

# Newer Plant Varieties Offer More Color; Less Care

By Joe Covington

I talk with many young gardeners who don't want to spend any more time on their yard other than initially planting it, and then setting their sprinkler clock. Older gardeners want to embellish existing, already attractive and manicured landscapes by using plants with maximum impact and minimal extra care. Guess what....both can be done!

New plant innovations make gardens easier and more fun than ever with colorful evergreen shrubs that stay small and compact. Try these water-wise sun lovers for glorious color and interest all year long.

New **Abelia** varieties grace gardens with pretty foliage and white or pink blooms: Kaleidoscope, as its name suggests, offers bursts of green, yellow, orange and red color. Twist of Lime is bright yellow and green, and Rose Creek has green foliage turning purple-green in winter.

Improved **Indian Hawthorns** provide lush foliage and lovely spring blooms: Southern Moon has very compact growth habit with dark green leaves and bright white flowers; Red Bird blooms white and offers eye-catching red new growth for 6 to 8 months; Calisto is a pink bloomer with a low habit and great leaf-spot resistance.

**Nandinas** are a real stand out in the landscape and these new ones are spectacular: Obsession looks like a tight, feathery ball with striking red color. Flirt has a low mounding habit and gorgeous burgundy-red new growth turning to shades of plum in fall. Blush Pink is small and rounded with red foliage winter and summer, and no sun scald. Lemon Lime is the newest newcomer with stunning chartreuse foliage.

There are many new stars in the world of shrubs...these are just a few easy keepers. R & D really works! Watch next week for shade lovers.

*Joe Covington is the owner of Covington's Nursery & Landscape Co. at 5518 President George Bush Hwy @ SH66 in Rowlett.*

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