

## **New Superstar - Lowrey's Legacy Cenizo**

Our Texas Superstar program contains some real winners when it comes to dealing with Texas heat and drought. A new addition to the "Superstar" program, Lowrey's Legacy Cenizo, is a sage that not only is extremely colorful, but it cycles in and out of bloom frequently.

"A lot of cenizos will have a flush and bloom in the spring and then kind of sputter — just a little display of flowers until the fall," said Paul Cox, formerly with San Antonio Botanical Gardens and a lifelong friend of the legendary Texas horticulturist, Lynn Lowrey, after whom the plant is named.

"When Lowrey's Legacy blooms you literally can't see the plant because the flowers cover all of it," said Cox, now retired after 32 years with the gardens.

Lowrey's Legacy Cenizo's has a lilac blue flower that is probably some of the largest and most attractive blooms of any Texas sage on the market. It is beautiful, drought resistant, and it will quickly become a "must have" plant for hummingbirds.

Texas Superstar plants undergo extensive tests at Overton, Lubbock, San Antonio and College Station by Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension Service horticulturists. "To be a Superstar, a plant must not just be beautiful but also perform well for consumers and growers throughout Texas. Superstars must also be easy to propagate, which should ensure the plants are widely available throughout Texas and are reasonably priced," said Dr. Brent Pemberton, Director of AgriLife Research at Overton and Director of the Superstar program.

And, naming the species a Texas Superstar also serves to honor one of the most well-known and best-liked horticulturists in Texas, Lynn Lowrey. Lowrey traveled throughout the southwest and Mexico in search of plants that could take on our Texas heat. One of his goals was to develop a "comprehensive collection" of native plants and he devoted his life's work to that endeavor.

Lowrey passed away in 1997, but he left a great legacy of plant introductions to our nursery trade including, Montezuma cypress, Monterrey oak and Basham's Party Pink crape myrtle, just to name a few.

"The Lowrey's Legacy Cenizo has a natural size of 4 to 5 feet tall and a similar width, which makes for a dense, well-rounded and shapely form," Pemberton added. "The plant does not develop that 'leggy' appearance many Texas cenizo sages develop over-time."

To learn more about the Texas Superstar program visit <http://texassuperstar.com>. This program is supported state-wide by your local Lowe's stores. When you purchase a plant marked with a Texas Superstar tag, that means it tested by Texas A & M University and it was produced by a Texas grower. With each plant purchase a few pennies go to support us and the research we do to help Texans improve Texas.

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