



garden spot

New plants available for new year



MARTY FIGLEY

Gardeners always like to know what's new in plants when planning the garden for the new season, so I hope this helps. We'll begin with roses since that is America's flower.

Spring Hill Nurseries of Peoria, Ill.

has introduced the "George Burns Centennial Rose" in honor of the entertainer's 100th birthday, which was Jan. 20, 1996.

It is a fragrant floribunda rose and each petal of the large red flower has a different striped pattern of creamy white. Deep blue-green glossy leaves make a perfect accompaniment. The rose has been tested throughout the continental United States for the past two years and performs well in all climate zones.

For more information, call (309) 689-3849 or fax (309) 689-3817.

All-America Rose Selections announces its 1997 winners.

Two hybrid teas are tops with the first one called "Artistry." The soft coral orange, lightly scented, 30-petaled flowers can grow to five inches across and rest among dark green, semi-glossy foliage. The long stems are ideal for cutting gardens. "Timeless" has rose-pink blooms and when the pointed buds open, the 4-1/2-inch flowers contain 25 to 30 petals each. The foliage is similar to "Artistry."

The third winner, a rounded floribunda, "Sentimental," is reminiscent of the look and scent of the striped hybrid roses of the 1800s. The sweet spice fragrance emanates from blooms of burgundy with cream stripes - a swirl of color as unusual as a large snowflake.

AARS now has a web site: <http://www.rose.org>.

Star Roses presents "Paris d'Yves St. Laurent," an unusual pink hybrid tea for 1997. The true pink buds unfurl to reveal delicately ruffled edges on a stately bloom. The rose has long stems, which makes it perfect for the cutting garden. Contact Angela at The Conard Pyle Co., 372 Rose Hill Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390-0904.

All of the roses will be available this spring.

Annual announcements

Annual flowers are always being improved by growers and Goldsmith Seeds of California is no exception. Look

for the following flowers to add interest and a brightness to your garden:

Five new geraniums in the "Maverick" series are Maverick "Red," "Salmon," "White," "Scarlet" and "Pink." The "Penny" viola series, those little pansy-like flowers, also are now available in five colors: "Penny Azure Wing," "Primrose," "Violet Beacon," "Yellow" and "Penny Mixture."

Their new "Salsa" series of salvias and the grandiflora petunia "Storm" series are also worth looking for. You won't be able to find the Goldsmith name on the labels, so look for the variety name when you shop.

Catalogs

This is the second year Ferry-Morse Seeds have produced a catalog and it is well worth ordering.

Many of the most popular flowers are easy to grow from seed. Why not try this economical way to increase your flower stock this year if you haven't done it before?

Call (800) 283-3400 for your free copy. With it you'll also get a garden club membership, free seeds, discounts up to 20 percent, free shipping and a free gift with your order. Wow!

The Gourmet Gardener, another seed catalog, features 150 heirloom varieties of herbs, vegetables and edible flowers from worldwide sources. Selections are tested in an experimental garden in France and select varieties are test-grown in the United States. Only the best are offered. Call (913) 345-0490 for your catalog.

Another specialty flower and plant catalog is produced by Select Seeds Antique Flowers in Connecticut. Growing as well as historical information is included. Call (860) 684-9310.



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New blooms: Many new varieties of flowers are available for 1997, including versatile geraniums.

A reliable source for spring-planted antique bulbs is Scott Knust's Old House Gardens, 536 Third St., Ann Arbor 48103-4957. Call (313) 995-1486 for a catalog.

The National Garden Bureau has prepared an extensive list of flowers and

vegetables that can be found in 1997 seed catalogs and at garden centers this spring. I will be happy to send the sheets to you. Please send a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to me at The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Of special interest: Ornamental Grass, "Highlander" (seeds available from Johnny's Selected Seeds, Foss Hill Road, Box 2580, Albion, Maine 04910; call (207) 437-9294); a Miniature Rose, "Angel Wings," which blooms its first season from seed; and Salad Greens' "Shepherd's Italian Misticanze." "Angel Wings" and "Shepherd's Italian Misticanze" are from Shepherd's Garden Seeds, 30 Irene St., Torrington, Conn. 06790-6658; call (860) 482-3638.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

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