



MILLER GREENHOUSES INC

403 BEECH ROAD

WALLINGFORD, PA. 19086

PH: 610-874-3863 FAX: 610-874-1383

E-MAIL CHUCK@MILLERGREENHOUSES.COM

ON THE WEB AT: WWW.MILLERGREENHOUSES.COM

SPRING 2009 NEWS LETTER

This YEAR will be our 37th spring in the flower business. Someone once asked Rosemary and me if we ever get tired of the business and the answer is NO. We love spring more than any other time of the year. Our spring actually starts in early August when the new plant catalogs come out. We travel to view trial gardens and we meet with our plant salesman to discuss all the new varieties available. We pour through many catalogs to try to select the varieties we believe will grow best in your garden.



Fischer varieties. We found the new varieties grow a little more compact and fuller while producing huge numbers of flowers. For years we searched for a lavender ivy with good growing characteristic and we now have Amethyst and Butterfly. Both are outstanding. Also this year in addition a great red and pink Ivy we will have Luna which has a white flower with a pinkish center.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2009

Biddens are back!!

This colorful yellow flower is a very strong grower. We stopped growing the plant because we found it to be too vigorous and would takeover a combination. Syngenta has now introduced Mexican Gold Compact. This will give the beautiful yellow flowers and be more container and garden friendly.



Ivy

Geraniums:

Ivies continue to be our most popular hanging baskets. Last year we started the switch from several varieties we have grown for years to new



Lantana: This is another item that the last time we grew it it was wild. Today's varieties and in particular the Bandana Series have many many flowers on a compact plant. Cherry Sunrise goes from a purplish red to an orangey yellow. It is outstanding. (continued on page 2)



HANGING BASKETS

Many times we are asked by our customers "What hanging basket can we put in the full sun?" The first thing I tell them is that plants designated as "sun" plants do well in the ground or large containers in the full afternoon sun. Normally when July and August come to our area the days are very hot and most "sun" plants will not do well in the hot afternoon sun. Most require some sort of afternoon shading. The

reason is that the roots cook and the plant dies. Roots in the ground remain cool, therefore, “sun” plants do well.

Having said that, there are two plants that we have successfully grown ourselves in the hot afternoon sun. **BONFIRE BEGONIAS** do very well in the full hot July and August sun. They must be watered but not as much as some plants. They like it on the dry side. They are heavy feeders and demand high levels of fertilizer to keep the flowers coming and the nice green color of the leaves.

TRAILING PETUNIAS in the form of Wave Petunias and Supertunias from Proven Winners also do well in the full July and August sun. **IF** and it is a **BIG IF**. You water them daily and feed them often. They will grow huge and have hundreds of flowers. Deadheading is not necessary. After a heavy rain they will look beat up, however, after a day or two of sunshine they will bounce back more beautiful than before. I usually cut back my baskets once near the end of July. This helps them send out new branches and more flowers. Towards the end of August you might notice holes in the flowers. If not corrected the little worms that are making the holes will eat the entire plant. Pesticide from your local supplier will put an end to the worms.

In general most people’s hanging baskets do not look good after about 3-4 weeks. To help prevent your basket from looking sad after a couple of weeks:

- Make sure you **WATER** them properly. The best time to water baskets and flowers in general is in the morning. This gives the plant all day to dry out. Watering in the evening or at night will allow the plant to remain wet for a long time. This will allow fungus and bugs to attack the plant.
- **FEED YOU PLANTS** especially hanging baskets. Plants in the ground will get some food from the ground. Plants in containers or hanging basket get only what you

give them. Within limits plants that produce flowers will produce more flowers, grow larger and be healthier if feed properly.

- Baskets and containers that have plants that grow vigorously need to be trimmed back to even them up and to produce more new growth. I generally recommend the you trim back about a third of the branches on a basket. Then a week or two later another third and so on. This forces the plant to put out new branches and more flowers.

Good luck with your hanging baskets this year.

NEW PLANTS continued



Coleus: Last year was our first year growing sun coleus. This is a coleus that does well from shade to full sun. The plants we grew for ourselves on our deck were just outstanding. They did require us to cut them back at least once during the summer. This just made them fuller and more beautiful. This year we will be adding 4 more colors to our Sun Coleus varieties. You will find that either in the ground or in large planters Coleus will add color and texture to your plantings.



Begonias are Big this year. In addition to our garden variety begonias which are great low maintenance plants and flower to frost we have **Non Stop Begonias** which produce vibrant flowers in full shade to part sun. We put Non Stops in the window boxes on our deck and could not believe the color they gave us all summer into the fall.

Do you have sunny area for a basket? We have the plant. **BONFIRE Begonia.** WOW! This plant is a slow starter and likes long hot summer days. The orangey-red flowers come by the hundreds. Last year ours grow to be 2-3 foot long and must have had 300 flowers on it at any given time.



This year in addition to Illuminations by Proven Winners we will have Mandalay Mandarin another Proven Winner selection. Mandalay Begonias actually like the

heat of the summer and do not have to be watered everyday. They like to be on the dry side. If grown properly they are quite beautiful. They are heavy feeders.

The last new Begonias we will offer this year is the **BIG BEGONIA.** It is named for its size. It grows quite large and should be planted with care to allow it to grow. It produces hundreds of flowers and grows anywhere from full sun to total shade.



When all else has failed for you try one of our begonia varieties. There is bound to be one that fits your needs.

NOT ONLY FLOWERS

In the Spring flowers are not our only product. We have an extensive line of Tomatoes, Peppers, and Egg Plant for you to choose from.

Some of our TOMATOES include:

- ✓ **Beef Master (BeefSteak) tomatoes:** Beef Master: [VFN DFZ] one of the largest beefsteak type tomatoes. Produces fruit up to 2 lbs. Very nice taste. If you want the biggest tomato in the

neighborhood this is the one. 80 days until fruit.

- ✓ **Better Boy:** [VFN DFZ] Very similar to Big Boy only the fruit is slightly smaller about 8 to 12 ozs. Well known as a consistent performer. 75 days until fruit.
- ✓ **Burpee Big Boy:** One of the greatest tomatoes of all time and still a best seller. When Burpee introduced this hybrid tomato in 1949, its incredible productivity and gorgeous, perfect, large scarlet fruit made it an instant hit.
- ✓ **Sun Sugar:** Judged the best tasting cherry tomato by the garden and food staff of Sunset Magazine, so how could we resist offering it to you for your consideration? Orange skinned and similar in appearance to Sun Gold. Crack resistant. Indeterminate. 62 days
- ✓ **Sweet 100's:** Sweet 100: Small round red fruits which have a very sweet flavor. Very high in vitamin C. Grows in large clusters. Great for salads. 65-70 days until fruit.

Plus many more varieties can be found in our greenhouses.

Peppers are on almost every gardener's list. We grow many kinds and here are a couple:

Calif. Wonder Sweet Bell Peppers: Sweet Peppers are a favorite home garden vegetable. Serve them raw on relish platters, in salads, fried or stuffed. California Wonder Pepper fruits are approximately 4 inches in diameter by 4-1/2 inches long

- ✓ **Italian Frying Peppers:** The Hungarian wax pepper is a pastel yellow chile pepper also known as the hot yellow pepper or hot wax pepper. The Hungarian wax is closely related to the mild banana pepper.

SOME TRIED AND TRUE VARIETIES EVERYONE LIKES

DIAMOND FROST: This Proven Winner is one of our favorites. It is a mounding plant with tiny white flowers. It looks great in the garden by itself. But, where it really shines is in a container or basket. The tiny white flowers seem to shine thru any other plant providing a great accent. Try some you will like it.



DRAGON WING BEGONIAS:

These have proven over and over again to be underutilized. Given morning sun and afternoon shade, adequate fertilizer and water they will grow quite large and spectacular with their red or pink flowers. They do well in basket or in a flower bed.



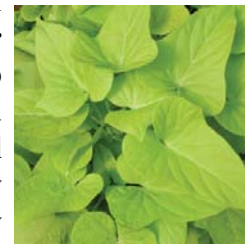
PROFUSION ZINNIAS: Have you tried to grow Zinnia and found that damping off disease or powdery mildew kill them or makes them unattractive. Try Profusion Zinnias, we have been growing them for the past several years and they are great. They are very resistant to many of the disease that attack zinnia. They offer a wide range of colors for the full sun flower bed. They grow 8-12 inches tall and will spread up to 15 inches. They require full sun and are very heat tolerant.



SWEET POTATO VINE: Need a plant that will trail either from a basket, container or on the ground. Try Sweet Potato Vines, they come in three colors: Green, Black and Tri-color. They will grow in the full



sun or partial shade. When grown in baskets or containers they will have to be trimmed back on a regular basis or they will over take and out grow any other plant. Properly trimmed they add both texture and color to combination planters and flower bed.



SUMMER WAVE TORENIA:

Looking for a flowering plant that will do well in the shade. Try Torenia Summer Wave. We grow purple, blue, amethyst and yellow. This filtered-sun lover provides superb color throughout even the hottest months of the year and does well in pots and window boxes. Like all the rest of the Summer Waves, this plant thrives in high humidity. Plant it alone, or combine it with Sutera cordata (Bacopa) or Supertunias.



A WORD FROM THE OWNERS

Spring cannot come soon enough for us. Rosemary and I are lucky we can leave our house and walk a few feet and be in the Greenhouse where spring is every sunny day. We hope the winter is short and spring comes early. If you get cabin fever feel free to stop by and walk through our greenhouses. You may not be alone we have many visitors during the course of the spring.

We hope you will visit our web site and check out our [Spring Planting Guide](#). It contains information about all of the plants we grow. Feel free to call us with any questions and we will give you honest answers you can depend on. We are a MOM and POP operation and proud of it.

Thank-you
Chuck Miller