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HORTICULTURAL TRAITS AND ORNAMENTAL POTENTIAL OF *HEUCHERA* SPECIES

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Abstract: The genus *Heuchera* belongs to the Saxifragaceae family and comprises about 55 species. The ornamental potential of these plants is considerable due to the colour of the foliage, the presence of flowers and their adaptability to different climatic conditions. The continuous efforts of breeders have resulted in the development of varieties and hybrids with improved ornamental characteristics. Some species maintain their coloured foliage throughout the year, and its colour varies from shades of green, silver, bronze, pink or purple. Some varieties show leaf patterns, such as deferential coloured mirdib, marbling, pubescence or even pearlescence. *Heuchera* is a versatile species, used in borders, or used as an accent plant among other ornamental species in landscaping. Suitable for growing in pots and containers, *Heuchera* is an impressive choice for limited spaces. The plant's flavonoid, saponin and tannin content also gives it therapeutic importance, although current research emphasises decorative value over medicinal potential.

• Introduction

Plants of the genus *Heuchera*, known as coral bells, are perennials that are visually interesting in landscaping throughout the year. The plants are adaptable in terms of ecological conditions, growing in areas of varying light as well as in shady places. The well-developed root system makes it adaptable to many soil conditions, although it grows best in fertile soils.

• Material and method

A versatile plant, *Heuchera*, can be used in various floral compositions:

- ❖ borders
- ❖ rounds
- ❖ mosaics
- ❖ free clusters
- ❖ containerized

• Results and discussions

Continuous selection and hybridization have led to the development of increasingly interesting foliage and flowering plants. Some notable examples of *Heuchera* varieties and hybrids are:



H. villosa
'Citronelle'



H. villosa
'Cajun Fire'



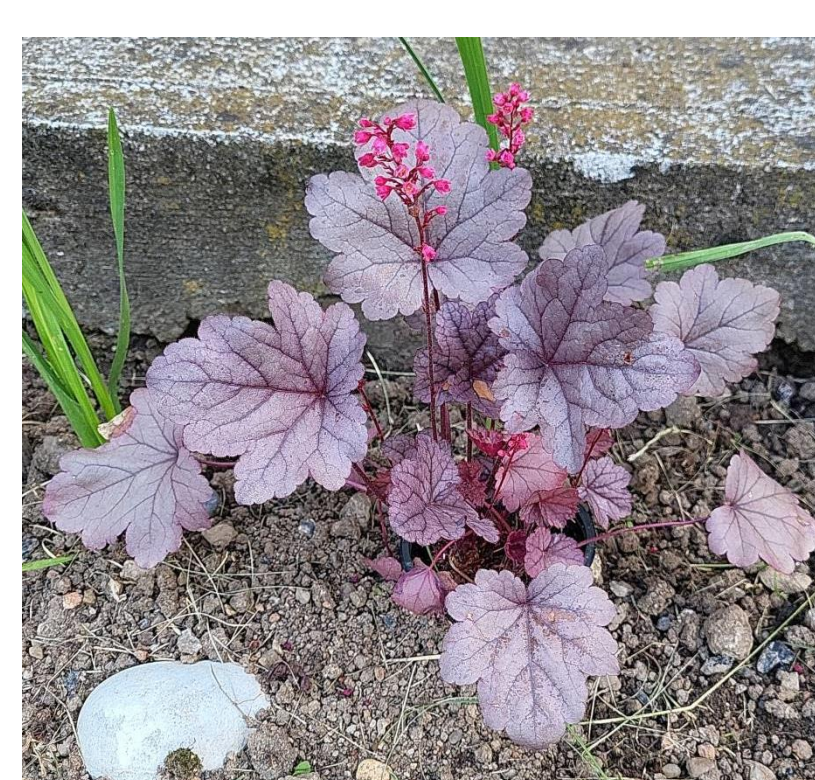
H. villosa
'Timeless Orange'



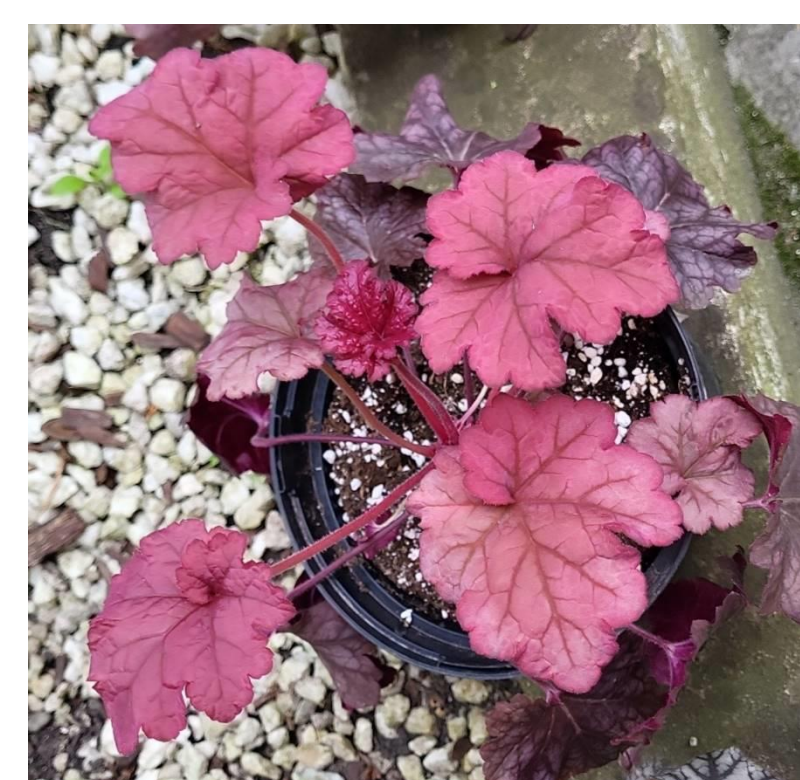
H. villosa
'Cherry Cola'



Source: <https://www.terranovanurseries.com/>



H. villosa
'Silver Gumdrop'



H. villosa
'Berry Smoothie'

• Conclusions

Heuchera has been an increasingly popular plant in landscaping. Numerous studies are focusing on breeding, development of ornamental potential or propagation. Its content of bioactive compounds makes it a species of interest in the pharmacological field as well, but additional research is needed in this area.

• Bibliography

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