

GROWERTALKS

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Perennials A-Plenty



PRIMULA OAKLEAF YELLOW PICOTEE (Flamingo Holland)

The first color in a perennial primula series called OakLeaf, Yellow Picotee keeps its flowers for almost two months, held high above the oak-like foliage. There will be at least one more color coming in this Zone 4-hardy series next year.

SILENE ROSALYN, DESERT GLOW (Hem Genetics)

A first-year-flowering perennial hardy from Zones 5 to 9, Rosalyn is floriferous, with small, lacy, rose-pink flowers on globe-shaped plants. It's daylength neutral, making it a winter annual in sub-tropic climates. Desert Glow has the same characteristics as Rosalyn, but with small, bright orange-scarlet flowers. Both grow to 16-in. tall and 12-in. wide. Pictured is a pretty combination of Rosalyn, Desert Glow and Mertensia Oyster Leaf Silver Ocean.



DIANTHUS AMERICAN PIE CHERRY PIE (PlantHaven)

The Dianthus American Pie series is a scented perennial dianthus from world-class Whetman breeding from Devon in the U.K. With large

blooms up to 3-in. across and a modern color range, Cherry Pie is the new addition unveiled at Spring Trials. Growers in just about any region appreciate that once transplanted from a 72-liner to a gallon pot, these dianthus can be placed outside in unheated houses for the winter, emerging healthy for spring sales.



HELLEBORUS NORTH STAR (Terra Nova)



This collection of five colors from tissue culture is a short crop, meaning it will bloom for sales in the first year. The outward-facing flowers are held just above the foliage, growing 2 ft. in Zones 4 to 9. The colors are Crystalline, Garnet Frills, Pink (pictured), Plum and Ruby Heart.



DELPHINIUM JENNY'S PEARL (Takii)

Delphinium grandiflora Jenny's Pearl Blue and Jenny's Pearl Pink offer stable color during high-temperature production. This first-year-flowering perennial can be used for pots or as a cut flower. Who's the Jenny the series is named after? Jenny Kuhn, Seed Product Manager at Raker-Robertas.

LUPINE LUPINI (Hem Genetics)

The new Lupini series is a seed-raised, first-year-flowering lupine with foot-tall blooms. They're hardy in Zones 6 to 8 and have a short crop time, requiring no vernalization. The new series has five colors—Blue Shades, Pink Shades, Red Shades, White Shades, Yellow Shades—and a Mix (pictured).



ECHINACEA DARK SHADOWS WICKED (Terra Nova)

Wicked joins the Dark Shadows series, bringing a very cool watermelon color to the blooms with extremely dark centers and dark flower stems. It's a Zone 4 to 9 perennial that grows upright with a compact habit that makes sense for patio containers and combos.

HELIOPSIS PUNTO ROSSO COMPACT (Kientzler)

A first-year-flowering perennial that will bloom May through October—pretty unusual in a perennial. It's a Zone 3 plant that'll even flower down into Florida.



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BRUNNERA ALEXANDRIA
(Terra Nova)

Alexandria is an improvement on Alexander's Great, a classic variety. Alexandria has shown excellent hardiness in trials and shows off its pure silver foliage with no veins.

LEUCANTHEMUM CARPET ANGEL
(Green Fuse)

Carpet Angel is the only groundcover shasta daisy in the world. With no vernalization or daylength requirements, Carpet Angel blooms continuously with a compact size, superior basal branching and fully double flowers. Hardy to Zone 5.



RUDBECKIA DAKOTA GOLD
(Green Fuse)

Dakota Gold is the first fully hardy perennial *Rudbeckia hirta* cultivar on the planet. Just how cold hardy is it? Zone 5, they say—impressive! Like most First Light Perennials from Green Fuse, Dakota Gold is day-neutral and can be marketed any time—spring, summer or fall.

KNIPHOFIA POCO CITRON
(Terra Nova)

New to the Poco series is Citron, a nice color that matches the habit of the rest of the six-color series. Cold-tested in Minnesota, it's hardy to Zone 5 or even colder climates. In year one out of TC, it's quick growing and grower friendly.



ECHINACEA SOMBRERO FIESTA ORANGE, ROSADA; SOMBRERO POCO

(Darwin Perennials)

Sombreros are known for excellent cold-hardiness (Zone 4) and maximum branching, and joining a wide range of in-demand colors for next season are Fiesta Orange and Rosada. Fiesta Orange lives up to its name with rich, orange blooms that are sure to attract butterflies. Rosada has rose-pink flowers on purple stems. The new Poco collection is more compact than traditional Sombreros but still offers the same garden performance and habit. Starting off with Yellow (pictured) and Hot Coral, the Pocos grow up to 16 in. tall and wide.



AQUILEGIA EARLYBIRD (Kieft Seed)

The Earlybird series is an improvement to and replacement for the popular Songbird series. There are eight colors and a mix available, including several unique colors such as Purple Blue and Red Yellow. The other colors in the series include Blue Yellow, Blue White, Purple White, Red White, Yellow, and White.

Besides the unique colors, the Earlybird series has reduced vernalization requirements; they can be vernalized in five weeks with temperatures below 55F (13C). As the name suggests, they flower about one to two weeks earlier than the original Songbirds. The Earlybird series has a compact, controlled habit with upward-facing flowers and is very programmable to meet various ship dates.

ANEMONE SATIN DOLL
(Terra Nova)

Satin Doll begins with one color, Blush. The new breeding is focused on a fall anemone line that doesn't spread. Satin Doll is a clumper, not a runner, and trials show it blooms from July through the end of October. Available from tissue culture, plants can have up to 65 flowers the first year.



PHLOX SUPER KA-POW
(Darwin Perennials)

What makes them "super"? Super-sized blooms and a super-sized habit. Four new *paniculatas* come to market with vibrant colors and winter hardiness. Fuchsia, Lavender, Pink and White (pictured) offer growers four excellent colors to capture attention at retail and in the garden. They grow up to 20 in. tall and wide.