

Poppy Garden Gnome



Garden Gnome

I love poppies. These adorable flowers always stir up memories of “The Wizard of Oz” and transport me back to my childhood.

Benary’s Garden Gnome is a compact Iceland poppy with long-lasting flowers in a mixture of four shades: red, orange, yellow and salmon. Flowers are large with colors that pop. Foliage is blue-green, adding contrast.

Yoder also carries Garden Gnome as an unvernallized liner. Liners should be transplanted one per 4- to 6-inch pot. Vernalized liners transplanted in April flowered in seven weeks in trials. Unvernallized liners flowered in eight weeks.

A constant liquid feed of 150 parts per million nitrogen is sufficient. Plants should be grown moderately moist.

Plants can also be grown outdoors from April to June in milder climates.

FOR MORE: *Benary Seeds*, (815) 895-6705; www.benary.com. *Yoder Brothers*, (800) 321-9573; www.yoder.com.



Signe Marian

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Begonia Bellagio series



Bellagio Apricot



Bellagio Pink

Few plants can actually stop me in my tracks and make me squeal in delight. And none of them was a begonia, until now.

At this year’s OFA Short Course, I was blown away by Proven Winners’ Bellagio series of begonias. The series has a showy pizzazz that is perfect for draping out of hanging baskets. All three colors — Pink, Apricot and Blush — are showstoppers.

Proven Winners advises that fertilization is necessary for the plants to maintain double flowers. If flowers begin to become single, apply a well-balanced fertilizer at 200 to 250 parts per million.

Plants prefer a pH of 5.5-6.2 and an electrical conductivity of 0.6-0.9. Plants should be given a soft pinch at the fourth node when side shoots reach this length. Further pinching should not be necessary. Plant growth regulators aren’t necessary.

In production, plants require high light levels. To receive maximum flower potential, 16-hour long days are essential, but partial shade or full shade is required in the garden.

The key difference between the Bellagio series and other *Begonia boliviensis* varieties is that they like to be grown on the dry side and receive good air circulation.

FOR MORE: *Proven Winners*, (877) 865-5818; www.provenwinners.com.

Red switch grass ‘Cheyenne Sky’



Cheyenne Sky

Ornamental grasses can add interest to a garden with sight, sound and texture. *Panicum virgatum* ‘Cheyenne Sky’ offers all three benefits in a willowy, decorative bundle that’s perfect for growing in pots or in the landscape.

‘Cheyenne Sky’ was bred by Gary Trucks of Amber Waves Gardens and is available exclusively from Walters Gardens.

It’s a hardy red switch grass that reaches 2 feet tall (3 feet tall with blooms). It forms a tight, vase-shaped clump of blue-green foliage that starts to turn wine red in early summer. By late summer, the entire clump is wine red (including flower panicles that are held just above the foliage).

The foliage is more than ornamental; it also creates a rustling noise when the wind blows through it.

Plants are hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

FOR MORE: *Walters Gardens*, (888) 925-8377; www.waltersgardens.com. ☼