

On Gardening

Pretty Princess is blushing with success

By NORMAN WINTER

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

After shocking the gardening world with a dazzling debut through the long, hot summer of 2009, Snow Princess lobularia has chalked up more than 130 awards.

Now, the new Proven Winners release of Blushing Princess is bringing distinctive blushes of lavender, offering gardeners even more options in the landscape or in mixed containers with petunias and verbenas. Other companies are introducing their own selections, many of which look impressive. Danzinger, a leading company from Israel, is introducing three new selections: White Stream, Summer Stream with hints of golden yellow, and Lavender Stream.

These plants are like having a sweet alyssum that blooms all summer. In 2009 when Snow Princess debuted, everyone was skeptical that a lobularia could survive a summer in Florida or anywhere else with torrid heat. At the time I was with Mississippi State Univer-

sity, and we planted ours in raised beds that were rich and fertile and watered with a drip-type system.

The beds were in full sun and surrounded with rocks, which gave off even more heat during the day and into the night. Yet they established quickly, filling out their allotted space and creating a blanket of snow flakes all summer.

As great as they are in the landscape, they are also unmatched in containers. It will take your breath away to see a blanket of white that seems suspended in air.

They work wonderfully in partnerships, too. I recently saw a dream of mixed container featuring three award-winning plants: Bouquet Rose Magic dianthus, Becky shasta daisy and the hot new Blushing Princess.

Blushing Princess also mixes well with Pink Caliente geraniums and burgundy-leaved coleus. In each case it was the Blushing Princess that gave the finishing touch.

Whether you choose Snow Princess, Blushing Princess or one of the Stream series, these new lob-



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Blushing Princess lobularia (front) makes a wonderful companion for Becky shasta daisy and pink dianthus.

ularia like plenty of light and fertile, well-drained soil. They will let you know when moisture is needed and usually respond to watering rather quickly. Any time they appear to have outgrown their boundary, give them a trim with a good pair of scissors.

With new plants like these lobularia showing up every year, there has never been a better time to be a gardener and to have fun creating mixed borders or containers.

