Wisteria

The hardy ‘Summer Cascade’ wisteria features spectacular blooms in long showy clusters 10 to 12 inches long. It was bred from a hardy strain of Kentucky wisteria and first known as ‘Betty Matthews,’ after a White Bear Lake resident in whose yard it grew.

‘Summer Cascade’ is proven hardy to Zone 3. The vine can grow to 20 feet with sturdy, twining stems. Pruning two or three times throughout the summer helps keep a wisteria under control and prompts blooms. It blooms on new growth in June. Individual flowers are borne on long showy racemes and open as a lovely shade of dark lavender before fading. This beautiful flowering vine thrives in full sun, and can easily cover an arbor or pergola to create a shady retreat. An interesting seed pod in late summer provides multi-season interest.

Gaura

‘Snowstorm’ is a vigorous gaura for Minnesota, with abundant, continuous pink and white flowers. It flourishes in both cool and warm locations, even in extreme heat and drought. A hardy seedling was selected in 2000, and was crossed with plants gathered on collection trips to Texas, Mexico, California, and the Dakotas, resulting in a fragrant, prolific plant. Tough though it may be, ‘Snowstorm’ is now marketed as an annual, and will be used in future breeding efforts toward a truly winter-hardy gaura.

Horticulture is an art of endless possibilities and changes, and no person of experience in such matters ever feels that he knows it all.

—PROF. SAMUEL B. GREEN, PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS TO THE MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, THE MINNESOTA HORTICULTURIST, 1908

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