



MARCIA WESTCOTT PECK

## Trending right now...

The Pecks report on the hot ideas in gardens and landscaping — read now, dream over the winter and build toward your goal in 2015, [Pages 4-5](#)

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Check out what earned judges' and visitors' attention at the Farwest display of new varieties

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## GARDENS



PHOTOS FROM SUPPLIERS

'Lemon Lace' elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)'Spring Fleecing' fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)'Mighty Velvet' lamb's ears (*Stachys*)Wheels of Wonder ice plant collection (*Delosperma*)'Olympian' fig (*Ficus carica*)

## Get a sneak peek at plants you'll love in 2015

By **Kym Pokorny**  
Special to *The Oregonian*

One thing's for sure after the recent unveiling of 52 plants in the New Varieties Showcase at the annual Farwest Show: Everyone loves a petite elderberry with scorching yellow foliage. Judges named 'Lemon Lace' a Plant of Merit, showgoers made it a People's Choice and I put it squarely in my Top 5.

All that's left is to see whether gardeners love **Sambucus 'Lemon Lace'** as much as the experts at Farwest, a trade show produced by the Oregon Association of Nurseries and held at the Oregon Convention Center in late summer.

My bet? No question.

The deeply cut golden leaves are reminiscent of 'Tiger Eye' sumac (*Rhus*), but at 3 to 5 feet tall and wide, it's much smaller and easier to fit into a landscape. I haven't seen the summer blooms, but that doesn't matter. The fine, ferny foliage is enough for me.

The people I talk to on the inside track smirk as they say, "I already have it." Well, la-tee-dah. I'll get it, too, when spring comes and many of the new varieties show up in garden centers.

A fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) given the unfortunate name **'Spring Fleecing'** and a new lamb's ears called **'Mighty Velvet'** also ended up on more than one list. I choose them, as did the judges.

Another great plant for small gardens, 'Spring Fleecing' grows 10 to 15 feet tall and blooms with copious clusters of white, fringed flowers. Very pretty.

'Mighty Velvet' made me remember why I'm so partial to one of the most common of plants. This version has longer, narrower foliage than the well-known lamb's ears and is as soft as one of those fleece blankets I can't keep my hands off of. It's said to hold up well to rain and be drought-tolerant. Can't wait to get my hands on this one.

I was already infatuated with the Jewel of Desert collection of miniature ice plant (*Delosperma*) when I met the new **Wheels of Wonder**. The plants, which form a tight mat, get covered in the spinning daisy-like blooms that give the group its name. Add that it's extremely drought-tolerant, and I'm all for it.

**'Olympian' fig** is the final plant on my list, though not the last. They all get equal billing. There are two great reasons to try this fruit tree. First of all, figs are fabulous, both in taste and their garrulous tropical attitude. Second, 'Olympian' was discovered in the Northwest so it is sure to do well here. Oh, there's another reason: It grows only 4 to 8 feet tall, so no ladders or constant pruning.

So that's my list, but I have to

### Standout new plants

#### Kym's Top 5

- 'Olympian' fig (*Ficus carica*), offered by T&L Nursery
- 'Spring Fleecing' fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), introduced by Heritage Seedlings Inc.
- Wheels of Wonder ice plant collection (*Delosperma*), introduced by T&L Nursery
- 'Mighty Velvet' lamb's ears (*Stachys*), introduced by Agricola Management Group for the HGTV Home Plant Collection
- 'Lemon Lace' elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), introduced by Proven Winners ColorChoice

#### Judges' Top 4

- Best of Show: 'Spring Fleecing' fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
- Plant of Merit: 'Mighty Velvet' lamb's ears (*Stachys*)
- Plant of Merit: 'Lemon Lace' elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)
- Plant of Merit: First Editions 'Toscana' barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), introduced by Bailey Nurseries Inc.

#### People's Choice Top 5

- 'Lemon Lace' elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)
- 'Sombbrero Adobe Orange' coneflower (*Echinacea x purpurea*), introduced by Darwin Perennials
- 'Avantgarde' hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*), introduced by Ball Ornamentals
- Skyline heather collection 'Stockholm' and 'Sydney' (*Calluna vulgaris*), introduced by Ball Ornamentals
- 'Marley's Pink Parasol' Japanese snowbell (*Styrax japonicas*), introduced by JLPN Inc.

mention **'Marley's Pink Parasol'** Japanese snowbell (*Styrax japonicas*), which was voted a People's Choice. It would have come in No. 6 on mine if I'd gone that far. The tree at the show had only a few flowers, but those perfect pink bells won me over. And again, at 8 feet, a good choice for a small space.

Not all of the 52 new introductions were on display at Farwest, but many were. How do you decide? I only know what those of us at the show on one of three beautiful days in August chose as our favorites at that moment. A different day could have meant a different roster.

See what you think by clicking onto the New Varieties Showcase on the OAN website ([ORne.ws/1s95OYW](http://ORne.ws/1s95OYW)), where you'll find all the nominees, along with photos and descriptions.

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