



plant potential

FOR THE PROFESSIONAL GROWER



Cyclamen in the Landscape

By Don Snow, Technical Specialist Manager, Syngenta Flowers

More landscapers, especially in southern and coastal climates, who are not subject to extended freezing periods, are moving to cyclamen for landscape installations. There are many reasons for this: First, cyclamen exhibit an air of sophistication unlike any other bedding crop. Second, their mounding growth habit requires little to no maintenance. Finally, because of their longevity, many landscapers find them more economical than other flowering plants for installations as it's sometimes possible for the landscaper to eliminate a turn, saving on labor and plant material in the long run.

Intermediate-sized varieties of cyclamen, such as Laser™ and Canto™, are the most popular types used in landscapes. These varieties are a hybrid cross between miniature and standard sizes, which creates a synergy that makes the plants sturdier in the garden and more tolerant of adverse weather conditions than other classes of cyclamen. Standard types such as Sierra™, with larger blooms and a larger plant habit than the intermediates are becoming popular for landscapers looking for more visual impact.

Cyclamen prefer cool temperatures between 55°F to 75°F, but tolerate temperatures as low as 30°F and as high as 85°F if planted in a protected area. In naturally cool areas, such as coastal regions, they can be planted in full sun, but normally are best suited to shady areas protected from environmental extremes. In areas that experience hard freezes, extend their longevity by planting them in a protected area near a building. In areas that experience mild winters but warm up in early spring, they are best planted in a landscape protected from the afternoon sun. Like most flowering plants, cyclamen prefer well-drained soil.

Consider running a small promotion of Laser, Canto or Sierra with your landscape customers. With proper education, both growers and landscapers enjoy the success and profit this beautiful plant yields.

[Click here for more culture information on cyclamen.](#)