Inspiring Plant Selections for Southern Gardens

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1. **Bignonia capreaolata** – Cross Vine, a native vine with many cultivars. Climbs by tendrils with adhesive discs. ‘Tangerine Beauty,’ var. Atrosanguinea, and ‘Jekyll.’

2. **Lonicera sempervirens** ‘Major Wheeler’ (red flowering form), ‘John Clayton’ (yellow flowering form) our native **Woodbine or Honeysuckle.**

3. **Stauntonia hexaphylla** – or Sausage Vine is a little used evergreen vine that is a close relative of Akebia with edible fruit. Vigorous with outstanding fragrant floral display.


5. **Trachelospermum asiaticum** ‘Fragrant Gold’ and ‘Ougon Nishiki,’ Theta, **Asiatic Jasmines** are often used as a groundcover but make a great subject for hanging baskets. ‘Theta’ is a narrow-leaf form, very cold hardy. ‘Bonsai’ has bronze new growth. ‘Chirimen’ new tiny leaf variegated cultivar.

6. **Ardisia japonica** has a growth habit similar to Pachysandra with underground rhizomes, pink flowers, and red berries. The Japanese have many shows displaying different foliage forms.

7. **Ardisia crenata** ‘Beni Kajaku’ Red Hot Embers™ – A stunning zone 8 selection which comes true from seed. Makes an outstanding pot plant.

8. **Ardisia crispa** – a zone 7 **Ardisia** with many foliage forms which come true from seed. ‘Kokku Daruma’ would make a great container plant. Grow in part to full shade.

9. **Gordonia lasianthus** ‘Swampy’ – A selection of our native **Loblolly Bay** which was found in Aiken Co., SC, and is quite cold hardy.

10. **Franklinia alatamaha** – **Franklinia** was found in Georgia just below Savannah on the Altamaha River, but mostly succumbs to root diseases throughout the Deep South.

11. **Gordlinia grandiflora** ‘Sweet Tea’ – A new hybrid between our native **Franklinia alatamaha** and **Gordonia lasianthus** which produces a much more disease resistant plant with large 5” flowers. Bred by Dr. Tom Ranney of NCSU.

12. **Camellia japonica** ‘Black Magic’ has glossy red flowers with heavily serrated leaves. Becoming more and more popular as it becomes more available.

13. **Camellia hybrid** – This is a new Camellia selection from Japan with deep burgundy new growth and blood red flowers. Compact habit. A great improvement over ‘Night Rider’ which has similar characteristics, but is a very weak grower.

14. **Camellia japonica** ‘Fukurin Ikkiyu’ – Great variegated foliage. ‘Pink Mermaid’ has an interesting branched tip to its leaves.

15. **Camellia sinensis** – Commercial tea has many foliage forms and is one of the more cold hardy species of Camellias. ‘Rosea,’ ‘Silver Dust,’ ‘Shirotae,’ ‘Gold Splash,’ ‘Yellow Tea,’ and ‘Unryu’ (contorted).

16. **Camellia handelii** ‘Snow Bells’ is a Chinese species with delicate weeping branches but with a myriad of 2.5” flowers, as many as 9 at a single node.
17. *Eurya japonica* – in the Camellia family, *Theaceae*, this native Japanese shrub shows many foliage forms and does well in sun to shade. Flowers are not showy.

18. *Cleyera japonica* 'Tokyo Sunrise' is an elegant cultivar from a genus which is also in the Camellia family. (Often confused with *Ternstroemia gymnanthera* which is also called Cleyera)

19. *Gardenia augusta* 'Gold Doubloon®' is a new variegated Gardenia with golden foliage when grown in at least a half day of sun. No burn last winter with our single digit temperatures.

20. *Magnolia (Michelia) figo* ‘Hagiwara Everblooming’ repeats flowering through the summer and is more fragrant than the species.

21. *Magnolia (Michelia) figo crassipes* ‘Royal Robes’ – This is a stunning Banana shrub with fragrant deep burgundy flowers. Fragrance more spicy than “fruity.”

22. *Magnolia (Michelia) laevifolia* ‘Snow Angel’ is a compact Michelia that grows in a mounding weeping fashion with 2” fragrant white flowers. Sun or shade.

23. *Liriope muscari* – *Border-grass* has many cultivars with foliar and floral interest.

24. *Liriope platyphylla* ‘Korean Giant’ – This giant *Liriope* is native to Korea and China. Flower spikes to 4’ plus with this cultivar.

25. *Ophiopogon japonicus* – Often called “*monkey grass,*” this close relative of *Liriope* brings many surprises as far as new foliage forms and variegated types. *Ophiopogon umbraticola* has fine “curly” leaves. *Ophiopogon planiscapus nigrescens* is a black leaf *Mondo grass*.

26. *Ophiopogon jaburan* has giant *Liriope* like leaves and long arching flower stalks with showy white flowers in August followed by electric-blue berries in fall. ‘Vittatus’ is a variegated which appears to be *Liriope muscari* ‘Variegatus’ on steroids.

27. *Allium* ‘Millennium’ is one of the best compact flower onions which does not re-seed. It need to be grown in full sun for best flowering.

28. *Echeandea texensis* is sometimes called Mexican Yellow Hat and is native to the Southwest and flowers in mid to late fall with 5’ spikes of yellow flowers.

29. *Eucomis* or Pineapple Lily is one of the easiest to grow perennials for part to full sun. It has many foliage and flower forms such as ‘Sparkling Burgundy’ and ‘Ruben.’ ‘Tiny Piny Ruby’ is a new cultivar from New Zealand which has won many European horticultural awards.

30. *Drimiopsis maculta* – African False Hosta of course is not “hosta” at all but in the Asparagus family. Likes part shade in almost any soil.

31. *Polygonatum odoratum* ‘Variegatum’ or *Solomon’s Seal* is one of the more easily grown shade perennials. Many new cultivars include ‘Kayaba Nishiki’ with broad white margins, ‘Fireworks’ with a streaked variegation and red stems, ‘Byakko,’ ‘Jinguiji’ with red stems.

32. *Polygonatum macranthum* ‘Tiger Stripes’ is a species which can grow to 4-5’ in height.

33. *Disporum sessile* ‘Awa-no-Tsuki’ is a close relative of Solomon Seal called Fairy Bells and it is a new variegated form from Japan.

34. *Rohdea japonica* – In the Lily family, *Liliaceae*, *Nippon Lily* is an evergreen native to Japan which likes dry shade and makes a great pot plant as well. Zone 7 and higher. Different foliage forms are very popular as “show” plants in Japan. Some cultivars sell for hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

35. *Aspidistra elatior* and other species of this genus are also in the Lily family and commonly referred to as *Cast Iron Plants* because of their toughness. Great deep shade plants. There are now well over 100 species that have been identified. Flowers are the main source of identification, hence until a selection flowers it is difficult to identify it. ‘Spek-tacular’ is heavily speckled and will reach to 5’.
36. *Pyrrosia lingua* or *Tongue Fern* is a hardy evergreen fern that can be used as a shade ground cover or it makes an outstanding hanging basket subject which can be left outdoors in the Deep South all winter. ‘Gold Rush’ is a variegated form, ‘Hiryu’ is a split-leaf form and ‘Futoba Shishi’ is heavily branched resembling a miniature Staghorn Fern.

37. *Iris cristata* ‘Powder Blue Giant’ is a native Iris to this area which makes an excellent groundcover for part shade.

38. *Schefflera delavayi* – This genus is mostly known for its tropical counterpart, *Schefflera actinophylla*, a popular indoor pot plant. But this is a zone 7 species.

39. *Cyrilla racemiflora* – *Titi* is a great coastal native with multi-seasonal interest. It will make a large shrub to small tree. Will tolerate wet soils well also.

40. *Cyrilla arida* – Rare native *Titi* found by Bob McCartney in south Florida may be extinct in the wild. As is species name implies, it grows in sandy soils but does well even in zone 6.

41. *Daphniphyllum macropodum* is becoming more well known as a good evergreen screen, but the Japanese have many variegated forms. We have finally conquered grafting it.

42. *Ilex latifolia* ‘Alva’ is a heavy berrying form of Luster-leaf Holly which colors up early in the fall and also roots well.

43. *Eriobotrya japonica* or Loquat has new variegated selections or white, gold and speckled variegation.

44. *Mahonia eurybracteata* ‘Narihira’ and ‘Indigo Flair’® have proven more cold hardy than ‘Soft Caress.’

45. *Mahonia ‘Beijing Beauty’* PPAF – Has proven to be extremely cold hardy with no leaf burn even into single digits.

46. *Illicium floridanum* ‘Swamp Hobbit’ (first true dwarf of the species) and ‘Pink Frost’ (a stable variegated form) – two new cultivars of our native Florida Anise.

47. *Illicium* ‘Woodlanders Ruby’ – a chance seedling at Woodlanders in Aiken, SC, which is a cross between *Illicium floridanum* and Mexican Anise, *Illicium mexicana*.

48. *Illicium parviflorum* ‘Florida Sunshine’ has brilliant gold leaves. ‘Webb’s Variegated’ has white variegation and a new variegated sport with marginal variegation. Another native species with new cultivars being selected.

49. *Illicium anisatum* – Japanese Anise with many selections, ‘Murasaki-no-sato’ Purple Glaze™ has burgundy new growth, and many other variegated forms with white and yellow margins.

50. *Calycanthus floridus* or *Sweet Shrub* has many cultivars such as ‘Betty,’ ‘Athens,’ and ‘Michael Lindsey’. Sweet shrub is one of our more popular natives. ‘Aphrodite’ is a new hybrid which is fragrant and also repeats bloom.

51. *Edgeworthia chrysantha* ‘Winter Gold’ – *Paper-bark bush* is a close relative of Daphne, this is one of the best winter flowering shrubs for the Deep South doing well from Jacksonville, FL to Martha’s Vineyard, MA. The red flowering form does not survive well on its own roots, so it must be grafted.

52. *Osmanthus fragrans* – *Fragrant Tea Olive* is one of the best Deep South staples with a number of varieties and cultivars. ‘Fudingzhu’ is our number one selling plant on the internet. ‘Tianxiang Taige’ is a new cultivar from China whose name in Chinese translates to ‘Heaven Fragrance Duplicate.’ *Osmanthus fragrans thunbergii* has yellow flowers. *Osmanthus fragrans aurantiacus* is the orange flowering form. The latter two selections are much more cold hardy than the species. ‘Beni Kin Mokusei’ is called “Red Flowering Osmanthus” by the Japanese and Chinese but is just a deeper brighter orange. ‘Apricot Echo’ is a repeat flowering
orange form but is not as cold hardy. Now new variegated and colored leaf cultivars are being introduced from China.

53. **Osmanthus heterophyllus** – Holly Leaf Tea Olive is an old species in the South but there are many new cultivars. ‘Kaori Hime’ is a dwarf form which flowers well. ‘Shien’ or ‘Party Lights’® has pink new growth. ‘Goshiki’ is an old Japanese cultivar meaning “five colors.” ‘Ogon’ has yellow foliage. ‘Rotundifolia’ has round spineless leaves, ‘Sasaba’ has heavily spined leaves, ‘Hariyama’ is a smaller version.

54. **Loropetalum chinense** is now a ubiquitous shrub in the southern landscape. It is in the Witchhazel family and now with numerous new cultivars with colored and variegated foliage it may be used even more. It is one of the deer tolerant plants we grow; whereas, in some areas deer are a problem.

55. **Distylium myricoides** – Blue Leaf Isu is a Chinese relative of Loropetalum which flowers in February. Its horizontal growth habit gives excellent contrast in form to other rounded shrubs. Here showing a new selection from Nurseries Caroliniana ‘Spring Frost’™ PPAF with white new growth and a horizontal growth habit. ‘Vintage Jade’®PPAF is a lax spreading form.

56. **Rhodoleia henryi** – Rhodoleia is a relatively unknown genus in American horticulture which is in the Witchhazel family, Hamamelidaceae, and is a close relative of the very familiar Loropetalum. This species is much more cold-hardy than the better known Rhodoleia championii which is a zone 9-10 species. R. henryi is found at over 8,000’ elevation in its native China, so it is probably at least a zone 7 plant, if not even more cold hardy. We had good reports after this cold winter on its hardiness.

57. We end with **Lupinus villosus**, which is a Southern native biennial Lupine which is impossible to transplant from the wild, and Stephanie, Bob McCartney’s Carolina Dog (found in Aiken Co., SC), two South Carolina natives which are the envy of many.

Nurseries Caroliniana has a retail location and an internet mail order service. To find our retail location, enter the following address into your GPS device: 143 Mims Grove Church Road, North Augusta, SC. Or you may call 803-279-2707.

Our website is [www.nurcar.com](http://www.nurcar.com). You may order from this site, but plants are cheaper when bought from our retail location.