



Blue Lace



Double Innocence



Pagan Purples



Sweethearts

## Delphinium New Millennium Series

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The New Millennium *Delphiniums* are bred for exceptional garden performance. They are considered to be long lived and more heat and humidity tolerant, while retaining their cold hardiness. Sturdy, strong-stemmed spikes packed with loads of richly colored flowers, often double or semidouble, are outstanding in the garden, and a florist's delight.

**'Blue Lace'**—light sky blue, tinted pink

**'Double Innocence'**—white with white bee, sometimes tinged with green

**'Pagan Purples'**—dark bluish flowers with white or chocolate bee

**'Sweethearts'**—medium to light pink with white bee

### USES

Classic perennials for the back of the sunny border in a traditional English garden, the New Millenniums are ideal wherever tall and stately, very showy flowers can be seen to best advantage. While these are more tolerant of heat and humidity than most *Delphiniums*, they are best in cooler climates with rich soil that is not too acidic.

### 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.

- Always use potting soil that drains well, and apply a preventive fungicide drench at transplant. The addition of Rootshield® (*Trichoderma harzianum*) or other microbial soil additives may also be helpful in the prevention of root and crown rots.
- These *Delphinium* hybrids are large, English-style border plants. If grown to sell in color, large pots are recommended. Smaller pots may be used for green sales.
- For protection from high winds and direct high-pressure water from sprinklers, space early and stake flower spikes.
- Apply growth regulators early in the growing cycle. Bonzi® (*paclobutrazal*) sprays at 30 ppm within two weeks of transplant, or when young plants are approximately 4" tall. This will help control stretching and tone plants. It is necessary to make contact with stems when spraying. Additional applications may be necessary if growing plants on for color, but avoid spraying once flower buds are visible, or flowers may be distorted.
- In warmer climates where cyclamen mites are a problem, preventive miticide sprays are recommended. Check growing tips and developing flower spikes carefully to detect damage early.
- Careful watering and spacing will prevent problems with *Erwinia*, but check lower stems for blackening or collapse. Discard any infected plants and apply preventive drenches if needed.
- Some growers prefer to start larger containers in the fall and hold pots at or near freezing over the winter to produce larger crowns and heavier bloom spikes for spring sales, but early spring transplant will also produce nice plants. *Delphiniums* prefer cool weather, so for best results plant early and grow a bit more slowly.

### PLANT DATA

USDA Zone: 3(-40°)

Spread: 24"

Bloom time: Jun-Sep

Height varies:

**'Blue Lace'**—48-72"/72"

**'Double Innocence'**—36-60"/60"

**'Pagan Purples'**—48-72"/72"

**'Sweethearts'**—36-60"/60"

### APPROXIMATE FINISH TIMES

- Gallon from 72-cell liner: 24 weeks from fall transplant (for green sales)
- 2-gallon from 72-cell liner: 28-32 weeks from fall transplant (for sales in color)
- Gallon from 72-cell liner: 4-6 weeks from spring transplant (for green sales)
- 2-gallon from 72-cell liner: 8-10 weeks from spring transplant (for sales in color)

### BREEDER INFORMATION

Hybridized by Terry Dowdeswell, Dowdeswell's *Delphiniums*, Ltd.