

# Try these low-maintenance plants

Several plant varieties offer gardeners good-looking and productive vegetation without intensive attention.

## Petunia F1 Opera Supreme Pink Morn

Iridescent pink blooms are the unique feature of this vigorous trailing petunia. A silvery shine causes blooms to shimmer, capturing an admirer's attention from a distance.

The 2.5-inch flowers are pink, shading to creamy white in the center, with a yellow throat. These three colors on a bloom are named a "morn" type.

The plants have many qualities that every gardener wants to find. Plants are continuously flowering. Gardeners can relax and let the plants do what comes naturally, flower.

The hybrid plants are capable of growing 3 feet in sunny locations. This spreading quality covers garden soil and can choke weeds beautifully.

Plants attain a height of only 4 to 6 inches. The plant can be relied on for exceptional garden performance without pruning or dead-heading. Less work enables gardeners more leisure time in the garden.



Kimberly J. Moore

## Vinca Pacifica Burgundy Halo

"Pacifica Burgundy Halo" is the first vinca with a burgundy halo surrounding a large white center. This bicolor bloom is a vivid contrast, exceptionally visible in an annual garden.

Early flowering with a well-balanced plant form, "Pacifica Burgundy Halo" is highly recommended for spring or summer plantings.

With proven heat and drought tolerance, the garden performance of the plant is assured. In a full sun garden location, these vinca plants will reach a foot tall and wide when mature.

Due to the ease of growing and continuous flowering, the plant is perfectly suitable for any garden or patio planters that receive sun.

Because Vinca needs less water

than other annuals, planting "Pacifica Burgundy Halo" in containers means fewer trips with the hose to water.

Gardeners can rely on the plant to provide color all summer without pinching or tending to plant maintenance.

## Celosia Fresh Look Gold

Correctly named, these plants look as fresh in September as they did when planted in the spring.

Fresh Look Gold plants are embellished with bright golden plumes that remain colorful all season, not "browning" with maturity.

Since the plumes remain attractive, there is no reason to deadhead, and no pest problems are expected, thus the plant needs little maintenance in a sunny garden.

It is a carefree annual useful in formal or informal gardens. The golden plumes can be woven into a garden bed like a living tapestry because the plumes have a soft layered texture.

Fresh Look Gold proved to be heat, humidity and rain tolerant in All-American Selection trials across North America.

Plants will grow to a height of 1 foot. This celosia is one of the best annuals for season-long performance.

## Pepper F1 Holy Molé

Holy Molé is a memorable name, and the plant will provide a memorable harvest of peppers. It is the first hybrid pasilla-type pepper, which is used to make the famous molé sauce.

Holy Molé showed improved vigor, earliness and considerably higher yield than the comparisons in side-by-side trials.

A reason for the higher yield is the virus resistances bred into the variety. The plant is resistant to two common viruses that stunt plants and reduce pepper production.

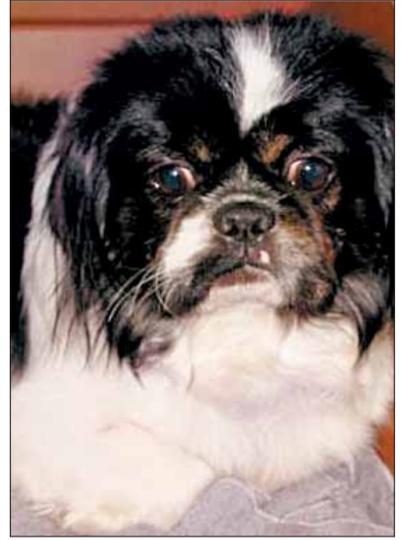
The immature green peppers are 7- to 9-inches long and can be harvested in about 85 days from transplanting.

If fruit is left on the plant, they will mature to a dark chocolate color. The pepper flavor is nutty and tangy.

Mature plants are 3 feet tall; a perfect size for patio containers. Holy Molé is easily grown in a sunny location and thrives on summer heat.

Kimberly J. Moore is extension educator for agriculture and natural resources at the Johnson County Purdue Extension Office.

## PET OF THE WEEK



This 1½-year-old Pekingese mix doesn't have a home or even a name yet. He is friendly and is terrific with children.

This dog and other animals in need of a home will be at Tractor Supply on U.S. 31 in Franklin from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, when the Humane Society of Johnson County conducts a weekly adoption event.

Call the Humane Society of Johnson County at 346-7001 for an adoption application.

# Fire chief honored with memorial award

Greenwood Fire Chief Steve Dhondt has received the 29th Van Valer Award

The award, given in memory of former Greenwood Fire Chief Richard C. "Dick" Van Valer, was presented by his son, Joe Van Valer.

The award is given to a firefighter or other public-safety professional who contributes to the profession with exceptional devotion to the Johnson County community.

The recipient is chosen annually by the Van Valer family.

Dhondt is beginning his 11th year as chief. He was hired as a volunteer on April 17, 1986, and was promoted to captain in the early 1990s.

He added administrative staff and firefighters and recently oversaw construction of a fourth fire station on the east side of Greenwood.

Dhondt is an active member and past president of Greenwood Rotary, president of Center for Emergency Response Training at Central Nine Career Center and a board member of Johnson County 911.

Hoosier singer and songwriter Luke Austin Daugherty is in the running for a Momentum Award in the Acoustic Artist of the Year and Blues Artist of the Year categories.

Fans of Daugherty can vote for him by going to his Web site, indieheaven.com/artists/luke, to



Annette Jones  
PEOPLE

get voting details.

One vote per computer is allowed. Votes must be submitted by Wednesday.

People also can vote for "Lexi Danced," a song Daugherty wrote in honor of Lexi Shank of Franklin, on the Indieheaven radio charts.

Voting for the song continues through April 7. People can vote for the song every 24 hours.

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Greenwood artist Patricia Voelz has 22 contemporary paintings on display at the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce Building, 320 N. Meridian St.

The paintings will hang until Feb. 28. The building is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

To purchase a painting, call Voelz at 888-2448.

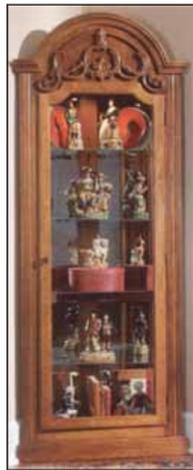
Annette Jones is features editor of the Daily Journal. Items for her People column can be sent to ajones@thejournal.net or to the Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

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## • Jobs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

anxious flatlander trying to control a big rig.

I would be too preoccupied honking at every passing station wagon that had a little kid pressed to the back window pumping his fist up and down to give us big-riggers a sign to blow his or her air horn.

I'm sure I'd forget I had 15 tons of lettuce in my trailer behind me, and as I smiled, waved and blew my air horn, I would power slide off the road, barely avoiding the herd of 12 elk feeding along the road.

If I was driving a big rig, I'm afraid I'd also forget that my sleeper cab extended 20 feet off the ground when I drove through McDonald's to get a quick bite to eat. Hey, truckers get hungry, too.

As soon as I'd pull up to grab my Big Mac and salad with fat-free dressing from the drive-through (I was running late delivering the lettuce, so I couldn't stop and go in for lunch), the metal-on-metal scraping noise alerted me that I'd indeed scraped off their drive-through window overhang.

Then before I'd even get my rig unwedged from the yellow and red building, a loud, yelling voice would boom across my CB radio sounding much like my grumpy boss, Fred: "Janet, just get that lettuce delivered, and you know I'm docking your pay to repair McDonald's drive-through window!"

I'd wonder how Fred found out so quickly about my little mishap. Then I'd quickly jump down out of my rig and rip the bumper sticker off the back door that reads: Call Fred at 1-800-1GRUMPY and tell us how this driver is driving.

Some people spend their whole lives trying to figure out what they enjoy doing, but it's just as beneficial to figure out what you aren't suited for.

I can honestly say that I feel no regret about choosing not to work in the NFL. (Those white referee capris really wouldn't be flattering on me.)

But I still can't help but wonder if the world has lost one good trucker, one that would honk at every fist-pumping kid.

Janet Hommel Mangas, the third of seven children, grew up on the east side of Greenwood. She now resides in the Center Grove area with her husband and three daughters.

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