

GROWER TALKS

September 2010
Volume 74 Number 5

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Saving young plants from the shipping wringer

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Keep an open mind and try to see the big picture. So many opportunities are missed by people who aren't open to new experiences.

Dana Langhoff,
GrowerTalks' 2010 Young Grower Award winner
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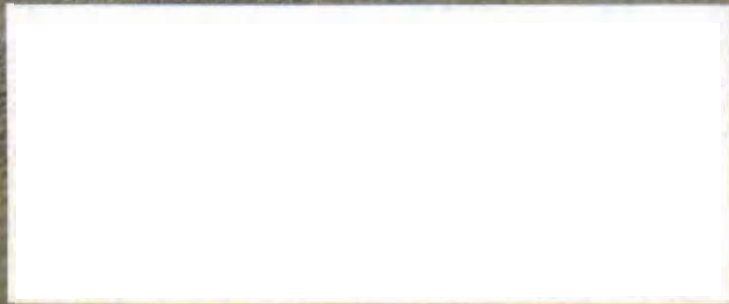


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ON THE COVER

This year's Young Grower Award Winner has moved to a different state, attended two different universities and worked for two different greenhouse operations—and he's only 34 years old. Read more about Dana Langhoff of Floral Plant Growers on page 42.

Photo by Mark Widhalm

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COVER STORY

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If 2010 Young Grower Award winner Dana Langhoff played baseball, he'd have a .400 batting average. Why? Because he'd be able to hit any pitch thrown at him.

FEATURES

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by Chris Beytes, Ellen C. Wells and Jennifer Zurko
The rains of spring seemed a distant memory as the industry began shopping for the 2011 season at the annual OFA Short Course.
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by Dr. Will Healy
There's a pile of plugs in the bottom of the box that looks like it went through a spin cycle in your washing machine. Why does this happen? And what can you do about it?
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by Dr. Jamie Gibson & Dr. Hugh Poole
This primer will give you a new appreciation for one of our most important inputs.
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by Dr. Marvin N. Miller
The latest USDA floriculture data suggest shifts in consumption patterns.

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Caladium Cinderella PAF is a short to intermediate delicate pink lance-leaved (strap) variety. It displays a nice full-mounding habit with or without de-eyeing in 4-in. and larger pots. (De-eyed plants are more compact with more and smaller leaves.) It has a similar crop time to Sweetheart and finishes one to two weeks faster than Pink Symphony. In the landscape, Cinderella makes an excellent border plant in shaded landscapes.



▲ **Conrad Fafard Inc.**

Fafard has introduced a new germinating mix conveniently packaged in compressed bales. Fafard Young Plant Mix features superfine, stick-free, horticultural-grade peat, perlite and vermiculite, specially formulated for plug production and liner production, including Ellepots. Young Plant Mix is available from Canada in a 110-cu.ft. Hi-Rise compressed bale and smaller bale sizes. Packaging the new germinating mix in a compressed bale provides the grower with a consistent, high-quality formula, while saving time and labor. **Reader Service Number 152**

▼ **Suntory Flowers Ltd.**

One of Suntory's most successful bedding plant introductions in 20 years, Million Bells hybrids are exceptionally vigorous calibrachoa cultivars. Heat tolerant, cold hardy, self-cleaning and amazingly prolific, they produce the most blooms and continue well into fall. Million Bells Crackling Fire has a mounding habit. These stunning and brilliant yellow-orange striped blooms are outstanding. To keep plants happy, give them full sun, well-drained soil, and feed them regularly. **Reader Service Number 153**



▲ **Terra Nova Nurseries Inc.**

Terra Nova Nurseries introduced the world's first trailing heuchere varieties in July 2010. The two new varieties include Heuchere Yellow Stone Falls and Heuchere Red Stone Falls, making for the start of a new series called Heuchere Falls. Yellow Stone Falls (pictured) provides chartreuse leaves with deep crimson markings. Stems will trail 3 ft. in containers, making full and eye-catching hanging baskets. It is also well used as a ground cover with a foliage height of 6 in., foliage spread of 24 in., and flowering height of 10 in. **Reader Service Number 151**



▼ **Hamilton Engineering Inc.**

Hamilton Engineering, manufacturer of the EVO product line, has released a new, improved version of their low-loss header, the Hamilton System Separator. The System Separator allows for an infinite number of heating zones and loads with precise water temperature control, while maintaining boiler efficiency through turbulent flow. It functions as the heating system's hub, removing air, separating flows and acting as the primary dirt and sludge separator. It also eliminates pump conflict, extra boiler room plumbing and protects your boiler from fluctuating pressures, thereby increasing your boiler's efficiency. **Reader Service Number 154**



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▲ **Syngenta Flowers Inc.**

With excellent fall colors, Yoder Pot Mum 'Honey Durango' is the latest addition to the popular Durango family. Growers and retailers like Durango for the great plant strength, foliage, flowering uniformity and, of course, its shelf life. Honey Durango makes a great eye catcher in combinations within the family. **Reader Service Number 155**

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