

CHICAGOLAND GROWS[®], INC.

Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #36



Forever Pink Phlox

Phlox 'Forever Pink'^{PPAF}

Compact, carefree, and long-blooming, *Phlox* 'Forever Pink' is destined to be a popular garden plant. This beautiful selection is covered with vibrant purplish-pink flowers for three weeks in June, then will repeat-bloom well into October, truly living up to its name. Selected from a hybrid cross made at the Chicago Botanic Garden in 2007.



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Forever Pink Phlox

Phlox 'Forever Pink' PPAF



Botanical Name

Phlox 'Forever Pink' PPAF

Common Name

Forever Pink Phlox

Family

Polemoniaceae

Origin

The parents of this hybrid phlox are *Phlox glaberrima* ssp. *triflora* and *Phlox* 'Bill Baker', both attractive early summer-blooming phlox with excellent disease resistance. Selected in 2009 from a cross made in 2007 at the Chicago Botanic Garden by Dr. Jim Ault.

Hardiness

USDA Zones 4 – 8.

Bloom Season

This selection covered itself with one-inch-wide, purplish-pink flowers for three weeks in June and then repeat bloomed with coverage as great as 15 percent of the plants until the end of October in trials at the Chicago Botanic Garden (USDA Zone 5b).

Plant Habit

An herbaceous perennial that forms a dense, uniform clump with consistently upright stems. Test plants have not lodged in four years of trials, unlike its parent plants which have lodged in periods of wet weather. Two- and three-year-old plants remained uniform in size and habit. The basal foliage remains evergreen most winters.

Size

Two-year-old plants measured 13 inches tall in foliage and 16 inches tall in bloom and 18 inches wide, and were within an inch of the same size as three-year-old plants.

Growth Rate

Quick to mature, *Phlox* 'Forever Pink' forms a dense clump with numerous stems in its second year from rooted cuttings.

Ornamental Characteristics

The peak bloom of attractive purplish-pink flowers in June comes at a time when the spring moss phlox are finished blooming and the summer-flowering phlox have yet to start blooming. This plant will repeat-bloom well into October, truly living up to its name. The selection appears to be sterile, which explains why it stays in bloom for so long. There is no energy wasted on seed production, and no bothersome seedlings to contend with in the garden. Plants are uniformly dense and clump-forming, and remain upright all season, unlike many of the taller phlox. The mildew-free, strong yellowish-green foliage is attractive all summer and into autumn.

Culture

Full sun and a well-drained, medium-moist soil is recommended. Drought-tolerant once established. Has performed admirably on the heavy clay, alkaline soil at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Removal of the spent inflorescences after the initial peak bloom and shearing the plants to the basal evergreen foliage in early spring are the only maintenance needed. Otherwise, plants never need staking, and as yet after four years of trials, no dividing is necessary.

Pest and Disease Problems

This selection has been completely powdery mildew-resistant for four years of trials in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5b). No other disease or insect problems have been observed. This selection has not been deer or rabbit browsed, unlike selections of *Phlox maculata* and *Phlox paniculata* grown nearby in our trials.

Landscape Value

Use this striking selection in full sun toward the front or middle of the perennial border. Take advantage of this phlox's uniform size and mass the plants for a striking display. Grow it where you can appreciate its long bloom season and thrifty habit. Forever Pink Phlox also makes a good container plant.

Propagation

Easy to root from shoot tip cuttings taken from in-ground plants any time the plant is in growth from spring to autumn. Cuttings can also be taken from potted stock plants any time of the year.

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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, visit www.chicagolandgrows.org or call (847) 835-8309.