

# 2018 Culture Trial Results

DarwinPerennials®

PERENNIALS WITH STAYING POWER™

# Trial Program Parameters

- **Goal:** Understand how new genetics in perennials can be used to schedule fresh crops for specific sales windows Spring through Fall.
- All liner inputs were from a 72 cell liner
  - 5 to 7 week URC Stick 'to ready' in elle pot
- No liners had vernalization
- All were grown outside in full sun on black plastic at our West Grove, PA location.
- No fungicides, PGRs, Florel or Configure was used in trials
- All finished containers were a 2.5qt (trade gallons)
- All containers had drip irrigation and supplemental feed via irrigation as needed
- All finished containers top dressed with Harrell's 13-5-9 slow release feed
- We included several items from our 2020 new introductions along with 2019 introductions

# Digitalis Arctic Fox Rose

## Features:

- Impressive flower power without vernalization
- Amazing impulse color at retail
- Cold hardy Digitalis- perfect for Northern markets (Zone 5)



# Digitalis Arctic Fox Rose



**Group 1**  
Planted: wk 14  
Photo: wk 24 (6.15)



**Group 2**  
Planted: wk 17  
Photo: wk 26 (6.26)  
Pinched)



**Group 3**  
Planted: wk 21  
Photo: wk 28 (7.13)



**Group 4**  
Planted: wk 24  
Photo: wk 31 (8.3)



**Group 5**  
Planted: wk 25  
Photo: wk 33 (8.17)

# Digitalis Arctic Fox Rose

## Performance Summary

- Performed well in all groups
- Recommend a pinch after transplant for optimal product form- more flower stalks at a shorter shipping height



| Group | Transplant | Pinch | Ship | Weeks to Finish |
|-------|------------|-------|------|-----------------|
| 1     | 14         | none  | 23   | 9               |
| 2     | 17         | 21    | 25   | 8               |
| 3     | 21         | 23    | 27   | 6               |
| 4     | 24         | none  | 31   | 7               |
| 5     | 25         | none  | 33   | 8               |

# Digitalis Arctic Fox Rose

## Pinching:

- Group 1 was not pinched post transplant, while Group 2 was pinched
- No pinch results in a taller, dominant flower spike surrounded by shorter, lateral flower spikes
- A pinch results in increased branching with more flower spikes at a shorter height
- Both groups were salable, but by reducing plant height the pinch allows for more shelves per rack



**Group 1- no pinch**



**Group 2- pinched**

Pictures sized to show approximate height difference (scaled based on pot height)

# Caryopteris Gold Crest



## Group 4

Planted: wk 26

Photo: wk 33 (8.17.18)



## Group 5

Planted: wk 28

Photo: wk 40 (10.4.18)

# Caryopteris Gold Crest

## Performance Summary

- Both groups finished well
- Groups 4 and 5 were planted 2 weeks apart, but finished 1 week apart with group 4 holding a longer color window.
- Salable as a foliage color item prior to flowering
- Gold foliage that doesn't burn in full sun with purple-blue flowers in late summer to early fall
- Excellent Pollinator Plant



| Group | Transplant | Pinch | Ship | Weeks to Finish |
|-------|------------|-------|------|-----------------|
| 4     | 26         | 27    | 37   | 11              |
| 5     | 28         | 29    | 38   | 10              |



Planted 8/1/15  
Photo: 6/7/17

# Caryopteris Grand Bleu



## Group 4

Planted: wk 26

Photo: wk 38 (9.21.18)



## Group 5

Planted: wk 28

Photo: wk 40 (10.4.18)

# Caryopteris Grand Bleu

## Performance Summary

- Both groups finished well
- Groups 4 and 5 were planted 2 weeks apart, but finished 1 week apart with group 4 holding a longer color window.
- Compact, upright habit is great in the landscape and perfect for maximizing shipping space



| Group | Transplant | Pinch | Ship | Weeks to Finish |
|-------|------------|-------|------|-----------------|
| 4     | 26         | 27    | 37   | 11              |
| 5     | 28         | 29    | 38   | 10              |



# Iberis Summer Snowdrift

## Features:

- Pure white flowers have an extremely long flowering window for a longer selling season
- No vernalization needed for flowering
- High heat tolerance
- Zone 6B



Planted August '16. Photo: June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

# Iberis Summer Snowdrift



## Group 1

Planted: wk 15

Photo: wk 24 (6.15)



## Group 2

Planted: wk 20

Photo: wk 27 (7.6)



## Group 3

Planted: wk 24

Photo: wk 33 (8.17)

# Iberis Summer Snowdrift Group 1



## Group 1

Planted: wk 15

Photo: wk 24 (6.15.18)



## Group 1

Planted: wk 15

Photo: wk 25 (6.22.18)

# Iberis Summer Snowdrift Group 2



## Group 2

Planted: wk 20

Photo: wk 26 (6.29.18)



## Group 2

Planted: wk 20

Photo: wk 27 (7.6.18)

# Iberis Summer Snowdrift

## Performance Summary

- Groups 1 and 2 had the strongest performance
- Groups 4, and 5 didn't reach full bloom potential or hold the expected flower duration



| Group | Transplant | Pinch | Ship | Weeks to Finish |
|-------|------------|-------|------|-----------------|
| 1     | 15         | none  | 22   | 7               |
| 2     | 20         | 21    | 25   | 5               |
| 3     | 24         | 27    | 32   | 8               |
| 4     | 26         | none  | N/A  | N/A             |
| 5     | 28         | 29    | N/A  | N/A             |

# Salvia Blue By You

## Features:

- Excellent winter hardiness and heat tolerance
- Sterile hybrid for longer shelf life
- Re-flushes very easily
- Long, bright blue flower spikes



Planted 2016 Photo: 6/7/17

# Salvia Blue By You



**Group 1**  
Planted: wk 14  
Photo: wk 23 (6.8)

**Group 2**  
Planted: wk 19  
Photo: wk 26 (6.29)

**Group 3**  
Planted: wk 23  
Photo: wk 29 (7.20)

**Group 4**  
Planted: wk 25  
Photo: wk 32 (8.10)

**Group 5**  
Planted: wk 27  
Photo: wk 33 (8.17)

# Salvia Blue By You

## Performance Summary

- Good performance in all groups



| Group | Transplant | Pinch | Ship | Weeks to Finish |
|-------|------------|-------|------|-----------------|
| 1     | 14         | none  | 22   | 8               |
| 2     | 19         | 21    | 25   | 6               |
| 3     | 23         | 24    | 28   | 5               |
| 4     | 25         | 27    | 32   | 7               |
| 5     | 27         | none  | 33   | 6               |

# Coreopsis Electric Sunshine



## Group 1

Planted: wk 15

Photo: wk 26 (6.29.18)



## Group 2

Planted: wk 20

Photo: wk 28 (7.13.18)

# Coreopsis Golden Stardust



## Group 1

Planted: wk 15

Photo: wk 26 (6.26.18)



# Coreopsis Golden Stardust



## Group 2

Planted: wk 20

Photo: wk 27 (7.6.18)



# Penstemon Quartz Red



**Group 1**  
Planted: wk 15  
Photo: wk 26 (6.29.18)



**Group 2**  
Planted: wk 20  
Photo: wk 28 (7.13.18)

# Helenium Salud Embers



**Group 1**  
Planted: wk 14  
Photo: wk 27 (7.6)



**Group 2**  
Planted: wk 19  
Photo: wk 29 (7.20)



**Group 3**  
Planted: wk 23  
Photo: wk 33 (8.17)



**Group 4**  
Planted: wk 25  
Photo: wk 35 (8.30)

# Helenium Salud Embers

## Performance Summary

- Strongest performer of the Salud series
- Best performance in groups 2-4
- Recommend to plant after week 18- Salud is a naturally long day flowering perennial for summer



| Group | Transplant | Pinch | Ship | Weeks to Finish |
|-------|------------|-------|------|-----------------|
| 1     | 14         | none  | 26   | 12              |
| 2     | 19         | 20    | 27   | 8               |
| 3     | 23         | 24    | 31   | 8               |
| 4     | 25         | 27    | 34   | 9               |
| 5     | 27         | 28    | 36   | 9               |

# Salvia Rose Marvel



**Group 1**  
Planted: wk 14  
Photo: wk 24 (6.15.18)



**Group 2**  
Planted: wk 19  
Photo: wk 26 (6.29.18)

# Salvia Rose Marvel



**Group 3**  
Planted: wk 23  
Photo: wk 29 (7.20.18)



**Group 4**  
Planted: wk 25  
Photo: wk 33 (8.17.18)



**Group 5** Planted: wk 27  
Photo: wk 34 (8.24.18)

# Phlox Ka-Pow Lavender

## Features:

- Compact, well-branched and uniform habit provides an excellent retail presentation
- Mildew tolerant
- Vibrant lavender flowers



# Phlox Ka-Pow Lavender



## Group 1

Planted: wk 14  
Photo: wk 27 (7.6)



## Group 2

Planted: wk 19  
Photo: wk 28 (7.13)



## Group 3

Planted: wk 23  
Photo: wk 33 (8.17)



## Group 4

Planted: wk 25  
Photo: wk 35 (8.30)



## Group 5

Planted: wk 27  
Photo: wk 39 (9.28)

# Phlox Ka-Pow Lavender

## Performance Summary

- Good performance in all groups
- Plant height shortens as the season progresses
- Excellent mildew resistance in all groups



| Group | Transplant | Pinch | Ship | Weeks to Finish |
|-------|------------|-------|------|-----------------|
| 1     | 14         | none  | 25   | 11              |
| 2     | 19         | 20    | 27   | 8               |
| 3     | 23         | 25    | 32   | 9               |
| 4     | 25         | 27    | 35   | 10              |
| 5     | 27         | 28    | 38   | 11              |

# Phlox Ka-Pow Pink

## Features:

- Compact, well-branched and uniform habit provides an excellent retail presentation
- Mildew tolerant
- Vibrant pink flowers



# Phlox Ka-Pow Pink



**Group 1**  
Planted: wk 14  
Photo: wk 27 (7.6)



**Group 2**  
Planted: wk 19  
Photo: wk 29 (7.20)



**Group 3**  
Planted: wk 23  
Photo: wk 34 (8.24)



**Group 4**  
Planted: wk 25  
Photo: wk 35 (8.30)



**Group 5**  
Planted: wk 27  
Photo: wk 38 (9.21)

# Phlox Ka-Pow Performance

## Performance Summary

- Good performance in all groups
- Plant height shortens as the season progresses
- Excellent mildew resistance in all groups



| Group | Transplant | Pinch | Ship | Weeks to Finish |
|-------|------------|-------|------|-----------------|
| 1     | 14         | none  | 25   | 11              |
| 2     | 19         | 20    | 28   | 9               |
| 3     | 23         | 25    | 33   | 10              |
| 4     | 25         | 27    | 35   | 10              |
| 5     | 27         | 28    | 38   | 11              |

# Veronica Forever Blue

## Features:

- Produces continuous, deep blue flowers from Summer to Fall
- Excellent branching
- Larger profile than the Moody Blues



# Veronica Forever Blue



## Group 2

Planted: wk 20

Photo: wk 29 (7.20)



## Group 3

Planted: wk 24

Photo: wk 31 (8.3)

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