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August 2002

The showdown begins...

Pentas vs Petunias

Pentas will soon be on the A-list of great spring/summer performers, and will see the old summertime favourite Petunia perhaps sharing its pole position.

As Australia is known for its dry, hot summers, gardeners are constantly looking for plants that will not only tolerate but thrive in these conditions and Pentas fit the bill.

Pentas is an annual flowering shrub originating from tropical Arabia, Africa and Madagascar. The word Pentas comes from the Greek term 'penta' meaning five, and refers to the five petals that make up its starry shaped flower clusters. In the past it has also been referred to as the 'Egyptian Starflower'.

Pentas have been popular in sunny California for some time due to their low water use and beautiful star shaped clusters of flowers atop of green lush foliage. They are also known to entice butterflies and bird life.

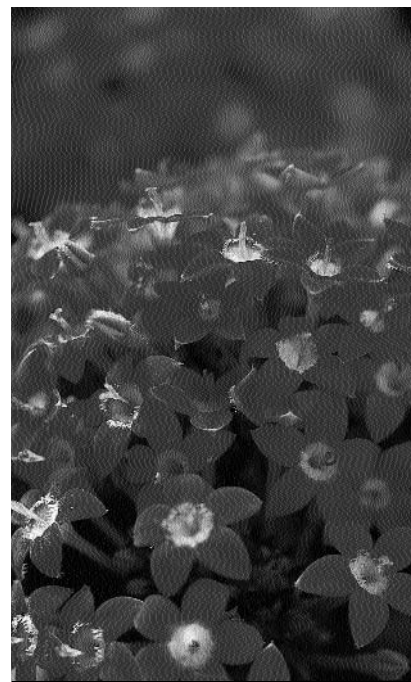
Like Petunias, Pentas are practical for many applications, and the 'new look' compact size provides high impact colour in pots, hanging baskets or any other container planting. Despite their tolerance to dry conditions, Pentas do prefer well-drained, moist soil in a sunny position. Surprisingly, they are also semi shade tolerant.

Pentas will add colour and vibrancy to the garden patio or balcony. Also try them in a posy as a cut flower. Either way, Pentas will make a great alternative to those old favourites.

Pentas are a new release for Floriana in Spring 2002, and as they are perfect for pots, you can find them as part of the 'So Beautiful' seedling range. They are available in colours of red and pink, and are appropriately called 'Piccolo Cherry' & 'Piccolo Musk'. (RRP \$5.95)

For further information, images etc, please contact :

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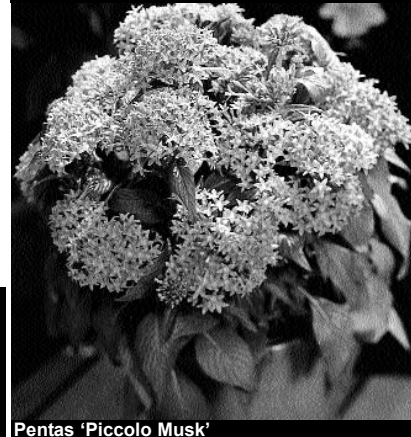
Pentas 'Piccolo Cherry'



Pentas 'Piccolo Cherry'



Pentas 'Piccolo Musk'



Pentas 'Piccolo Musk'

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