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FACT SHEET
Spring 2008

Volcano™ Phlox
Phlox paniculata

Volcano™ Phlox is a remarkable series of perennial phlox that are compact, sturdy, exceptionally floriferous and extremely tolerant of the powdery mildew that plagues and defoliates many other phlox.

The Volcano series was introduced in 2004 with four colors: Pink with White Eye, White, Red, and Purple. In 2006, Pink with Red Eye became available nationwide; in spring 2007, Volcano Ruby will be released, followed by additional colors in following seasons.

Volcano Phlox are prized for their dense upright multi-branched form – with up to 15 to 30 sturdy stems by the second season featuring flower clusters of up to 125 flowers or more per stem – providing masses of color from July through September.

Volcano Phlox are hardy in USDA zones 4 through 8. They are low growing cultivars of *Phlox paniculata*, growing from 24- to 40-inches tall depending upon conditions, notable in a species with varieties that can reach 5 feet tall! Volcano phlox' compact form and sturdy multi-branched stems help keep it upright, not floppy and in need of staking like many other phlox.

These hybrids actually owe their existence to the end of the Cold War. Shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall, members of the Dutch hybridizing firm Bartels Stek trekked the newly-opened countries of Eastern Europe looking for exceptional plant material. Their most exciting find was a group of *Phlox paniculata*, North American natives, but in varieties that were currently unknown or had been lost to the West. The plants weren't fragrant or very floriferous, but were very mildew-tolerant. Cross-breeding in Holland resulted in the exciting new Volcano series of fragrant, abundantly-flowering, compact phlox with high natural disease-tolerance, that the breeder says exceeds even their own previously heralded introductions.

Volcano™ Phlox at a Glance:

- very tolerant of powdery mildew
- masses of large, fragrant flower clusters
- compact and multi-branched, with 15 to 30 sturdy stems by the 2nd season
- six great colors available: Pink with White Eye, Purple, White, Red, Pink with Red Eye and Ruby

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- grow in full sun or partial shade
- flower from July through September
- ideal for summer color in garden beds, borders and containers

Anthony Tesselaar Plants of Melbourne, Australia, is an international marketer of high-quality plants selected for their superlative performance, easier-care attributes, big color and long bloom seasons. Gardeners and landscapers in the U.S. are most familiar with the company's leading brands: Flower Carpet® roses, Tropicanna® cannas, ColorFlash™ astilbe, Volcano™ phlox, Storm™ agapanthus, Festival Grass™ cordyline, and Bonfire™ begonias.

FACTS ABOUT VOLCANO™ PHLOX

Botanical Name:	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>
Parentage:	Selections of <i>Phlox paniculata</i>
Hardiness:	Hardy in USDA zones 4 through 9.
Flower Color:	6 colors available: Pink with White Eye, Purple, White, Red and Pink with Red Eye, and Ruby; additional colors to follow.
Flowering Period:	Flowers early summer until fall.
Flower Size:	Up to 1-inch in diameter.
Number of Flowers:	Large, flower clusters, comprised of up to 125 flowers or more per stem.
Fragrance:	All are fragrant.
Foliage:	Narrow, pointed lance-shaped leaves up to 5-inches long.
Plant/Size:	When mature, 24- to 40-inches tall, up to 24-inches wide.
Growth Habit:	Compact, branching. Basal growth, multi-branched habit with 15 to 30 branches by second season. Upright clump with strong upright stems that don't require staking.
Suggested Uses:	Ideal summer color for planting in garden beds and borders and container plantings. Excellent in commercial landscapes.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

Soil Needs:	Volcano Phlox will tolerate a range of soils but will perform best in a well-worked fertile soil.
Light Needs:	Performs best in full sun (six hours of sun daily), but will tolerate partial shade (minimum four hours of sun daily). Best in partial or full shade in hot climate zones.
Water Needs:	Will tolerate moderately dry conditions. Performs best when well-watered. Watering at the base with a soaker hose is encouraged. Overhead watering, or watering at night can promote conditions conducive to mildew.

- Spacing:** Plant 12- to 16-inches apart to help natural tolerance to mildew.
- Fertilizer:** In spring, use a slow-release balanced plant food suitable for flowering plants.
- Pruning/
Pinching** No pinching or pruning necessary in the home garden.
- Special Care:** Volcano phlox are very mildew tolerant. They can be affected by mildew under unfavorable conditions, but will generally not defoliate or be otherwise adversely affected. Still, even mildew-tolerant plants benefit from good gardening practices that discourage mildew. Follow spacing recommendations when planting. Crowded plantings can reduce air circulation and promote mildew. Water phlox at the base of the plant and not from above. Soaker hoses are great. Never water the garden at night, as this promotes mildew and other diseases in all plants in your garden. Morning is the best time to water the garden. In zones 4 - 9 divide Volcano phlox every 3 to 5 years or when the plant loses vigor or the center of the clump starts to die. Divide in early spring for best results.
- Disease
Tolerance:** Very tolerant but not entirely impervious to mildew.
- Pest Issues:** Phlox can be affected by spider mites and thrips, especially when under stress.