



Posted: Feb. 18, 2010

Beautiful new Breathless euphorbia can go anywhere

BY NORMAN WINTER
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Sometimes the competition in the world can leave you breathless. In the plant world it's more than a figure of speech as a new euphorbia series, Breathless, is making its debut this year.

It seems it was just a couple of years ago Diamond Frost euphorbia entered the gardening world and quickly swept every award imaginable. It also became widely recognized as just about the toughest flower you could grow, blooming

from spring through frost.

Breathless is much like Diamond Frost though perhaps a little tighter in habit. Diamond Frost reaches about 18 inches tall while Breathless is a little shorter, closer to 15 inches. The big difference, however, lies in the Breathless **Blush**, as this variety gives gardeners a choice of colors.

Breathless Blush displays white flowers that are actually bracts, blushing with pink. The leaves are a dark green with red tones. You may find the leaf color reminiscent of the shrub burgundy loropetalum. Breathless Blush also has the same controlled habit, reaching about 12 inches tall with a spread of 20 to 24 inches.

The competition doesn't stop with the Breathless series. Hip Hop and Whiten Manaus are also making their debut. The Hip Hop is very similar to Diamond Frost in bloom and habit, but White Manaus shocked everyone with its pristine white blossoms and giant structure.

White Manaus was not only a prolific flower producer, but also approached 3 feet in height. It was a cloud of white all growing season. This



Breathless White complements this elegant mixed container featuring Fiesta Pink Frost impatiens, Silver Falls dichondra and ivy. For best blooming, select a location with as much sunlight as possible. (MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE PHOTOS)

opens the door for using it effectively in the middle of the border.

The euphorbia is an **environmentally friendly** addition to the landscape, drought-tolerant and virtually pest-free. Pest-free also means deer-resistant, making for one of its most outstanding traits.

For best blooming, select a location with as much sunlight as possible, although some shade is acceptable. Prepare the **bed** well, so this persevering plant will establish quickly and get happy in your flower-bed. Soggy wet soil is your enemy. Plant at the same depth they are growing in their container, 10 to 12 inches apart.

The white flowered selections make great partners with Intensia phlox such as Neon Pink, Orchid Blast or Cabernet. Use also tall blue salvias such as Mystic Spires, Victoria Blue or Cathedral Deep Blue to give a spiky texture. As you are designing your bed, use some ornamental grass with gold to chartreuse foliage. But to be honest, because they are white flowered, they will go with any other color you choose.

The Breathless Blush combines well with pink flowered selections of salvias and burgundy leafed grasses, while a touch of lime green