

Money-saving tips | The transplanted garden | New Zone map

# Horticulture



## EDIBLE GARDENING

- › Blueberries for every climate
- › The raised-bed herb garden
- › Flowers to admire and eat
- › Chefs' favorite vegetable varieties

HORTMAG.COM

MAY/JUNE 2012

**N**icholas Staddon has been a Monrovia craftsman for more than 23 years. As the wholesale grower's director of new plant introductions, he collaborates with breeders and plant explorers scouring the globe for new and notable plants. His cracker-jack personality makes him a sought-after guest speaker, and he works closely with garden writers and Monrovia's customers to provide information on plants both time tested and new. Here are three of his favorite plants to recommend:

### 1. Misaka peony (*Paeonia* x'Smith Opus 1')

This is a stunning Itoh peony, or intersectional hybrid, a type of peony created by crossing tree peonies and herbaceous peonies. Itohs get their lacy, disease-resistant foliage, vigorous growth and large, plentiful flowers from the former and their compact size from the latter. The flowers of Misaka, which is Japanese for "beautiful blossom," mature from soft orange to yellow flushed with pink. Their strong stems make them a wonderful cut flower. Fine-cut foliage keeps Misaka of interest when the bloom season ends. USDA Zones 4–8.



### 2. Bountiful Blue blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* 'FLX-2')

This new blueberry variety offers plenty of interest through the seasons. It is semi-evergreen in the warmer regions of the United States. New leaves are flushed pink, but they mature to dusky blue. In fall, they take on a red hue. Ivory spring flowers give way to large, tangy-sweet blueberries. Growing just three to four feet tall and wide, Bountiful Blue makes a fine kitchen garden, container or landscape plant. Zones 6–10.



### 3. 'Blue Chip' dwarf butterfly bush (*Buddleja* 'Blue Chip')

The first-ever sterile butterfly bush, this summer-flowering beauty does not seed, so it won't take over your garden or escape into wild spaces. With a regular drink, it will reach three feet tall and wide, or two feet with limited water. Its lilac-blue flowers have a heady sweet fragrance. You'll stand in line behind butterflies and hummingbirds to enjoy this plant up close and personal. Zones 5–9. ☞



MARIA ZAMPINI is the president of UpShoot LLC.