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## Varieties similar to Diamond Frost; Blush offers color choice

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Breathless White complements this elegant mixed container featuring Fiesta Pink Frost impatiens, Silver Falls dichondra and ivy. MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE PHOTO

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 in 2010.

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, and Breathless a little shorter, closer to 15 inches. The big difference, however, lies in the Breathless Blush, as this variety gives gardeners a choice in 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 20 to 24 inches.

Like Diamond Frost, they ruggedly perform in the landscape all summer. But don't limit them to just the landscape, you also will adore their mounding habit in mixed containers. While Diamond Frost has been used as the ideal filler-type flower in open pockets, the Breathless habit allows it to take on a slightly more prominent role if desired.

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

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

The euphorbia is an environmentally friendly addition to the landscape, drought-tolerant and virtually pest-free. By "pest free," you also can include deer, 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 flowerbed. If you have 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 soil is your enemy. Plant at the same depth they are growing in their container, 10 to 12 inches apart, even 14 inches if you find White Manaus.

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

No matter your choice of landscape style, the euphorbia will prove to be a terrific addition, offering nonstop flowers coupled with an interesting difference in texture.