**Brooklin Horticultural Society Presentation for May 23, 2012 meeting**

Sofie’s Picks - A listing of plants presented at the Brooklin Horticultural Society meeting May 23, 2012, 2012, a combination of new introductions and other interesting plants.

[www.masonhousegardens.com](http://www.masonhousegardens.com) Uxbridge, Ontario – phone 905-649-3532 – New introductions, unusual plants, perennials, grasses, vines, shrubs, tropicals, vegetables + heritage tomatoes. All varieties listed on their website

[www.gardenimport.com](http://www.gardenimport.com) Mail Order Company, Thornhill, Ontario Phone 1-800-339-8314

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

[www.vandermeernursery.com](http://www.vandermeernursery.com) 905-427-2525 588 Lakeridge Rd. S., Ajax, ON (corner of Lakeridge and Bayley)

[www.goldenbrookhostas.com](http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com) Blackstock, Ontario, Mail order (Canada only) + pick up. Huge selection of hostas with photos, including newest varieties

John’s Perennials, 905-862-8175, Uxbridge, ON

Peter Keeping, Bowmanville, Ontario – sells unusual & hard to find clematis as well as perennials at very reasonable prices– Peter imports clematis from Europe/England 905-697-7842

***Once again, you will notice that most of the varieties listed are from Mason House Gardens as Jeff Mason, the owner, lists his plants on his website so I know what is available. Many are unusual plants that I have not seen for sale locally or may have been started from seed by Mason House. I have grown all the ones listed below. I now have 60 varieties of heuchera which I like to use in place of hostas, and have purchased them from various locations as each nursery has a limited number of varieties available. Check with your local nursery for availability or ask them to order for you.***

***I have a very large garden (10 acre property) with over 100 beds to weed. I have various weeders and hoes and one called the winged weeder which I purchased several years. Last week (mid-May) the wooden handle on this weeder broke and I was left with a handle about 18” long. This was the best thing that ever happened to me as this now shortened weeder has become much more useful. I can bend down or on one knee and using my right hand to scrape and pull, I use the left hand to pull out the weeds (excellent for lefties also). I have cleared out flowers beds and paths in seconds and minutes instead of hours. Quack grasses still need a good shovel to get to the roots, but overall this winged weeder has become by the best of the lot. It comes in two sizes – the smaller one is much better than the larger one. Stay tuned, I am trying to find out where to purchase it (Home Hardware has discontinued sales). Check on line at wingedweeder.com.***

| **Type** | **Name** | **Description** | **For Sale at..** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Shrub for sun or shade** | Hydrangea paniculata strawberry vanilla | I have mentioned this shrub in a previous meeting but it bears mentioning again. Pyramid shaped blooms morph from pure white to shades of raspberry, strawberry & white – like a bowl of vanilla ice-cream swirled with strawberry sauce. Not only that, beautiful in spring when not in flower with fresh rugose leaves and red stems. Gorgeous! | Most nurseries |
| ***Shady Average to moist***  ***- Perennial*** | Heuchera Spellbound | Amazing 6” diameter silver, pewter coloured leaves | Mason House |
| ***Shady Average to moist*** | Heuchera Cajun Fire | More bang for your buck – leaves are red in spring, black in summer and maroon in fall – white flowers | Mason House |
| ***Shady Average to moist***  ***- Perennial*** | Heuchera Berrie Smoothie | A combination of deep, rose pink berry coloured leaves really stand out in the garden. | John’s Perennials |
| ***Shady Average to moist- Perennial*** | Heuchera Plum Royale | Burgundy coloured leaves – this plant is different because some of the leaves (not all) are quite shiny – almost wet looking - unique | John’s Perennials |
| ***Shady Average to moist- Perennial*** | Heuchera Chocolate Veil | Large deep brown and black foliage, with a maroon reverse | John’s Perennials |
| Vines Clematis | Clematis | 72 varieties at Mason House including Tie Die & Durandii, make sure you keep the label so you know how to prune it – group 1, 2 or 3 | Most nurseries  Peter Keeping |
| Annual | Coleus | 33 named varieties at Mason House – I plant many in full sun which do very well | Most nurseries |
| Annual | Dahlias | 52 varieties at Mason House Gardens, including the bishop series with black foliage | Available at most nurseries |
| Vegetables | Tomatoes | 100+ varieties at Mason House mostly heritage varieties | Most nurseries |
| Vegetables | Mighty Mato - grafted heirloom tomatoes | The Mighty 'Mato is a series of heirloom tomatoes grafted on disease resistant tomato stock. The little plastic clip you see on the stem is where the two different plants were joined together. What this means is that you can grow those heirloom varieties that produce more delicious tomatoes without the disease problems inherent to these older plant strains. | Mason House |
| Vegetables | Tomato Ilde Yellow cherry tomato | Small yellow grape shaped fruits. Produces hundreds of tomatoes in clusters – up to 75 per truss. Indeterminate. 68 days – delicious mild flavour– save seeds for next year | Mason House |
| Vegetables | Asparagus Jersey Giant or Guelph Millenium | Male varieties grow very tall, do not produce seeds and produce larger spears & more of them. Why not grow one plant as an ornamental to anchor a corner in your yard – very decorative, ferny foliage, will grow up to 7 feet tall! | Mason House  Garden Import |
| Herbs | Chives Profusion | Profusion Chives are sterile, they flower in June, but do not produce seed - excellent flavour | Richters Herbs exclusive |
| Herbs | Rosemary Foxtail | Foxtail like plumes – outstanding | Richter’s herbs |
| Herbs | Rosemary BBQ | Up to 3-4 foot tall stems which can be used to skewer food for BBQ. That’s a lot of rosemary! | Richter’s Herbs  Mason House |
| Herbs | Basil Napolitano – also called lettuce or mammoth basil | For the serious pesto makers – Napolitano has the biggest leaves of all basils. Very ornamental crinkly leaves! | Richter’s herbs, seeds or plants |
| *Great For Kids Annual* | Cardoon | Silver, jagged leaves – a monster sized plant in one season will make quite a statement, especially if planted enmasse if you have room. Not prickly! | Mason House |
| *Great for Kids*  Vegetables | Kale dinosaur | Grow it for the wonderful pebbled foliage. Very ornamental - you can eat it too!! | Mason House |
| *Great for Kids Annual - tropicals* | Melianthus – various varieties | Rub the leaves to release the Peanut butter fragrance– grow it for the wonderful exotic foliage and you can invite people to come over and smell the peanut butter plant! | Mason House |
| *Great for Kids*  *Annual tropicals* | Tapeworm plant - Homalocladium platycladum | A great plant for kids, resembling tape worms. Drought tolerant – great in pots or the ground – long wands of very flat leafless stems that are ½ inch wide and jointed at nodes. Small leaves occur on new growth. Full sun but will get darker with protection from the hot afternoon sun. | Mason House |
| *Great for Kids*  *Annual* | Mirabilis Jalapa - Four O’clock | Flowers open at 4 o’clock, hence the name. Did you know that over the summer they form a tuber that can be overwintered inside – ideal in pots which can simply be brought in and put in your root cellar or furnace room – no need to water over the winter . Large seeds for kids to plant in a pot – fast grower | Mason House  Most nurseries  Easy from seed |
| *Great for Kids*  *Annual* | Spilanthes Oleracea | Eyeball plant – unique flowers shaped like alien eyeballs in colors of brown & yellow. Grow enmasse for best effect – or grow one in a large pot – blooms ‘til frost | Mason House  Pineridge? |
| *Great for Kids*  *Annual* | Berlandiera | Chocolate plant – very drought tolerant so good in pots– small yellow daisy like flowers smell like chocolate in the morning. Plant one with the eyeball plant – the colours will complement each other & bloom ‘til frost. Berlandiera can be overwintered indoors in a sunny window. | Mason House |
| *Great for Kids*  *Annuals* | Amaranthus caudatus | Bizarre long tails that look like dreadlocks in pink or green (green tail) 3-5 feet tall plants with tails that can reach 3 feet. Sun. Mason House will carry the less common colour green tails this year. | Mason House |
| Annual - tropicals | Canna Australia | Deep burgundy-black foliage has a satin-like sheen and keeps its intensity all summer. 4-5', red flowers. A hummingbird magnet. | Most nurseries  Mason House  Sue Turner |
| Annual in zone 5b tropicals | Grevillea Robusta | Very ferny tree native to Australia, can be overwintered inside. Outstanding in a pot or ground. Will outgrow its pot in 2 or 3 years but worth growing for the outstanding foliage | Mason House |
| Annual tropicals | `Salvia discolour – silver leaf sage, drought tolerant | Dramatic, purple-black flowers and pistachio-green calyces, from late summer to fall, contrasted with silver leaves and stems. Blooms late summer to fall, can be overwintered indoors. 18 inches tall and 12 inches wide. | Mason House  Richter’s Herbs |
| Annual tropicals | Salvia Leucantha | This downy, bushy, subshrub produces purple wooly spikes from late summer to frost. 3’X3’ | Mason House  Richter’s Herbs |
| Annual tropicals | Salvia guaranitica black and blue`` | Crinkly leaves, flowers are navy blue with black sepals just below the petals – great in ground or pot. Up to 3’ tall. Can be overwintered indoors | Mason House  Richter’s Herbs  Pineridge in Pickering |
| Annual | Nicotiana Whisper Rose Shades | 2-3 foot rangy plant – pink shades, blooms ‘til frost – use as a filler – very prolific bloomer | Mason House |
| Annual | Geranium Orange Ice | White flowers edged in orange – quite unusual – originally started from seed | Mason House |
| Annual | Petunia Vista Series | A wonderful variety in bubblegum, silverberry and fuscia – mounding, growing about 2-3 feet in all directions. No deadheading, blooms’ til frost. Only one required in a 16`pot – will overtake other plants but must be fertilized to get it this big. Excellent annual groundcover – grow 2 or 3 together to fill in a large area | Mason House  Vandermeer  Pineridge |
| Annual | Fern – Kimberley | A fern that will take full sun, very large, aggressive fern, repot after you buy it in a large pot, can be overwintered indoors. Split it to make several | Most nurseries |
| Vines – tender | Thunbergia White Sunrise`& Smoothie Raspberry | We are all familiar with the orange and yellow ones with the dark eyes, Mason House carries one called White Sunrise which is pure white and Smoothie Raspberry is, well, raspberry! Gorgeous | Mason House, most nurseries for yellow & orange |
| Vines tender | Asarina Joan Lorraine | Delicate foliage, 2” purple cone shaped flowers ‘til frost. Will grow 8-10’ in one season. Plant one while you wait for your clematis to mature. | Mason House |
| Vines tender | Mina Lobata | Delicate sprays held away from the stems in shades of orange to apricot to cream on each spray – will fill out an arbour quite quickly – full of bloom ‘til frost | Mason House |