

# CHICAGOLAND GROWS<sup>®</sup>, INC.

*Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #27*

## **Pink Cotton Candy Betony**

*Stachys officinalis* 'Pink Cotton Candy' US PPAF

'Pink Cotton Candy' features two-toned dark and light pink flowers, resulting in an overall vibrant bright pink floral display. Flowers are copiously produced for eight weeks from late June to late August (USDA Zone 5) on 12-inch upright inflorescences against a backdrop of attractive deep green foliage. This vigorous and easy-to-grow selection was discovered at the Chicago Botanic Garden.



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# Pink Cotton Candy Betony

*Stachys officinalis* 'Pink Cotton Candy' US PPAF

## Botanical Name

*Stachys officinalis* 'Pink Cotton Candy' US PPAF

## Common Name

Pink Cotton Candy betony

## Family

Lamiaceae (Mint family)

## Origin

'Pink Cotton Candy' was discovered in July 2002 by Richard Hawke, plant evaluation manager at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois, as an open-pollinated seedling in the evaluation garden. The parents of this new cultivar are unknown; however, 'Pink Cotton Candy' was discovered growing between plants of *Stachys officinalis*, *S. officinalis* 'Alba' and *S. officinalis* 'Rosea'.

## Hardiness

USDA Zones 4-8

## Bloom Season

This selection blooms copiously for eight weeks from late June to late August in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5).

## Plant Habit

Plants form robust, dense mounds of deep green, rugose (wrinkled) foliage with upright flowering stems arising above the foliage.

## Plant Size

Mature plants are 22 inches tall and 22 inches wide.

## Growth Rate

'Pink Cotton Candy' has a moderate growth rate, reaching mature size in three years.

## Pest and Disease Problems

None known.

## Noteworthy Characteristics

'Pink Cotton Candy' produces two-toned flowers that are bright pink on the lower lip and lighter pink in color on the upper lip of the petals. The flowers age to a lighter pink color, with the combination of newly opened flowers and fading flowers imparting a further two-tone effect to the inflorescences. Flowers are produced on 12-inch upright inflorescences against a backdrop of attractive deep green foliage. The compact habit, upright stems, copious bloom, and deep green foliage make this selection unique in comparison to other betony selections, such as *S. officinalis* 'Hummelo' with its rose-lavender flowers on taller stems, *S. officinalis* 'Alba' with its white flowers, and *S. officinalis* 'Rosea' with pink flowers that often fade to white or appear washed out in strong sunlight.

## Culture

This low-maintenance perennial prefers moist, well-drained soil in full sun. Light shade, especially in hotter climates, is acceptable. It is adaptable to soil type and pH. Established plants are moderately drought tolerant. Plants form dense clumps over time. Space plants 12 inches to 18 inches apart for use as a ground cover. Maintenance is limited to deadheading after the blossoms are spent.

## Landscape Value

This attractive selection makes a wonderful addition to the perennial border, cottage garden, or open woodland garden, or when massed as a border edge plant or ground cover. Its durability lends it to low-maintenance landscapes.

## Propagation

Propagate by division of the creeping stems almost any time of the year, or by stem cuttings when not in bloom. Plants propagated from seed will not be true to type.

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The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.

