

COUNTDOWN TO CALIFORNIA

It's time to pack your bags and get ready for the annual pilgrimage to sunny California. Can't wait? No problem, here's a sneak peek into what you'll be seeing on display along the coast next month.

BY JASMINA DOLCE

The 2017 California Spring Trials will take place in just a couple weeks: April 1-6. Hopefully, if you plan on attending, your itinerary is already set. If not, here is a quick north-to-south listing of all the trial locations. And if you're still on the fence about attending, maybe these new variety teasers will help you make the decision to go!

You can schedule many of your appointments on AmericanHort's registration page: <http://springtrials.americanhort.org>. You can also use GPN's California Spring Trials Companion (<http://bit.ly/CASTcompanion>) to help make your final plans, or as a resource while you're on the road. So be sure to bookmark the link!



CALIBRACHOA 'SUPERBELLS BLUE MOON PUNCH'

These cool silvery lavender blooms have a dark eye and are early to flower in week 9. Abundant flowers will cover this plant and cascade out of baskets, patio containers and window baskets.



PORTULACA NANO SERIES

The Nano series presents a compact and moderate habit with big, beautiful flowers. These easy-growing, low-maintenance plants are available in four intense, vibrant colors for the summer garden.



PETUNIA 'SUCCESS! PINK STAR'

This year, Benary is introducing the first pink star in trailing petunias from seed. This outstanding color shows off its stable color pattern on well-mounded plants. Its earliness, plant habit and uniformity fit perfectly into the series.



PETUNIA 'EVENING SCENTSATION'

Takii's 2017 All-America Selections winner is a medium-sized multiflora type petunia with a low, spreading habit. Flowers have a scent similar to hyacinth and are shades of indigo.

Proven Winners

Location: Kirigin Cellars, 11550 Watsonville Rd., Gilroy

Syngenta Flowers Inc.

Location: 2280 Hecker Pass Hwy., Gilroy

Danziger

Location: Headstart Nursery, 4860 Monterey Rd., Gilroy

Pacific Plug & Liner, Bailey Nursery, Cultivaris, HMA Plants, Sunset Western Garden Collection, MPS

Location: 750 Casserly Rd., Watsonville

Benary

Location: 195 Paulsen Rd., Watsonville

Speedling, ABZ Seeds, Hem Genetics, Plant Source International, Thompson & Morgan, Vista Farms, Lambert Soil

Location: 2640 San Juan Hwy., San Juan Bautista

American Takii, HilverdaKooij, HMA Plants, Mycorrhizal Applications, OHP

Location: 301 Natividad Rd., Salinas

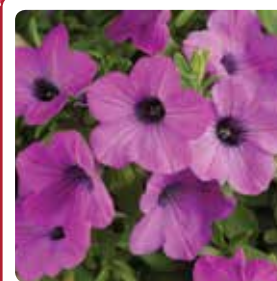
Sakata, MasterTag, Summit Plastic Co.

Location: 102 Boronda Rd., Salinas



HIBISCUS 'SUMMERIFIC CHERRY CHOCO LATTE'

Walters Gardens' improvement on the popular Cherry Cheesecake has darker foliage, more attractive flowers and a compact habit. Cherry Choco Latte displays huge 8- to 9-inch white flowers that have intense pink veining, a nice contrast to the dark, olive green foliage.



PETUNIA DEKKO SERIES

With a versatile habit and exceptional garden performance, Dekko aims to set a new standard. Its vibrant colors and compact, controlled habit works all season long ensuring success for the grower all the way to the end consumer.



ECHIBECKIA 'SUMMERINA BUTTERSCOTCH BISCUIT'

Butterscotch Biscuit features a nice bright buttery flower color with a light eye and has the largest flowers in the series. It is more aggressive in growth and is best in larger containers.



PETUNIA 'LIMBO GP ROSE PICOTEE'

For 2017-18, Hem Genetics is introducing a developmental breakthrough in picotee colors in the Limbo GP series. Three new colors — Red Picotee, Rose Picotee and Burgundy Picotee — are the newest colors. They require no PGRs to keep plants compact.



SNAPDRAGON CANDY TOPS SERIES

This new dwarf series of snapdragons is upright with sturdy stems. Plus, an abundance of blooms on dwarf plants means constant color and sweet fragrance. These snapdragons play well with others in mixed containers.



ALSTROEMERIA 'INCA CORAL'
Flamingo Holland will be introducing three new varieties to its Inca series: Coral, Fire and Reef. This popular series features large blooms on compact plants that are hardy to Zones 6 through 9.



PETUNIA CONSTELLATION SERIES
Eye-catching, starry-eyed patterns cover these unique petunia blooms, bred by Westhoff. A very novel lineup for gardeners, these plants have a vigorous, mounded-trailing habit and excellent garden performance.



PENSTEMON PENTASTIC SERIES
Offered through Hishtil Nurseries, Pentastic is a compact-growing penstemon with beautiful extra-large flowers in Pink, Rose or Red. Varieties are self branching with short flower spikes to give blossom power and color impact over a long flowering period.



GERBERA 'PATIO CAPITOL REEF'
Florist Holland's Patio gerbera is a voluminous, rich-flowering plant with big, decorative flowers. The series features unique selections of quick varieties with instant wow effect on patios, decks and outdoor living areas.



CHRYSANTHEMUM SKYFALL SERIES
Royal Van Zanten's Skyfall series provides an exciting new product that will enable consumers to enjoy their gardens in fall when spring baskets usually finish their cycle. These mums are multifunctional and can be used in various containers.



DIANTHUS 'ROCKIN' RED'
This dynamite red, bred by Kieft Seed, will keep perennial borders alight for years to come with its vivid color, durable performance and reliable overwintering. Lacy, slightly scented flowers top full and long-lasting plants, delivering abundant plants that will satisfy gardeners.



BUSHEL & BERRY
Bushel & Berry is the rebrand of the BrazelBerries line of small-fruited raspberries, blackberries and blueberries. The plants are compact, self pollinating and delicious. It is perfect in the landscape or in patio pots for small-space gardens.

Beekenkamp, Flamingo Holland, PAC, Plug Connection, Westhoff
Location: Floricultura, 25425 Esperanza Rd., Salinas

Dümmen Orange
Location: Edna Valley Vineyard, 2585 Biddle Ranch Rd., San Luis Obispo

Cohen Propagation Nurseries, Hishtil Nurseries, Jaldety Nursery
Location: Chisan Orchids, 9676 Harvest Rd., Los Alamos

Kientzler, Kiwi Flora, Terra Nova Nurseries, Dramm Corp., McConkey Co., Oasis Grower Solutions, Pelemix Coir
Location: Windmill Nursery, 925 W. Hwy. 246, Buellton

Ameriseed, Anthura, Athena Brazil, Evanthia BV, Florist Holland, Hort Couture, Kapiteyn, Mjtech International, Plant Haven, Prudac, Royal Van Zanten, Schoneveld Breeding, Suntory Flowers, Vivero International, Berger, MPS
Location: 4107 W. Gonzales Rd., Oxnard

Ball Horticultural Co. (Featuring Ball FloraPlant, Ball Ingenuity, Burpee, Darwin Perennials, Kieft Seed, Morel Diffusion, PanAmerican Seed, Selecta One and Star Roses and Plants)
Location: 335 S. Briggs Rd., Santa Paula

Floranova and Green Fuse Botanicals
Location: 15245 W. Telegraph Rd., Santa Paula



BEGONIA 'CARMEN'
In 2016, 'Carmen' was the overall winner in the Beekenkamp trial garden. It is a strong plant in the semi shade. Its dark leaves offer a beautiful contrast to the bright red flowers.



VERBENA EMPRESS SUN SERIES
Developed to fill the landscape niche, these vigorous growers come in five colors: Red, Violet, Pink, White Blush and Lavender Charm. The series features heat tolerance and a reduced cyclic blooming pattern.



HEUCHERA 'NORTHERN EXPOSURE SILVER'
Terra Nova Nurseries is introducing a great landscape plant from *Heuchera richardsonii* breeding, making it more cold tolerant. 'Northern Exposure Silver' forms a dense, rounded mound with burgundy-silver to silver leaves.



SENECIO 'CRUSHED VELVET'
Several years in the making, Hort Couture is finally introducing this variety for the 2018 season. It adds a plush and luxe look to mixed containers or the landscape. It has velvety silver leaves that arch to give a vase-shaped habit.



CALIBRACHOA 'MILLION BELLS BUTTER POP'
Inspired by buttered popcorn, Suntory's new Million Bells variety is two toned with pale yellow flowers and a dark yellow center. It has a mounded habit that bursts with flowers. Plants are earlier to flower than the current yellow Million Bells varieties.



PHLOX POPSTARS SERIES
Popstars is a new series of F1 naturally dwarf phlox by Floranova with eye-catching, unique, star-shaped flowers. Plants exhibit strong garden performance and very good heat tolerance. The series is available in six bright colors, including striking bicolors.



LAVANDULA DENTATA 'PARIS'
Green Fuse Botanicals will be introducing an early-flowering lavender selection with a compact plant form. Flowers are beautiful with a lavender and blue flower color.