



Thompson & Morgan
Experts in the Garden Since 1855

Press Release

First Black Dahlia from Seed after Ten Years of Breeding

The interest in plants for borders or containers that grow with black foliage or blooms is a trend that increases year on year. Thompson & Morgan is always on the lookout for exciting new black varieties to add to the usual assortment already available to gardeners.

But, this year a stunning new variety has been discovered much more close to home, courtesy of Thompson & Morgan's flower breeders. The Dahlia Breeding Programme has been in place at Thompson & Morgan's breeding site for a number of years. It has been responsible for introducing popular varieties like Dahlia 'Double Extreme' and Dahlia 'Fireworks'. After ten years in the making Thompson & Morgan is delighted to unveil **New and World Exclusive 2009 Dahlia 'Black Beauty'** (*Dahlia variabilis* 'Black Beauty'), the darkest coloured dahlia available from seed.

Dahlia 'Black Beauty' is the deepest shade of red, which appears almost black when its flowers are enriched by the summer sunshine. These unique dark blooms are each enhanced by a central golden disk, making them stand out as they sit aloft the rich green foliage. As **Dahlia 'Black Beauty'** grows to 45-60cm (18-24in) in height it is ideal for adding some height towards the middle of annual borders or as a feature plant in large patio containers.

Dahlias can be sown from February to April under glass or on a warm windowsill, producing plants ready for planting out towards the end of May that will flower all summer through to the autumn.

Dahlia 'Black Beauty' £1.99 for 50 seeds.



Dahlia 'Black Beauty'



Ophiopogon p. 'Nigrescens'

For 2009 Thompson & Morgan is also introducing another much sought after and enchanting black plant, **Ophiopogon planiscapus**

'Nigrescens'. More commonly known as the Black Grass, this is rarely offered as seed. It is ideal for creating a spectacular feature plant in borders or containers, and grows to 15-30cm (6-12in) in height.

Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens' £3.99 for 10 seeds.

To place an order call the order line: 01473 695225 or order online at www.thompson-morgan.com/seeds. To request a free copy of the 2009 Thompson & Morgan Seed Catalogue call 01473 695224 quoting PRS9.

To locate your nearest Thompson & Morgan stockist call: 01473 688821 or visit our website.

For further information, reader offers or image requests please contact:

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