

Sun Parasol® is a bloomin' huge success

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May 2007

Grasses, succulents and a myriad of 'strappy' plants may have dominated garden design in these dry and modern times, but the remarkable popularity of Colourwave® SUN PARASOL® (*mandevilla*) plants shows that reliability and colour will never go out of style.

Since its introduction in spring 2000, Sun Parasol® plants have become a global success story, with good sales in countries such as Israel, Japan, the EU, United States, South Africa, Canada, and even in Switzerland and Norway!

Here in Australia, Colourwave® SUN PARASOL® has struck the fancy of many of our leading garden commentators, making them the latest 'must-have' plant for the home garden.

The company responsible for breeding SUN PARASOL® is Suntory Flowers Ltd, based in Japan. While venturing into 'climbing' plants was relatively unfamiliar territory for Suntory, they believed the market would enjoy the large flowers and improved growth habit that SUN PARASOL® expressed during its development.

Their faith was rewarded by the exceptional sales that followed the arrival of the first Sun Parasol® plant called 'White Fantasy' which was released in spring 2000. 'White Fantasy' was certainly something very special, featuring large, pure white flowers with golden centres, glossy foliage and a good growth habit. This reliable performer looked great in large decorative pots, or clinging to trellis.

Three years later the variety 'Crimson Fantasy' arrived on the scene showcasing outstanding, brilliant red blooms and an equally robust habit. 'Pink Fantasy' and the first small-flowered variety 'Pink Fantasy Mini' became available in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

The future looks very bright for SUN PARASOL® in Australia, with two new varieties planned for release during summer 2007, called 'Giant Crimson' and 'Mini Crimson'. 'Giant Crimson' has an amazing flower diameter of approximately 15cm! 'Giant Crimson' also has a very vigorous growth habit,

and will waste no time on covering a fence or your favourite trellis. The 'mini' in 'Mini Crimson' relates to the flower size not the plants' growth habit. The flowering habit of Mini Crimson is very prolific.

Sun Parasol® plants are available throughout Australia.

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