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## Hardy Heucheras add colorful variety to garden

Perennial has foliage, blooms in many hues and tolerates cold

By **Larry Sagers**

For the Deseret News

Published: Sunday, June 13, 2010 8:18 p.m. MDT

1 comments

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"This process is no different than taking a cutting from a plant stem and rooting it. We are not modifying the plant; we are just doing it like nature and producing identical plants or clones on a small scale.

"We get most new cultivars from our cross-breeding program," he continued. "Occasionally, we find a mutation, but most of these have no commercial value because of plant instability or inherent weaknesses."

Terra Nova's breeding program has produced 110 Heuchera offerings, but the company isn't about to stop. "We are not done with Heucheras yet," Pavlich said. "We see new leaf shapes and sizes. We also see new flowers, as both landscape plants and as cut flowers. We are also breeding to get more resistance to diseases and tolerance of humidity."

"If you could see our trial house right now, you would go nuts. Terra Nova's model has always been eye candy, but we are adding a lot more to that."

Anyone can find a spot for these plants in their garden. They grow well in sun or partial shade, with flowers that range from white to cream through light and dark pink and red. The low, mounded clumps of leaves are evergreen into the winter.

Few plants have the range of colors that these plants show in their foliage, with striking shades of purple, silver green and golden shades.

Story continues below

Add the multiple colors and the variegations, and it is like the rainbow is appearing in your garden.

Fortunately, local nurseries are well stocked with what you need to paint those living rainbows. Use your shovel, not your brush, and get started.

### ► Garden tips and events

Visit Terra Nova Nurseries online at [www.terrannotnurseries.com](http://www.terrannotnurseries.com). There, you'll find fun information on Heucheras and many other plants, as well as links to local retailers.

Wasatch Community Gardens is celebrating urban "eggriculture" with Chicken Week, June 21-26. Go to [wasatchgardens.org](http://wasatchgardens.org) for more information.

Bill King will discuss William Robinson, famous gardener and author of "The English Garden," during the free Garden Talks in the Park, June 16, 8 p.m., at the Brigham Young Historic Park, State Street and Second Avenue.

Larry A. Sagers is a horticulture specialist for the Utah State University Extension Service at Thanksgiving Point.

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JAO | June 14, 2010 at 11:38 a.m.

7 photos



Larry Sagers

Chuck Pavlich directs new product development at Terra Nova Nurseries, which creates new Heuchera cultivars.

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