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Moonbeam Coreopsis

By Eva Soud

Easily grown in dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Thrives in poor, sandy or rocky soils with good drainage. Tolerant of heat, humidity and drought. Prompt deadheading of spent flower stalks can be tedious for a large planting, but does tend to encourage additional bloom. Plants may be sheared in mid to late summer to promote a fall rebloom and to remove any sprawling or unkempt foliage. Although species' plants freely self-seed, 'Moonbeam' is a sterile cultivar. Plants can spread somewhat aggressively in the garden by rhizomes.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Tends to sprawl, particularly if grown in moist and/or fertile soils. Crown rot may occur if grown in moist, poorly drained soils.

Garden Uses

Borders. Also effective in naturalized areas, native plant gardens or cottage gardens. Good plant for areas with poor, dry soils.

Taxonomy classifies Moonbeam coreopsis plants as *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam,' the latter term being the cultivar name.

The common name for this genus is "tickseed."

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Buddleia



(The Butterfly Bush) or Buddleja

“Imagine the possibilities!”

Buddleja, often spelled Buddleia (pronounced /bʊˈdliː.ə/), and often with the common name Butterfly Bush is a genus of flowering plants. The generic name honours Reverend Adam Buddle (1662–1715), who was a botanist and a rector in Essex, England. It is now included in the figwort family, Scrophulariaceae, though in the past was previously classified in either the Loganiaceae or in a family of its own, the Buddlejaceae.

The roughly 100 species are mostly shrubs, a few being trees but most species rarely exceed 5 m (16 ft) tall. Both evergreen and deciduous species occur. They are native throughout the warmer parts of the New World from the southern United States

south to Chile, and widely in the Old World in Africa and the warmer parts of Asia, but absent as natives from Europe and Australasia. The species are divided into two groups based on their floral type, those in the New World being dioecious, and those in the Old World being monoecious.



The most popular cultivated species is *Buddleja davidii* from central China, named after the French naturalist Père Armand David. Other common garden species include *Buddleja globosa* from southern Chile, grown for its strongly honey-scented orange globular flower-heads, and *Buddleja alternifolia* with lilac coloured flowers. Several interspecific hybrids can also be found, including *B. × weyeriana* (*B. globosa* × *B. davidii*).



Some species are commonly found as escapees from the garden. *B. davidii* in particular is a great coloniser of dry open ground, it often self-sows on waste ground or old masonry, where it grows into a dense thicket, and it is listed as an invasive species in many areas. It is frequently seen beside railway lines, on derelict factory sites.



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Popular garden varieties of Buddleja include “Royal Red” with pink-red flowers, “Black Knight” with dark navy blue flowers, “Sungold” with golden yellow flowers and “Pink Delight” with pastel pink coloured flowers. In recent years, much breeding work has been undertaken to create more compact buddleja plants.

Rapidly becoming the most popular shrub in America, Butterfly Bush is a must for every late summer perennial garden. A hallmark of this shrub are the lightly scented clusters of flowers measuring one to two feet in length. Aptly named, the butterfly bush attracts loads of butterflies and is also a favorite of hummingbirds. In northern areas of the country, they will die back to the ground in winter. Reappearing in very late spring, you will be amazed at how quickly it once again grows into a 4-8' shrub. Outstanding when planted in full sun.



Pure white flowers make the White Butterfly Bush a favorite. Drought and deer resistant



Attract butterflies to your yard with this dazzling butterfly bush! The Yellow Butterfly Bush is a late summer bloomer that has sunny-yellow flowers with an orange center and rounded edges. Vivid color is accented with silvery, compact foliage. Reaches 6-8'. Drought and deer resistant. Great cut flower.

From the garden of Eva

Polenta Pound Cake with Blueberries and Thyme

For the blueberries

1/4 cup granulated sugar

1 tsp. chopped fresh thyme

1 pint fresh blueberries, picked over

1-1/2 tsp. finely grated lemon zest

Pinch kosher salt

Make the blueberries

In a small saucepan, combine the sugar, thyme, and 2 Tbs. water. Cook over low heat,

stirring, until the sugar dissolves. Add the blueberries, lemon zest, and salt. Raise the heat to medium high and bring the mixture to a boil. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the syrup thickens slightly and the berries are warm but most are still whole, 1 to 2 minutes. Remove from the heat.



For the cake

8 oz. (1 cup) unsalted butter, softened; more for the pan

6-2/3 oz. (1-2/3 cups) cake flour; more for the pan

1/3 cup polenta (cornmeal)

2 Tbs. finely chopped fresh thyme

1/4 tsp. kosher salt

1-1/3 cups granulated sugar

5 large eggs, at room temperature

1 Tbs. fresh lemon juice

2 tsp. pure vanilla extract

Fresh thyme in both the cake and the blueberries adds savory herbal notes to this not-too-sweet dessert. Serve with sweetened whipped cream, if you like.

Make the cake

Position a rack in the center of the oven and heat the oven to 325°F. Butter and flour a 9x5-inch loaf pan.

In a small bowl, whisk together the flour, polenta, thyme, and salt.

In a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or in a large bowl using an electric hand mixer, beat the softened butter and sugar on medium-high speed until fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add the lemon juice and vanilla and mix briefly to combine. Reduce the speed to low and add the flour gradually until just combined.

Scrape the batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top, then tap the pan on the counter to pop any large air bubbles. Bake until a tester inserted in the center comes out with just a few small, moist crumbs attached, 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 hours. (If the top starts to get too dark, lay a piece of foil loosely over the cake.) Cool in the pan on a rack for 30 minutes, then invert onto a serving plate or cutting board. Slice and serve warm or at room temperature, topped with the blueberries.

Got shade?

Astilbe: Introduction and Cultivars

Astilbes (pronounced a-STIL-bee) are an underutilized and underappreciated perennial perfect for any moist and/or shady spot. Astilbe can actually handle afternoon sun so long as their feet remain damp. This makes them perfect pond plantings and excellent for those "in between" sun and shade spots.

Astilbe is also known as False Goat's Beard or False Spirea. Astilbes are some of the first plants to peek through the soil in Spring to grow fast and vigorous, filling in very quickly. The popular cultivar 'Visions' is pictured to the right.

Though all Astilbe look fairly similar, cultivars tend to differ in several categories:

Color Almost without exception, Astilbes fall somewhere in the range from white to deep plum; This includes light pink, peach, lavender, magenta, and crimson. Astilbe tend to look best when planted in groupings, since the bloom colors are all in the same color family and complement each other nicely.

Height If you can imagine, Astilbes can be as small as 10 inches tall such as 'Perkeo' and as tall as 4 feet like 'Purple Candles'. With such a range, this is a very versatile plant for many spots in your garden. If you wanted to group Astilbe, finding varieties of varying height would be easy in order to make a stair-step look.

Foliage Astilbe foliage is generally deeply cut, though sometimes it is almost as frothy and ferny as its blooms. Foliage can range from dark hunter green to blue-green to chartreuse. Even when Astilbe are not producing their show-stopping plumes, the foliage can hold its own in the garden.

Habit Generally the foliage of Astilbe is bushy, but the plumes of flowers can vary greatly in their growth habit. Some are arching and move with the slightest breeze, others are so upright they appear to be saluting the sun, yet others are more relaxed and less uniform.

Growing Conditions While most Astilbes prefer moist soil and shade, some can take heat and direct sunlight better than others. Cultivars such as 'Diamant' and 'Pink Lightning' need a good amount of shade and water to flourish, while cultivars like 'Purple Lance' are somewhat drought tolerant once established. There are also some cultivars such as 'Deutschland,' 'Amethyst,' and 'Rheinland' which can be grown in full sun as long as they have ample moisture. A little bit of experimentation with the environment in which you grow Astilbe might result in you finding many different areas to grow Astilbe that you would never guess.



ETNA



DEUTSCHLAND



RHEINLAND

Thyme in the Garden

Stepables

Ever heard of “Stepables”? They are the neatest little plants EVER!

Stepables, of course, is a brand name, but what a stepable is, is a low creeping perennial that makes the coolest pathways ever! Plant them in between stones, bricks, or pavers and they will creep and fill in and look FABULOUS! And there are a million different kinds; slow creepers, fast creepers, some that take over the world, and some that like to stay close to home. Some do better in sun and some do better in shade, just like any other plant. What makes these little cuties unique is that when you walk on them it actually encourages growth. And if you choose a

fragrant stepable, oh my!, it smells like heaven. Some of my favorites are lemon thyme, corsican mint (smells like mint ice cream when you walk on it!), mosses, or wooley thyme for a sage green accent. There are tons to choose from. You can even try them in a pot and let them creep over the edge. They are so cool!



Below is a list of some you might want to check out.

Chocolate Chip Ajuga

Double Birds Foot Trefoil

Elfin Thyme

Goldilocks Golden Moneywort

Irish Moss

John Creech Stonecrop Sedum

Purple Creeping Mazus

Scotch Moss (I LOVE this one, a real LIME GREEN Beauty)

Archer's Gold Lemon Thyme (Smells delicious)

Coral Carpet Sedum (so pretty but can get a little smashed with too many footsies)

Georgia Blue Veronica

Labrador Violet

Magic Carpet Creeping Thyme

Verna Potentilla (darling little yellow flowers)



And the funnest thing about stepables?

They tickle your toes when you walk on them!



Autumn Joy Sedum



This plant is as dependable and adaptable as they come. Its flowers bloom from August into November; they open pink and mature to a copper befitting of autumn. It is 2 feet tall and wide, with succulent stems and leaves. 'Autumn Joy' looks great with ornamental grasses.

Noteworthy characteristics: The long-blooming flowers change from deep pink to copper. Attracts butterflies.

Care: Sedum prefers moderately fertile, moist soil in full sun, but can take it drier. 'Autumn Joy' can be tip pruned at 6 to 8 inches to shorten the plant, but this will also delay flowering.

Propagation: Take softwood cuttings or root leaves in early summer. Start seed of hardy species in fall. Divide in spring.

Problems: Fairly trouble free, but watch for mealybugs, scale insects, slugs, and snails, as well as bigger critters, including deer.

Name Origin for "Sedum" or "Stonecrop" Plants:

"Stonecrop" is from the Middle English and literally means "sprouting from the stone," a reference to its commonly being seen growing amongst stones (which provide the drainage that stonecrop plants crave). "Stonecrop" doubles as the name of the family to which the genus, Sedum belongs.

"Sedum" itself derives from this same observation of where stonecrop plants tend to grow.

It comes from the Latin, sedere, meaning "sit" -- as in "sitting" atop the stones.



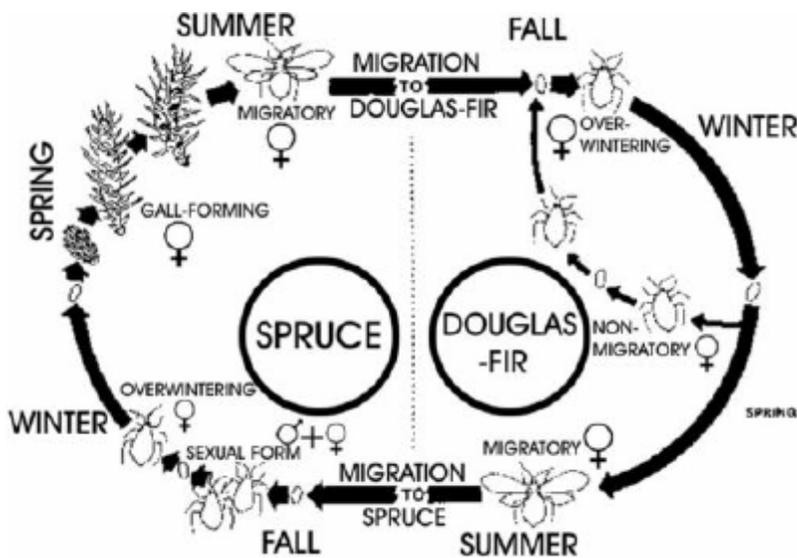
It's a bug eat bug world

July is often the time when people begin to see cone-like growths on spruce trees. These are spruce galls. There are two kinds: the Cooley spruce gall and the Eastern spruce gall. Both have very specific life cycles but are managed very similarly.

The Cooley Spruce Gall pest requires both the spruce and the Douglas fir as hosts. To complete their very complicated life cycles, the insects can begin on the spruce but must have a Douglas fir to fly to in order to complete the five stages of their life cycle. They feed on the new buds, lay eggs, then during a very long life cycle of traveling to the Douglas fir and back, many stages take place, continuing for two years. The galls will often destroy the shape of the spruce, since it's the terminal buds that are affected. On the Douglas fir, the symptoms are not as evident. Yellow spots on the needles, which in heavy infestation can change the overall coloration of the tree, are the symptoms. Typically, you'll see these galls on the Colorado blue spruce, but they can also be found on all spruce.

The Eastern spruce gall is not as complicated. Typically, it is found on the Norway spruce, but it can be seen on white or red spruce as well. This gall looks similar; however, it does not need a host plant to complete its life cycle and only takes one year to complete its life cycle.

For both of these galls, the same control is recommended. Cutting the galls off when they are green will control the problem. If the trees are too large, or there are too many galls to cut, using the systemic insecticide imidicloprid in the fall of the year will help control the pest. Horticultural oil is also a recommended control; however, not on blue spruce or any other spruce that has coloration you want to maintain.



Understanding pests, their life cycles and what they feed on, will help in your choice of controls and when that control should be applied. Be sure to have the problem identified correctly and make your decision from the facts. Gardening is full of challenges and rewards. Take the time and learn more about all aspects of the garden and enjoy. Whenever using pesticides, be sure to carefully read the label.

Succulent Wreath or Topiary

Materials

Succulents : Aeonium, Crassula, Echeveria, Gasteria, Haworthia, Kalanchoe, Sedum, and Sempervivum), simplysucculents.com

Scissors

12-inch wire wreath frame

Sphagnum moss,

Moistened soil

Copper wire

Pencil or screwdriver

Floral pins

Fertilizer

Step 1 Cut off piece of succulent 2 to 3 inches long.

Step 2 Leave cuttings out for a few days in order for them to dry and create calluses on the bottoms. New roots will grow from the stem.

Step 3 Place a 12-inch wire wreath frame on sphagnum moss.

Step 4 Place succulent roots into holes. Press moss around roots and secure with floral pins, if necessary. Don't bunch them too tightly as they need room to grow. The succulents will take approximately 6 months to fully grow, depending on their environment. Don't hang upright until roots have fully grown.

Step 5 To water, submerge in water for 10 minutes. Allow to dry completely between watering. Fertilize about once every 6 weeks.



This beautiful succulent wreath will last year-round.



Succulent Turtle Topiary



Succulent wreaths can also be used as a decorative center piece. Just add a candle. Or be creative with different style forms. The basics for creating your succulent piece stay the same.





Christmas in July



Missed our after Christmas sale?

We'll be sure to mark down these dates.

Friday July 5, Sat July 6 & Sun July 7th.

We will be having our Christmas in July sale.

Huge savings on all Christmas items.

Ornaments, gift items all below cost.

Three days only for the biggest savings ever!

Santa needs to make room for our

2013 Christmas shop.

So stop in and save.

Select container trees on sale



Still time to do a Fairy Garden

Three day sale on Fairy Garden kits. July 5, 6, & 7th.

Kit includes:

(Fairy dust, Bird bath, Wheel barrow, Dirt, Arbor and the path)

Reg. \$49.95 Sale price (3 days only) \$39.95.