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**2018 Perennial Plant of the Year®**  
***Allium 'Millenium'* - the butterfly magnet**

*Allium 'Millenium'* has numerous virtues to add to the landscape setting. Each plant typically produces an upright foliage clump of grass-like, glossy deep green leaves reaching 10-15" tall in spring. In midsummer, two to three flower scapes rise above the foliage with each scape producing two or three showy two-inch spherical umbels of rose-purple florets that last as long as four weeks. The flower umbels are completely round (spherical), not domed or hemispherical as they are in some *Allium* species. They dry to a light tan -- often holding a blush of their former rose-purple color. While other alliums can look scraggly in the heat of the summer, 'Millenium' does not let the heat bother it! Easily grown in zones 4-9 (possibly zone 3) makes it a great perennial in many areas of the country. In very hot summer climates, it does appreciate afternoon shade.

Leaf spot may occur in overcrowded growing conditions. Alliums are sometimes avoided due to their reseeding behavior. Fortunately, 'Millenium' exhibits 50% reduced seed production, raising less concern for self-sown seedlings. *Allium 'Millenium'* has a fibrous root structure, forming an ornamental herbaceous clump easily propagated by division. Once in the garden, 'Millenium' can easily be lifted and divided in either spring or fall. Cut back foliage in late fall.

Butterflies and bees will thank you for adding 'Millenium' to your garden. Pair with shorter goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.) -- such as 'Little Lemon' -- that reaches one and a half feet tall. Goldenrods are late summer pollinator magnets that will offer beautiful contrasting golden yellow blooms. Another late summer re-blooming companion perennial to consider is *Oenothera fremontii* 'Shimmer' with its low-growing silvery foliage adorned daily with large yellow flowers that open in late afternoon and fade to an apricot color by morning.

Blooming at a time when most of our garden begins to decline in the tired excess of the season, 'Millenium' offers much-needed color and interest going into the fall.



**Light:** *Allium 'Millenium'* grows best in full sun. In very hot climates, partial shade may be best.

**Soil:** Grows best in well-drained soils.

**Uses:** *Allium 'Millenium'* is a perfect selection for full-sun gardens where its sleek structure can complement many other growth habits. Cut flowers retain a blush of their summer color.

**Unique Qualities:** *Allium 'Millenium'* is a butterfly magnet. The plant is interesting through multiple seasons for both foliage and large, gorgeous blooms. Reseeding is much less a problem than with other alliums.

**Maintenance:** *Allium 'Millenium'* is subject to no serious insect or disease problems, and deer and rabbits usually avoid it.

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