

These plants are a many-splendored thing. Today there are a plethora of amazing varieties in amazing foliage colors and flowering types. Many are natives to the forest floor, while others cling to rocks in high mountain passes. Heucherellas are a hybrid between Heuchera and Tiarella that combine the best of both parents.

WATER NEEDS: Minor. All varieties are considered drought tolerant and in fact, are usually killed by too much water especially in Oregon's clay soils. So, if you have clay, amend or raise the beds in which they will be growing in. They are champions in containers with a porous soil mix.

FERTILIZING: Minor. An application of a balanced time-release fertilizer in spring will last the plants for a year. No further food is necessary unless there are "bullies" in a container or in the landscape that steal nutrients. If this is the case a dilute fertilizer will help.

LIGHT: Most in these groups prefer morning sun while some are extremely sun-tolerant. Tiarellas and some Heuchera prefer shade. Check your labels for best advice.

SOIL: A porous, well-draining mix is necessary. Outdoors you can use pumice, bark, and compost to lighten a soil.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Few insect or disease problems. The wet Northwest springs may bring on rust (look for orange pustules on the leaf backs) or powdery mildew on the Heuchera sanguinea types (both controlled by copper sprays), and strawberry root weevils (the devil) whose larvae will munch the plant's crowns. If you see notched rhody leaves in your garden – beware! Some varieties may get leaf burn if exposed to full sun.

MAINTENANCE: Minor. Plants should be dug up and divided and reset every several years for maximum vigor. Old flower stalks can be removed.

IN THE LANDSCAPE: This group can make a wonderful ground cover en masse or can be the crown jewel in a container. They can line pathways or make a color statement in the rock-garden. Tiarellas are a natural in shady woodland areas. They are a natural choice for containers and can even make stunning hanging baskets.

WILDLIFE: Hummingbirds and butterflies both love this group. Some varieties are now nearly ever-blooming which will attract them longer. Deer are not fond of the Heuchera and Heucherellas but will eat them. They are not at all fond of Tiarella.

Heucheras are a wonderful addition to your containers and garden. Here are some companion plant suggestions to get your creative juices flowing! For a woodland look, combine your heucheras with the following plants:

Brunnera 'Jack Frost'	Ajuga	Echinacea	Hosta
Fatsia	Acanthus	Japanese Forest Grass	Ferns
Hardy Fuschias	Irish & Scotch Moss		

For a late summer look choose:

Sedums	Grasses (Juncus & Sedge)	Euphorbia	Coleus
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For a fall or winter look consider combining them with:

Hebes	Hellebores	Bergenia	Black Mondo Grass
Chamaecyparis			

Looking for a little more inspiration? Al's expert purple people are always willing to help with plant selection, information and more!