

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**September 2021**

## Top Varieties for the 2022 Season



The Ball Summer Trials at West Adderbury was the first Professional Trial Grounds in the UK to open its doors to customers this season.

This year's event not only presented numerous leading varieties in baskets, containers and flower beds, but also included extensive Perennial and Annual presentations in 'retail ready' pot displays, something customers really appreciated being able to see.

The extended trialling area of over 2,000 experimental Annual and Perennial varieties provides visitors full transparency on 'Whats cooking in the kitchen', a great insight to the continuous stream of future new plant varieties.

*“Trialling is at the heart of everything we do as we believe it is incredibly important for anyone involved in production and retail to see how the up-and-coming new plant developments perform in real growing and garden conditions” comments Stuart Lowen. “So, we were delighted to have been able to open our doors and receive so many trade visitors this summer. Due to popularity we even had to extend the open days by an extra week!”*

As always, Ball offer visitors the opportunity to vote for their favourite varieties from any of the trials or plant displays. We are delighted to share these results with you. Over 1,000 votes were cast which were equally split between Annual and Perennial varieties:

## Customers Favourite Varieties for 2022 – Annuals

Position		Annuals
1	<b>NEW</b>	Calibrachoa Cabaret® Good Night Kiss
2		Zinnia Zesty Mixed
=3	<b>NEW</b>	Begonia Nonstop® Joy Orange
=3	<b>NEW</b>	Impatiens Beacon™ Salsa Mixed
5	<b>NEW</b>	Calibrachoa Cabaret® Early Diva Orange
6	<b>NEW</b>	Geranium Toscana® Galaxy™ Dark Red
=7	<b>NEW</b>	Calibrachoa Cabaret® Early Orange
=7	<b>NEW</b>	Verbena Drums Purple Red
=9	<b>NEW</b>	Begonia Nonstop® Joy Red
=9	<b>NEW</b>	Begonia Nonstop® Joy Rose Picotee
11	<b>NEW</b>	Verbena Drums Red Shades
12	<b>NEW</b>	Calibrachoa Chameleon Double Pink Yellow
13	<b>Future Intro</b>	Calibrachoa Cabaret® Special Red Kiss EXP V3347
14	<b>NEW</b>	Impatiens Beacon™ Berry Smoothie Mixed
15	<b>NEW</b>	Petunia Capella Hello Yellow
16		Begonia Nonstop® Joy Yellow
17		Begonia F1 Nonstop® Joy Mocca White
=18	<b>NEW</b>	Begonia F1 Megawatt White Green Leaf
=18	<b>NEW</b>	Bracteantha Granvia® Gold
=18	<b>NEW</b>	Geranium Toscana® Galaxy™ Red

## **NEW** Calibrachoa Cabaret® Good Night Kiss'



*Voted for by visitors as their overall favourite Annual Plant variety*

**Good Night Kiss** is a wonderfully exciting novel colour adding to the Calibrachoa Cabaret® series. The punchy two-tone purple flowers feature a striking and stable yellow star centre.

This remarkable colour break sets a new benchmark for what is already considered one of the best programmable Calibrachoa series on the market; Cabaret®

Like all colours in the Cabaret® series it is closely matched for timing, habit and flower size. The well-branched, mounded and trailing plants have a full centre, are covered with many flowers on dark green foliage and provides outstanding garden performance in all weathers. At lower temperatures they are less sensitive than most other Calibrachoa. On the nursery Cabaret® is proving to be an excellent Calibrachoa choice for performance in peat-free substrates. This variety can be grown in 9-12 cm pots and is one of the earliest flowering Calibrachoa on the market.

Good Night Kiss will make an excellent ingredient for exciting plant combinations or planted in its own right in a hanging basket or patio container. Flowers June to end September. Height and spread 30cm. A real all-round winner for the home gardener!

Available as a 128 and 180 Leg Tray, delivery weeks 6 - 22. A high impact colour Ball label is supplied with the plugs.



## Zinnia Zesty Mixed



### *Extraordinary garden Appeal!*

**Zinnia Zesty Mix** is an exciting selection of large 8-13cm fully double flowers that will provide gardeners with an abundance of beautiful colour all season long.

This mixture really stood out with its 6 bright punchy colours (Fuchsia, Pink, Purple, Scarlet, White and Yellow) in the summer Trial Gardens and clearly captured the hearts of our visitors with so many votes.

Zesty's excellent garden vigour, performance in all weathers and well branched plants sets it apart from other *Z. elegans*, and makes it perfect for planting in the border, patio containers and mixed combinations. Plus, pollinators just love this plant!

Plant height and spread 30-40cm

The Zesty series is supplied as coated seed and as Zesty Mixed in a Ball 104 and 230 Tray weeks 14-18.

An ideal variety to drop into 1 – 2 litre pots for summer colour sales.



## **NEW** Begonia Nonstop® Joy Orange



*Spectacular semi-trailing form of the popular Nonstop® series*

**Begonia Nonstop® Joy Orange** is one 3 outstanding new colours in this showstopping series. All the colours scored highly in the visitor votes, but it was the vibrancy of Joy Orange that stood out from the rest.

Developed from the well-known and proven Nonstop® tuberous Begonia programme, Nonstop® Joy clearly has pedigree.

Unlike the more upright pot habit of NonStop®, Nonstop® Joy has a more

dome shaped plant habit which once planted into baskets or hanging pots, creates a neat, semi-trailing, basket hugging form. In pots or basket, the neat habit of Nonstop® Joy enables easy shipping with minimal damage on trolleys.

Its brightly coloured, large 10cm double flowers really ‘pop’ and in the garden and are long lasting. The plants have incredible weather resistance and maintain a tidy habit throughout the whole summer season. A great choice for retail and local authority use. Height and spread 20-30cm

Available as pelleted seed and as a Ball 84 Tray, weeks 10-16. Plugs can be dropped straight into retail pots, hanging pots or baskets.

A high impact colour Ball label is supplied with the plugs.



## NEW Impatiens Beacon® Salsa Mixed



### *High Fashion Colour performance*

One of the fastest growing products in UK bedding plant sales over the last 3 years was the humble Busy Lizzie. But it was no regular Busy Lizzie that drove this growth, this was the **Beacon® Impatiens**.

Such is this the character of this incredible plant with its high resistance to

Downy Mildew and amazing ability to fill fast pots and packs in super quick time, Beacon® became a shining star in supporting bedding plant sales recovery, particularly during the 2020 lockdown.

**Beacon®** provides quick-turn retail opportunities from April through to Summer from packs to pots or multiple plugs in a 3-5 litre pot for a high retail impact plant.

Beacon™ is **extremely versatile** with its mounded, upright shape, fast filling and lasting summer colour... perfect for garden borders, baskets, window boxes and patio containers. It will flourish in most soil types, garden positions, from part shade to full sun. Garden height: 25-30cm, spread: 30-36cm.

Our new designer mixtures: Berrie Smoothie, Peaches & Cream, Salsa and Strawberries & Cream, captured the hearts of visitors to the summer trials with their high fashion colour themes. The hot fiery colours of **Salsa Mixed** being the overall favourite.

The new Beacon® mixtures are available in a Ball 142 and 230 Plug Tray, weeks 10-20 and also now available in our highly popular **SPEEDPLANTER** range!



Impatiens Beacon®  
Salsa

## Customers Favourite Varieties for 2022 – Perennials

Position		Perennials
1	<b>NEW</b>	Delphinium Red Lark Experimental X3859
2	<b>NEW</b>	Rudbeckia Sunburst Flame
3	<b>NEW</b>	Rudbeckia Sunbeckia® Ophelia
4	<b>NEW</b>	Rudbeckia Sunbeckia® Sophia
=5	<b>NEW</b>	Sedum Dark Magic
=5	<b>NEW</b>	Echinacea Lakota Orange
=7		Veronica Anniversary Rose
=7		Lavandula Blue Spear
9		Achillea Peter Cottontail
=10		Agastache Morello
=10		Alstroemeria Summer Paradise Indian Summer®
12		Armeria Dreameria® Sweet Dreams
13	<b>NEW</b>	Dianthus Cocktail Shirley Temple
14	<b>NEW</b>	Clematis Little Lemons
=15	<b>NEW</b>	Leucanthemum Real Gold Cup
=15	<b>NEW</b>	Sedum Dessert Black
17	<b>NEW</b>	Achillea Milly Rock Red
18	<b>NEW</b>	Buddleja Monarch Prince Charming
19		Digitalis Artic Fox Rose
20	<b>NEW</b>	Verbascum Sugar Plum

## **NEW** Delphinium hybrida Red Lark

*Voted for by visitors as their overall favourite Perennial plant variety*



This stunning new Delphinium stopped all our open day visitors in their tracks with its unique coloured flowers.

The striking spikes of coral-red semi-double flowers rise on sturdy stems above an attractive mound of palm shaped foliage. Red Lark is free flowering and produces multiple spikes from June to September from one plant.

In the garden, Red Lark creates quite a focal point. Garden height is approximately 65cm and because of its strong sturdy stems, it needs little or no support. Planted in full sun just intensifies the flower colours. An excellent choice for home cut flowers and most attractive to

bees and pollinators.

At retail, this new Delphinium will undoubtedly draw shoppers to it like a magnet.

We recommend growing in a 3-5 litre pot. Our Ball 40 plug (available weeks 9 & 11) is ideal for growing in a well ventilated polytunnel allowing plenty of air movement or outside, after the risk of frost has passed.





## **NEW** Rudbeckia hybrida Sunburst Flame



*Great autumnal colours for the late summer patio market*

Flame is one of the exciting new bold colours in this series of mid-height Rudbeckia for 2022, to provide a burst of rich colours late into the autumn months.

Sunburst Flame and its sister colours (Glow, radiant, Solar and Sunset) have exceptional flowering performance with plants easily holding 40+ large long-lasting 10cm blooms at a time as plants establish. The flower colours interestingly evolve and deepen as the plants mature from mid to late season.

The flowers on Sunburst Flame have a most attractive rich mahogany colouring with a bold outer ring of copper.

This series is perfectly timed to kick in for retail colour sales promotions in July, just when gardeners are looking to refresh some

of their early summer flowering patios and garden plants. Plants will continue to provide garden colour well into October. Highly attractive to bees and butterflies. Prefers a moist well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade. Semi-hardy: should overwinter if plants are not waterlogged. Garden height and spread 30-40cm.

Available as a Ball 84 paper plug weeks 11 and 15. Planting into a 5-litre pot is recommended under a well ventilated polytunnel or outside (if the risk of frost has passed). No pinching is required for Sunburst as the plants are naturally well branched. The secret to success is to allow plants enough space and provide feed to keep the foliage green and healthy.



## **NEW** Rudbeckia hybrida Sunbeckia® Ophelia (P)



### *Amazing vigour and ease of growing*

Having stolen the show at our 2020 Summer Showcase, it wasn't a surprise to see Sunbeckia® in the top varieties list again this year!

This year the new Ophelia (AGM) with its brilliant lime green eyes, surrounded by wide golden petals was the colour that got the most amount of attention.

Gardeners will be amazed by the size of the Sunbeckia® flowers and ease of growing the plants. This variety of Rudbeckia is easily recognisable by its huge 15cm sized flowers and amazing vigour.

The thick flower petals are extremely long lasting and the strong flower stems provide a strong plant with superb garden performance.

Ideal for pots, containers, beds and borders.

Attractive to bees and butterflies. Prefers a moist well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade. Height and spread 40-50cm.

What is truly been outstanding about this variety is that just one plug planted in May will fill a 23cm container by July and produce over 50+ flowers in one season! Available from Ball Colegrave as a Ball 40 plug, delivery weeks 18 & 20. All plugs are ready-pinned and 'breaking'... perfect to simply pot into 5-10 litre pots and sell in as little as 6-8 weeks or, bump-up into much larger patio tubs to maximise retail sales opportunities right into autumn. No pinching is required. The secret to success is to allow plants enough space and provide feed to keep the foliage green and healthy.



### **Ball Colegrave Trial Grounds**

Ball Colegrave has been conducting plant variety trials and customer open days from their Trial Grounds in West Adderbury for 58 years.

Today's Trial Grounds not only presents the companies assortment of catalogue varieties in a rich display of settings and retail ideas, but also comprehensively evaluates hundreds of new future lines before introduction. This ensures that when a product is introduced in the Ball Colegrave catalogues, our staff and visitors have seen it and know it performs under UK growing conditions!

Trials are conducted all year round with an open house for customers during autumn, spring and summer.

Over 25,000 Annual and Perennial plants are bedded out in the summer trial and display beds with an excess of 5,000 pot plants and 2,000 patio baskets/containers are planted up for the event.

Traditionally the Trial Grounds were attended by Parks and Nurserymen. Today they are joined by an ever-increasing number of Retail Plant Buyers looking for new plant and retail solutions.

**END**

Note to News Editors:

For more information or high quality images please contact Stuart Lowen on 01295 814705 or email

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Ball Colegrave is a renowned distributor of seed and plant product to the ornamental bedding industry. Visit our website [www.ballcolegrave.co.uk](http://www.ballcolegrave.co.uk) for more information on our range of products and services.

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