

GROWER TALKS

August 2011
Volume 75 Number 4

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Christmas crop

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Squash powdery mildew from
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Editor Chris Beytes spent two days in Iowa's Amish country to learn more about this fascinating culture and how they've used greenhouses to help preserve their values and lifestyle for future generations. Page 40.



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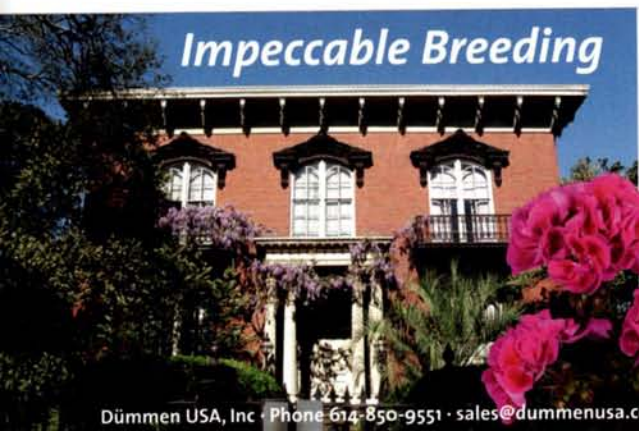


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FEATURES

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Inside the fascinating world of Amish flower growers with a visit to Kalona, Iowa.
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Perennials, woodies, pot plants and even potting media round out the offering from the 2011 California Spring Trials.
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How much of your profit margin winds up in a pile behind your greenhouse ... and what can you do about it? Here are some tips.
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To get you revved up for the upcoming Plug & Cutting Conference, we've asked three of the event's speakers to provide some insight on what they'll be talking about during their presentations. Here's part two of three.

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◀ **Becker Underwood Inc.** Becker Underwood introduces a new biological fungicide, Subtlex NG, for protecting plants against soil-borne pathogens such as Rhizoctonia and Fusarium. It's made with the hardy MBI 600 strain of *Bacillus subtilis*, which produces an

endospore that allows the bacteria to survive extreme environmental conditions like heat and desiccation. Subtlex NG colonizes plant roots to exclude soil-borne pathogens, and produces a metabolite that destroys the pathogen's cell wall. Subtlex NG offers a more flexible application window, is compatible with biological and chemical programs, and won't clog equipment. **Reader Service Number 150**

Interested in products listed here?

Turn to the Product Information card and insert the product's Reader Service number in the box in the lower right-hand corner. Mail it in, and we'll make sure the information is sent your way!

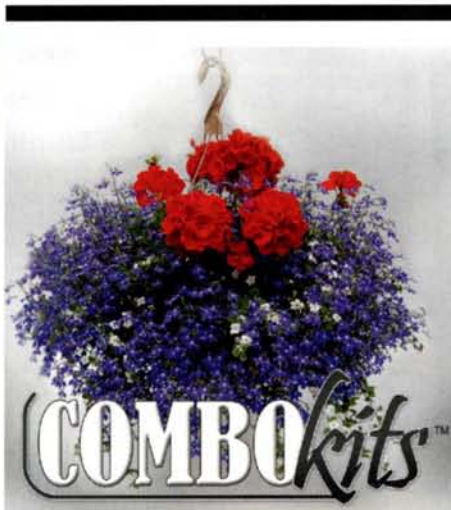


▲ **Dramm Corporation**

VitroClean offers a safe, reliable and cost-effective way to upgrade new or existing sand filter systems. Designed to work in existing sand filters, VitroClean Glass Media will filter finer than sand with 20% less media required. VitroClean Green crushed glass filter media is manufactured from recycled, processed glass and is a direct replacement for silica sand and other materials in media filters. Even though it is made from crushed glass, VitroClean media is safe to handle, with no jagged edges. **Reader Service Number 151**

▶ **Ellepot-USA**

Ellepot-USA's new Plant-It-Friendly Compostable Bag has been recognized as an Approved Input Material under the Veriflora Sustainability Certification Program for plants and flowers. The Plant-It-Friendly Bag is made from a potato-based polylactic acid resin. It is an effective substitute for plastic pots, thereby reducing the solid waste associated with these pots and their accompanying tags. The bags can be printed on-demand, reducing shrink waste. Plants contained in the bag require a shorter grow time, thus using less water and fewer chemicals. The bag complies with the specifications for "compostable" as defined by the American Society for Testing and Materials. **Reader Service Number 152**



▲ **Jolly Farmer Products Inc.**

Jolly Farmer's Combo Kit is a collection of plants to make your own beautiful combinations. You get the appropriate planting pattern, selected plugs/cuttings and tags. Simply plant following the pattern displayed in Jolly Farmer's Plugs & Cuttings Grower catalog and on the back of the tags. Label with their custom designed tag and grow. Handy cultural tips are located in the back of the catalog. Thirty-seven designs are available in a wide range of colors and plants in both plugs and cuttings. Combination pictured: Parading the Colors. **Reader Service Number 153**



▲ **Suntory Flowers Ltd.**

Surdiva Scaevola is one of the most compact branching, large-flowered and heat-tolerant scaevola available. Three varieties are available: Blue (pictured), Light Blue and White. Surdiva Blue offers continuous color, even through the summer's worst weather. Surdiva plants form a bushy habit with short internodes and flowers have a unique no "hole in the center." Easy to grow and maintain, self cleaning and flowers profusely from summer into fall. Surdiva is an ideal choice for hanging baskets and mixed containers.

Reader Service Number 154



▲ **Terra Nova Nurseries Inc.**

Part of the Sun Series, Gaillardia Red Sun has broad, hot orange-red petals floating over mounding foliage and is tolerant of desert conditions. This blanket flower is a robust grower and is bright with dense, healthy foliage. Flowers all summer and is more floriferous than any seed strain Gaillardia. Red Sun is equally great in a mixed bed or in a neglected area of the garden. The average size includes 16-in. height, 20-in. width, and 12-in. flower height. Zones 3-9.

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