

YOUR GARDEN

Have A Colorful Garden All Year Long

(NAPSA)—Gardeners work all year long to foster a bounty of bold colors, but it can be a challenge. Even if you have a lot of flowers, they probably don't bloom all year round.

One suggestion is to look for interesting colored foliage. Leaf color can range from bright yellow to burgundy, close to black and even blue. This is a great way to add color when nothing is in bloom.

Yellow foliage really stands out and contrasts well against green plants. The experts at Monrovia, a leading grower of premium plants, suggest such stunning options as the Gold Coast Improved Juniper, with its dramatic golden-yellow foliage; the Sunsation Barberry, which maintains its golden color with an orange cast most of the season; and the Limemound Spiraea, which has bright lemon-yellow leaves that turn orange-red in the fall.

Increasingly popular are plants that offer dark foliage in reds, purples and maroon. The Diablo Ninebark has intense reddish-purple leaves, while the Heart of Darkness Foamy Bells has fascinating heart-shaped leaves that are cool mint-green with a slight dark burgundy center. Sizzling Pink Fringeflower is an excellent choice for burgundy foliage. This easy-to-grow plant has rich pink flowers that appear throughout the year against wine-colored leaves. The new Caruba Black Good Luck Plant has strappy leaves that are nearly black.

Blue foliage—yes, blue—can look very striking in the garden. Lots of easy-to-grow and water-wise conifers have a blue tinge, like the Dwarf Alberta Blue Spruce, Icee Blue Juniper and French Blue Scotch Pine. The Eola Sapphire Hosta has large,



Photo credit: Peter A. Hogg

Bold and brilliant foliage, like this Canna Tropicanna, is one way to have color in your garden throughout the year.

thick-puckered leaves that get bluer and bluer as the plant ages.

Another hot trend is variegated plants. Variegation means there is more than one color on the leaf. Some stunners are the Canna Tropicana, which has huge burgundy leaves striped with yellow, orange and red. The foliage of the new Strawberry Lemonade Mandevilla has three distinct colors—mint green, cream and white flushed with pink. The Banana Split Yucca has long soft leaves with a wide yellow center with gray-green edges. It looks very striking in containers.

In addition to bringing year-round color into the garden, distinctive foliage colors and shapes can provide the architectural design look that many top designers favor. For more terrific suggestions for colorful foliage, visit www.Monrovia.com.