

New Star-of-Bethlehem Plants

Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

The Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit of the USDA's National Arboretum developed the first potted-plant types of Star-of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum*). Dr. Robert Griesbach led the Government/Industry/University team. A Trust Agreement was established between the Industry, Government and University. In this Agreement, Industry supplied funds for the University to collect germ plasm which was then used in breeding by the U.S. Government. A series of cultivars with different

flower colors were created and were each granted a U.S. Plant Patent and Australian Plant Breeders Rights ('Chesapeake Blaze', 'Chesapeake Starlight', 'Chesapeake Sunset', 'Chesapeake Snowflake', and 'Chesapeake Sunburst'). In order to propagate these plants on the large scale required for commercialization, new tissue cultures methods were developed and transferred to commercial laboratories in the United States, Europe and Australia. These hybrids were first sold at the retail level in 2005 within the United States, Europe and Australia and are expected to become a major floral potted plant. It is estimated that the total market value to the floral industry world-wide could be \$30 million per year.

Primary Contact: Dr. Robert J. Griesbach, Research Geneticist, Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit, U.S. National Arboretum, USDA, ARS, BARC, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Bldg. 010A, Beltsville, MD 20705-2350, Phone: 301-504-6574, Fax: 301-504-5096, E-mail: rob.griesbach@usda.gov

	FLC Representative Making Nomination	Nominee(s)' Supervisor	ORTA Representative Technology Transfer Program Manager	Lab Director
Name:	Harry D. Danforth	John Hammond	Richard Brenner	Phyllis Johnson
Address:	USDA-ARS-BA Bldg. 003, Rm. 208 10300 Baltimore Ave.	USDA-ARS-BA Bldg. 010A 10300 Baltimore Ave.	ARS-OTT GWCC 4-1156 5601 Sunnyside	USDA-ARS-BA Bldg. 003, Rm 223 10300 Baltimore Ave.
City:	Beltsville	Beltsville	Beltsville	Beltsville
State/Zip:	MD 20705-2350	MD 20705-2350	MD 20705-5131	Maryland 20705-2350
Phone:	301-504-6421	301-504-0630	301-504-6905	301-504-6078
Fax:	301-504-6001	301-504-0632	301-504-5060	301-504-6001
E-mail	Danforthh@ba.ars.usda.gov	hammondj@ba.ars.usda.gov	Richard.brenner@nps.ars.usda.gov	johnsonp@ba.ars.usda.gov