

GROWERTALKS

Features

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Livin' the Hy Life

Jennifer Zurko

Oldies, Goodies & Some New

Many of the indoor hydrangea varieties you see in the North American market start with the Hydrangea Breeders Association (HBA), based in the Netherlands. A lot of their plants are licensed by growers and breeders in the U.S. and Canada. Some of HBA's favorites for North America are pictured here.

Chris Kelleher from Aris Horticulture said Pink Sensation is their Number 1 variety.

"It has good breaking action, strong stems, large mophead flowers and uniform growth," she said. "Petals have a unique quilted appearance."

Early Blue is also one of their top sellers because of its early-mid response. According to Chris, it has an excellent cane count and easy-to-control habit, requiring less PGRs than Bela.



Jip Blue & Jip Pink



Pink Sensation



Hot Red



Caipirinha Green Stage &
Caipirinha White Stage



NEW Speedy Red
Improved



Early Blue



Red Beauty



HI Sugar



HI River Blue



HI River Pink



HI Fire Red



Flame Blue



Flame Pink



Feather Blue



Feather Pink



Florentina
Blue



Florentina
Pink



Felina
Pink



Felina
Blue



Double Pink

A New Line in NA

Earlier this year, Syngenta announced its new partnership with HI Breeding Company of the Netherlands to offer the HI Hydrangea Collection exclusively in North America. These florist *Hydrangea macrophylla* types were bred with growers in mind.

For example, strong stems means no need to put rings on them and the flowers hold on the plant much longer at retail. Six colors range from blue to white to pink to red, fading to nice antique shades, with Sugar staying pink no matter the soil pH. The HIs offer some reblooming, so they might work in the landscape once they're done as a home beautifier. Offered as pre-finished plants from Syngenta through Creekside Greenhouses in Ontario, who's also their trialing partner.

Seeing Double

Mariska van der Zande of HBA said they're excited about their new double-flowered indoor hydrangeas, available through Ball Ingenuity and grown at Aldershot Greenhouses in Ontario. This is the first line of florist-quality indoor double hydrangeas available in North America. They all have a compact growth habit with strong stems that branch

easily. Aldershot sells them as dormant plants in either four canes for 4-in. pots or six canes for 6-in. pots. Specifically programmed to finish in the containers they come in and with no supports necessary, it saves on labor. Forcing period is 11 weeks.

Jip Blue & Jip Pink

Flower type: Mophead

Growth: Compact to medium habit

Forcing period: 10 weeks

Pink Sensation

Flower type: Mophead with many medium-sized flowers

Growth: Medium; also suitable for outdoors

Forcing period: 10 weeks

Caipirinha Green Stage & Caipirinha White Stage

Flower type: Mophead

Growth: Medium; also suitable for outdoors

Forcing period: 10 weeks

Hot Red

Flower type: Mophead

Growth: Compact; also suitable for mall containers

Forcing period: 10 weeks

NEW Speedy Red Improved

Flower type: Mophead

Growth: Compact; improved for smaller pot sizes

Forcing period: 9 weeks

Early Blue

Flower type: Mophead

Growth: Compact, medium; suited for small- and medium-sized pots

Forcing period: 10 weeks

Red Beauty

Flower type: Mophead with many medium-sized flowers

Growth: Medium; suitable for various pot sizes

Forcing period: 10 weeks

The new double hydrangeas are: Flame Blue, Pink Feather Blue, Pink Felina Blue, Pink Florentina Blue, PinkDouble Pink, Pink Purple. **GT**