



After Midnight



Harvest Moon



Summer Sky



Sundown



Sunrise



Twilight

Echinacea Big Sky™ Series

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This outstanding series is the result of years of breeding by Richard Saul in Georgia. Large fragrant flowers in a range of exciting new colors, including yellow, orange and red, represent the first color breakthroughs in this popular genus. These hybrids of *Echinacea purpurea* and *Echinacea paradoxa* provide color on sturdy, well-branched plants all summer. *ItSaul Plants; hybridized by Richard Saul.*

- **After Midnight**—magenta purple flower with black cone on strong, purple black stems; dwarf
- **Harvest Moon**—golden yellow petals with an orange cone; moderate grower
- **Summer Sky**—bicolored blooms are soft peach with rose halo; strong grower
- **Sundown**—coral petals tipped with salmon orange; moderate grower
- **'Sunrise'**—chiffon yellow petals age to lemon yellow; strong grower
- **'Twilight'**—reddish purple petals complement a reddish cone; moderate grower

USES

These are great for borders or perennial beds, but because they are sturdy and well branched, they also make wonderful container plants, as well as long-lasting cut flowers.

GROWER NOTES

The following information is based on our own experience with this crop in the Pacific Northwest. Growth will vary depending on location, climate, growing medium and cultural practices. As always, where chemical use is involved, read the labels, follow the instructions and practice careful trialing methods.

- Transplant in full sun.
- Plant plug even with soil line.
- Follow with a drench to control *Phytophthora* and *Pythium*.
- Configure™ (6-BA), a new growth regulator labeled for *Echinacea*, effectively increases the number of basal breaks quickly. This is a very useful tool on cultivars such as After Midnight, that tend to produce a strong central flower stem before the crown bulks up. Alternatively, pinch out the first flower buds to produce more branching and strength at the

base of the plant. This is particularly true with plants that have not gone through dormancy, or plants that have not been sold during the first bloom cycle and need to be held.

- There are no major pests, but keep an eye out for aphids, leaf miners and crown or root rots.
- Flower color may vary slightly depending on temperature and light levels.
- Plant in spring from mature, vernalized plugs to provide a faster turn and simpler growing than with planting in the fall.

PLANT DATA

Big Sky™ Series

- Spread: 18"
- Bloom time: Jun–Oct
- USDA Zone: 5(-20°)
- Height varies:
 - After Midnight**—12–18"/18"
 - Harvest Moon**—24–30"/30"
 - Summer Sky**—24–30"/30"
 - Sundown**—32–36"/36"
 - 'Sunrise'**—30–36"/36"
 - 'Twilight'**—24–30"/30"

APPROXIMATE FINISH TIMES

- Gallon from 72-cell liner: plant 8–10 weeks before first hard frost; finish in mid June
- Gallon from 72-cell liner: 10–12 weeks from spring transplant
- 2-gallon from 72-cell liner: plant 12–14 weeks before first hard frost; finish in mid June
- 2-gallon from 72-cell liner: 14–16 weeks from spring transplant

PATENT INFORMATION

Asexual propagation prohibited

- E. After Midnight ('Emily Saul'): COPF, USPP #18768
- E. Harvest Moon ('Matthew Saul'): COPF, USPP #17652
- E. Summer Sky ('Katie Saul'): COPF, USPP #18783
- E. Sundown ('Evan Saul'): COPF, USPP #17659
- E. 'Sunrise': COPF, USPP #16235
- E. 'Twilight': COPF, USPP #17651

