

Spring Favorites For Your Garden

By Jim Seiler

After 30 years in the landscaping business, I have to say that it is a treat to feel really excited about a certain type of flower. Last spring, I enjoyed using a relatively new hybrid of the begonia family, the Dragon Wing Begonia.

Not a typical begonia, the Dragon Wing Begonia is like a begonia on steroids. A hybrid cross between the Angel Wing and the Wax begonias, the Dragon Wing offers the best qualities of both plants... a dense grower with superior heat tolerance.

The wings of a Dragon Wing begonia are wing-shaped and large, between two and five inches long with a rich, dark and glossy green color. Two vibrant flower shades are available, a gorgeous strong red and a more delicate pink. The flowers fall in pendulous clusters from gently arching stems. These flowers shed naturally after blooming as new ones take their place, so plants appear neat and clean all summer.

Dragon Wing begonias are truly luxurious plants and work beautifully in both the landscape bed and in containers. I am a huge fan of container flower planting! I appreciate the formal, old-world feel that an entranceway, pool or patio area can take on with the use of contained floral displays... pure class! Urns of all sizes and materials, window boxes and baskets are readily available from the decadent to the affordable. (Hint: the key to gorgeous containers is to pack them fully, not a place to wait for plants to develop.) Mix colors, textures, heights and shapes. Be your own floral designer to a manageable and uniquely personal space.

Gratefully, spring is finally here! I encourage you to experience the Dragon Wing begonia this season. Use it liberally in filtered shade, feed every two weeks and enjoy a magnificent non-stop bloom from spring until fall frost.

Happy planting and remember... green side up!

Jim Seiler of Seiler's Landscaping has served Cincinnati neighborhoods for over two decades with award-winning landscape design, landscape installations, hardscape walls, patios and walks, lighting, water features, and more. A Homearama Winner for 12 consecutive years, Seiler's Landscaping offers classic style, blended design and award-winning performance to your home. For more information, please call 513-791-2820.



Dragon Wing Begonia



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