



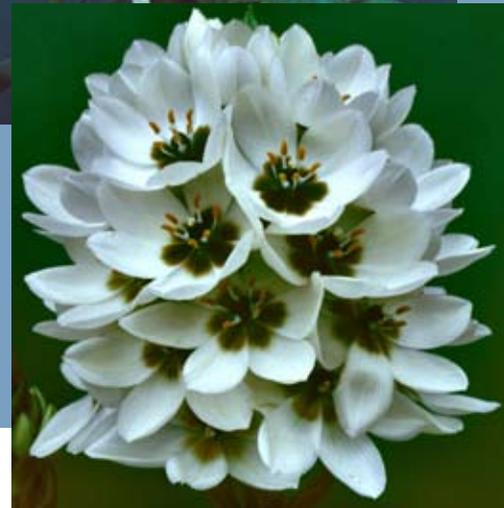
U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction

Ornithogalum 'Chesapeake Starlight' and 'Chesapeake Snowflake'

The U.S. National Arboretum announces the release of two chic new *Ornithogalum* hybrids, 'Chesapeake Starlight' and 'Chesapeake Snowflake'. Capturing both the beautiful and basic of the white flower, these introductions bear dense heads of pure white flowers on strong flower scapes. Designed for cut flowers or containers, these two selections will be useful additions to the garden or floral design palette indoors or out.



'Chesapeake Starlight'



'Chesapeake Snowflake'



Chesapeake Series Star-of-Bethlehem

Botanical Name: *Ornithogalum* 'Chesapeake Starlight' (PP 12,850)
Ornithogalum 'Chesapeake Snowflake' (PP 13,200)

Family: Liliaceae

Hardiness: U.S.D.A. Zones 9

Development: The Chesapeake Series was jointly created by Robert J. Griesbach of USNA and the late Fred Meyer of New World Plants as a new line of potted and cutflower plants. 'Snowflake' and 'Starlight' were derived from a South African cultivar, *O. thyrsoides* 'Bok Bay', with an unusually dense head of large white flowers. A backcross breeding program produced short- and long-stemmed forms. U.S. Plant Patents issued. Officially registered with the Royal General Bulb Grower's Association in The Netherlands.

Significance: 'Chesapeake Starlight' and 'Chesapeake Snowflake' are the result of a successful breeding strategy to develop novel *Ornithogalum* cultivars with large, dense heads of pure white flowers for both potted plant and cutflower production. They are the first intraspecific *O. thyrsoides* crosses of the Chesapeake Series and expand the color range beyond the oranges and yellows of 'Chesapeake Blaze', 'Chesapeake Sunburst' and 'Chesapeake Sunset'.

Description:
Height: 10-25 inches tall.
Habit: Summer dormant, deciduous bulb.
Foliage: Dark green glabrous leaves 1-2 inches wide and 10-12 inches long.
Flowers: White on 0.4 inch diameter, sturdy scapes, longlasting. Bulbs produce 1-2 flower stems in succession. Individual flower stems bloom for 4-6 weeks. Plants remain in bloom for several months.

Cultivar	Ploidy Level	Flower Number & Color	Flower Size
'Chesapeake Snowflake' (cut flower form)	Diploid	40-50 pure white (RHS 155D)	2.5" diameter on 10" scape
'Chesapeake Starlight' (potted plant form)	Diploid	50-60 pure white (RHS 155D)	2.5" diameter on 25" scape

Culture: Bulbs should be grown in a well-drained potting mix or sandy loam soil, pH 6.0-7.0. Plants grow and flower continuously at temperatures under 90°F; 65-75°F is ideal; dormancy occurs above 90°F. Commercially, dormancy is broken by high temperature rather than low.

Propagation: Bulbs are vegetatively propagated; tissue culture. Finish in 25 weeks from rooted tissue culture plants.

Use: Long-lasting and sturdy, pure white flowers for beauty and contrast in container plantings for indoor use; cut flowers in bouquets and arrangements; bedding plants for zone 9 gardens.

Availability: For additional information on availability contact Dr. Robert Griesbach, U.S. National Arboretum, Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit.

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Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit
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