

2012's Best New Perennials – April 4, 2012

On Wednesday April 4, 2012, a full house of close to 60 people attended the Greely Gardeners meeting and heard from **Richard Aubert** on **“2012’s Best New Perennials”**. For the past 20 years Richard has supplied trees, shrubs and perennials to nurseries and growers from Ontario to Newfoundland and is extremely knowledgeable on what can and cannot grow in the Ottawa area.



Richard presented plants that were new to some of us, such as the *Delosperma* ‘Lavender Ice’ (shown to the left), a full-sun, hardy ground cover (2”-3”) that likes sandy soil and is very drought tolerant; just what we need in Greely. We plan to try *Delosperma* in the newly designed Flagpole garden!

Richard also presented new colours for familiar plants such as *Echinacea*; including ‘Marmalade’, ‘Hot Papaya’ or ‘Southern Belle’ as shown below.



New in Heucheras, mainly grown for their foliage, he noted 'Berry smoothie' a lovely rich pink leaf, shown below.



In the Heucherellas, two new varieties of 'Sweet Tea' and 'Gold Zebra' were described (shown below) – the plant name is enough to tell which is which.



The presentation was appreciated by all who attended and many of us will be searching for some of the new varieties to try; though Richard did note that some might be easy to obtain and others may be harder to find.