

# VALE'S GREENHOUSE



*Quality Plants For The Chinook Zone*

301 – 3<sup>rd</sup> St. N.W., Black Diamond, Alberta

933-4814

## PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR 2007

### *Nepeta x faassenii* Walker's Low



Every year the Perennial Plant Association sends each member a ballot to select a Perennial Plant of the Year. These plants do not tend to be new introductions to the garden world, but plants that have been tried and thus proven worthy for nomination. After the selection, the plant is then promoted all across Canada and continental U.S.A. Here, in the Black Diamond and Calgary area, there have been years that the plant chosen has not been hardy to our Agricultural Zone of 2 or 3.

*Nepeta* Walker's Low is very hardy stunning variety originally from Ireland and is now grown widely across Canada. In the 1970's Mrs Patricia Taylor selected Walker's Low in an Irish Garden. Thus, its name reflects its origins, rather than its growth habits. Actually its height can be up to 30 inches tall, which makes it one of the largest cultivated *Nepetas*. This stunning variety puts on an unbelievable flower display, with large lavender-blue fragrant flowers that bloom all summer. The leaves are attractive grey-green and blends well with other foliage in the garden. If you have problems with deer and rabbits, you will be pleased to know this plant is resistant to their foraging.

Hardy in Zone 2, this plant needs little attention in a full sun and well-drained soil location. A bloom time from late June to frost makes this plant a real treat to grow. Cut back in fall to 5 inches above the crown of the plant, as *Nepeta* grows quickly, and often takes gardeners by surprise at its early spring start. Propagation is by division or cuttings. Stock plants are easy to maintain, and stem cuttings may be taken at any time of the year from actively growing plants.

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](http://www.perennialplant.org).