

A HANDFUL OF HARDY GERANIUMS

Weaving, clumping, running plants that generally behave nicely

Since I ranted earlier this spring about a geranium species you do not want in your garden, it seems only fair to feature some of the many geraniums that are thoroughly worth growing.

These geraniums fill various roles (specimen, groundcover, rock garden plant) and most are reliable, easy perennials that generally behave themselves.

There are plenty to choose from! Robin Parer, author of *The Plant Lover’s Guide to Hardy Geraniums*, owns a California nursery named Geraniaceae, the scientific name for the geranium family. While specializing in hardy geranium and erodium species, Parer also sells some interesting pelargoniums — those familiar, tender plants that most of us call geraniums and grow as summer annuals. While these are members of the geranium family, they are a genus unto themselves and they are not discussed here.

Parer’s website catalog currently lists more than 400 geranium species, including — yikes! — those notorious annual weeds, *Geranium lucidum* (shining geranium) and *G. robertianum* (herb Robert, aka stinky Bob). But let’s move on.

Many hardy geraniums are clump-formers, dying back each year to a well-defined crown. Some of these have a tendency to sprawl in the growing season.

The current rock star among geraniums, a cultivar named ‘Rozanne,’ is a good example. Geranium ‘Rozanne’ sprawls and weaves its way pleasantly into neighboring plants and blooms almost non-stop from late spring to fall. It’s been around for a decade or more, and has yet to be improved on for length of bloom and the quality of its very blue flowers. That and its relative drought tolerance make it a good choice for container. It seems to be reliable in most soils with adequate sun but may fail to wake up from a winter in water-logged soil.

The weaving habit is shared by the magenta-flowered hybrid ‘Ann Folkard,’ which has striking chartreuse-splashed leaves. The vivid, black-centered magenta flowers derive from one parent, *Geranium psilostemon*, a magnificent, upright clump-former that can reach a height of 3 feet or more.

Some geraniums do not form clumps, tidy or sprawling, but steadily expand their territory, year after year. For blue flowers near the edge of a border, gardeners have long relied on a familiar old toughie named ‘Johnson’s Blue,’ putting up with a tendency to outgrow its allotted space for the sake of its color and longevity.

If you get tired of pulling it out, there are other blues to try, though most are taller.

Check out ‘Brookside’ or Geraniaceae’s Plant of the Month, ‘Orion.’

While a running habit isn’t always welcome in a perennial bed, it’s a defining feature in a groundcover plant. My favorite geranium for that category is *Geranium macrorrhizum*. This is, as far as I know, the only geranium that deer don’t find tasty. It makes a very manageable evergreen groundcover about 9 inches deep, in shade or part shade. It has pungently scented foliage and attractive inch-wide flowers in fuchsia, light pink or pinkish white, depending on the variety.

Geranium macrorrhizum spreads by layering; that is, recumbent stems take root at the soil surface. This makes excess growth rather easy to pull out. The smaller leaves and charming light pink flowers of Geranium ‘Biokova’ look daintier, but ‘Biokova’ spreads relentlessly by underground rhizomes (like ‘Johnson’s Blue,’ but quicker) and so is harder to contain. It works very well as a uniform groundcover under shrubs, but don’t expect it to share space politely with other perennials.

Adorable *Geranium dalmaticum* looks like a miniature ‘Biokova’ but spreads more slowly to form neat mats.

This robust and easy little plant is ideal for rock walls, rock gardens and alpine troughs.

A good geranium for foliage interest is *Geranium renardii*, with pale, dark-veined flowers and furry, gray-green leaves that have a quilted look. Hybrid ‘Phillipe Vapelle’ is somewhat similar, but the flowers are light purple. Like most of the geraniums listed here, both flourish in sun or light shade, but I enjoy them most in shade, where the leaves look their best.

Rachel Foster lives and gardens in Eugene. She can be reached at rfoster@efn.org.



GERANIUM MACRORRHIZUM

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Plymell, Attorney at Law, 132 East Broadway, Suite 718, Eugene, Oregon 97401-3159, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice, or the claim may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the Attorney for the Personal Representative, whose name and address is Alice M. Plymell, 132 East Broadway, Suite 718, Eugene, Oregon 97401-3159. **DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED** May 3rd, 2018. Alice M. Plymell, OSB No. 630654, Attorney for Personal Representative.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY: Case No. 18PB02180: **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** in the matter of the Estate of Michael B. Burkett, Deceased. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Ronald L. Sperry III has qualified and been appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present them, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative, Ronald L. Sperry III, c/o DC Law, McKinney & Sperry, PC, P.O. Box 1265, Roseburg, OR 97470, or the claims may be barred. **DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED** this 26 day of April 2018. Personal Representative: Ronald L. Sperry III, OSB #091525, DC Law, McKinney & Sperry PC, PO Box 1265, Roseburg, OR 97470. Telephone: 541-673-4451 Fax: 541-673-1202

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY: Probate Department: In the Matter of the Estate of: MARK CLIFTON HOOKER, Deceased. Case No. 18PB03160. **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: NOTICE IS GIVEN** that Shelly Trent has been appointed personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative c/o Robert Cole Tozer, Attorney at Law, 975 Oak St., Suite 615, Eugene, OR 97401, (541) 345-0795, within

four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the personal representative's attorney, Robert Cole Tozer. **DATED** and first published April 26th, 2018. Personal Representative /s/ Shelly Trent

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY: Probate Department: In the Matter of the Estate of PAULINE ANNETTIA TRIPLETT, Deceased. Case No. 18PB03035: **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS:** Notice is hereby given that Cherry G. Harris has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at: Cherry G. Harris, C/O Lynn Shepard, Attorney at Law, 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. **DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED: 05/08/2018.** /s/ Cherry G. Harris, Personal Representative. Lynn Shepard, Attorney for Personal Representative, 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401. (541) 485-3222

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY: Case No. 18PB01781 **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** in the matter of the Estate of Beverly Jean Gates, Deceased. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Ronald L. Sperry III has qualified and been appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present them, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative, Ronald L. Sperry III, c/o DC Law, McKinney &