

Plant of the Month: Brugmansia (Angel's Trumpet)

Some of you are asking, "Aren't they called Datura?" Well, they used to be. Some years ago it was decided that the species with upright pointing flowers would be called Datura, and those with pendant flowers would be called Brugmansia. A good decision, I think, because if you've ever compared the seed pods, you know they really aren't the same plant. Especially since blue and purple are the most common colors for Datura, but there are no blue or purple flowered Brugmansias. You may be surprised to learn, though, that just about every other color now exists, and so do many unusual forms.



Most gardeners are familiar with the fragrant, yellow trumpets that age to apricot (usually Charles Grimaldi), the less fragrant pale pink (several possible varieties), and perhaps the sometimes fragrant pure white. If you have a fragrant variety, you've probably noticed that there's no fragrance during the day. Brugmansias are pollinated

by moths and bats, so they begin producing their fragrance around sunset, and it continues throughout the night into early morning. Some varieties are sweeter than others, and some will perfume an entire yard. Charles Grimaldi has remained the favorite for many years for this reason.



Those ready for an adventure may want to consider some of the newer colors and forms available. Some are long trumpets, others flare open widely to reveal the throat, usually of a lighter color. The so-called double flowered angel's trumpets look like they have a flower growing out of another flower. Fantasma, or Shredded White, has abandoned the trumpet shape altogether, to become a bunch of petticoats. There are now deep pinks, oranges, reds, and lemon yellows that stay that way. Several varieties, such as Maya, have variegated foliage.



All angel's trumpets or small trees,

20 feet, depending on the regularity of frosts are heavy feeders, performing best in a rich, with regular water. I find the pinks will tolerate yellows. If you have pets or children that like keep in mind that Brugmansias are



grow as large shrubs topping out at 12 to and pruning. They moist soil in full sun, more shade than the to chew on foliage, poisonous.

I've included links to a couple of nurseries that have a large selection, just to give you a better idea of what's available. Enjoy!

<http://www.countrygdn.com/>

<http://www.fantastikgardens.com/trop-b2.html>