

VALE'S GREENHOUSE



Quality Plants For The Chinook Zone

301 – 3rd St. N.W., Black Diamond, Alberta

933-4814

PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR 2013

Polygonatum odoratum 'Variegatum' Variegated Solomon's Seal

Every year the Perennial Plant Association sends each member a ballot to select a Perennial Plant of The Year. These plants tend not to be new introductions to the garden world, but plants that have been tested and thus proven worthy for nomination. They need to be suitable for a wide range of climatic zones. The plant chosen must be low maintenance, relatively pest free, and disease resistant. It must have multiple seasons of ornamental interest and be readily available for the year of promotion. After the selection the plant is promoted all across Canada and continental U.S.A.

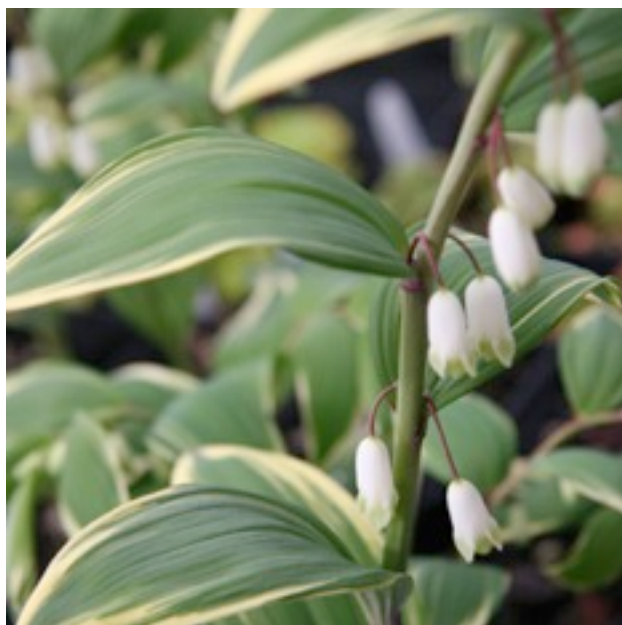


“And who is the Perennial Plant Association,” you might ask? Mostly, it is a large group of greenhouse growers, retailers, landscapers, horticultural teachers, and “plant geeks” that work in our huge industry. The membership is large, and people join from all around the world meet once a year at a annual convention. Here, we listen to speakers, tour greenhouses and nurseries, have a trade show, and in general find out what the others in the industry are up to.

It began in 1990, when the first Plant of the Year was *Phlox stolonifera*. Next was *Heuchera micrantha* “Palace Purple” and from that time on each year another perennial was picked and promoted. Variegated Solomon's Seal was chosen for the 2013 season.

Polygonatum odoratum Variegatum is commonly called Solomon's Seal, and is a close relative to the Lily-of-the-Valley, and was formerly assigned to the same genus. Another beautiful woodland plant that loves to grow in dappled light and moist soil with burgundy stems that support narrow, oval leaves of green that are streaked with pure white. Standing 2 to 3 feet tall this plant gives tremendous foliage appeal and a unique architectural flair to the shady garden. This graceful arching plant bears fragrant

creamy-white, bell-shaped flowers that appear in late June. The flowers form in pairs and dangle off the stems like ballerina slippers and have a lily-like fragrance that fills the garden with scent in the evening. The creamy edges of the leaves glow in soft light and are easily combined with a wide range of other shade lovers including ferns, hostas, and mertensia.



The origin of the common English name of the plant is variously given. Most likely it comes from the flat, round scars on the rootstocks, resembling the impressions of the Seal of Solomon, the “Star of David”. The thumb-sized horizontal rhizomes are just below the ground. In the spring, delicate pink buds emerge, it is then that each rhizome can easily be divided to create new plants which will look great from spring until it turns bright yellow as it goes dormant in fall. This is one of the finest and easiest-to-grow shade perennials anywhere!

For more information on the Perennial Plant Association and past Selections for the Perennial Plant of the Year, check their web site at www.perennialplant.org.