



Floragem 3742 Blue Bird Canyon Rd, Vista, California 92084 USA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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With apologies to Kermit - it is easy to be green – and green & gold and green & white!

Vista, California — The latest and greatest in landscape and home owner ground covers has joined the VIVA! program, sold exclusively through The Home Depot. Liriope is a traditional southern plant that has quickly moved to Northern and Midwestern gardens. Two great new introductions into VIVA! in 2007 are *Liriope muscari* ‘Marc Anthony’ and ‘Cleopatra’.

“The breeder was looking for plants that had great foliage color, longer flowering and, as a breakthrough, are winter hardy all the way to zone 5, comments Ray French, product manager for Floragem. French continues, “I have looked at Liriope varieties for many years and we have never seen one take the heat of the south and the cold of the north as well as these two exceptional cultivars.” ‘Cleopatra’ is a dark green variety while ‘Marc Anthony’ has variegated foliage that has 3 hues – starting green and gold then turning green and white as the leaves mature.

What makes these plants unique is their winter hardiness into areas where Liriope has not been utilized. A tough and reliable landscape plant Liriope is used as a perennial ground cover, used in mass planting situations and works well as an accent plant in container plantings.

Traditionally zone 7 was as far north as Liriope was seen but ‘Cleopatra’ and ‘Marc Anthony’ will push as far north as zone 5.

Blue flowers in summer, tolerant to a wide range of soil conditions, these are tough plants that will perform for consumers and landscape professionals alike.

The VIVA! program introduces a variety of new and noteworthy flower varieties into the US and Canadian markets and contains a mixture of annuals, perennial and woody ‘color’ for use in home landscapes by home gardeners or landscapers. By looking at new flower breeding from around the world VIVA! and The Home Depot bring innovative new garden ideas to homeowners from coast to coast.

Floragem is a horticultural marketing company that works with The Home Depot on the VIVA! collection of flowers, grown by the Floragem grower network and sold exclusively to The Home Depot. Consumer information on VIVA! plants is available at www.vivagarden.com or to the press in the press room of www.floragem.com.

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