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## Something" of the Year plants not so trendy

HERALD - THURSDAY, JANUARY 16,

Just got another e-mail alert about a plant being promoted alluringly as the 2020 Something of the Year. There's always

something. I don't generally fall for hype or jump on costly bandwagons that often fizzle. One I do follow is that of the Pantone Color of the Year. Not trying to be fashionable; I humor myself with it to keep my creativ-

ity on its toes by painting something in my garden with it and finding plants, pots, and accessories that coordinate with it. This year it's Classic Blue. Ought to be fun.

My recent Plant of the Year e-mail was from the Herb Society of America, feting "brambles" as this year's highlight. Not just black, dew or raspberries, but all of them. And to think of all the wild ones I pull every year by the Sisyphean gloveful from my garden!

Not trying to be testy. I appreciate the sincerity and dedication of people winnow carefully down the field, carefully examine the best contend-

ers, and adopt a singular frontrunner to cheerily champion.

Usually the plant of honor meets multiple criteria such as proven survivability in a wide range of conditions with insect and disease resis-

tance, exceptional beauty or extra good or long production, and unique growth habit; "pollinator friendly" is a current buzz phrase.

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And, cynicism aside, it isn't always just a coorpush sales of a pricey new cultivar. Sometimes it's a or native plant worth being state's climate and soils reintroduced into gardens. and which could be pro-

dinated marketing ploy to Guerilla gardener Jesse Yancy shares proven hardy

plants with neighbors.

a flame of popular interest tions, promotes only those under a precious heirloom that are adapted to our The Mississippi Medal- duced and sold by Missislion program brings such sippi growers and retailers.

genuine effort to reignite unlike national promo- all keepers, though a few are a bit tricky for newbie gardeners or are no longer being widely produced. You can find these outstanding shrubs, flowers, Jesse Lee's conditions, and Radio. Email gardenveggies and others listed, wows him with their per- ing questions to rushingplants to our attention but, For the most part they are with photos and descrip- formance, then I'll give felder@yahoo.com.

tions, on the website of 'em a go in my own garden the Mississippi Nursery the next year. and Landscape Associalion Plants).

My neighbor Jesse Yan-

bust because, though he's onerous. a nurturing gardener he doesn't have the resources grouchy, I just don't want or time to coddle.

him any newly-heralded den. plants that have been sent or given to me by promot- sissippi author, columnist, ers, and then watch from and host of the "Gestalt his curb. If they thrive in Gardener" on MPB Think

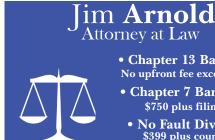
Some favorites, such as tion (MSNLA.org; click on African Blue basil, Tus-"programs" then Medal- can kale, orange Profusion zinnias, Burgundy okra, Though over the years blackeyed Susan vine and my garden has become the antique Mutablis rose, overstuffed with plants have become mainstays for brought to my attention us both, and are spreading through these kinds of amongst neighbors - a true promotions, so I farm new indicator of long-haul suc-

As for the herb society's cy is a "guerilla gardener" latest plant celebrity, I'm who has transformed a ne- gonna pass. I usually wait glected slice of dirt across for my wild dewberries to from his urban apartment flower before I pull them, into a nearly overwhelm- partly for the pretty and ing gallimaufry of vegeta- partly for pollinators, but bles, herbs, flowers, vines, leave just enough come bulbs and anything else he back every year to keep can glean cheaply or free. this seasonal dance go-They're obliged to be ro- ing without becoming too

Not being untrendy-2020 to become the Year A So I often hand over to Trendy Plant Ate My Gar-

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