moth:** I saw hummingbird moths several times this year – simply beautiful. They looked very similar to the ones on this website, but could very well be a different variety. They were feeding at the daylilies and buddleias. Please don’t kill the beautiful but scary caterpillars – who cares about losing a few leaves? <http://www.birds-garden.com/snowberry_clearwing_hummingbird_moths.html> or this one <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Hemaris-thysbe>

**Birds** – suddenly, I noticed all the red-winged blackbirds are gone. When did they go? We always have several nesting in the bulrushes around the pond. They have a distinctive call and get quite upset when you go near their nests, scolding us as we walk around the pond. They certainly don’t hang around for long! I haven’t seen a robin as well for 2 or 3 weeks. Lots of hummingbirds are flitting here and there.

We had a Robin’s nest on the back porch this year. It was wonderful to experience the whole scenario, from mother and father building their nest from some old grassy stems sticking out of a garbage bag, to the final exit of the 3 grown babies. I watched them grow like weeds, (it only took a week or so!) and then was actually standing under the nest when they made their final flight from the nest – one going in one direction in front of my face, the other going in the other direction, crashing into a pile of pots on the ground, then crashing again under some shelving a few feet away. I wish I had thought to record it from start to finish! It would have made a great You Tube video.

**Garlic**: don’t forget to leave room in your garden for garlic. I buy fresh garlic from the local store’s like Stroud’s, High Hope, and Algoma Orchards – Ontario grown garlic and plant it around Thanksgiving or at the latest end of October. You can also get several varieties at Richter’s Herbs in Goodwood but you might have to call ahead to see what’s left. I harvest it around the third week of July. This year, I planted seed potatoes in its place. Will let you know if I get any potatoes with such a late planting – I will check around the last week of October.

**Leeks**: I looked at my leeks recently and noticed that they have been affected by the leek moth, completely ruining the leaves. This pest has finally arrived and I will have to do some research on how to prevent damage next year. I don’t think I will be able to do anything about it according to Marjorie Mason – discussed on her garden show. She thought planting at a later date – after the moth’s egg – laying cycle might help. Another pest to deal with! How do you grow these organically? I wonder sometimes why I bother to garden. No wonder the farmers have to use so many chemicals against insects and diseases!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The first group of plants that are so spectacular right now are the perennial hibiscus. I have prepared a comprehensive list of 22 perennial hibiscus (for those that are not familiar with this plant, these are the plants with the huge flowers that bloom in August, September and sometimes into October).  I have already discussed the new series of hibiscus called the “Summerific Series. *“Older Rose Mallow (perennial hibiscus) varieties set their flowers on the end of stems, but the Summerifics™ bloom all along the stem, giving you many, many more flowers! The other special feature of the Summerifics™ is their compact habit.*  Some of the Summerific series of hibiscus are currently available at garden centres. – Berrylicious, Cranberry Crush, Jazzberry Jam, Summer Storm. Some others that are not part of this series are Blue River 11 – a pure white, Fantasia, Turn of the Century, Plum Crazy. There is a new red one called Midnight Marvel that is supposed to bloom ‘til frost, with the foliage turning brilliant orange as the cooler weather arrives. If you find it, buy it. The beautiful Kopper King with its dark foliage has been surpassed by Summer Storm. Summer Storm is currently available locally also. Listed below are the 22 varieties with photo links and websites. Most of the descriptions I have provided are taken directly from the website listed as I myself have not grown most of these varieties, but will be doing so soon in my new hibiscus sampler bed!  Care: Be aware that perennial hibiscus can be very late to emerge in the spring – similar to Rose of Sharon. I leave the flower stalks until spring to mark the spot where they are growing (it will be quite evident!) and cut them to the ground when I see new growth. Hibiscus prefer moisture, but check each description below as many will tolerate brief periods of drought. If you don’t have an area with moist soil, water then more often. I always remove seed pods when the plants are finished blooming. Lord Baltimore is sterile, so I don’t have a problem with seeding. Not sure about the rest.  *A few varieties are currently available at Mason House, Rekker’s Garden Gallery apparently have many, selling out fast at Vandermeer’s who had most of the varieties I have listed (on sale at 45% off), try Sheridan as well (may be expensive), not sure where else – call ahead.* | | |
| **Summerific Series**  Berrylicious  *Lavender Mauve* | Enormous 8- to 9-inch blooms of lavender mauve, the wide petals overlapping freely and showing delightful "crinkly" creases.  ''Berrylicious' is just 4½ to 5 feet high and wide, It sports dark green foliage, which in cooler weather is tinged with burgundy.  It's not a drought-tolerant plant -- oh, it will probably survive, but it won't thrive and bloom its best unless given consistent moisture. But it does tolerate poor soil, clay, sand, humidity, and many other stresses.  Expect 'Berrylicious' to bloom from midsummer until fall. You will love its huge blooms and compact, tidy habit.! Zones 4-9.  <http://www.waysidegardens.com/berrylicious-rose-mallow/p/49331/> | Sold out at Vandermeer  Mason House? |
| **Summerific**  **Series**  Cherry Cheesecake | Another gorgeous addition to the popular SUMMERIFIC™ series!  This year’s new gal on the block is a compact, well-branched and heavily budded selection that forms an attractive, shrub-like clump of thick, leathery, maple-like, dark green leaves.  We’re not sure which are prettier—the creamy pink, magenta kissed flower buds or the white flowers with magenta tipped petals and magenta veining radiating out from the cherry red eye.  Huge 7-8” wide flowers have thick, heavily overlapping petals with a ruffled, rumpled texture that helps them hold up better in the summer wind than older selections with thin petals. <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=2330> | ?? |
| **Summerific Series**  Cranberry Crush  *Red* | 'Cranberry Crush' sports 7- to 8-inch blooms of dusty maroon, the wide petals overlapping freely and showing delightful "crinkly" creases  ***'Cranberry Crush' is just 3 to 4 feet high and 4 to 5 feet wide***. It sports dark green foliage, which in cooler weather is tinged with burgundy. <http://www.waysidegardens.com/cranberry-crush-rose-mallow/p/49337/> Moist soils are ideal, but these are amazingly drought-tolerant in the short term. | Vandermeer |
| **Summerific Series**  Jazzberry Jam  *Magenta* | For one, it's a full zone cold hardier than all others, ***surviving in zone 4 without a hitch.*** For another, it's half the size of most others, just 4 to 5 feet tall and wide. For yet another, its ruffled magenta blooms reach 9 inches or more across.  At just 4 to 5 feet high and 5 feet wide, it's also one of the most compact Hibiscus. You can put it into a large container and move it from patio to poolside to front yard, as you please. It won't take over smaller-space gardens, and can become the center of accent plantings in not much space at all.  Best of all are the blooms, though. ***A blinding shade of magenta, they offer oversized petals with neat ruffles around the edges and the fascinating crepe-papery look beloved of Hibiscus***. We give their diameter as 9 inches to be conservative, you'll find some foot-wide blooms before the first few seasons are out, and the flowers only improve in number and size as the shrub matures!  <http://www.waysidegardens.com/jazzberry-jam-rose-of-sharon/p/48924/> | Vandermeer |
| **Summerific Series**  Summer storm  *Pale pink with rose veins & magenta centre* | Try this one over Kopper King  Enormous 9- to 10-inch blooms of pale pink with rose veins and brilliant magenta center. The wide petals overlap freely, displaying delightful crinkling. 'Summer Storm' is just 4 to 5 feet high and slightly wider.  Best of all, **'Summer Storm' offers deep purple to chocolate foliage! The previous Rose Mallow holding this distinction was 'Kopper King,' but 'Summer Storm' leaves that old favorite in the dust with huge, maple-like leaves that increase the number and size of their lobes with each passing year. Sunlight brings out the dark tones in this foliage, so it will go deeper and deeper in the heat of the summer!**  Moist soils are ideal, but these are amazingly drought-tolerant in the short term.  [**http://www.waysidegardens.com/summer-storm-rose-mallow/p/49340/**](http://www.waysidegardens.com/summer-storm-rose-mallow/p/49340/) | Vandermeer |
| **Summerific**  **Series**  Cherry Cheesecake | Another gorgeous addition to the popular SUMMERIFIC™ series!  This year’s new gal on the block is a compact, well-branched and heavily budded selection that forms an attractive, shrub-like clump of thick, leathery, maple-like, dark green leaves.  We’re not sure which are prettier—the creamy pink, magenta kissed flower buds or the white flowers with magenta tipped petals and magenta veining radiating out from the cherry red eye.  Huge 7-8” wide flowers have thick, heavily overlapping petals with a ruffled, rumpled texture that helps them hold up better in the summer wind than older selections with thin petals. <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=2330> |  |
|  |  |  |
| Blue River II  Pure white | :<http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/422_HibiscusBlue-River-II.aspx>  A beautiful addition for an all white garden – just a pure white flower – 6-8 inches across. I am planting 3-4 in a group in the white garden.  Huge, dinner plate sized flowers sit atop robust, shrub-like plants from mid to late summer. 'Blue River II' is long-blooming. Each successive spring will bring larger flowers. ***This variety produces pure white flowers with no contrasting eye.***  The foliage of 'Blue River II' bears a hint of blue, giving the plant an overall cooling affect . It's hard to believe this tropical-looking beauty is hardy to zone 4! | Vandermeer |
| Fantasia  Rosy Pink | A heavy-blooming hybrid that boasts large, flat, rosy-pink flowers to 9" in width. Each flower is highlighted by a darker, rosy-red center pattern...attractive to hummingbirds. The green-foliaged, compact, 3' tall plants are adorned with flowers from midsummer until early fall. If you like your flowers "a little on the tacky side," you need this new mallow! <http://www.plantdelights.com/Hibiscus-Kopper-King-PP-10793-Kopper-King-Mallow/productinfo/3876/> | Vandermeer |
| Fireball  Burgundy Red | Hibiscus 'Fireball' is a dazzling 2001 introduction from the late Fleming brothers that makes a compact 4' tall plant with fine-textured green foliage...often with a purple blush. From midsummer through early fall, the clumps are topped with brilliant, large burgundy-red flowers...a true showstopper and hummingbird favorite. <http://www.plantdelights.com/Hibiscus-Kopper-King-PP-10793-Kopper-King-Mallow/productinfo/3876/> | Vandermeer |
| Heartthrob  Maroon | Huge blooms that open from nearly black buds. Nearly foot-wide blooms of richest maroon, trimmed in charcoal-black?  Appearing in mid- to late summer, the flowers reach 8 to 10 inches wide and sport a black center and black veining. The burgundy-maroon petals are slightly ruffled, adding texture to their tremendous size, and they arise in great numbers all season long. Glossy and perfectly rounded, they are simply amazing.  'Heartthrob' reaches 4 feet tall and 6 feet wide, very densely branched, it makes a lovely low hedge or color ribbon through the sunny garden. The foliage is fresh green and quite large, providing the perfect backdrop to those eye-popping blooms.  This Rose Mallow asks only for good soil drainage and plenty of sunshine to grow and bloom its best. **Give it enriched soil for best flowering, and it will grow into the ideal hedge or color ribbon for your landscape! Zones 4-9.** | Vandermeer |
| Kopper King  Light pink with dark red eye and red veining | This exciting 1997 hybrid from Nebraska's famous Fleming brothers represents the culmination of 50 years of breeding. Hibiscus 'Kopper King' has stunning, dark purple foliage on a stocky 4' tall clump. From midsummer until early fall, the clumps are topped with giant, 1' wide, light pink flowers with a dark red eye and dramatic red veining...a huge hummingbird magnet. For greatest foliage coloration, full sun exposure is best along with slightly moist soil. <http://www.plantdelights.com/Hibiscus-Kopper-King-PP-10793-Kopper-King-Mallow/productinfo/3876/> | Vandermeer |
| Lord Baltimore  Red | A beautiful red hibiscus which I have had for several years in my garden. Very nice maple like leaves, it grows in a location which is not bone dry in summer. Starts blooming in mid August and continues into mid-late September. <http://wimastergardener.org/?q=HibiscusLordBaltimore> | Try Mason House? |
| Midnight marvel  Deep red | ***The leaves turn a fiery orange for fall***! But the foliage is just part of its glory. It also sets huge, ***deep red blooms from midsummer until frost,*** simply covering itself in color for 3 months or more each year!  ***The handsome, maple-shaped leaves on this fast-growing Rose Mallow reach nearly a foot long, reaches 5 feet high and 6 feet wide. And the color refuses to green out in summer, even in fiery heat.***  By midsummer the plant is studded with long, elegantly twisted buds, which open to beautifully veined carmine-red blooms 9 to 10 inches wide. A true red Hibiscus is a rarity, and 'Midnight Marvel' offers a dark, pleasing shade of crimson that sets it apart from all others. ***The flowers continue until the first hard frost, recovering nicely from those light frosts that dot autumn nights in many areas.***  With the first run of cooler fall weather, the foliage turns brilliant shades of orange, remaining on the plant for many weeks before dropping. This adds a whole new dimension to the color palette, the red blooms combining boldly with the orange leaves.  H. moscheutos is native to the southeast United States, thriving in swamps, marshes, and wet meadows. If grown in very moist soil, it will probably be somewhat larger in size and heavier in bloom, provided it receives full sun and good hot summers. It can withstand short periods of drought, but the flower count will be affected. It doesn't mind heavy or clay soils, and needs heat and sun to grow its best. Zones 5-8. <http://www.waysidegardens.com/my-valentine-hibiscus-shrub/p/49354/> | Sold out at Vandermeer  Try Rekker’s  MasonHouse – not currently available here  -I am trying to find out where to get this one – we might have to wait until next year. |
| Moy Grande  Red | Hibiscus 'Moy Grande' certainly boasts one of the largest flowers we have seen on a hardy hibiscus, reaching sizes in excess of 1' across when grown in rich moist soils. Dozens of the giant, bright blue-red flowers adorn the 5' tall x 5' wide clump each day from midsummer until early fall...a hummingbird favorite. <http://www.plantdelights.com/Hibiscus-Kopper-King-PP-10793-Kopper-King-Mallow/productinfo/3876/> | ? |
| My Valentine  Red with deep veining | ***A great improvement over 'Fireball***,' this super-compact selection offers lush bright green foliage and masses of giant 8- to 9-inch blooms all along the stems. Opening from nearly black buds, the flowers are a ***rich, saturated true red, standing out brilliantly with deep veining and a bright yellow center***. A selection of the native species, this Rose Mallow is wonderfully tolerant of heat and humidity, ***outblooming its cousins effortlessly***. Zones 4-9. <http://www.waysidegardens.com/my-valentine-hibiscus-shrub/p/49354/> | Mason House – call ahead |
| Party Favour  Cotton candy pink, red eye | This super long blooming Hibiscus cultivar from the Walters Gardens, Inc. hybridizing program will delight you with large 8-10 inch wide blossoms from midsummer until *frost*!  Rose pink buds open to glossy cotton candy pink flowers with heavily ruffled, overlapping petals and a red eye.  Since it is an indeterminate bloomer, the flowers are produced at the nodes all up the flowering stems rather than just at the top like some other cultivars.  The highly dissected, green leaves on nicely branched, red stems form a sizable clump in the landscape.  'Party Favor' PPAF is suitable *en masse* for the back of the border or planted singly as a focal point. **Intro Year:** 2009 <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=1878> | ? |
| Peppermint Schnapps | 'Peppermint Schnapps' is just 40 to 48 inches high and 24 to 36 inches wide. Very heavy blooming and with an upright, outwardly spreading habit, it covers itself in ***giant 8-10-inch,bubblegum-pink flowers that are merrily striped and streaked in dark purplish-red.*** The blooms look even larger than they really are against the rather petite shrub!  Bred by the famous British nursery Blooms of Bressingham, 'Peppermint Schnapps' is easy to grow and very adaptable. Give it well-drained soil and plenty of sunshine and moisture, and it will thrive happily for many, many years. It puts up with heat, humidity, periods of drought, and poor soil without turning a petal.  <http://www.waysidegardens.com/peppermint-schnapps-hibiscus-moscheutos-x-coccineus-shrub/p/48933> | Try Kingsway |
| Pink Elephant  Pink | Aptly named, this outstanding cultivar has the largest flowers we've ever seen on a Hardy Hibiscus! They open up flat to a whopping 1 foot wide! The medium pink blossoms have beautifully overlapping petals and a deep red eye.  This plant blooms from mid through late summer.  In warmer zones, it may rebloom again in early fall, an unusual trait for Hibiscus.  <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/1663_Hibiscus-moscheutosPink-ElephantPP21883.aspx> | Vandermeer |
| Plum Crazy  Plum | This 1999 Fleming Brothers' hybrid mallow was obviously named after the brothers themselves...guess you had to be there. Hibiscus 'Plum Crazy' is prized for the purple/green, three-lobed leaves that adorn the compact, 4' tall clumps. From midsummer until early fall, the clumps are topped with cone-shaped, 7" wide, plum-colored flowers, each with darker purple venation and a very dark eye highlighting the center...very, very cool, especially when fanned by the hummingbird wings! <http://www.plantdelights.com/Hibiscus-Kopper-King-PP-10793-Kopper-King-Mallow/productinfo/3876/> | Vandermeer |
| Plum fantasy  Magenta purple | 'Plum Fantasy' is a large Rose Mallow with oversized 7- to 8-inch blooms of richest magenta-purple. From midsummer through early fall, these tropical-looking flowers swirl open each morning, dazzling in their crepe-paper like texture and unbelievably saturated color. **A good choice for wet soils**  Plum Fantasy' thrives in consistently moist to damp and even wet soils, making a delightful waterside planting, beautifying the area around the leaky garden tap, and thriving in the moist sunny border. In full bloom it reaches 4 to 5 feet high and nearly as wide, simply covered in dinner-plate sized blooms!  The flowers begin in midsummer in most areas, continuing through the awkward late summer to early fall doldrums and only ceasing when the temperatures really drop. Very fast-growing, it puts on a show from a young age, and is left alone by nibbling deer. Butterflies adore this plant!  **The only maintnance required (beyond consistently moist soil that is never allowed to dry out)** of 'Plum Fantasy' is an annual late winter pruning. Zones 4-9.  <http://www.waysidegardens.com/plum-fantasy-rose-mallow/p/31806/> |  |
| Sultry Kiss  Fuchsia red | This super long blooming Hibiscus cultivar from the Walters Gardens, Inc. hybridizing program forms a beautiful upright mound of well-branched, maple-like, dark green foliage which is bronze when it first emerges.  Deep red buds open to fuchsia-red flowers measuring a whopping 9-11 inches wide.  The flowers have heavily overlapping petals and are produced at the nodes all the way up the reddish purple stems, coating the plant in blossoms from midsummer until *frost*.  **Intro Year:** 2009  <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=1879> | Vandermeer |
| Tie Dye  Pink & white | Hibiscus 'Tie Dye' is a new perennial mallow release from the breeding program at Walters Gardens. This lovely hibiscus produces 5' tall stalks adorned with large 10" flowers all summer...pink on the outer half of the flower face and white on the inner half...all accented by a central cherry-red eye. Moist soils are best, but Hibiscus 'Tie Dye' will prosper in all but the driest of garden soils. <http://www.plantdelights.com/Hibiscus-Kopper-King-PP-10793-Kopper-King-Mallow/productinfo/3876/> | Vandermeer |
| Turn of the Century  Pink & red pinwheel | Hibiscus 'Turn of the Century' is unquestionably one of the most unique hardy hibiscus ever bred. The 6' tall stalks are topped with 6" wide flowers with nicely overlapping petals...attractive to hummingbirds. Each petal is light pink on one side and red on the other side with a graduation of pigments between the two. The overall effect is a pink and red pinwheel. <http://www.plantdelights.com/Hibiscus-Kopper-King-PP-10793-Kopper-King-Mallow/productinfo/3876/> | ? |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| You get so much bang for your buck with any hydrangea – you can’t beat the flowering power of hydrangeas – in shadier locations and sunny locations. I have prepared another comprehensive list of the most popular varieties available at most of the nurseries in our area.  Macrophylla Hydrangea: **A warning** – do not buy the macrophylla types. The Macrophylla hydrangeas make flower buds this summer for next year’s blooms so you are at the mercy of Mother Nature as to how well those buds survive the winter. I have found that in our climate, they have never made it through one winter on my four Endless Summer hydrangeas which are now 9 years old. It is very hard to resist the temptation to buy macrophyllas as they are quite beautiful. The newer Endless Summer series, bred to flower on old wood (last year’ growth) and new wood (this year’s growth), are not much better than regular macrophylla’s. I have found them to be very stingy with their blooms, last year’s growth always dead in spring and the new growth takes forever to bloom . There is a new one called Hydrangea Everlasting “Revolution” that blooms on old wood and new wood, purportedly blooming more reliably than other re-blooming macrophylla’s. It is simply gorgeous and I have not followed my own advice. I have purchased 3 Revolution’s so will report how they fare over the winter. **Do not prune macrophylla hydrangeas in the spring – you will be removing flower buds if they survived the winter.**  The paniculata hydrangeas are the finest hydrangeas in my opinion. They come in all sizes, with lime light being one of the tallest, to the littlest one – Bobo. You also have a choice of solid cones types to much looser lacy types. Most of them change colour from white to pink, rose or deep red as the season progresses. These bloom on new wood so can be pruned as much as you like in the spring. Quickfire is one worth searching for as it blooms one month earlier than all the other types. Others I would recommend are Strawberry Vanilla, Pinky Winky, Limelight and Little Lime (shorter version of Limelight), Fire & Ice,  I have not included any nurseries in the “where to purchase” column as many of these shrubs are available at most nurseries, many unfortunately sold out by the time fall rolls around. Keep these in mind for next year. | | |
| **HYDRANGEA PANICULATA VARIETIES** | | |
| Hydrangea paniculata “Limelight” | <http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63187-product.html> White cones with lime tips, turn pink as we get cooler weather. Can get 10 feet tall. | Most nurseries |
| Hydrangea paniculata “Little “Lime | <http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63199-product.html> Same as above but half the size | Most nurseries |
| Hydrangea paniculata “Bobo” | Plants are covered midsummer to fall with large blooms held on strong stems. Gold medal winner for its innovative size and habit.  <http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63157-product.html> | Superstore this year |
| Hydrangea paniculata “Bombshell” | Compact and well-branched, this 2–3ft mini is a mound of flowers midsummer to frost. Blossoms open white with a pink eye and gradually turn rosy. <http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63197-product.html> | Mason House |
| Hydrangea paniculata Fire and Ice | 'Fire and Ice' changes bloom color every few weeks. The blooms open cream-colored in early spring, standing out beautifully against the bright green foliage on plants 6 to 10 feet high and wide. By midsummer blushes of pink have overtaken the florets, and soon the entire plume is a rich shade of cotton-candy pink. Then, beginning in late summer and continuing throughout autumn, the flowers acquire a deep, intense shade of magenta-burgundy. Stunning!  Best in part shade, 'Fire and Ice' will become the focal point of any setting. It's a good choice for the foundation or along the driveway, where its bloom changes can be followed on a daily basis, but it also works well in border and woodland garden. Zones 3-8.  <http://www.waysidegardens.com/fire-and-ice-hydrangea/p/34017/> | Mason House, Vandermeer |
| Firelight | Upright panicles on sturdy stems change from pure white to pomegranate red in late summer. A new introduction 2013  <http://www.gardenimport.com/spblvl3.php?lvl=Hydrangea&nm=Hydrangea&ref=HY4547> | Garden Import |
| Hydrangea paniculata Kuyeshi | This hydrangea features large lacy white flowers that will bloom from July through fall. This plant originated in Japan and has foliage consisting of extremely glossy leaves that are more slender than other Paniculata’s.  Another older variety with lacy flowers. I have a group of 3 which look like a blanket of lace when in bloom – beautiful.  <http://hydrangeasplus.com/Hydrangea_Paniculata_Kyushu.html> | ? |
| Hydrangea paniculata “Pinky Winky” | Here's a Hydrangea that's hardy to Zone 4, is not bothered by pH, blooms midsummer to frost, and tolerates drought. Massive flower heads, bicolored pink and white, are held upright on strong red stems. Imagine this as a flowering hedge. Plant 3 or more for a great show. <http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63194-product.html> | Most nurseries |
| Hydrangea paniculata “Pink Diamond” | Pink buds open to become white flowers with pink centers on this Pink Diamond hydrangea. The blooms rapidly turn pink as they age and then into a very bright pink shade just in time for fall.  This older variety may be difficult to find, but is a very nice hydrangea with lacy flowers.  <http://hydrangeasplus.com/Hydrangea_Paniculata_Pink_Diamond.html> | ? |
| Hydrangea paniculata “Quickfire” | Sets masses of white-to-rosy-pink flowers at the first breath of hot weather, and continues the show through summer and into fall. Our gardens could all use an extra 4 to 5 weeks of color, and that's exactly what Quick Fire™ del  These large, loosely-held blooms open creamy-white, then quickly turn a deep rosy-pink that is a bit unusual in hue and very eye-catching. Their color isn't affected by soil pH, so you can plant Quick Fire™ alongside your blue H. macrophyllas in acidic soil and still be assured of rosy blooms. And since this Hydrangea flowers on new wood, they will continue to arise even late in the season -- a real boon for those of us in climates prone to late-spring frosts that kill the buds of our Hydrangeas! 6 to 8 feet high and wide at maturity. It thrives in full sun. Zones 4-8.  Blooms one month earlier than the other paniculatas – I love this hydrangea. It has received much interest from visitors to the garden.  <http://www.waysidegardens.com/quick-fire-hydrangea-shrub/p/40256/> | Most nurseries |
| Hydrangea paniculata “Strawberry Vanilla” | They begin creamy white but turn pink and then strawberry red, or even burgundy, later in the season with the cooler night temperatures. Since new flower heads continue opening into late summer, plants can display all three color stages at any one time. The blooms are borne on red stems, too, making quite a contrast against the green leaves. <http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63149-product.html> | Vandermeer, Most nurseries |
| Hydrangea paniculata” Unique” | Pure white 10" erect conical flower heads open up on this beautiful plant. The blooms turn light pink as they age. The color is spectacular in the fall with a mixture of white and pink flower heads against multi-colored leaves.  Again, an older variety with lacy flowers – very beautiful  <http://hydrangeasplus.com/Hydrangea_Paniculata_Unique.html> | ? |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HYDRANGEA ARBORESCENS VARIETIES** | | |
| The arborescens also bloom on new wood so should be pruned in the spring, quite severely if you want. The old fashioned one we are all familiar with is good old Annabelle – or as we all call it – mophead hydrangea –it starts white and turns green, then brown. The new kids on the block include Incrediball – with basketball sized white flowers on sturdier stems, Pink “Invincibelle Spirit” – pink right from the start, as is Bella Anna – a new for me so don’t know much about it. They both look very similar. I am quite pleased with Invincibelle Spirit – the pink flowers fade to an antique dusty rose. | | |
| Hydrangea arborescens Annabelle | A mounding shrub that grows 3-5 ft. high with a wider spread. In July, it produces huge (8-12in.) round heads of pure white blooms that remain attractive into September, changing to shades of green and then brown.  'Annabelle' is most at home in partial shade and evenly moist but well-drained soil; she'll grow in full sun if moisture is ample. Because she flowers heavily on the current season's growth, most gardeners cut the stems to the ground in late winter. New shoots emerge from the base and bloom the same summer.  <http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63135-product.html> | Most nurseries |
| Hydrangea arborescens “Incrediball” | An amazing improvement of the well-known *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle', this Mophead has flower heads four times the size on sturdy stems that don't flop. Blooms progress from lime green to white and back to green.  The flowers on my plant are huge, the size of basketball and some possibly a beach ball! Give it lots of room. Very impressive plant.  <http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63149-product.html> | Most nurseries |
| Hydrangea arboerscens “Invincibelle Spirit” | The first *Hydrangea arborescens* that blooms pink -- think of it as a pink version of the popular 'Annabelle'. The flowers emerge dark, hot pink and mature to rich, clear pink. Plants bloom from summer until frost on new growth, and the dried flower "mops" remain decorative in winter. Hardy to Zone 3,  I have found the flowers to be much smaller than Annabelle, they start quite pink and then fade to a dusty, antique pink, not a rich pink as this site suggests.  <http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63134-product.html> | Most nurseries |
| Hydrangea arborescens “Bella Anna” | breakthrough for its color and repeat bloom, this rich pink Mophead from renowned plantsman Michael Dirr is the first variety of *Hydrangea arborescens* in the Endless Summer® series. Bella Anna™ forms a spreading, well-branched shrub with strong stems to support the large flower heads.  A new one for me – just purchased this year. Another that blooms pink from the start – no white in this hydrangea  <http://www.waysidegardens.com/bella-annatm-hydrangea/p/48540/> | Superstore this year |

|  |
| --- |
| **HYDRANGEA QUERCIFOLIA**  Oakleaf shaped leaves, with panicles of white flowers and incredible foliage. Make sure you check the size of the plant on the label as they can become quite large. These are great for shady areas. A smaller version is called Hydrangea quericifolia “Pee Wee’” which I purchased from Mason House. Most nurseries should have a few varieties available. I purchased several last year from Vandermeer’s.  Check this site for a listing of a few varieties <http://hydrangeasplus.com/Quercifolia/> |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PHLOX – mid to late summer flowering perennials**  Five phlox paniculata that you may not be familiar with that I really love – Franz Schubert with lilac flowers, Watermelon Punch – a beautiful salmon, Grenadine Dream –red/purple, pink and yellow Sherbert Cocktail, and Shockwave - variegated leaves with a pink/lavender flower.  As of this date, many phlox varieties have been sold out at the nurseries. Check these out for next year and plan to include them for the mid-late summer garden. I have one called Miss Jill and David’s Lavender which grow in dappled shade – they bloom later and last a long time. Any of these varieties would grow in the same conditions, although most of mine are in full sun. I wouldn’t be without phlox, the more varieties the better.  **Note: if growing variegated types, remove any stems that revert to green as the green will take over.**  The website listed in most of the varieties below has photos of hundreds of varieties – most of which we will never find for sale. The colour in the photos is very true to form. I am only showing the link for the photo – no descriptions are available on the website but the growing conditions are very similar - some taller than others. The ones I have listed below are the ones I have in my garden, purchased at various local nurseries throughout the years, so they may be available in our area at some point in time. | | |
| Becky Towe - ***variegated*** | <http://helenium.info/phlox/becky-towe> | Vandermeer last year, Mason House |
| Blue Boy | <http://helenium.info/phlox/blue-boy> |  |
| Blue Paradise | <http://helenium.info/phlox/blue-paradise> | Vandermeer |
| Blushing Shortwood | <http://bloomsofbressinghamplants.com/Gardeners/Variety/Phlox_Blushing_Shortwood.html> | Vandermeer |
| Bright Eyes | <http://helenium.info/phlox/bright-eyes> |  |
| David | <http://helenium.info/phlox/david> | Most nurseries, Mason House |
| David’s Lavender | <http://helenium.info/phlox/davids-lavender> | Most nurseries, Mason House |
| Ending Blue | <http://helenium.info/phlox/ending-blue> | Mason House |
| Fancy Feelings | <http://helenium.info/phlox/fancy-feelings> | Mason House |
| Franz Schubert | <http://helenium.info/phlox/franz-schubert> | Vandermeer, Mason House |
| Grenadine Dream | <http://helenium.info/phlox/grenadine-dream> | Vandermeer last year |
| Jade | <http://helenium.info/phlox/jade> | Mason House, Sheridan |
| Jeanna | <http://www.waysidegardens.com/jeana-phlox/p/33723/> An unusual variety , pink, mildew resistant, small florets | Mason House |
| Miss Jill | <http://helenium.info/phlox/miss-jill> |  |
| Nora Leigh ***variegated*** | <http://helenium.info/phlox/nora-leigh> | Most nurseries |
| Orange Perfection | <http://helenium.info/phlox/orange-perfection> |  |
| Peppermint Twist | <http://helenium.info/phlox/peppermint-twist> | Most nurseries |
| Sherbert Cocktail | <http://helenium.info/phlox/sherbet-cocktail> | Vandermeer |
| Shockwave  ***variegated*** | Shorter, variegated foliage, mildew resistant,  <http://www.springhillnursery.com/shockwave-phlox-85828.html> | Vandermeer, Mason House |
| Starfire | <http://www.santarosagardens.com/Phlox-paniculata-Starfire-p/phl-sta.htm> The early spring growth on this variety is tinted maroon but matures to green. | Mason House |
| Tiara | A shorter beautiful double white with rosebud type flowers <http://www.phoenixperennials.com/nursery/plant.php?plantID=4334> | ? |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **RUDBECKIA – mid- late summer flowering perennials and annuals**  Another outstanding perennial right now are the rudbeckias – see below for my favourites. Some of the annuals include Irish eyes or green eyed susan (eyes are green instead of black), Cherokee sunset with double flowers, Indian Summer black eyed-Susan with 6 inch flowers, and one I really like is a red and black one called cherry brandy (see below). Many of the annuals will self-seed next year for a cornucopia of varieties and colours after the bees have pollinated them. | | |
| Rudbeckia subtomentosa ‘Henry Eilers”  Perennial | Unusual gold-quilled spidery petals are highlighted by chocolate-brown centers. Narrow upright grower which makes a great specimen in the back of the border – can grow to 5-6 feet tall- may need support. Mid-late summer bloomer. Quite unusual  <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/1808_Rudbeckia-subtomentosaHenry-Eilers.aspx> | Most nurseries  Mason House |
| Rudbeckia Cherry Brandy  Tender perennial | 3 to 4" blooms that are a dark cherry red. Long blooming and tolerant of poor soils and drought once established. I grow this as an annual as I have found it does not survive the winter. I like the colour so much it is worth growing – usually from seed but available as plants | Try Vandermeer Mason House |
| Rudbeckia goldstrum  Perennial | Black-eyed Susan - Profuse bloomer later in summer, what the nurseries don’t tell you is that it spreads – like a groundcover but easy to pull out. Wonderful planted enmasse, around a tree, groundcover somewhere in full sun or part sun. When it is finished blooming (and if your clump is not too big!), pull off the dried up petals and you will end up with a different looking plant.  <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/plant-finder/plant-details/kc/i780/rudbeckia-fulgida-var.-sullivantii-goldsturm.aspx> | Most nurseries  Mason House |
| Rudbeckia  Triloba | This biennial can reach up to 5 feet tall, long-lasting, airy sprays of small, daisy-like blossoms in yellow with purple-black centers – little black-eyed susans. The flowers are beautiful in late summer bouquets.  It will self-seed about but easy to remove. Have several now growing (naturalizing) in the ditch.  <http://michiganflora.net/species.aspx?id=439> | Most nurseries  Mason House |
| Rudbeckia triloba “Prairie glow”  Bi-ennial | A new selection with bicolour blooms, dark centre with orange-red petals that are tipped in yellow.The tall stems are garnet. Also 4-5 feet tall with the same airy sprays as triloba.  <http://www.losthorizons.ca/index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage.tpl&product_id=2719&category_id=1&keyword=rudbeckia&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=1> | Vandermeer last year  Try Mason House this year |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **I have listed below some new plants I have discovered and some plants that have done very well over the summer.** | | |
| Hosta Foxfire “Good Friday” | A very unhosta like hosta  <http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com/index.php/catalog/hosta-descriptions-f> | Goldenbrook Hostas |
| Hosta “Sara’s Sensation” | A very wide golden margin, green centre, I really like this hosta <http://www.nhhostas.com/saras-sensation-hosta.htm> | Got mine via mail order at Hosta Geek in Nova Scotia <http://hostageek.ca/> |
| Hosta “Rainbow’s End” | Shiny foliage with great streaking, smaller hosta <http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com/index.php/catalog/hosta-descriptions-r> | Goldenbrook Hostas |
|  |  |  |
| Heuchera “Rave On” | This neat heuchera with grey leaves has been blooming since mid-May with pink flowers. Still a few stalks of flowers at this date! A great plant for “neatniks”. | Vandermeer – still available |
| Heuchera “Chocolate Veil” | Very dark, large, chocolate and black leaves with no hint of green – love it | John’s Perennials last year |
| Heuchera “Spellbound” | Beautiful grey and burgundy patterened leaves | Mason House last year |
|  | | |
| Shrub Cornus stolonifera “Pucker up” | Wording taken from Lost Horizens nursery “A new trade introduction that we are not sure how different it is from C. 'Compressa' It has the same glossy,crinkled foliage that has high leaf spot resistance. Red twigs in winter on this native.”  This shrub has very krinkly foliage – looks very intriguing!  <http://www.losthorizons.ca/index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage.tpl&product_id=799&category_id=1&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=1> | Lost Horizons |
| Shrub Clethra “Sherry Sue” | New growth stems are pinkish red , glossy foliage, blooms with extremely fragrant flowers in late summer and loves wet locations.  <http://www.rarefindnursery.com/index.cfm/action/productdetail/product_id/4231.htm> | Vandermeer |
| Perennial  Thalictrum delavayyi “Splendide” | Words taken from this website “Very new on the scene and sure to sell like hotcakes is this lovely giant Meadowrue from French breeder Thierry Delabroye. 'Splendide' is a sterile selection, and therefore wants to flower continuously. It begins in June, bearing sprays of soft lavender clouds on 6-9' stems. Plants will no doubt be top heavy, so we recommend staking for added support .” <http://www.avantgardensne.com/catalog/product.cgi/0/5171/P1/default/N/0>  I have seen a photo of this plant planted this year – a mass of top heavy blooms that looks like a cloud of pink baby’s breath – best of all it doesn’t seed about. Lost Horizons lists it this year, but a good distance from Durham region. | Lost Horizons  Sometimes at John’s Perennials |
| Clematis – 4 to tell you about, first purpurea plena elegans – the flowers are burgundy, with a scabious like flower and extremely long bloomer, love this clematis it is an easy care viticella type group 3. Try Peter Keeping to purchase. <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=580>  -a non-climbing one called” Inspiration” – a beautiful pink has been blooming all summer, grown in a tall tomato cage. Purchased at Vandermeer last year (2012) <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=969>  -and one called Zizaia Ptitsa with purple flowers has been blooming all summer, grown in a tall tomato cage. Purchased from Peter Keeping – go the top of this presentation for phone numbers. <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=774>  -the last one is clematis “sweet summer love” – a fall blooming one with cranberry violet blooms, fragrance and a long bloom time – rivalling the white one called sweet autumn clematis. Purchased at Garden Import in 2013 and still available as of this writing <http://www.gardenimport.com/spblvl3.php?lvl=Clematis&nm=SWEET_SUMMER_LOVE&ref=CL4750> | | |