

Spring Home Improvement

Flowering Perennials Add Pizzazz

(HTI)—There's nothing like new flowering perennials to add "pizzazz" to a tired garden. According to David Salzman, president and chief horticulturist of High Country Gardens...

"Adding new flowering plants each spring gives your garden a fresh and exciting new look," said Salzman. "Flowering perennials not only offer colorful blooms and interesting foliage, but they're less labor intensive because they flower year after year."

To invigorate your garden this spring, add these new perennials from the Spring 2002 High Country Gardens catalog (1-800-925-9387, www.highcountrygardens.com).

inches tall. *Salvia daghestanica* is perfect in perennial borders as an edging plant or as a complement to taller plants. It loves full sun and well-drained soil and is cold hardy in USDA zones 5-8.

"Hot Spot Coral" Hedge-nettle (*Stachys coccinea*, 'Hot Spot Coral') is a new cultivar of a spectacular hot, little-known southwestern wildflower. 'Hot Spot Coral' has a unique coral-colored coloration, and it will bloom all summer with only occasional 'fade-outing.' The 18-inch-tall flowers are highly attractive to hummingbirds, and 'Hot Spot Coral' grows well in both full sun and part shade in all soil types except extremely sandy and heavy, wet clay soils.

"Dwarf Silver-leaf Sage (*Salvia daphnifolia*) is an Asian *Salvia* species that found its way to the United States via a Swedish botanic garden seed exchange. This *Salvia* is easy to grow, water thrifty, eye-catching in and out of flower, and deer and rabbit resistant. The silvery white foliage creates a superb backdrop to the showy late summer spikes of large clear blue flowers. A small, tidy grower that reaches 12-14



Salvia daghestanica is a new, easy-to-grow perennial that boasts silvery white foliage and showy late-spring spikes of large clear blue flowers.

grow more numerous each year. *Penstemon marianus* grows easily in any well-drained garden soil in a hot, sunny location, and it is cold hardy in USDA zones 4-8.

doors are not limited just to bathrooms. The convenience and versatility of a Pocket Door Frame Kit makes it possible to enhance closets, kitchens, dining rooms or other areas throughout the home.

Accessories include a concealing door kit for joining two pocket frames, doors pulls and privacy locks. The privacy locks fit standard pre-braced doors. You can install them without cutting the door and invalidating the manufacturer's warranty.

Standard doors require eight to ten square feet of floor space around an entry. But a pocket door allows floor space to be used right up to the door opening—in effect, giving you a bigger bathroom.

In addition to bringing a more open feel to the room, installing a pocket door helps you control appearance. Doors of virtually any design and finish can be selected, so doorways that were once ordinary can be transformed into dramatic room features.

A pocket door installation enhances entryways by contributing a neat and modern look.

The Johnson Pocket Door Frame Kit provides special features that simplify initial installation and keep the system operating trouble-free over time. A box-shaped track with convex rails keeps hanger wheels from jumping off. Keyhole slots in the track make it easy to remove without breaking into walls.

The Johnson Pocket Door Frame Kit also has rust-resistant, zinc-coated, steel sided studs and jamb to provide a rigid surface for walls and prevent accidental nail penetration that could damage doors. Self-adjusting anchors keep eventual

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What Kind of Soil Do You Have?

(MS) — Does your soil have too much clay or sand and not enough organic material? The Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association recommends a simple test to help you determine your soil type.

Put a 3-inch deep handful of garden soil into a 6-inch high jar full with water, seal tightly with tape, and let settle overnight. The resulting layers will be sand at the bottom, silt and clay at the top. Organic matter will float on the water or settle on the clay. If your soil does not match the ideal soil mixture

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Spring Home Improvement

Add Character To A Room By Starting At The Top ... The Ceiling



This Country Classic Plank ceiling from Armstrong has been stained to bring out its attractive woodgrain finish and to complement the exposed wooden beams of this country kitchen.



Ceiling tiles are fast becoming the hot new canvas for interior decorating. The center and perimeter of each of these Kensington tiles from Armstrong have been painted to accent other colors in the room.

(HTI)—Looking for a fresh, new way to revitalize a room? Look up! Why? Because today's generation of ceiling tiles, panels and planks offers exciting decorating possibilities and is fast becoming the hot new surface for interior painting.

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