

# Kartuz Greenhouses

## Achimenes, xAchimenantha & xSmithicodonia Rhizomes

Available March through April 2023

Common names for Achimenes: Magic Flowers, Cupid's Bower or Hot Water Plant (so named, because in the 1800's, gardeners believed incorrectly that soaking in hot water was necessary to break dormancy).

Achimenes and related hybrids, members of the Gesneriaceae, are native to Mexico and Central America. Their flowers are available in almost every shade imaginable. They are easily grown from small scaly rhizomes planted in the spring. We offer rhizomes during the spring months only, February through April. Five rhizomes will make an excellent 5 to 6 inch pot specimen.

To plant Achimenes rhizomes, use an azalea pot, and fill with a light, porous potting mix. Plant the rhizomes horizontally, spacing them evenly around the pot. Cover them with about one inch of the potting mix and water thoroughly. Then, water sparingly until they sprout. When rhizomes have sprouted and have three pairs of leaves, pinch out the tip growth to encourage branching. This pinching should be done at least twice to produce greater bloom, and will delay flowering only slightly. Keep plants well watered during the growing season and fertilize regularly. Provide strong filtered light to produce compact plants with plenty of flowers. They love warm and humid weather conditions.

When Achimenes have finished flowering in the fall, they should be allowed to die back naturally by gradually withholding water. When plants show signs of yellowing, it's an indication of the start of dormancy. The dormant rhizomes may be stored in the pot or harvested from the potting mix and stored in partially open containers or plastic bags in dry vermiculite or peatmoss. Keep cool. In the spring replant in fresh potting mix, as above.

**A. 'Aphrodite'** (Himalayan Gardens, UK) - A rare tricolor variety with large 2.75" white flowers, pale lavender shading mostly at edges, and small yellow spot in center. Plant grows upright to 8 inches high.

**A. 'Bernice'** (Lane) - Large pinkish-purple flowers with fuchsia colored mid-veins on the petals. Erect stems.

**A. 'Caligula'** (Worley) - Large velvety currant red flowers, trailing.

**A. 'Cascade Evening Glow'** (Michelssen) - Large bright salmon-pink, trailing.

**A. 'Claret'** - Large dark purple-violet flowers with brown spotted yellow throat. Erect form.

**A. 'Coral Cameo'** - Dark foliage with small coral-red flower, dark spotted throat.

**A. 'Dale Martens'** (Saliba) - Dark pink single or semi-double flowers with darker dots and splashes in yellow eye.

**A. 'Dot'** - Small light pink flowers with deep rose-pink netted eye. Trailing with a huge cascade of blooms. The name does not do it justice.

**A. dulcis** - Species with medium-sized bell-shaped white flowers with a yellow throat. Native to Mexico.

**A. 'Electra'** (Lane) - Medium-sized blue-purple flowers with contrasting dark purple freckles in the yellow eye. Bronze foliage with burgundy reverse.

**A. 'Golden Butterfly'** (Saliba) - Medium-sized semi-double flowers with golden yellow interior fading to white, edges a light pink. Very compact shape, stems erect, and an excellent bloomer.

**A. 'Habenera'** (Michelssen) - Large bright orange-red, brown spotting on small yellow center spot. Erect, compact plant.

**A. 'Harvey'** (Syn.: A. 'Shirley', 'Fireglow', 'Burnt Orange') - Unknown origin, probably a hybrid or variation of Achimenes erecta. Abundant blooms of small orange flowers on compact plant with narrow leaves.

**A. 'Hughes Aufray'** (Saliba) - NEW! Compact growth with beautiful medium-sized bright yellow flowers edged with purple. Erect stems.

**A. 'India'** (Michelssen) - Large flat deep violet-blue flowers, dark foliage. Easy to grow, upright plant, heavy bloomer. Serge Saliba states that this is a perfect Achimenes.

**A. 'Jewel Pink'** (Lyon) - Trailing with free flowering bright pink flowers.

**A. 'Jubilee Gem'** - Rosy purple, vigorous, upright.

**A. 'Mauve Delight'** - Large pale lavender blooms with yellow spot at bottom of throat. Green leaves, burgundy reverse. Fine for baskets.

**A. 'Paul Arnold'** (Van Tubergen) - Large violet-purple blooms, upright.

**A. 'Platinum'** (Lane) - Large white with pale blue edges, trailing.

**A. 'Purple Queen'** - Large rosy purple flowers with a white spot in the center with dots and dashes. Green leaves, erect.

**A. 'Rosy Doll'** - Large bright pink, dark eye, compact.

**A. 'Rumpelstilzchen'** (Michelssen) - Bright pink flowers, compact.

**A. 'Sauline'** (Saliba) - NEW! Medium-sized yellow flowers sport a fuzzy wide pink border. The lobes are ruffled and finely toothed. Medium green leaves on upright plant.

**A. 'Snowetta'** (Saliba) - A mini plant with thumb-sized abundant white blossoms with a narrow purple rim. Center with a bright yellow spot dappled with dark brown spots and dashes. Excels in direct morning sun.

**A. 'Summer Festival'** (Easterbrook) - Large strong pink flowers with throat dark spotted and edged with a purple halo. Dark green leaves, burgundy reverse. Erect.

**A. 'Tango'** - Large rosy pink with small yellow spot in center. Dark green leaves, burgundy reverse. Erect.

**A. 'Tarantella'** (Michelssen) - Large salmon-pink. Compact, dark leaves.

**A. 'Tetra Altrote Charm'** - Large coral-red flowers with a yellow spot in the center that is dotted with brown.

**A. 'Tetra Coral Charm'** - Large coral-red blooms, compact.

**A. 'Tetra Meissner Porzellan'** (Michelssen) - Large light pink flowers like porcelain, patch of yellow at center, green leaves, pinkish underneath, compact.

**A. 'Violaceae Semi-Plena'** - Old Victorian variety from the 19th century with medium small semi-double bright purple flowers. Leaves dark green with burgundy reverse. Upright shoots, eventually drooping.

**A. 'Vivid'** - Mid-sized bright magenta flowers, with yellow spot and brown specks at the throat. Green leaves. Trailing.

#### **Interspecific and Intergeneric Hybrids:**

**xAchimenantha Golden Jubilee** (Martens) - Pinkish salmon flowers, dark green leaves, reddish reverse.

**xAchimenantha 'Himalayan Sunrise'** (Himalayan Gardens, UK) - Very large flowering hybrid with a unique lemon yellow color. Upright growing 6 to 8 inches high. A cross between Achimenes and Smithiana, but looks like an Achimenes with hybrid vigor.

**xAchimenantha 'Pisces'** (Mossip) - Large deep purple flowers with yellow spot and reddish-brown specks at the throat. Dark green leaves, sturdy, upright plant.

**xSmithicodonia 'Heartland's Joy'** - Tubular deep purple flowers with reddish stems.

**Achimenes are sent in plastic snack bags for shipment. The rhizomes should be planted right away, even if indoors. If they must be stored, you need to permanently open the bags and let them get fresh air and keep them in a cool location. If left sealed and with warmth they could rot.**

### **Achimenes, xAchimenantha & xSmithicodonia Rhizomes**

**Available March through April only**

Note: Some varieties are always in short supply. We will substitute equally good varieties of similar color and type unless a choice of substitutes is given.

**Package of 5 rhizomes per variety: \$12.95**

Shipping and handling is \$10.00 plus \$1.00 for each rhizome package or plant ordered. Rhizomes can be combined with plants to help offset shipping costs. California residents add 7.75% sales tax. We offer Achimenes as rhizomes only, not potted plants.

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