

That Breathless feeling is a good thing in the summer landscape

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

It seems that it was just a couple of years ago that Diamond Frost euphorbia entered the gardening world and quickly swept every award. 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, although perhaps a little tighter in habit. Diamond Frost reaches about 18 inches tall and Breathless a little shorter, closer to 15 inches. The big difference is that Breathless

Blush gives gardeners a choice of colors.

It 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.

Like Diamond Frost, Breathless ruggedly performs in the landscape all summer. You also will adore its mounding habit in mixed containers. Diamond Frost has been used as the ideal filler type flower in open pockets, but the Breathless habit allows it to take on a slightly more prominent role, if desired.

The competition doesn't stop with the Breathless series; Hip Hop and



Breathless White complements this mixed container featuring Fiesta Pink Frost impatiens.

Whiten Manus also are making their debuts. Hip Hop is very similar to Diamond Frost in bloom and habit, but White Manus has shocked ev-

eryone with its pristine-white blossoms and giant structure.

White Manus is not only a prolific flower producer but also approaches 3 feet in height. It is a cloud of white all growing season. The euphorbia is an environmentally friendly addition to the landscape, drought-tolerant and virtually pest-free.

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 happily in your flower bed. If you have a soil more suitable for making bricks, incorporate 3 to 4 inches of organic matter, such as compost, humus or peat, to not only

loosen, but also improve drainage and aeration. Soggy wet soil is your enemy. Plant at the same depth in which they are growing in their container, 10 to 12 inches apart, even 14 inches, if you find the White Manus.

The white-flowered selections make great partners with Intensia phlox, such as Neon Pink, Orchid Blast or Cabernet.

The Breathless Blush combines well with pink-flowered selections of salvias and burgundy-leaved grasses, while adding a touch of a lime-green foliated plant, such as coleus or lamium, will add some extra zest.

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