



Phlox maculata

'Flower Power'

"Spotted Phlox"
(PPAF)

CARING AND SHARING - GARDEN BENEFITS AND CARE

Tall Phlox is a "backbone" plant of the sunny perennial border. No garden is complete without one, or preferably several, specimens anchoring the back of a traditional border or the center of an island bed. Spotted Phlox, though slightly shorter than the better-known *Phlox paniculata*, still fits the bill, with improved plant health and appearance to boot.

The bane of many older phlox varieties is powdery mildew. 'Flower Power' offers excellent mildew resistance, so nothing mars its multiple wands of subtly hued flowers rising gracefully over smooth green foliage.

From a few yards away, the flowers appear white. But as their light, delicious scent draws you close, they change, chameleon-like, to a pale glistening pink. Close inspection reveals delicate pink flecks on a cool white background.

Bloom Season & Habit. Elegantly erect habit, with tall flowers swaying in summer breezes. Bloom begins in July and runs through August.

Location. Plant in full sun to part shade. USDA Hardiness Zones 5 to 8. AHS Heat Zones 9 to 4.

Size. 42 inches tall by 32 inches wide. Plant one plant per square yard, or in clumps of three or more for a dramatic mass effect.

Culture. Plants will be at their best in well-drained soil with lots of organic matter and ample moisture. Allow good air circulation. *Phlox maculata* usually does not require staking. A hard cutback (about half the plant) will encourage rebloom in autumn.

KNOWING AND GROWING - TIPS FOR PRODUCERS

Phlox maculata is generally shorter, sturdier, earlier to flower and more resistant to powdery mildew than *Phlox paniculata*. (Note that even the best varieties in the trade are still described as "mildew-resistant," not "mildew-proof.") Space adequately for good air movement as plant canopy fills in. If available, drip irrigation is preferred. Like *Phlox paniculata*, 'Flower Power' is also a good cut flower.

Due to finished height, 'Flower Power' will look its best in larger pots. Pinch for fullness if the starter plant has not been pinched already. The vigorous, fibrous root system fills out quickly.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS - HISTORY AND COMPANION PLANTS

The specific epithet *maculata* means "spotted," and refers to the attractively mottled stems. All Phlox species are native to North America, but their beauty has made them a garden staple world wide. Good companions include *Achillea* 'Anthea', *Phlox paniculata* 'Shortwood', *Geranium* 'Rozanne' and *Coreopsis* 'Limerock Ruby'.

Bred by Darrell Probst, Hubbardston, Mass.

