



Stephen & Kristin Pategas

in the garden *by Stephen and Kristin Pategas*

Perennials With A Distinguished Look

To add flair to your containers or a silvery twinkle to your landscapes, head straight for two silver-haired beauties – *Helichrysum petiolare*, petite licorice and *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* 'Flochrye', Flambe strawflower. They have distinct silvery grey-green foliage that catches the eye wherever they are planted. These are low spreading perennials that grow well in our Zone 9b gardens and will take the heat father south into Zones 10a and b. Farther north these are annuals.

Petite licorice (*Helichrysum*) is native to South Africa where it is sometimes grown for its medicinal qualities for coughs, colds, pain relief and high blood pressure. We add it to our containers and like

its small round velvety leaves that smell like licorice when crushed. Some claim the scent repels insects, but we do know deer leave it alone. Come summer, tiny cream-white flowers appear in numerous flower heads on long stalks. Petite licorice is a vigorous spreader that can reach 18 inches high and 3 to 4 feet wide. Space it at 10 to 14 inches for quick impact.

Meanwhile, the strawflower (*Chrysocephalum*) is native to the island of Tasmania and Australia. In addition to its colorful foliage, Flambe produces numerous tufted yellow or golden-yellow flowers. Ours have been in continuous color and this plant laughs at winter frosts. Dead heading (removal of spent blossoms) is not necessary to encourage more flowering, but if you plant Flambe where it is viewed up close, we recommend an occasional snip

to remove spent blooms. However, as they grow, they typically bury the old blooms with new ones. Flambe strawflower grows to 14 inches high by 24 inches wide. Space them at 8 to 12 inches apart.

They both prefer full sun and good air circulation. They can take it hot and dry, but when irrigated, make sure the soil drains well. If either plant starts looking tired during the summer, a trim back can help them quickly bounce back into top form. Plants can fail if cut back too severely. In containers regular fertilization will be helpful, but in the landscape they will tolerate poor soils and low fertility. A dose of slow-release fertilizer or some compost added at the time of planting would be helpful. If your garden center does not have either of these plants, tell them to contact Proven Winners.



Golden yellow flowers on the Flambe strawflower.



Petite licorice boasts soft "stroke me" foliage.

Plant Bit

Does a rose not smell as sweet as you remember it in the past? Before you blame old age, consider pollution. A study at the University of Virginia found that air pollution can destroy the scent molecules of flowers. Such molecules that once travelled 3,000 to 4,000 feet in the 1800s now only travel 600 to 1,000 feet in our major cities. Other scent trails, such as pheromones, may also be affected. This study could partially explain why some pollinators who use scent to locate nectar sources and mates are declining.



Hortus Oasis (FL26000315) in Winter Park is a boutique garden design company specializing in residential, commercial and specialty gardens. Stephen is a registered landscape architect and Kristin is a certified landscape designer. Contact them at 407-622-4886/garden@hortusois.com



JOIN US FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL

Art for Generations

[AN EXHIBIT FEATURING CREATIVE WORKS BY OLDER ADULTS]

OCTOBER 29, 2015 • 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
AT THE MAYFLOWER RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
 1620 MAYFLOWER COURT • WINTER PARK, FL 32792 • 407-672-1620

The Mayflower Retirement Community is hosting its second annual juried art show featuring creative works by local older adults. The "Art for Generations" event is free and open to the public.

Featured artists are at least 55 years of age, and have submitted original entries in the following categories:

- Paintings (watercolor, oil, acrylic)
- Drawings (pencil, pastel, charcoal)
- 3-D mixed media (wood, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, basket-weaving, needlework, clay)
- Photography

ADMISSION IS FREE!




THE MAYFLOWER
www.themayflower.com/artshow