

10" Caladium with caladium Combos:

In the spring of 2013 a number of Caladium with Caladium 10" combination pots were trialed. Bulbs of all varieties were planted on the same day to determine which combinations would finish nicely and therefore require no assembly. All combinations had a taller fancy variety in the center of the pot with a shorter strap leaf variety as the perimeter variety. #1 and Jumbo bulbs, both de-eyed and non de-eyed, were used in the center whereas #1 and #2 bulbs, both de-eyed and non de-eyed, were used for the perimeter variety. All pots were grown in Avon Park, FL from 3/5/13 (potting date) to 4/20/13 (record date). All pots were started in a germination room for 2 weeks at 70-87°F and then moved and grown in a 30% shade house at temperatures ranging from 57°F nights to 92°F days. All pots were fertilized with a 90 day 16-6-12 controlled release Harrell's fertilizer. No PGR's were used. Suggestions for non-assembly combination pots for a limited number of caladium varieties could be made based on the results. Pictures were taken of the one to three best pots of each combination. Combinations that typically worked involved varieties with similar crop times. Varieties with widely disparate crop times lacked uniformity at finish, due to shading of the faster center fancy variety, and therefore cannot be recommended, however this lack of uniformity can be partially over come with wider pot spacing. Spacing for the trial was at 12" X 14" and the results recorded accordingly. A follow up trial showed a 16" X 18" spacing to work for most varieties. Further, a number of the combinations that are not suggested as non assembled combinations are quite nice if a grower is willing to either do a partial or complete assembly of the proposed combination. Overall habit depended on many factors including among others variety, spacing, light levels, de-eyeing and bulb size. Habits included foliage that was either fully integrated, semi layered or layered.

Combinations contained the following varieties:

Center Varieties trialed

Moonlight
Candidum Sr.
Tapestry
Celebration
Raspberry Moon
Fireworks

Perimeter Varieties included

Blushing Bride
Candyland
Cherry Tart
Heart's Delight
Miss Muffet
Peppermint
Lance Whorton
Starburst
Red Frill
Red Ruffles
Rosemary
Sweetheart
White Delight
White Diamond
White Dynasty
White Pearl

White Star
White Wonder

Results and suggested combinations are on the attached spreadsheets.

General conclusions include:

- 1) Varieties with similar crop times work the best. Rapidly growing fancy varieties can inordinately shade many slower growing strap varieties. This may be overcome with wider pot spacing.
- 2) Bulb size and de-eyeing affected the overall look/habit of the finished product. Foliage of the varieties can either integrate together or have a layered look depending on variety, bulb size, de-eyeing and crop time.
- 3) Many varieties work well together but Red and White varieties contrast well together and received the most comments.
- 4) Combinations that look nice but have widely disparate crop times can be made by growing the varieties in individual pots and assembling the combination 3-4 weeks before finish.

Especially Nice Combinations included:

Moonlight (finished height floor to top of foliage: 20" de-eyed-22" not de-eyed) with one of the following:

Blushing Bride
Candyland
Cherry Tart
Heart's Delight
Miss Muffet
Red Ruffles
Rosemary
Starburst
Sweetheart

Candidum Senior (finished height floor to top of foliage: 20" de-eyed-24" not de-eyed) with one of the following:

Candyland
Heart's Delight
Miss Muffet
Red Ruffles
Rosemary

Tapestry (finished height floor to top of foliage: 22" de-eyed -29" not de-eyed) with one of the following:

Candyland
Miss Muffet
Red Ruffles
Sweetheart
White Delight
White Diamond
White Dynasty

White Star
White Wonder

Celebration (finished height floor to top of foliage: 22" de-eyed -24" not de-eyed) with one of the following:

Candyland
Miss Muffet
Rosemary
White Delight
White Diamond
White Dynasty
White Pearl
White Star
White Wonder

Raspberry Moon (finished height floor to top of foliage: 20" de-eyed -26" not de-eyed) with one of the following:

Candyland
Miss Muffet
Starburst
White Delight
White Diamond
White Dynasty
White Pearl
White Star
White Wonder

Fireworks (finished height floor to top of foliage: 24" de-eyed -29" not de-eyed) with one of the following:

Miss Muffet
Rosemary
White Diamond
White Star
White Wonder

Relatively foolproof combinations include combinations with any of the Fancy varieties tested and the following straps: Candyland (pink), Miss Muffet (chartreuse), Rosemary (rose red) and White Diamond (white).

Moonlight Combination



Moonlight with Candyland (1 X #J De - 5 X # 1 De)



Moonlight with Rosemary (2 X #1 De - 10 X #2 De)



Moonlight with Miss Muffet (1 X #J No – 10 X #2 De)

Candidum Senior Combinations



Candidum Senior and Candyland (2 X #1 De – 10 X #2 De)



Candidum Senior and Miss Muffet (1 X #J No – 10 X #2 De)



Candidum Senior and Rosemary (1 X #J No – 5 X #1 De)

Tapestry Combinations



Tapestry and Candyland (2 X #1 De – 5 X #1 De)



Tapestry and Miss Muffet (2 X #1 De – 10 X #2 De)



Tapestry and White Diamond (1 X #J De – 10 X #2 De)

Celebration Combinations



Celebration and Miss Muffet (2 X #1 No – 10 X #2 De)



Celebration and Rosemary (2 X #1 De – 5 X #1 No)



Celebration and White Diamond (1 X #J No – 5 X #1 No)

Raspberry Moon Combinations



Raspberry Moon and Candyland (2 X #1 De – 5 X #1 De)



Raspberry Moon and Miss Muffet (2 X #1 De - 5 X #1 No)



Raspberry Moon and White Diamond (2 X 1 De – 10 X #2 No)

Fireworks Combinations



Fireworks and Miss Muffet (2 X #1 De – 10 X #2 De)



Fireworks and Rosemary (1 X #J De – 10 X #2 No)



Fireworks and White Diamond (1 X #J No – 10 X #2 No)