

ABELIA 'Kaleidoscope'

Origin: Selected in North Carolina from a plant of *Abelia* 'Little Richard.'

Species: *Abelia grandiflora*

Protection Status: US Plant Patent # 16,988; COPF Open

Characteristics:

For years the industry has waited for a stable, variegated, durable, compact abelia. Spotted as a sport on the well known *Abelia* x *grandiflora* 'Little Richard' and nursed until stable, '**Kaleidoscope**' carries forth all the wonderful attributes of its parent: dense growth and high winter leaf retention. The real attraction of '**Kaleidoscope**' is the dynamic color it brings to the garden. Changing color from a wonderful gold margin in spring, intensifying through summer and bursting into harvest colors of red, orange, yellow, and green for late fall and winter, there is little more to ask for from an abelia.

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6 to Zone 9

Bloom: Light pink buds open to small, white tubular flowers, which persist into fall.

Foliage: Leaves are variegated and emerge bright yellow with a light green center in the spring, then gradually change to golden yellow with a green center in the summer. Fall foliage is a combination of golden yellows, bright oranges and fiery reds. Foliage does not scorch or bleach in full sun. Stem color of new growth is bright red.

Habit: Low, mounded, compact, extremely dense. 2' to 2 ½' tall by 3' to 3 ½' wide.

Propagation: Roots easily from softwood cuttings. *License required for propagation.*

Culture: Best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Requires little or no pruning. High fertility increases foliage retention in the winter. Prefers acidic, well-drained, moist soil; dislikes heavy poorly drained soil and extremely high pH.

Use: Excellent plant for containers or as a low accent plant in the garden and for mass planting.



Spring/Summer



Fall in North Carolina