

**Press Release
Background**



Agapanthus Bluestorm – Background

Agapanthus 'Bluestorm', a patented agapanthus from Anthony Tesselaar International to be introduced in spring 2007, gives people lots more, of what they love agapanthus for.

The abundant-flowering Agapanthus 'Bluestorm' consistently blooms longer than most agapanthus, flowering on average 70 days per season (up to two to three weeks longer than other varieties). It is extremely floriferous, producing an abundance of light violet blue flowers. When mature, this vigorous plant bears up to 100 flower stems per plant per season all bursting forth together in a mass of long-lasting blooms.

Bluestorm grows to a compact 70 to 85 cm, a preferred height for landscapes and container plantings. Most other agapanthus are either much taller or shorter.

Agapanthus have always been popular with gardeners and landscapers for their easy-care nature and long-lasting flowers. With their lush tufts of dense strappy leaves, the plant adds flair even when not in bloom.

Bluestorm typically blooms late spring to mid summer with spot flowering through late summer and Autumn.

The compact plant grows in most light conditions. It needs full sun for best flowering performance, but will flower in reduced numbers in partial shade. It is naturally disease-resistant and excels in commercial landscaping applications, home garden beds, borders and containers.

It is an easy-care plant. While regular watering and feeding are required for peak performance, the plant can survive with minimal water after it is established, making it well-suited to landscape plantings in drier areas. In those regions it offers an extra bonus. The thick moisture-retentive foliage of Agapanthus Bluestorm makes it an excellent addition to fire-retardant borders.

Agapanthus 'Bluestorm' at a glance:

- consistently blooms longer than most agapanthus
- compact growth habit preferred for landscapes and containers
- bloom late spring to mid summer with spot flowering through fall
- naturally disease-resistant

FACT SUMMARY

Branding	Bluestorm
Genus	Agapanthus
Species	Praecox orientalis var. 'Atiblu'
Major use	Landscape, garden borders
Other uses	Patio pots
Hardiness	
Light requirement	Grows in most light conditions. Flowers best in full sun but will flower in reduced numbers in partial shade
Flower colour	Blue flowers
Flower PMS	
Fragrance	No fragrance
Flowering period	Flowers abundantly in late spring to mid summer with spot flowering through late summer and Autumn approximately 70 days in all
Flower size	100mm in diameter, 30 florets per umbel
Flower number	Approximately 25 flower umbels on a 2-3 year old plant, 50 umbels on a 4 year old plant and up to 100 on a 5 year old plant
Foliage characteristics	Dense leaves are arranged in a tuft or cluster. Each leaf is narrow and strap-like, measuring on average 350mm long by 19mm wide
Foliage PMS	
Mature height	70 to 85 cm
Mature width	50cm
Growth habit	Free-standing basal cluster with strap-like leaves. Large, thick, fleshy roots approximately 6mm in diameter. Upright, medium size with normal to slow growth rate for genus. Full height is achieved in 18 months
Soil needs	Bluestorm will tolerate a range of soils from sand to clay
Water requirements	Water well to establish. But once established in the landscape, agapanthus are tolerant of both wet and dry conditions and have proved to be an ideal landscape plant for drier warm areas
Landscape spacing	60 cm apart for garden border
Fertilizer requirement	Promote initial growth by providing high nitrogen fertilizer, but once established use a flowering plant formula high in potassium to encourage flowering

Disease tolerance	Agapanthus are not prone to disease in the landscape
Pest issues	No major pests. Snails and slugs may cause slight damage
Special care	Easy care plant. Better performance will be attained if plants are watered and fed regularly, but once established Bluestorm will flower readily with minimal care. In colder zones, either winter protect, dig and store, or store potted plants 'as is' in a frost free locations.