



# PANSIES!

**GREAT VARIETY in packs,  
pots, baskets & bowls**

## PLANT CORNER

Welcome to another year of the Plant Corner, a series of profiles of STAR PERFORMERS among perennial garden plants from the folks at Chaska Farm & Garden.



### *Hibiscus moscheutos* **'Pink Clouds'**

I think the plant I most look forward to see bloom in my sunny perennial garden is the perennial hibiscus *Hibiscus moscheutos*. The near-dinner plate size blooms are late, even into August, but worth the wait. By then summer has matured to displays of Joe-Pye-Weed, cone-flowers, the heads of warm season grasses like miscanthus and geese in trial-flight formation.

Perennial hibiscus are not for the faint of heart or casual gardener, some knowledge of the nature of the beast is helpful. First the plant doesn't break out of the ground until very late spring, even June 1st, so we need to mark its location and keep heavy mulch or other plants from covering their ground so it can warm in the sun. Once they start growth in the summer heat they grow fast and many hibiscus varieties can get over head high, so give them the room they deserve. They prefer a rich and moist even wet soil.

'Pink Clouds' is a great new variety introduced by Bluebird Nursery of Clarkson, Nebraska. The color is a clear and very intense pink, the flowers are early and big and the size of the plant is a moderate 4–5 ft. tall. Bluebird also claims 'Pink Clouds' to be a bit more winter hardy than other hibiscus varieties.

Perennial hibiscus give a decidedly tropical look to the late summer garden, the leaves are large and coarse-textured, the color is big and vibrant. Other varieties offer a color range from white, to lavender, to ruby red. They are tailor made to shock the neighbors and are well worth the wait.

— Tom

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