



Culture Tips for Pink Brushes



Great vigor and extended flowering season make this new variety a keeper.

By John Friel

Tiarella 'Pink Brushes', a hybrid developed by Charles Oliver of The Primrose Path, Scottdale, Pa., was selected for its excellent flowers, vigor and extended flowering season. The dense, full spikes are 12-16 inches tall, and individual flowers are longer-lasting than those typical of the genus. Spring foliage is a fresh, shiny green with distinctive maroon central veining, creating an unusual "quilted" appearance. The foliage color deepens through the season, turning to a medley of bronze and dark greens, edged in bright red, after frost in the fall. Crop time is approximately 8-12 weeks.

CULTURE

Pink Brushes can be produced in several pot sizes. Typical pot sizes used are 4-inch to 1-gallon. It is suitable for Zones 3-8 and AHS Heat Zones 8-4 in partial to full shade.

Plant the root ball level with a medium surface. Avoid overwatering to reduce the likelihood of root and crown rot. Also, leaves will yellow if the soil is kept too moist. Allow medium to dry somewhat between waterings to encourage root growth, but don't allow young plants to wilt.

Pink Brushes is easily grown in humus soil, and it needs a medium that is high in organic matter and capable of holding moisture. Maintain a pH of 6.0-6.5.

GROWING ON

Use a complete nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium fertilizer with micronutrients, e.g., 20-10-20, 20-5-19, etc. Inject liquid fertilizer with each irrigation; this will give the best control of nutrient levels. Rate of use is related to temperature: under 40° F, use clear water; from 40-60° F, use 50-100 ppm nitrogen; and over 60° F, use 100-200 ppm nitrogen. Controlled-release fertilizers with micronutrients can also be used. Use 150- to 180-day release rates for spring and summer crops. Overwinter at 20-38° F. Dormancy breaks in early spring. 

**Note that a plant patent has been applied for on Tiarella Pink Brushes.*

John Friel is marketing manager for Blooms of Bressingham North America and Yoder Green Leaf Perennials. Contact Yoder Green Leaf Perennials at (800) 233-0285 or E-mail perennials@yoder.com.

