



CHICAGOLAND GROWS[®], INC.

Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #37

Pink Profusion Phlox

Phlox × *procumbens* 'Pink Profusion'^{PPAF}

With its vibrantly colored and super-sized flowers, *Phlox* × *procumbens* 'Pink Profusion' is an eye-catcher in the spring garden. Vibrant purple-pink flowers that are more than 1 inch wide cloak the plants for four to five weeks commencing in mid- to late April, followed by well-behaved short stems of small soft leaves that persist all season, waiting to explode in color again the following spring. Selected in 2009 from a hybrid cross made at the Chicago Botanic Garden in 2007.



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Pink Profusion Phlox

Phlox × procumbens 'Pink Profusion' PPAF



Botanical Name

Phlox × procumbens 'Pink Profusion' PPAF

Common Name

Pink Profusion Phlox

Family

Polemoniaceae

Origin

The parents of this hybrid phlox are *Phlox subulata* 'McDaniel's Cushion', which is a large-flowered selection of the moss phlox native to dry serpentine hills, shale barrens, and other rocky habitats in the eastern United States, and a pink-flowered seedling of the creeping phlox, *Phlox stolonifera*, which is a mesic woodland species of the Appalachian Mountains also in the eastern U.S. Selected in 2009 from a cross made in 2007 at the Chicago Botanic Garden by Jim Ault, Ph.D.

Hardiness

This selection is hardy in USDA Zones 5 to 7.

Bloom Season

This selection covered itself with deep purplish-pink flowers that are more than 1 inch for four to five weeks commencing in mid- to late April and completing in early June in trials at the Chicago Botanic Garden (USDA Zone 5b).

Plant Habit

Most *Phlox × procumbens* selections form spreading evergreen mats, more like their mutual *Phlox stolonifera* parent. This selection appears to be more of a clump-growing perennial, with a dense mass of stems to the center, and the occasional satellite clump arising from a layered-in wandering shoot. After flowering, plants form a dense clump of short shoots masked in 1-inch-long, narrow soft leaves that persist all summer; they remain evergreen over winter under mild conditions or with ample snow cover before exploding into flowering and new vegetative growth the following spring.

Size

Two-year-old plants measured 13 inches wide and 5 inches tall at peak bloom.

Growth Rate

Plants are vigorous and form dense clumps in a few years. These have not formed into spreading groundcovers after four years of trials, unlike most *Phlox × procumbens* selections.

Ornamental Characteristics

This selection holds court in spring with flowers that are not only larger than all other *Phlox × procumbens* selections blooming at the same time, but are also conspicuous for their vibrant purple-pink petals and dramatic red-purple striae to the center, which is ringed by a white halo. Regal and showy indeed! The remainder of the growing season, the plants settle into quiet, low clumps of green shoots cloaked in soft, small leaves, neither conspicuous or objectionable in any way.

Culture

Crossing two species, one from sunny, dry rocky habitats and the other from mesic shaded woodlands, may make for odd cultural requirements. This plant seems to perform best on well-drained, lightly yet uniformly moist soils in partial shade to full sun. Organic matter added to either sandy or clay soils is beneficial. Protect it from desiccating winter weather in areas of little snow cover. Seemingly not as drought tolerant as the moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*, *P. nivalis*), but like them, does not adapt well to overly moist, poorly drained soils. If properly sited, the only maintenance will be trimming of the spent inflorescences.

Pest and Disease Problems

Unlike the summer-blooming phlox (*Phlox maculata* and *Phlox paniculata*), this phlox is not beset by powdery mildew or browsed by deer or rabbits. However, the basal evergreen foliage and shoots can take a beating over severe winters without adequate snow cover.

Landscape Value

Use this striking selection in full sun to partial shade toward the front of the perennial border, in a mesic rock garden, on slopes, in the open woodland garden, and in similar sites. Mass it for a spring floral display. Ensure that it has some winter protection and is not grown either too dry or on poorly drained, wet soils.

Propagation

Easy to root from shoot tip cuttings taken from the vegetative growth that commences as flowering is finishing in early to mid-June.

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The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.



For more information about Chicagoland Grows®, contact the Plant Introduction Department, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022, (847) 835-8301 or visit chicagolandgrows.org.