

ABELIA ‘Mardi Gras’

Origin: Discovered by nurseryman Rick Crowder of North Carolina

Species: *Abelia grandiflora* x *chinensis*

Protection Status: US Plant Patent # 15,203

Characteristics:

‘**Mardi Gras**’ arose as a variegated sport from a seedling that originated from Dr. Mike Dirr’s interspecific *Abelia grandiflora* x *chinensis* cross. The traits that characterize ‘**Mardi Gras**’ as a distinct and unique variety are its variegated foliage, pink-white flowers, red-bronze stems, compact form, and low-growing habit. Great as a foundation plant or mass planting, its unique foliage also makes it an excellent focal point in the garden. Range of coloration varies depending on the amount of sun and shade, but ‘**Mardi Gras**’ always maintains variegation and pushes new growth with attractive pink tips. ‘**Mardi Gras**’ has been found to resist photo-bleaching in southern Georgia.

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6 to Zone 9

Bloom: Dark pink buds open to light pink flowers which fade to white.

Foliage: Leaves are variegated, green with white margins. New shoot growth is pink.

Habit: Mounding and compact at 2’ to 2.5’ tall and spreading up to 5’ wide.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings. *License required for propagation.*

Culture: Similar to other *Abelia* on the market, part shade is best.

