

Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'

garden phlox



'Jeana' is an exceptional garden phlox renowned for its impressive flower show, tall sturdy habit, and pollinator-friendliness. Dense, domed trusses crown stiff stems from midsummer to early fall. Individually, the fragrant lavender-pink flowers are significantly smaller than typical garden phlox — only about half an inch wide — but the show at peak is eye-popping, nonetheless. This is a case where bigger is not better, from a pollinator's perspective anyhow. In trials at Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware, the nectar-rich flowers of 'Jeana' attracted more butterflies — Eastern Tiger Swallowtails were especially plentiful — than any other garden phlox in their study. Hummingbirds and other pollinators are fans too.

Topped with flowers, 'Jeana' can reach five feet tall and four feet wide, although size will vary geographically. Its bright green leaves are highly resistant to powdery mildew, so 'Jeana' has a striking summer look with or without flowers.

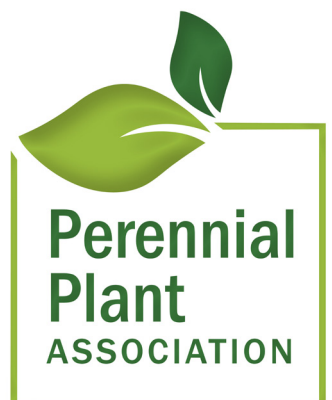
Tall garden phlox provide structure and color in summer gardens and are good bridging plants between early and later flowering perennials. 'Jeana' is at home in traditional borders and meadows and is a natural in pollinator gardens. Mix 'Jeana' with other tall perennials such as bluestars (*Amsonia*), Shasta daisies (*Leucanthemum ×superbum*), and switch grasses (*Panicum virgatum*). Or let its handsome foliage be the backdrop for shorter companions such as coneflowers (*Echinacea*), alliums (*Allium*), and woodland sages (*Salvia nemorosa*).

2024

Perennial Plant of the Year®

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Brochure content thanks to Richard Hawke, Chicago Botanic Garden; Jon Peter, Royal Botanical Gardens; Chris Fehlhaber, Chanticleer Garden; Paul Westervelt, Saunders Brothers; and Holly Scoggins, PhD, Saunders Genetics. Above photo: Holly Scoggins, Saunders Genetics.



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Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'

Hardiness

USDA Zones 3 to 8; Canadian Hardiness Zones 3 to 8;
AHS Heat Zones 4 to 9.

Light

Full sun; afternoon shade in hot climates.

Size

36-60 inches / 90-152 cm tall.
36-48 inches / 90-120 cm wide.

Origin

'Jeana' was discovered growing along the Harpeth River near Nashville, Tennessee and was named for its discoverer, Jeana Prewitt.

Soil

Moist, fertile, well-drained soils. Avoid dry conditions.

Maintenance

Divide clumps every 3-5 years in spring. Deadheading promotes continued bloom and prevents self-seeding, which can produce inferior seedlings. Powdery mildew and spider mites may be foliar problems in hot or dry conditions. Thinning out stems to improve air circulation may guard against mildew. Deer and rabbits can be pests.

Grower Notes

- Schedule similar to other *Phlox paniculata* cultivars.
- For early spring sales, best potted early fall and overwintered as slow to bulk in spring. Ensure better branching / fuller gallon with an early pinch on any pot with fewer than 3 shoots.
- Does not require vernalization to flower; pot in spring and summer for summer and fall sales, respectively. Late spring / early summer pruning results in bench-friendly bloom height.
- Grower-friendly: powdery mildew resistant with no special media, fertilizer, or water requirements for finishing!

About the Perennial Plant of the Year® (PPOY)

The program began in 1990 to showcase a perennial that is a standout among its competitors — the ORIGINAL Perennial Plant of the Year® award!

Perennials chosen for this honor are suitable for a wide range of growing climates, require low maintenance, have multiple-season interest, and are relatively pest/disease-free. The Perennial Plant Association's Board of Directors reviews the nominated perennials and selects three or four perennials to be placed on the ballot. PPA members vote each year for the PPOY three years forward and also nominate additional plants for next year's ballot.

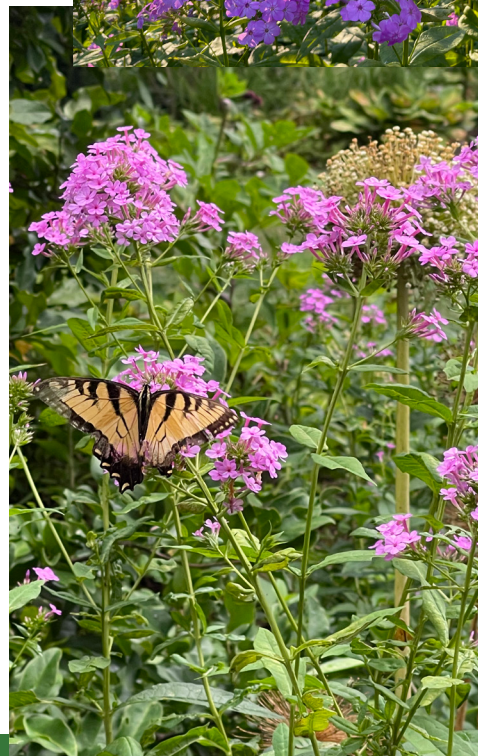


Photo credit: Chanticleer Gardens, by Chris Fehlhaber