



June 2010

Plants of the Month

Oyama magnolia *Magnolia sieboldii*

Situate your Oyama magnolia so you can walk or sit underneath. Then, look up and see the magnificent nodding blooms of creamy white petals surrounding a burst of maroon stamens. A 10-15 foot multi-stemmed large shrub or tree, Oyama has clean healthy foliage that appears before the May-June flower buds swell up to resemble small white eggs. Foliage stays clean all summer, turning a nice yellow in fall. Oyama prefers a part shade location and fertile, well-drained soil. Once established it can tolerate some drought. Not a deer favorite, but protect stems from deer rubbing.



Sage *Salvia officinalis*

Both ornament and herb, sage leaves and purple flowers give double pleasure. For cooking, leaves can be harvested any time and used fresh, dried or frozen. Like many herbs, sage wants full sun and average but well-drained soil. Over-fertilizing can encourage more leaves but at the expense of flavor. Provide one inch of water a week. Over-watering can lead to disease. Start sage seed indoors in early spring and plant when frost danger is past. Sage is hardy and can overwinter for years where happy. Trim back older plant in spring to increase bushiness, and remove any winter mulch.



Do you have a plant or insect pest question? Call the Home and Garden Information Center 1-800-342-2507

Common foxglove

Digitalis purpurea

Most spectacular of the foxgloves, the 3-5 foot spires of *Digitalis purpurea* look like glove finger tips--but bigger than fox-size. The 2-3" blooms open up along the spike for 4 weeks. A biennial, the first year foxglove is a wide low rosette of oblong leaves. In the second year, after flowering seed matures. Sow some, and in two years they will reward you with a fresh crop of spires in pinks, purples, and white with a sprinkling of freckles. Foliage can be cut down when it gets ratty at the end of summer or wait till seed falls. Plant in part sun and organic soils not lacking for moisture.



Million Bells

Calibrachoa 'Million Bells'

Lush cascades of 1" blooms from this annual flower keep gardeners happy all summer. Once believed to be a petunia and still sometimes known as trailing petunia, calibrachoa has burst onto the gardening scene big time with the introduction of the Million Bells cultivars. Excellent in a hanging basket, Million Bells also shines in containers or beds. While height is 6-12", the tendrils can add as much as 20" in size. Full sun and consistently moist (but not soggy) soil elicits the best display. Shade significantly lessens flower production. Propagate by cuttings overwintered indoors, but do not sell because of patent rights.

