

“Perennial Pairings” - From Jeanne Nevard, November 2015

“Sometimes good things fall apart, so better things can fall together.” Marilyn Monroe

“Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower.” Albert Camus

The last tip of the year features two shade, groundcover plants that display nice fall foliage together. One has a thick, velvety, aromatic leaf, the other an airy, delicate habit.

Hardy Cranesbill Geranium- many varieties

- Full sun to partial shade
- Range from 5” to 3’ tall, a 1-3’ spread forms a nice groundcover
- Rhizomes transplant easily, and it can also self-sow
- Blooms early spring to mid-summer
- Tolerates average to moist soil
- Various flower colors: white, pink, blue, lavender, to purple
- 5-petaled flowers with palmate, lobed leaves
- Cranesbill is named for its seed capsule shape
- Popular varieties are: violet-blue ‘Rozanne’, sanguineum- known as bloody cranesbill is magenta, ‘Johnson’s Blue’ and ‘Biokovo’ is white to pale pink & voted the 2015 Perennial Plant Assn., plant of the year
- Great evergreen fall foliage- from deep burgundy to russet reds and even orange!



Bishop’s Hat, Barrenwort, Fairy Wings- Epimedium- many varieties

- Full sun to part shade
- 3-12” tall, forms a clump by woody rhizomes
- Blooms early spring to early summer
- Enjoys humus-rich, well-drained moist to dry soil, mulch is preferred
- Cut back old foliage in spring, unless undamaged over winter
- Dainty heart shaped leaves, with small hat-shaped, long-spurred, dangling flowers in shades of: white, yellow, red & yellow, pink to purple flowers
- Striking spring foliage: some with red edges, others shades of bronze
- Fall colors in some varieties are: crimson, scarlet and the unusual purple, *versicolor* ‘Cupreum’, with spring color red & yellow leaves, with salmon
- Divide in late summer
- Native to Asia, but hardy here
- A popular, specialty plant, check with the Epimedium societies to learn more: epimediums.com.

