



GEORGESON
BOTANICAL GARDEN



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Update on 1995 All-America Selections Winners

by

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Three flowers were awarded All-American Selections honors for the 1995 season. They included Petunia F1 'Purple Wave', *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Indian Summer' and Petunia F1 'Celebrity Chiffon Morn'. We were intrigued by the description for the 'Purple Wave' petunia. It was described as a ground-hugging plant with maximum height of six inches and a recommended spacing of three feet! We planted 'Purple Wave' in the garden as well as in half whiskey barrel containers. The petunias in the garden grew very well and expanded well beyond the edges of the bed onto the gravel pathway. It was covered with small purple flowers from the first week of July until mid September. Flowers tolerated several light frosts in autumn.

Garden visitors thought we were just a bit crazy when they entered our gift shop and passed two half whiskey barrel containers, each holding a single 'Purple Wave' petunia. We were curious to see how far one plant would spread in our short season. The early-season seedlings looked very tiny in the big tubs, but they certainly lived up to their reputation and spread quickly. By the end of the season, the mass of stems covered with purple blooms cascaded over the sides of the barrels and reached halfway to the ground. They formed a continuous mass of purple except for a small bare spot where the plant began to grow. The container plants continued to bloom long after the flower garden was tilled under for the winter.

The rudbeckia 'Indian Summer' was just as spectacular as the petunia. This rudbeckia had giant golden yellow flowers, most of them at least six-inches across. It bloomed from the third week of June until the garden was tilled for the winter. The plants produced an abundance of blooms on three-foot plants. They were well-branched and bushy, definitely a welcome addition to Alaska gardens.

Petunia 'Celebrity Chiffon Morn' also lived up to its description, producing abundant pastel pink, 2 1/2-inch blossoms beginning the third week of June. Unfortunately, this cultivar is susceptible to the Sclerotinia rot that plagues our garden each year. Very few flowers remained by the end of the season.

We highly recommend you include all three AAS winners in your garden next season. Be prepared to apply a fungicide to the petunia, 'Celebrity Chiffon Morn' if you have problems with Sclerotinia. Both 'Purple Wave' petunia and 'Indian Summer' rudbeckia grew well with no signs of disease.

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