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FACT SHEET
Spring 2008

ColorFlash™ Astilbe
Astilbe Hybrid (arendsii X)
Introduced Spring 2005

ColorFlash™ Astilbe signals a color breakthrough in astilbe foliage. Emergent foliage is a bright electric green that matures to a rich burgundy and purple. Each plant's mix of leaves creates a terrific tri-color effect of bright green, burgundy and purple. In fall the color palette evolves into a combination of gold, orange and russet tones. Compact and dense, with pale pink flower inflorescences, ColorFlash are fabulous either as container plants or for mass landscape and border plantings.

ColorFlash thrives in partial shade. Hardy in USDA zones 4 through 8, ColorFlash Astilbe's small blush-pink flowers form a pleasing, plume-like inflorescence that extends 10-inches above the foliage. It blooms from late spring through early summer (June & July in Zone 7, for example) and likes to be well watered.

This is the first in a series of super-colorful astilbes. Future ColorFlash Astilbe introductions currently include ColorFlash Lime in 2006 followed by ColorFlash Copper and ColorFlash Red at dates yet to be announced.

ColorFlash™ Astilbe at a Glance:

- tricolor-foliage effect, with a mix of green, burgundy & purple leaves
- great for mass planting
- compact growth habit
- flowers from late spring through early summer
- foliage looks great all season long
- excellent for containers and landscape plantings

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 COLORFLASH™ ASTILBE

Botanical Name:	<i>Astilbe Hybrid (arendsii X)</i>
Parentage:	
Hardiness:	Hardy in USDA zones 4 through 8
Flower Color:	Delicate blush pink.
Flowering Period:	Flowers late spring through early summer (June & July in zone 7, for example).
Flower Size:	Small individual flowers with a plume-like inflorescence that extends 10 inches above the foliage
Number of Flowers:	5-9 plume-like inflorescences on a 12-month-old plant
Fragrance:	Not fragrant
Foliage:	Full and lush. The emergent foliage is electric green. Mature leaves are burgundy & purple. The combination creates a terrific tri-color effect. In fall the color palette evolves to a mix of gold, orange and russet tones.
Plant/Size:	6 to 10 inches tall by 20 inches wide. Flower spikes 20 inches tall (rising 10 inches above the foliage).
Growth Habit:	Compact growth habit
Suggested Uses:	Ideal for containers, beds, borders and the landscape

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

Soil Needs:	Does best in well-worked, well-drained soil with good organic matter. Prefers slightly acid soil. Avoid heavy clay soil with poor drainage.
Light Needs:	Does best in partial shade (morning sun, afternoon shade).
Water Needs:	Moderate to high water requirements. Plant does not perform well in overly dry conditions.
Spacing:	Plant 15 inches to 24 inches apart.
Fertilizer:	Controlled release fertilizer (20-20-20) is recommended in spring and late summer.
Pruning/ Pinching	
Special Care:	Do not allow to dry out
Disease	Under severe disease conditions, can develop powdery mildew.
Tolerance:	
Pest Issues:	Generally pest-free, though can be susceptible to spider mites.