Pink-a-licious™ spirea
*Spiraea fritschiana* 'J.N. Select A'

The Pink-a-licious™ spirea is an attractive and durable low-growing shrub that generously produces vibrant purplish-pink flower buds followed by two-toned flowers in white and purple-pink for three weeks in June. The summer foliage is clean and an attractive dark green. Fall foliage color on this plant can be outstanding, a combination of the colors of a fruit salad—pineapple yellow, watermelon pink, honeydew chartreuse, and cantaloupe orange—all on the same plant at the same time. Developed and selected by Mike Yanny of JN Plant Selections, LLC, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
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Spiraea fritschiana 'J.N. Select A'

Botanical Name
Spiraea fritschiana 'J.N. Select A' (syn. Spiraea koreana)

Common Name
Pink-a-licious™ spirea

Family
Rosaceae

Origin
This selection was developed by Mike Yanny of JN Plant Selections, LLC, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It originated from a batch of open-pollinated seed collected and germinated at Johnson’s Nursery in 2000 from a white-flowered plant of Spiraea fritschiana. The plant is possibly a hybrid with Spiraea japonica (syn. S. × bumalda) ‘Norman’, which was growing near the seed parent. The species S. fritschiana is reportedly widespread in the wild in China and Korea, but it is relatively uncommon in cultivation in the United States.

Hardiness
USDA Zones 4–7.

Bloom Season
The vibrant purplish-pink flower buds give way to two-toned light pink flowers with dramatic purplish-pink centers, all generously produced in 3-inch-wide, nearly flat-topped clusters (corymbs) held above the foliage for three weeks in June in southern Wisconsin.

Plant Habit
It is an attractive, compact, and uniformly mounded shrub, growing slightly wider than tall. Densely branched and fine-textured. Plants that become irregular with age can be pruned in early spring to return them to vigor and uniformity.

Size
Plants in southern Wisconsin have grown to 2 feet in height and 3 feet in width.

Growth Rate
Vigorous, similar to the commonly grown Spiraea japonica and S. × bumalda.

Ornamental Characteristics
Unlike its white flowered mother, the Pink-a-licious™ spirea has abundant, purplish-pink, flat-topped clusters of flowers in June. This cultivar has a wonderful compact and densely branched habit. It grows to 2 feet tall and 3 feet wide in southern Wisconsin. The summer foliage is clean and an attractive dark green. Fall foliage color on this plant can be outstanding, a combination of the colors of a fruit salad—pineapple yellow, watermelon pink, honeydew chartreuse, and cantaloupe orange—all on the same plant at the same time.

Culture
Similar to the culture of Spiraea japonica and S. × bumalda, this selection readily transplants from containers or field-grown specimens to a variety of soil types and conditions. Best on uniformly moist, but not overly wet, and well-drained soils. Both summer heat tolerant and winter cold hardy. Grow in full sun to partial shade. Flowers on new wood, so prune in late winter to early spring for shaping if desired. Lightly shear after blooming to remove the spent inflorescences. Slightly more shade tolerant than many of the other similar-sized spireas. A durable, low-maintenance shrub.

Pest and Disease Problems
Typical of the smaller-statured spireas, though none serious.

Landscape Value
An attractive and durable, low-growing shrub that can be grown individually or massed in a mixed border, as a filler or masking plant in front of taller shrubs, on slopes, as a foundation shrub, and in any other sites needing a shrub of its size and adaptability. Site it where its attractive early summer flowers, good dark green summer foliage, and wild mélange of fall colors can all be appreciated.

Propagation
Easy to root from softwood cuttings taken any time the plant is in active growth.