May Hort Report

Today I have brought five different Pulmonaria leaves, and one clump of flowers from Pulmonaria ‘Cotton Cool’ which blooms later than the other varieties. Most varieties bloom from March thru April, but ‘Cotton Cool’ blooms from April thru May. I love this plant because it’s one of the earliest bloomers in my yard, and after the blooms fade, I still have these beautiful mottled or spotted leaves. They really light up the shade garden. The leaves are quite small when the plant is blooming, so the blossoms really stand out. Most blossoms start out pink, and then turn blue, so both colors are visible at the same time on each stem. This is another cool feature of this deciduous perennial. The leaves grow from 8 to 12 inches, forming a ground-covering mat up to 24 inches wide. The plants multiply by creeping roots. New plantings need to be watered regularly, but after they’re established, they only need to be watered when they droop from too much heat and/or sun. The well-spotted leaf is P. ‘Raspberry Splash’; its blossoms keep their beautiful raspberry color. P. ‘Cotton Cool’ was purchased for the 2014 Philadelphia Flower Show, but didn’t look good enough to use in our exhibit. There is very little mottling on the almost silver leaves, but there is more on the small leaves on the flower stem. These other three leaves, all of which are slightly different, are from P. longifolia ‘Roy Davidson’, P. ‘Trevi Fountain’, and P. ‘Gaelic Magic’. I wasn’t always careful about keeping track of what variety was which! I do cut away the few dead leaves that are still hanging on in March, but besides that, it is a very low maintenance, beautiful ground cover for shade.

Horticulture - Sunny McGeorge reported on *Pulmonaria* a deciduous perennial with beautiful blue and pink flowers, showy leaves. It is a shade lover and likes moist, well-drained soil. Keep new plantings watered. Only 8-12 inches tall, it spreads up to 24 inches by creeping roots. Great ground cover. Deer resistant. Most bloom pink and turn blue- both colors at once visible. P. ‘Raspberry Splash’ is raspberry colored and stays. Most varieties bloom March –April but “Cotton Cool” is April thru May. ‘Cotton Cool’ was purchased for the 2014 Philadelphia Flower Show, but didn’t look good enough to use. Very little green mottling on mature leaves, more on the small leaves on the flower stem. She also has P. longifolia ‘Roy Davidson’, ‘Trevi Fountain’, and ‘Gaelic Magic’. She said she wasn’t always as careful with noting what was what. Sunny said to take the red cannas which did not make it to the plant sale. Loosen soil, put down with roots down, tips up, cover lightly with compost or soil, mulch lightly, water well, plant thickly. Don’t water regularly until there is growth or they could rot. FULL SUN! about 8’ tall.