

Mississippi Medallion Plants: 2010

The Mississippi Medallion program was established in 1996 by the Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association to increase awareness of plant materials and to promote sales and production of ornamental plants in Mississippi. Compared to national campaigns such as All American Selection and Perennial Plant of the Year, the Mississippi Medallion program focuses on plants adapted to the environment in Mississippi to benefit both consumers and the green industry. This publication gives an introduction to the 2010 Mississippi Medallion Plants and is part of a series of publications that promote awareness of these plants.

Electric Lime™ Coleus

(*Solenostemon scutellarioides* 'UF04335')

Characteristics: Sun or shade annual; sun-tolerant coleus



For gardeners—Electric Lime coleus came from a breeding program at the University of Florida and does well in both sun and shade (at least 3 hours of sun). It can reach 2 feet tall and as wide. Lime green foliage is decorated with yellow-green veins. It is great for flower bed borders, containers, and hanging baskets. Removing the white flowers can extend the plant's performance through late summer. Companion plants for Electric Lime coleus could be other coleus with red or purple foliage such as 'Kong Coleus' *Solenostemon scutellarioides* (2006 Mississippi Medallion Winner) and other dark-leaved plants including 'Purple Knight' *Alternanthera dentate* (2005 Mississippi Medallion Winner).

For growers—Available as vegetative cuttings; potting media pH: 5.8–6.0; light level: 4,000–10,000 fc; day/night temperature: 75–85 °F / 60–70 °F; fertilization: 150–200 ppm N; No. of pinches: 0–2.

'Purple Flash' Ornamental Pepper

(*Capsicum annum*)

Characteristics: Sun annual; drought- and heat-tolerant



For gardeners—The Purple Flash ornamental pepper has exotic, dark purple, almost iridescent foliage with the youngest leaves flashing white, green, and bright purple. Purple flowers will then top the plant with glossy, chickpea-sized bright red "pearls" that change to dark purple fruits. The fruits are extremely hot and not recommended for eating. Like its vegetable relatives, Purple Flash ornamental pepper is very heat tolerant. Plus, it is a drought-tolerant, low-maintenance plant. It has a mounded growth habit and grows to a foot tall and up to 2 feet wide. It can be used in flower beds and containers, and it mixes well with any summer green colors.

For growers—Available as seed propagated in plug sizes 288 or larger; cover seed: cover lightly; germination temperature: 72–76 °F; days to germinate: 5–7; plug crop weeks: 4–5; recommended containers: pack, 4-inch to 1-gallon.



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'Fireworks' Gomphrena

(*Gomphrena* 'Fireworks')

Characteristics: Sun annual; abundance of flowers



For gardeners—'Fireworks' gomphrena produces more flowers than almost any other gomphrena. It has large pink flowers decorated with yellow anthers on long stems. Most people consider it prettier than other landscape gomphrena cultivars. When planted after frost, it grows to about 3–4 feet tall and wide, and flowers from late spring to frost with great tolerance of Southern heat and drought. Because of the huge number of flowers, 'Fireworks' puts on a magnificent flower show by itself. It can be grown as a cut flower or for drying.

For growers—Available as coated seed; plug size: 288 or larger; cover seed: yes; germination temperature: 68–75 °F; days to germinate: 3–4; plug crop weeks: 5–6; recommended containers: 5-inch to 1-gallon.

Gulf Muhly Grass

(*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)

Characteristic: native perennial grass



For gardeners—This 3- to 4-foot tall grass has delicate pink blooms, which rise above fine-textured blue-green foliage like soft clouds or candy cotton. The blooms last from September to November and remain attractive into winter. It is drought-tolerant, trouble-free, and suitable for difficult areas including traffic islands. It could be used in containers or planted singly or in groups in the landscape. It mixes well with other grasses or plants with contrasting textures. There is also a white form available, *Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'White Cloud.'

For growers—Available as plugs; zone 6–9; full sun or partial sun; recommended containers: 1-gallon and above.

References

www.provenwinners.com

www.ballhort.com

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By **Dr. Mengmeng Gu**, Assistant Extension Professor, Plant and Soil Sciences, and **Dr. Guihong Bi**, Assistant Research Professor, Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station.

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