



First Editions® Delta Blues™
Chastetree *Vitex agnus-castus*
'PIIVAC-I' PP25,914



First Editions® Galactic Pink®
Chastetree *Vitex agnus-castus*
'Bailtextwo' PP30,852



First Editions® Queen Bee®
Chastetree *Vitex agnus-castus*
'Bailtextthree' PP35,259



First Editions® Violet Mist®
Chastetree *Vitex agnus-castus*
'Bailtextfour' PP36,066

Following several years of trials, we've confirmed that the following First Editions® selections of *Vitex agnus-castus* are more cold hardy than originally estimated. As a result, their USDA hardiness rating is being updated from Zone 6 to Zone 5.

TRIAL DATA:

Delta Blues™: Two winters in Onarga, IL (-15°F to -20°F).

Galactic Pink®: Four winters in Bloomington, MN (-12°F to -22°F).

Queen Bee®: Three winters in Onarga, IL (-10°F - 18°F), two in Cottage Grove, MN (-15°F - 24°F).

Violet Mist®: Two winters in Onarga, IL (-10°F to -15°F), one in Cottage Grove, MN (-15°F).

With this updated hardiness rating, here's what you need to know to confidently sell these plants in Zone 5 and cold Zone 6:

- These are dieback shrubs, similar to butterfly bush, sprouting from the crown or partway up the stems depending on winter conditions.
- As dieback shrubs, they will generally regrow to the lower end of their mature size once established.
- Like warm-season perennials, they are slow to emerge in spring but grow quickly once temperatures remain consistently warm.
- By mid-summer, flowers will emerge. With a long, warm growing season, you may see rebloom if deadheaded.
- They are sensitive to poor drainage, especially in winter.
- There is precedent for listing chastetree as Zone 5 hardy, with at least three competitive varieties already marketed as crown-hardy in this region.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING:

David McKinney | Curator of Collections and Grounds-Iowa Arboretum

"I've been incredibly impressed by both the hardiness and vigor of these *Vitex* that we have been treating as die-back shrubs for a couple years. Once warm weather returns, they spring back to life and become handsome plants with attractive, dense foliage. The flowers are hard to miss when they blanket the plant, bringing swarms of pollinators with them. These *Vitex* draw a lot of attention from both our evaluators and the general public".

David Stevens | Curator on Longenecker Gardens-UW-Madison

"I believe that *Vitex* as a dieback shrub has great potential consumer appeal here in the upper Midwest. It is a pollinator magnet and blooms coincide with Monarch migration. Blooming in late summer till frost, it really draws our visitors' attention. I routinely highlight the genus in my presentations and people are very intrigued. I definitely rate it above *Buddleia* for our zone".