

PERENNIALS

Armitage's Twenty five No-Brainers

By Allan Armitage, University of Georgia

Plants for great color, little maintenance and guaranteed to make you look like you know what you are doing

- with help from a bus load of gardeners on the English roadways -

Achillae 'Coronation Gold', Coronation Gold Yarrow, raised in 1953 to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, propagated by division or cuttings. Yellow flowers in late spring and summer. Hardy in zone 3 to 9. Full sun.

Amsonia tabernaemontana, Blue Star Flower, propagated by seed, cutting or division. Tremendously underused. Blue flowers in early to mid spring. Golden fall color. Native to the United States. Hardy in zones 4 to 9. Full sun to partial shade.

Baptisia australis, False Indigo, propagated by seed or division. Native to the eastern United States, was once subsidized by England to the colonists of South Carolina and Georgia for a substitute for indigo dye. Tremendously underused. Blue flowers in spring and early summer. Hardy in zones 3 to 9. Full sun.

Anemone tomentosa 'Robustissima' (Grapeleaf anemone) for the eastern United States and *Anemone x hybrida* (Japanese anemone) for midwest and far west. Propagated by root cuttings. Flowers, usually pink but many colors available in hybrids, in late summer and fall. Hardy in zones 4 to 8. Partial shade.

Boltonia 'Snowbank', Snowbank Boltonia, propagated by division or cuttings. White flowers in late summer and early fall. Hardy in zones 4 to 9. Full sun.

Coreopsis verticillata 'Zagreb', threadleaf tickseed. Propagated by seed or division. More vigorous than others in heat. Yellow flowers in late spring and if deadheaded, flowering persists for many weeks. 'Moonbeam' also exceptional except not as long-lived in warm climates. Hardy in zones 3 to 9. Full sun.

Corydalis lutea, Yellow Corydalis, propagated by seed. Yellow flowers on 9" tall plants in spring. Self sows with abandon. Much better in west than east. Hardy in zones 5 to 7. Partial shade.

Dianthus 'Bath's Pink', Bath's Pinks, propagated by cuttings. Pink flowers over gray foliage in spring. Found in Georgia. Hardy in zones 4 to 9. Full sun.

Digitalis grandiflora, large yellow foxglove, propagated

by seed. Tubular yellow flowers over dark green foliage in late spring and summer. Not as vibrant as *D. purpurea* but more reliable. True perennial, hardy in zones 4 to 8. Full sun.

Echinacea purpurea, Purple Cone Flower, propagated by seed and division. Many cultivars available, most propagated by seed. White or purple flowers in late spring and summer. Native to the United States, hardy in zones 3 to 9. Full sun.

Erysimum 'Bowl's Mauve', Purple Wall Flower, propagated by seed or cuttings. Purple flowers in spring and early summer. Short lived but long flowering. Hardy in zones 5 to 8. Full sun.

Helianthus angustifolius, Swamp sunflower, propagated by seed or division. Invasion but easy. Bright yellow flowers in late summer and fall. Native to the United States. Hardy in zones 6 to 9. Full sun.

Helleborus orientalis, Lenten Rose, propagated by seed outdoors. Purple or white flowers in early spring. Hardy in zones 4 to 9. Shade.

Hemerocallis many good cvs. Some of my favorites are 'Mary Todd', 'Golden Chimes' and 'Stella d'Oro', propagated by division or tissue culture. Yellow to golden flowers in late spring and summer. Hardy in zones 3 to 9. Full sun.

Heuchera 'Montrose Ruby' or 'Bressingham Bronze'. Propagated by leaf cuttings or division. Both hold bronze color throughout heat. Flowers insignificant, can be removed. Hardy in zones 5 to 9. Partial shade.

Hesperis matronalis, Dame's Rocket, propagated by seed. Biennial with fragrant mauve or white flowers in spring. Old fashioned favorite. Can self-sow. Hardy in zones 3 to 8. Full sun.

Iris pseudacorus, Yellow Flag Iris, propagated by seed or division. Tolerates normal garden soil or will prosper in ponds and shallow water. Yellow flowers in spring and early summer. Emblem of France and Quebec. Hardy in zones 4 to 8. Full sun.

Kalimeris pinnatifida, Asteromoea, propagated by division or seed. Very popular in south but gaining fans throughout country. White double flowers in late spring, persists throughout summer. Hardy in zones 4 to 9. Full sun.

Miscanthus sinensis many fine cvs. Some of my

favorites are 'Variegatus', 'Zebrinus', 'Morning Light' and 'Strictus'. Propagated by division. Many grasses are wonderful no-brainers, with silvery plumes in fall, ornamental throughout winter. Hardy in zones 5 to 8. Full sun.

Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm', Goldsturm Yellow Cone Flower, propagated by division and cutting. Yellow flowers with bronze centers in late summer and fall. No brainer of no-brainers. Hardy in zones 3 to 8. Full sun.

Sedum 'Autumn Joy', Autumn Joy sedum, propagated by cuttings. Pink to purple flowers in late summer and fall. Flower heads ornamental in winter. Hardy in zones 3 to 8. Full sun.

Stylophorum diphyllum, celandine poppy, propagated from seed. Native to eastern North America. Yellow flowers in early spring. Hardy in zones 4 to 8. Partial shade to full sun.

Tiarella 'Oakleaf', Oakleaf foam flower, propagated by leaf cuttings or division. Pinkish-white flowers in spring over handsome foliage. Hardy in zones 4 to 7. Partial shade.

Verbena 'Homestead Purple', Homestead Purple Verbena, propagated by cuttings. Very early deep purple flowers, also terrific as hanging baskets. Found in Georgia, easily available. Hardy in zones 5 to 9. Full sun.

Veronica 'Goodness Grows', Goodness Grows Veronica, and *Veronica 'Sunny Border Blue'*, Sunny Border Veronica. Propagated by cuttings. Persistent deep blue flowers in late spring and summer. Both founded by American nurseries. Hardy in zones 3 to 8.

Presented at the Plant Materials and Garden Design Workshop, Williams College, July, 1994.

The 500-Page Georgia Pest Control Handbook has just been mailed to those of you who requested a copy. This \$12 value came free with your 1994 membership. If you do not receive your copy by October 1, 1994, please contact P.T. If you did not turn in your coupon for this excellent publication...see Larry Windham, hat in hand.

RAISING MONEY FOR GAZEBO FOR HORT GARDEN

Dear Growers,

The renovation to the Horticulture Garden has been completed. Over \$50,000 has been spent to grade the area, build raised beds, provide pathways and benches, and purchase compost. The annuals and perennials are doing very well in spite of the wet weather.

The one thing the garden lacks is a central focal print. I would like to propose the building of a gazebo in the center of the garden for seating and enjoyment by alumni, landscapers, growers, and students. Some of you have been generous in supporting the garden renovation, but this is an opportunity for others who may not have thought about it before. The gazebo costs approximately \$5,000.00 and I would like to go ahead with it in the Fall of 1994. If only 50 people put in \$100.00, then we can get construction started in October.

Dr. Armitage has pledged \$500.00, and Gary Still has pledged \$1000.00...any others out there?

The garden serves as important function and hopefully members of the GCFGA will support it. Make checks payable to Department of Horticulture and send to Paul Thomas or Allan Armitage.