



COMPANIES OFFER ANNUALS

Check out these new bedding plants from breeders around the world. BY DAVID KUACK

AGASTACHE

The **Acapulco** series is part of the Ecke Flower Fields' low-maintenance Painted Dunes Collection. Colors include **Salmon & Pink, Orange, Rose** and **Yellow & Pink**. These extremely fragrant plants attract butterflies and hummingbirds delivering outstanding performance in mixed containers or when planted in mass in the landscape.

ALSTROEMERIA

Lilian is the latest addition to Van Zaten Plants' **Princess Lilies** line. The compact plants can be used in containers and in landscape beds. Lilian produces 2½- to 3-inch lilac flowers on 10-14 inch tall plants.



ANGELONIA

The **SunDancer** series is a member of the Ecke Painted Dunes Collection. Vigorous and free-branching, the plants' upright habit adds height to combinations. Available in **Pink, White** and **Purple**, these heat-loving plants extend the summer season.

Hort Couture's **Applique** series has three varieties (**Blue, Pink** and **White**) that are compact with medium-sized flowers. They are well-branched, making for very full plants.

BRACTEANTHA

The **Dazette** series from Oro Farms offers three colors (**Yellow, Orange** and **White**), that were selected under high heat and humidity conditions to produce plants with narrower leaves and excellent branching. Plants, which can be grown pot tight, produce many flowers just above the foliage. They are ideal for 4- and 6-inch pots as well as in mixed containers or color bowls.



Petite Beauty from Ecke has all the great qualities of the **Outback** varieties with petite yellow flowers. This variety was selected due to superior performance characteristics in the greenhouse and the garden. Exceptional heat tolerance makes it ideal for summer sales. Perfect for production in smaller pots (4-inch and up), plants grow 8-10 inches tall in the garden.

CUPHEA

Cuphea llavea '**Flamenco Jive**' from PlantHaven was specifically bred for compact habit, high flower volume, large upright facing flower presentation and a long flowering season. Plants produce large flowers with dark cerise petals and a darker purple center and smooth light green leaves. Plants, which reach 16 inches tall and wide, do best in full sun in a well-drained soil.

Cuphea hyssopifolia **Border** series from Skagit Gardens has two varieties that produce multitudes of prominently displayed miniature flowers above their finely textured foliage. Much more compact than other cupheas, and with a distinctly rounded form well suited for containers and landscape beds. **Magenta** produces bright magenta flowers on 6-inch tall plants. **Southern** displays light violet flowers on 8-inch tall plants.



Cuphea ignea **Matchmaker** series from Kieft-Pro-Seeds includes **White, Scarlet** and **Pink**. These compact plants reach 8-10 inches tall and wide. The plants have a long flowering period and a self-cleaning habit with wide climate acceptance.



The **Vienco** cuphea series from GGG International contains seven colors. Plants have decorative growth and large flowers. They make the perfect container plant for hot weather.

PICKING PLANTS

CYPERUS

Proven Winners has added two plants to its **Graceful Grasses** collection. *Cyperus involucratus* **Baby Tut** has a distinctive color, texture and performance. This petite, upright Egyptian papyrus is a fast grower, reaching 18-24 inches tall and 30-48 inches wide. It is perfect for water gardens, patio pots, and beds.

Cyperus papyrus **King Tut** is a distinctive plant with large heads of pendulous leaves. Its greenish spikelets can measure 1-inch across. This upright plant reaches 48-72 inches tall and wide. It can be used in water gardens or as a centerpiece in large patio pots and beds. Both plants take full to partial sun.

EUPHORBIA

The new **Breathless** series from Ball FloraPlant includes the only red-flushed leaf form **Blush** and a better branching **White**. Plants are durable, low-maintenance and long-lasting in containers and in-ground plantings. These versatile, heat-tolerant, fine-textured varieties fill in fast developing into stocky, mounded plants. They display a showy mass of self-cleaning flowers all season long in all summer conditions. Plants are suitable for 4½- and 6-inch pots and gallons. Plants reach a height of 8-15 inches and spread of 20-28 inches. They can be planted in full sun to partial shade.



Euphorbia **'Hip Hop'** from GroLink has a full, mounding habit and is heat- and drought-tolerant. It has nice green foliage and non-stop white flowers. It is an excellent annual for the landscape or in combinations for the spring or mixed with poinsettias for Christmas sales.



GAURA

Papillon Pink is part of Ecke's low-maintenance Painted Dunes Collection. It is a great landscape plant and the perfect addition to combination planters. The variety has been a strong performer in field trials everywhere and is easy to produce.

GOMPHRENA

Gomphrena globosa **Las Vegas** series from Benary comes in three vibrant colors: **Pink**, **Purple** and **White**. Plants reach 16-20 inches tall and are ideal for 4½ -inch pot production. The series is heat- and



drought-tolerant with a quick crop time (nine to 11 weeks) making it versatile in the landscape throughout the country.

Bright pink flowers cover *Gomphrena leontopoides* **Balboa** from EuroAmerican Propagators from spring to frost. It provides an immense display of color combined with fuzzy, linear foliage. This full sun plant is hardy to USDA Hardiness Zones 8-11.



American Takii has expanded its gomphrena color choices with the introduction of the **Audray** series. Joining Bicolor Rose (now Audray **Bicolor Rose**) are **Pink** and **Purple Red**. The series can be used both for garden and cut flower use. The Audray series can withstand hot and humid conditions. Plant height is 30-40 inches.

IPOMOEA

Sweet Caroline Sweet Talk series from Green Fuse Botanicals includes **Light Green** and **Purple**. A subseries of the Sweet Caroline series, plants have a thin palmate leaf form. Their mounded growth habit and fine texture give the plants great landscape appeal.



The **Bright Ideas** series was bred by Floranova and is being offered exclusively by Oro Farms. The three varieties, **Rusty Red**, **Lime** and **Black**, were bred to be naturally compact without the use of growth regulators. This series can be used in pot tight accent plant programs as well as in combinations without taking over the pots.



Illusion is a new series from Proven Winners with two introductions. **Emerald Lace** has deeply dissected, emerald green leaves. **Midnight Lace** has deeply dissected, dark purple leaves with magenta venation. Both varieties have a strong mounding habit and can be used in hanging baskets, containers and the landscape. They reach 8-10 inches tall and 24-36 inches wide. They do best in full sun to partial shade.

MARIGOLD

Taishan, available in **Gold**, **Yellow**, **Orange** and a **Mixture**, from PanAmerican Seed delivers season-long landscape performance with high-impact color. Their dwarf habit offers better branching to provide full, lush plants that perform

PICKING PLANTS

longer. Short peduncles and thick stems mean less breakage in shipping. Plants reach 10-12 inches tall and 8-10 inches wide in full sun. Taishan was a top performer and survived the humid, summer heat in Beijing, China for the 2008 Olympic Games.



Gold and primrose have been added to **Discovery Mix Improved** from Benary. These colors are not available separately. Discovery offers a compact habit with tight flower heads, increasing their resistance to Botrytis.

NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS

SunPatians from Sakata, the only impatiens for the full sun, adds two new colors to its **Compact** series (**Magenta** and **Deep Rose**). **Spreading White** has also been added to the series. In addition to full sun tolerance, the plants require minimal care in the garden and provide an abundance of color until the first hard frost.



Rose, Appleblossom and **Orange** expand Selecta's **ColorPower** series to 18 colors. This uniform, early flowering, medium-vigorous series produces large flowers and has excellent summer performance.



PANSY

Mammoth is a new F₁ series from Goldsmith Seeds. The uniform, extra-large-flowered plants are strong branching and quickly fill the pot. They are stretch resistant under warm conditions and provide robust garden performance. The large flat flowers offer maximum visual impact. The series includes 11 separate colors and two mixtures.



The new **Inspire** series from Benary combines all of the benefits of the company's well-known FamaX series with the newest genetics. The series features a total of 24 clear and blotch colors, short flowering windows between colors and extreme cold tolerance. Plants have short flower stems and a compact growth habit making them suitable for both northern and southern climates.

The new **Sense S₁** pansy series from Floranova has 13 colors and a mix. The series is very uniform in flowering time and habit. Bred for high density production, Sense plants stay compact for extended shelf life.

Deep Blue/Blotch is the newest addition to Kieft's **Promise** series. It is early for both spring and fall. The compact plants produce large 3½-inch flowers. It has excellent garden vigor and good winter hardiness.

Syngenta adds to its **Colossus** series with **Lavender Medley, Lemon Shades, Pure Rose, Rose Medley, Tricolor** and **White w/ Purple Wing**. The plants produce extra-large, upward facing 3½- to 4-inch blooms on a tight habit. They provide a superior shelf life at retail that doesn't stretch during warm conditions. Colossus is perfect for spring, summer or early fall production.



Syngenta's **Delta** series adds the new colors: **Premium Primrose w/ Blotch, Premium Marina** and **Premium Violet** and **White**. The Deltas offer extra-early flowering for spring production and outstanding heat tolerance for summer production. This free-flowering series over-winters well and rebounds from severe weather quickly. There are now 21 Premium colors.

Strawberry Cream and **Rising Sun** are new to Syngenta's **Designer Collection**. This collection of unique novelty colors offer surefire retail appeal. The solid landscape performance makes Designer Collection perfect for both spring and fall sales.

Takii introduces **Yellow with Blotch** and **Frosty Blue** to its F₁ **Nature** series. There are now 21 varieties in the series. Plants are compact, very vigorous and extra floriferous providing long lasting color in mass plantings, mixed containers, as well as in pots and packs. The series has extremely strong landscape performance, rebounding quickly from rain and freezes.



Hem Genetics **Cello** series has two new colors (**Azure Blue** and **Beaconsfield**) and three improved varieties (**Pure Light Orange Improved, Pure Deep Orange Improved** and **Light Blue Improved**).

PICKING PLANTS

PHLOX

Dummen's new **Phloxy Lady** series has four cultivars (**Cherry Red, Pink, Burgundy** and **White**). Plants display very early flowering with extended flower power into the summer. They have a round compact habit with strong roots and good branching. Plants are cold tolerant making them excellent for outdoor production.



Fleurizon is offering the *Phlox paniculata* **Junior** series in six colors. Plants have been bred to be naturally short, reaching 12-18 inches tall. Plants are easy to grow and well-suited for 1-gallon container programs. The series is a great addition to border plantings or in combination pots. The plants flower every year and are hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 4.

Proven Winners has two additions to its **Intensia** series. **Orchid Blast** produces orchid pink flowers with a hot pink eye. Plants reach 10-12 inches tall and 12-18 inches wide. **White Improved** has been improved for better habit and performance. Both varieties are heat and humidity tolerant, have strong mildew resistance and bloom until first frost.

SALVIA

Salvia hybrida '**Wendy's Wish**' from PlantHaven produces large clusters of brightly colored fuchsia flowers surrounded by mauve colored calyxes. Flower stems are dark maroon. The conical-shaped mid-dark green leaves have serrated margins. A tender perennial, it's hardy to USDA Hardiness Zones 9-11. 'Wendy's Wish' matures to about 30-40 inches tall by 30 inches wide. It takes full sun to partial shade.



The **Puebla** series of *Salvia greggii* from Ecke is part of the Painted Dunes Collection. Colors include **Cherry, Light Orange, Rose** and **White**. Plants flower from spring to fall with best results in the warm days of summer. In full sun, their fragrance attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Plants can be grouped as a focal point for high-stress landscape areas or in mixed containers.

Lavender is the newest addition to Green Fuse Botanicals' *Salvia farinacea* **Cathedral** series. The early flowering plants produce flowers with a silver/lavender tone. It has a compact growth habit like the other varieties in the series.

VINCA

Cora Cascade F₁ trailing vinca series from Goldsmith Seeds is available in five colors and a mixture. The series has patented resistance to aerial Phytophthora. The vigorous trailing plants thrive in heat and humidity and fill landscape beds and hanging baskets. Plants are covered with large blooms so there are no bald spots.



Boa is a new F₁ trailing vinca series from Floranova available in six colors (**Red, Rose, Peach, White**, with limited availability of **Peppermint** and **Burgundy**) and a mix. Plants exhibit a vigorous trailing habit and large flowers.



Apricot is a new vibrant addition to the Floranova **Cobra** F₁ series. It produces large flowers with overlapping petals to maximize the impact.

Light Blue is the newest addition to the Syngenta **SunStorm** series that is early flowering with excellent branching making it great for packs and small pots. The series uniform flowering across all colors makes programming easy, with no growth regulators necessary because of their compact habit.

ZINNIA

Zahara Starlight Rose from PanAmerican Seed with its white flowers with rose stripes is the first bicolor zinnia in this series. It is a 2010 All-America Selections winner and 2010 Fleuroselect Novelty. Color pattern varies by environment, with the best color occurring under high light, good fertilization and cool nights. Plants are disease-tolerant and heat-loving and produce flowers that are 20 percent larger than other commercial varieties. It reaches 12-18 inches tall and wide.

Sakata has added **Yellow** to its All-America Selections and Fleuroselect Gold Medal winning **Profusion** series. This new variety is consistent with the rest of the series, offering a compact, uniform plant with strong disease resistance throughout the year. Yellow offers bold color and its self-cleaning habit and high heat tolerance makes it an excellent landscape choice for arid regions.



The author is editor of *Greenhouse Management & Production*. Send him an e-mail at dkuack@gje.net.