

Spring 2011

the magazine for success in the garden

PROVEN BEAUTY[®]

What's Your Style?

Adding Color to Outdoor
Living Space



Refresh, Repaint, Repot
Turning Old Containers into New

Hydrangea Blooms

How Soon Should
You Prune?



LOOKING FOR FRESH IDEAS? YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.

Mother Nature makes your garden come alive, but the pages of *Proven Beauty* provide the inspiration to make it your own. In this issue, you'll find a wealth of ideas and tips that will answer your gardening questions and make this spring your most successful season yet.

Not sure when and how to prune the Hydrangea in your garden? We'll help you identify the variety of Hydrangea you own and when to cut it back to ensure you'll have a thriving, bountiful bloomer all season.

Thinking about adding some perennials to your garden this year but wondering which will work best in your yard? *Proven Beauty* gives you suggestions on some of the most beautiful and versatile plants you can trust to come back year after year. Plus, we provide a link so you can easily tell what zone you live in and make your perennial choices with that information in mind.

Wondering how best to make a colorful statement in your outdoor space? Check out pages 4-7 for some practical advice on how to "Fashion Your Own Outdoor Look." And if you're looking for ideas on accessorizing your garden on a budget, we've got that, too. You'll find do-it-yourself lighting and container painting projects on pages 8-9 and 12.

What you see in *Proven Beauty* is the Proven Winners' commitment to bringing you great plants and great ideas. We want to enhance your gardening experience and help you create outdoor space that makes you want to celebrate.

Let the gardening – and the fun – begin!

Sincerely,



Danielle Ernest
Editor



**Download a pdf of this issue
by clicking here.**

Table of Contents

- 3** Get a Free *Gardener's Idea Book*
- 4** What's Your Style? – Fashion Your Own Outdoor Look
- 8** D-I-Y – Refresh Your Containers
- 10** The Simple Elegance of White Flowering Plants
- 12** A D-I-Y Lantern Lighting Project
- 13** Celebrity Garden Shed
- 14** How to Prune Hydrangeas
- 16** Perennials Add Value to Your Landscape
- 18** Outdoor Living Extravaganza Locations

Great Garden Ideas? We've Written the Book on It.



And It's FREE.

If you like the ideas in *Proven Beauty*, you'll want to get your hands on Proven Winners' FREE 28-page *Gardener's Idea Book*. It's filled with landscape and container ideas for a broad range of styles and spaces – from a contemporary balcony in a bustling city to a traditional hearth and home patio and everything in between.

To order your FREE copy, click the link below. It will provide an inspiring start to your spring planting.

MY FREE IDEA BOOK



What's Your Style?

Just like a richly textured, beautifully designed dress can be stunning on its own, a well-designed, neutral outdoor space can make its own statement. And in both cases, the richness and texture of the look can be enhanced when you accessorize with color. A bright, bold necklace, a pastel pair of pumps, or an elegant, deeply hued scarf can create a completely different appearance. The same is true for your outdoor space. Start with the classic and serene feel of green, as shown here, and then experiment with touches of color to create a new look and a style all your own.

At left: GRACEFUL GRASSES® VERTIGO™ *Pennisetum*, GRACEFUL GRASSES® BLUE MOHAWK™ *Juncus* with GRACEFUL GRASSES® Fiber Optic Grass *Scirpus* Behind table at left: GRACEFUL GRASSES® Toffee Twist *Carex* with Efanthia *Euphorbia*; On table, left to right: Angelina *Sedum*, Scotch Moss *Sagina*, Elijah Blue *Festuca*; Behind table at right: GRACEFUL GRASSES® VERTIGO™ *Pennisetum*



Purple Makes It Pop

Simply by adding two purple plants, the green scene turns from serene to engaging. The bright and bold color creates an atmosphere that invites you and your guests to sit down and enjoy.

Added plants to table: ANGELFACE® Blue *Angelonia*, SUPERTUNIA® Royal Velvet *Petunia*
 Outlined flowers: SOPRANO® Purple *Osteospermum*, SUPERBELLS® Trailing Light Blue *Calibrachoa*



Pink Makes It a Party

Pretty pastels can be layered over your green foundation to create a colorful spring celebration. All you have to do is add flashes of pink in the form of potted plants, outdoor decor, sugary treats, and refreshing drinks, and you have a party.

Outlined flowers: SUPERTUNIA® Bermuda Beach *Petunia* and SUNSATIA® Mango *Nemesia*
 Flowers in container: SUPERTUNIA® Bermuda Beach *Petunia*



Orange, Yellow, and Red Make It Warm and Inviting

Your outdoor living space takes on a different personality when you choose a warmer color palette to build on your green background. The citrus spectrum of yellows to oranges to reds is dramatic and matches the heat of the outdoor season. Plus, it gives you lots of potential to accessorize as summer makes its way to fall.

Above at left: COLORBLAZE® Lifeline Coleus, SUPERBELLS® Dreamsicle, Red and Saffron *Calibrachoa*; On table: SUNSATIA® Lemon *Nemesia*
Opposite, left to right: SUPERBELLS® Dreamsicle *Calibrachoa*, SUNSATIA® Lemon *Nemesia*, and SUPERBELLS® Red *Calibrachoa*





Refresh Your Container by Repainting Before You Repot

Do you have a favorite container that has seen better days? A stack of terra cotta pots that has been in your garden shed for several seasons? Give them a new look and give yourself some new options by taking them out, dusting them off, and picking up a paintbrush. With some acrylic paint and a little creativity, you can refresh your old pots by adding your own personal touch. Plus, what you save on new containers can be used to fill them with beautiful blooming Proven Winners plants. That's a win-win!

More Ideas

Grow real moss on containers for a natural, weathered look

HOW TO GROW MOSS

Learn how to antique and stain containers, to age their appearance

HOW TO ANTIQUE

Use containers as centerpieces for an outdoor party

CREATE CENTERPIECES

Last season, the container above was raw terra cotta. To create a new look for this spring, it has been whitewashed. Instead of coating the surface with solid paint, whitewashing is done by diluting white acrylic paint with water and then applying it to the pot's surface. After it dried, a natural green paint diluted with water was applied, letting it run and dabbing it with paper towels until the desired look was achieved.



Step 3: Select a piece of lace. Cut it the full height and circumference of the container. Wrap and tape in place. Using a matte spray paint, spray a coat of paint through the lace. Wait for the paint to dry thoroughly before removing the lace.



Step 3: Using off-white acrylic paint and a small paint brush, paint this design or a design of your choice around the rim of the pot.



Step 3 shows each repainted container. Click the arrows above to view Steps 1 and 2.



Step 1: Select a terra cotta pot. If the pot has been used before, make sure it is still structurally sound. Scrub clean with soap and water and let it dry.



Step 2: To achieve an antiqued effect, paint the pot with acrylic paint, alternating between black and a mossy green paint. When the paint is almost dry, gently rub some of the paint off with a dry or slightly damp paper towel.



Step 3: Using off-white acrylic paint and a small paint brush, paint this design or a design of your choice around the rim of the pot.



Step 1: Select a terra cotta pot. If the pot has been used before, make sure it is still structurally sound. Scrub clean with soap and water and let it dry.



Step 2: Paint the pot using acrylic craft paint. Acrylic paint, while water-based, will not be affected by outdoor weather. Apply a second coat if necessary.



Step 3: Select a piece of lace. Cut it the full height and circumference of the container. Wrap and tape in place. Using a matte spray paint, spray a coat of paint through the lace. Wait for the paint to dry thoroughly before removing the lace.

Elegant White



Wondrous white bloomers are a wise choice that bring an air of simple but sophisticated elegance to your garden. They are magnificent in any setting but are especially distinctive when used at a special event, like a garden party or outdoor wedding. And white is a doubly wise choice when you use potted plants in place of cut flowers for decorating.

You'll spend less money, plus you'll have beautiful containers growing in your garden long after the event is over.

One tip: Make sure you choose containers that enhance the style you want to create for the event.

Te



Above at top: **Silvery Moon** – SUPERBELLS® White *Calibrachoa* hybrid, SNOW PRINCESS® *Lobularia* hybrid, SUPERTUNIA® Vista Silverberry and SUPERTUNIA® White *Petunia* hybrids

Above at bottom: **Dainty Delight** – SUPERTUNIA® White *Petunia* hybrid and ILLUSION® Emerald Lace *Ipomoea batatas* with 'Limelight' *Hydrangea macrophylla* and GRACEFUL GRASSES® VERTIGO™ *Pennisetum* in the background

Opposite, clockwise from left: SUPERBELLS® White *Calibrachoa* hybrid, SUPERTUNIA® White *Petunia* hybrid, DAREDEVIL® Snow *Pelargonium zonale*, and INFINITY® White *New Guinea Impatiens*

The Award for Best Lighting Effects in a Garden Setting Goes To ... This D-I-Y Lantern Lighting Project

Add mood lighting to moon lighting in your garden by following the simple, step-by-step instructions shown here. Start by collecting new or used glass jars and tea candles that will fit inside them. While colors, sizes, and shapes of the jars may vary, all should have a lip at the top. Use metal wire of various weights and lengths to suspend the lamps from an overhang or on stakes placed strategically in your garden. Place candles inside all or intermingle jars of flowers with jars of light in the same setting.



Other ways to use jars for decorating

CENTERPIECE IDEA 1

CENTERPIECE IDEA 2

Step 1: Gather supplies: small, clean glass jars that have a lip, colored wire (silver or copper), pliers, tea candles.

ROMANTIC GARDEN TABLE



Easy steps to create your own candle lanterns



Step 1: Gather supplies: small, clean glass jars that have a lip, colored wire (silver or copper), pliers, tea candles.



Step 2: Using the pliers, wrap the wire under the lip of the jar. Loop a second piece of wire for hanging. Add tea candle.



Step 3: For added visual interest, suspend another loop of wire containing glass beads. They can vary in color to match the theme of your party.



CELEBRITY GARDEN SHED

Shirley Bovshow, Host of "The Garden World Report Show"

PROVEN BEAUTY: What item in your garden shed do you use the most?

SHIRLEY BOVSHOW: That would have to be good old-fashioned twine! I enjoy the art of guying and directing the growth of my plants. It doesn't matter if the project of the day is weeding, I'm always ready to prop a wayward plant when I see one. I get excited about different kinds of "ties." Copper is a favorite, as is color-coated stainless steel and colorful twisty ties, clips, and panty hose for supporting heavy vegetables. You can always find twine in my pockets and, of course, that means you can find twine wrapped around my washing machine axle, too. Not good!

PROVEN BEAUTY: What item in your garden shed could you not do without?

SHIRLEY BOVSHOW: It depends. I have particular garden tools that I'm attached to for my personal gardening and others for my professional work as a landscape designer. I guess a tool that crosses over for both applications is my wheelbarrow. My rusty yellow, non-branded (anymore) wheelbarrow. I drive a truck, and it's always packed with soil, sand, stone, gravel, you name it! On top of this heap is my sunny, yellow cart. It keeps me from schlepping individual bags and hurting myself, even though sometimes I think, "If I carry the bags, I'll get a workout." The voice of reason always interjects, "No, Shirley, you will only get a backache. Use the wheelbarrow!" I'm a menace to myself!

PROVEN BEAUTY: What's the oldest item in your garden shed?

SHIRLEY BOVSHOW: Besides myself, I would say the oldest item in my garden shed is my *Sunset Western Garden Book*. I have an old, dirt-smudged, falling-apart-at-the-seams copy that I keep outdoors in a plastic bag for quick reference. Of course, I have a "nice" *SWG* book copy in my office, too. This book got me hooked on gardening, and it has a special place in my heart as well as my shed.

PROVEN BEAUTY: What's the newest item in your garden shed?

SHIRLEY BOVSHOW: You mean what are the newest items, (plural) in my garden shed, right? As a producer of a garden TV show on the web, "Garden World Report," I receive new products to review from all over the world, on a weekly basis! From a customizable "Pruning Buddy" (a tarp that you can configure into any shape for easy clean-up), to "Nasa-grade" planting media to ergonomic compost machines, I have it all! It's a lot of fun to preview and test these products on video to share with other gardening enthusiasts. You can watch the previews on my website under the "Garden Center TV" series. And let's not forget plants. I have a variety of new plants on their way from growers for me to test in my sunny Los Angeles garden this spring. I guess if the plants can't be happy in the land of perennial sunshine, I don't know where they can be happy!

To Prune or Not to Prune. That Is the Question.

Hydrangeas are prized for their beautiful flowers, and gardeners want to make sure that they prune them at the right time to encourage big, bountiful blooms. How do you know whether or when to prune?

First, determine the variety of your Hydrangea. If your plant produces big pink or blue flowers, it's a *Hydrangea macrophylla*. If its flowers are round and white (or pink in the case of the new Invincibelle® Spirit), the plant is a *Hydrangea arborescens*. Finally, if the plant has large, conical flowers, which are often white but may also be green or pink, you own a *Hydrangea paniculata*.

Hydrangea macrophylla

This plant requires little more than a trimming, and only immediately after flowering. It sets flower buds the year before, so if you shear it back in late winter or spring you will cut off all of this summer's flowers. Newer reblooming varieties like the Let's Dance® series shown here will also bloom on the current season's growth, but you still want to leave the plant intact through spring so you can enjoy early summer flowers.

Hydrangea arborescens

This plant blooms on 'new wood' – the current season's growth – so pruning it back in late winter or early spring will encourage the new growth, which produces flowers. Cutting the stems back one to two feet in the spring will also result in a fuller, stronger plant that is less likely to flop under the weight of its abundant summer flowers.

Hydrangea paniculata

This plant also blooms on new wood and should be pruned back in late winter or early spring. You can cut them back to the ground, or, if you want slightly taller plants, cut them back to one to three feet.

Remember, if you make a mistake and prune at the wrong time of year, your plants will forgive you. You may not have flowers for a season, but with proper timing you will see them the following year.





Clockwise from left: INVINCIBELLE® Spirit *Hydrangea arborescens*; LITTLE LIME™ *Hydrangea paniculata*; CITYLINE™ Vienna *Hydrangea macrophylla* and LET'S DANCE® Moonlight *Hydrangea macrophylla*

Hydrangea type	Where they bloom	When to prune
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Blooms on new wood, pruning encourages growth	Prune stems back 1-2' in late winter or early spring
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	Blooms on new wood, pruning encourages growth	Prune back to the ground or prune to 1-3' for slightly taller plants
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Blooms on old wood; some also bloom on new wood	Do not prune in late winter or early spring; little pruning is necessary, only prune after plant is done blooming

Proven Winners Hydrangea varieties

Hydrangea arborescens

INCREDIBALL®
INVINCIBELLE® Spirit
WHITE DOME®

Hydrangea paniculata

'Limelight'
'Little Lamb'
LITTLE LIME™
PINKY WINKY™
QUICK FIRE®

Hydrangea macrophylla

ABRACADABRA® series
PINK SHIRA™
CITYLINE® series
EDGY® series
LET'S DANCE® series

Perennials Add Value to Your Landscape



Plants that come back year after year not only add beauty you can depend on, but they add value to your garden. With beautiful, established plants in your garden design, you can stretch your annual garden budget further to fill in with brilliant, fast-growing annuals. And just because they're perennials, doesn't mean they're fussy or that you have to have a green thumb to grow them. The varieties shown here are easy, reliable growers that will give you years of gardening joy.

Other Proven Winners Perennials

MADLY™ *Aubrieta hybrids*

Efanthia, Helena's Blush and Kalipso *Euphorbia hybrids*

STRATOSPHERE™ and KARALEE® *Gaura hybrids*

ABSOLUTELY AMETHYST™ *Iberis*

PINK CHABLIS® *Lamium maculatum*

BROADWAY LIGHTS® *Leucanthemum hybrid*

LEMON DROP® *Oenothera hybrid*

GARNET BROCADE® *Sedum hybrid*

You can tell if a plant will be a perennial in your yard by checking its hardiness zone. To enter your zipcode and find out your zone,

[CLICK HERE](#)

DAISY MAY™ *Leucanthemum hybrid*

If a beautiful bunch of Daisies makes you smile, you'll want to add the beautiful and easy-to-grow Daisy May to your garden. Clean white flowers with golden yellow eyes sit atop strong, sturdy, dark green foliage. The flowers on this gem have a long bloom time.

Not sure where to plant your perennials?

Give yourself a season to think about it by planting it in a pot early in the season and then transferring it in a garden bed in the fall. This allows you to see how it grows, so you can choose the best place in your landscape to establish it.



DOLCE® Blackcurrant
Heuchera hybrid



DOLCE® Crème Brûlée
Heuchera hybrid



DOLCE® Key Lime Pie
Heuchera hybrid



DOLCE® Licorice
Heuchera hybrid



DOLCE® Mocha Mint
Heuchera hybrid



DOLCE® Peach Melba
Heuchera hybrid

DOLCE® *Heuchera hybrids*

Prized for their deep foliage colors, that's not all that Dolce has going for it. It's extremely easy to grow, it spreads nicely to fill in your garden, and it is a great choice for shade. Plus, tall stems of tiny flowers appear in early spring, and the foliage color intensifies as the weather turns cooler.



Tuscan Sun *Heliopsis*

Tuscan Sun has amazing flowering power. It's a compact grower with striking foliage and rich yellow blooms that appear all summer long.

Outdoor Living Extravaganza

a Retreat and Seminar with Proven Winners

Milwaukee

April 8, 2011

Peck Center at the Milwaukee Zoo
10001 W Blue Mound Rd
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Toronto

April 15, 2011

Angus Glen Golf Club
10080 Kennedy Road Markham
Toronto, Ontario, Canada L6C 1N9

There's no more perfect way to get an inspiring jump on your spring gardening than to attend an Outdoor Living Extravaganza. Each of these Friday sessions will feature several gardening experts who will share their thoughts on a range of gardening topics to get you ready to plant your most successful garden yet. Plus, you'll get a sneak peek at the newest varieties available from Proven Winners. Registration includes the seminar, a catered lunch, snacks throughout the day, raffle prizes, and a gift bag filled with fun and useful gardening items.

\$80 per person

8:30 am to 4 pm

REGISTER HERE

