

New To Me

June 1999 by Joan Sargent

In the last two years I've tried out quite a few perennials and have picked several that I think you might want to consider for your gardens if you don't already know them. They are all available at Twombly's in Monroe and Claire's on Route 22 in Putnam. I have not checked local nurseries, but you may well find them there too.

The easiest Dianthus I have ever grown is 'Bath's Pink', it makes a low growing mound and is covered with small fragrant flowers in the month of June.

Achillea [millefolium] 'Credo' has fragrant, soft yellow flowers and the longest period of bloom of any Yarrow.

A Shasta Daisy with large white flowers, [Leucanthemum] 'Becky' blooms for months with long stems, ideal for cutting, a bit of a spreader, but easy to divide and move around where you have gaps to fill.

The perennial Lobelia 'Ruby Slippers' is a late summer bloomer in the most wonderful shade of dark red, this is not for your sunny border, but in a shady spot that does not dry out- you will be dazzled by it, quite tall as it does not seem to flop.

The Salvia 'Purple Rain' [Salvia verticillata] is the last of my new favorites, another plant that blooms on and off for months with soft mauve spikes and fragrant foliage.

These plants may not take the place of the all time favorites that I could not live without, but they are easy, productive plants that I think you would enjoy. I do try to find new things every year, many of them turn out not to be great improvements over existing ones but you just never know when a real gem will appear.

Joan Sargent, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August 2012; wrote about 24 gardening columns through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them again.



Clockwise from top right:

- Dianthus 'Bath's Pink'.

-Achillea millefolium 'Credo'

-Shasta Daisy Leucanthemum

'Becky'

-Lobelia 'Ruby Slippers'

-Salvia verticillata 'Purple Rain'

