

Heavenly H Plants: Hydrangeas, Hellebores and Heucheras

By Marianne Binetti

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Year Round Color with plants that love our gardens

Winter belongs to Hellebores! Perennial Plants that love our climate

Plant in deep, wide hole with compost or leaf mold, Partial shade to full shade, do not need much fertilizer, do not like to be divided or transplanted, cut off old foliage, slug and deer resistant.

So many new varieties being grown by local growers. Gold collection, Doubles, Reds, Yellows.

Summer belongs to Hydrangeas - big leaf varieties need more shade and water

So many new and improved varieties! City Line Series are more compact: Rio, Paris, Berlin, Pitstachio is compact with green and red blooms.

But no hydrangea stays small! Give at least 4 feet wide by tall.

Blushing Bride example of new variety that flowers on new and old wood – also Endless Summer, Invincebel.

Annabelle and Incrediball are Hydrangea Arborens (big like trees) and bloom on new wood so can be pruned.

Pee Gee hydrangeas have pointed blooms. Like Annabelles can take full sun.

How to take cutting: in May pick a branch with flower bud, cut 1 foot long, remove lower leaves, poke into potting soil. Or wait until June or July and cut one foot branch, remove leaves from bottom half poke into moist soil.

Color changes: White stays white, cream stays cream, Acid soil, like our native soil keeps flowers blue. Potting soil is alkaline so blooms turn pink, lime can turn them purple or pink, Aluminum Sulphate makes soil acid so blooms turn blue.

Heavenly Heucheras for Spring and Fall some can take sun most prefer part shade

Alabama Sunrise – gold with purple stripe Lemon Chiffon – yellow and dwarf

Delta Dawn – rich orange Purple Palace – deep burgundy

How to prune heucheras: break their necks, or pull up and pull apart

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