

Diascia Flying Colors

This long-lasting diascia exhibits vigor under even the most stressful weather conditions.

By Jeanne Svob

Flying Colors diascia is early to bloom and longer lasting in the summer garden than other diascias. Rooted liners planted January-March will finish in 5-7 weeks for 4-inch pot (one plant per pot) and 10-12 weeks for 8- to 10-inch pots (three plants per pot).

Flying Colors will exhibit plant vigor under stressful conditions and will flower more profusely in warmer temperatures. Excellent branching habit and tight bloom spikes make these diascia spectacular in 4-inch pots as well as in hanging baskets. And they add bright, unique colors to combinations.

Five colors make up the series: 'Flying Colors Coral' has vibrant deep coral blooms with an upright habit, tight bloom spikes and excellent garden vigor and has received recognition in many independent summer trials in both the North and South for garden performance. 'Flying Colors Apricot' is a shimmering apricot and holds its color well in heat and high light. Apricot also has an upright growth habit. 'Flying Colors Trailing Antique Rose' is covered with dusty rose blooms with deep green foliage sitting on this tightly branched, trailing plant. 'Flying Colors Trailing Red' has dark rosy red flowers with a trailing habit and exhibits excellent heat tolerance. 'Flying Colors Appleblossom' has large, unique pastel pink flowers with an upright growth habit.

GROWING ON

Flying Colors will arrive as rooted liners. Transplant liners into any good, well-drained potting media and maintain a pH of 6.0-6.5 and EC 0.6-0.9. Give a constant feed with a general-pur-

pose fertilizer containing micronutrients. Start at 200-250 ppm nitrogen and adjust as necessary to maintain proper EC and pH levels. Increase the amount of potassium toward the end of culture.

As for temperature, start with warm night temperatures of 62-65° F for approximately 10 days to build roots. The optimum growing on temperature is 55-65° F days and 45-55° F nights. Once finished, plants can be held at temperatures between 45 and 50° F. Diascia will tolerate a light frost down to about 28° F.


For best results grow under very high light, and keep plants evenly moist but not too wet. Best results are also achieved if plants are watered in the morning. Avoid over-head watering late in the day, and provide adequate air circulation.

One pinch about 10-14 days after transplant is recommended. Additional pinching may not be necessary if plants are grown at recommended temperatures and in high light.

Growth regulators are not necessary if high light and cool night temperatures are provided. Florel applied two weeks after pinch will enhance finish in larger containers. Rate is location specific.

Drench with a broad-spectrum fungicide at liner transplant. Watch for whiteflies and aphids.

AVAILABILITY

Flying Colors Coral, Apricot, Trailing Antique Rose and Trailing Red are available as rooted liners from Proven Winners, while Appleblossom is available through EuroAmerican Propagators in Proven Selections. 

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Why Flying Colors

Diascia is often considered a cool-season crop, great for spring and fall production. However, the Flying Colors series will tolerate extreme weather conditions. In addition to receiving awards in many summer trials, 'Flying Colors Coral' received Best of Class in the University of Florida's winter trials for its long flowering season and quick recover from cold snap.

I — along with the other editors at *GPN* — am always trying to push cool-season crops beyond pansies and violas, and with diascia, that's easy. But this crop offers more than just cool-season production. With its tolerance for a light frost and its ability to withstand summer heat, even in the South, while holding its color, Flying Colors could be a three-season crop with quick finishing times, allowing multiple turns.

— Carrie Burns



Top: 'Flying Colors Coral'; Bottom: 'Flying Colors Trailing Antique Rose'.