



2018 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR: ALLIUM 'MILLENIUM'

The Perennial Plant Association has named *Allium* 'Millenium' as the 2018 Perennial Plant of the Year. This relative to the common onion is a workhorse in the late summer garden. Introduced in 2000, it has become a big hit with gardeners because of its masses of spherical, rose-purple blooms, uniform habit, and neat shiny green foliage that remains attractive all season.

'Millenium' (Yes, its registered name has only one "n".) has a lot going for it.

The dark green foliage is always attractive, and the 2" flower spheres are plentiful and last for four weeks late in the season, standing around 15" tall. It is extremely hardy to at least Zone 4, and probably into Zone 3. It seeds into the garden much less than most other *Allium* varieties, and cutting the plant back in the fall will reduce reseeding even further. The plant is a good grower and can be easily divided in spring or fall.

This fantastic sunny perennial is a butterfly magnet. It attracts pollinators, but is not bothered by deer and rabbits. Plant it in masses for an incredible show, or combine it with other late flowering plants such as *Solidago* 'Little Lemon', which is about the same height and which provides beautifully contrasting yellow blooms.

