

**DIY IDEAS  
FROM BOTANIC GARDENS**

hortmag.com  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

# Horticulture

**NEW  
COLUMN!**

Art of the Garden  
See page  
84

**AWARD FOR  
GARDEN  
EXCELLENCE:  
SPRINGS  
PRESERVE**

**WINTER TIPS  
FROM A  
MONTANA  
GARDEN**

**CREATE  
SIZZLE WITH  
ORANGE  
FLOWERS**

hwmedia

US \$5.99



02

0 74808 01914 4

Display until March 4, 2013

# Pete Kruger

A woody-plant aficionado shares three of his current favorites

**AS GENERAL MANAGER** of Ball Ornamentals, Pete Kruger travels the globe, working with breeders to bring unique woody plants to market. An ag-business graduate of California Polytechnic State University–San Luis Obispo, Pete has more than 35 years in the industry, 20 of them with Ball Horticultural Company, where he first began his career as a sales representative.

## 1 Cousin Itt acacia (*Acacia cognata* 'Mini Cog')

Pete says this is “one of the most memorable plants that I have ever worked with.” A compact form of the iconic Australian acacia, it grows to about four feet tall and wide, which is dramatically smaller than the twenty-foot trees from which it was bred. Cousin Itt thrives in warmer gardens or as a container plant on patios elsewhere. It handles heat reflected from concrete well. It has deep green foliage on pendulous branches that have a soft texture, often leading gardeners to want to pet it. Unlike others in this genus, it has no thorns. Once established it's a drought-tolerant evergreen, looking lush year-round. USDA Zones 8–11.



## 2 Flutterby Pink butterfly bush (*Buddleia* 'Podaras #9')

The habit and flower production of this hybrid makes it exceptional in the buddleia world. The fragrant flower panicles stand approximately 12 inches long. The branches are upright, strong and straight, emanating from the crown of the plant like a clump of pink fluffy spears. Flutterby Pink will grow to five feet tall and four feet wide. Best of all, this variety is completely sterile, so there's no chance of it invading an ecosystem. Zones 5–11.



## 3 Pistachio hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Horwack')

This funky, multicolored mophead hydrangea is pure gardening fun! Large flower clusters range from red and green to shades of purple and blue; each is a unique work of art. The more acidic the soil, the more intense the purple and blue tones appear. This variety blooms on old and new wood, so frequently you'll get two sets of flowers each summer. Pistachio does best in partial shade. It has shown great resistance to powdery mildew, compared to other hydrangeas. Zones 5–10. ☞



.....  
**MARIA ZAMPINI** brings new plants to market through her own company, UpShoot LLC.