

## Cordylines

Cordylines have made their way from New Zealand to the Torbay seafront and are now an essential ingredient in British gardens. Plant breeders have had considerable success in raising varieties with wonderfully coloured foliage, transforming ordinary Cabbage Palms into the peacocks of the patio.

Chelsea 2009 sees the launch of two exciting and exotic new pink cordylines, which, in our opinion, are simply the best of any that have been raised with this colour break.

### ***Cordyline australis* 'Southern Splendour'**

The colour of this first cordyline – *Cordyline australis* 'Southern Splendour' is truly amazing. The upright sword-like leaves are striped with grey-green with rich pink margins. As the plant matures, its habit and growth rate is slow and it will rarely grow above 1.2m in five years with a spread of about one metre. We expect it to be even more popular than *Cordyline australis* 'Torbay Dazzler'.

Team it up with purple heucheras or contrast it with the soft grey foliage of santolina and helichrysum. It is simply sensational with purple sage and would make a wonderful centrepiece rising from the centre of a pot of lilac and pink impatiens.

Expect to pay around £15 for a superb plant in a 3 litre pot that will create instant impact on a patio or as a focal point anywhere in the garden.



### ***Cordyline australis* 'Sunrise'**



*Cordyline australis* 'Sunrise' is another pink cordyline but with quite a different personality. This is a softer, more tactile subject with gently arching leaves reminiscent of a phormium. The colour is truly electric: hardly any green is visible in the leaves so strikingly striped with fuchsia pink and bronze. It is as slow growing as 'Southern Splendour' and makes a lovely container plant for a patio where its leaves can be gently stirred by the breeze.

Expect to pay £15 for a 3 litre plant.

1.2m

*Cordylines are drought resistant plants ideal for gardeners who occasionally forget to water their pots. Grow them in large containers with good drainage filled with John Innes No.3 potting compost. Cordylines make wonderful subjects for coastal gardens.*

***Heuchera* 'Tiramisu'**



*Heuchera* 'Tiramisu' is the latest, very tempting addition to the mouth-watering Sweet Delights range of Hillier heucheras, and will be available in garden centres from June 2009.

This showy heuchera is a hybrid of *Heuchera villosa* raised originally in France. It has the unique ability to change colour with the season. Its chartreuse foliage flushes brick red in spring and autumn, the colour radiating from the midrib of every leaf and fading to pale green by the edges. In summer, the red colouration disappears, and the foliage turns to chartreuse with a silver veil over the leaf surface. It has a compact habit, is excellent in containers and carries small creamy flowers in midsummer.

£8

***Gaura lindheimeri* 'Rosyjane'**

Hillier are delighted to be the only nursery to offer pot-grown plants of this fabulous new *gaura* from early summer 2009.

Launched by Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants at Chelsea 2008 this is the first *gaura* to display bicoloured flowers - white with a picotee edge of cerise-pink on 75cm branched stems – produced freely throughout the summer.

This lovely border perennial from the popular Siskiyou strain is sure to be a winner and can be found a place in any garden in a situation in full sun. *Gauras* make wonderful light foreground plants, their airy see-through quality adding depth and texture to the border.



Expect to pay around £6 for a plant in bud or flower from leading garden centres nationwide.

**Media Contacts**

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