

## x *Heucherella* 'Stoplight'

**Bold colors, large leaves stop buyers in their tracks**

**W**hen it comes to x *Heucherella*, 'Stoplight' from Terra Nova Nurseries is a traffic stopper. Bright-yellow and sharply delineated leaves are emphasized by large, red blotches in the center, which resembles the color of a red light.

'Stoplight' will offer the strongest colors when grown in partial shade, preferably afternoon shade.

Leaves are three times larger than 'Sunspot' with a bolder-colored center.

The mounding plant grows 6 inches high and 12 inches wide. It's suitable for containers, in a border or as a groundcover.

White flowers appear on 12-inch stalks in late spring, and it blooms the first year. Summer foliage changes to straw-yellow or green-yellow.

Good companion plants include astilbe, red barrenwort, old-fashioned bleeding-heart, heuchera, hosta, hellebore, hardy ferns and lungwort.

'Stoplight' is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9. Full sun may fade its colors and full shade may slow its growth rate.

### Production basics

Terra Nova propagates 'Stoplight' by tissue culture.

In production, 'Stoplight' requires a well-drained soil with a pH of 5.6-6.8, said Chris Hansen, marketing and sales representative at Terra Nova. Do not bury the crowns.

'Stoplight' grows best in production with moderate fertility. Dry moderately between irrigation, but don't let it dry out completely.



Foliage may turn straw-yellow in summer.

Heucherellas prefer more moisture than heucheras, Hansen said. Grow 'Stoplight' in part shade, preferably with morning sun.

Dormancy is required for growth and flowering, and finish time for a 4-inch container is just four to six weeks.

Walters Gardens grows 'Stoplight' in 3-inch pots at 65°F. Lower tempera-

tures will increase the time to flower, but improve the overall quality, said Barbara Balgoyen, technical customer service representative at Walters Gardens.

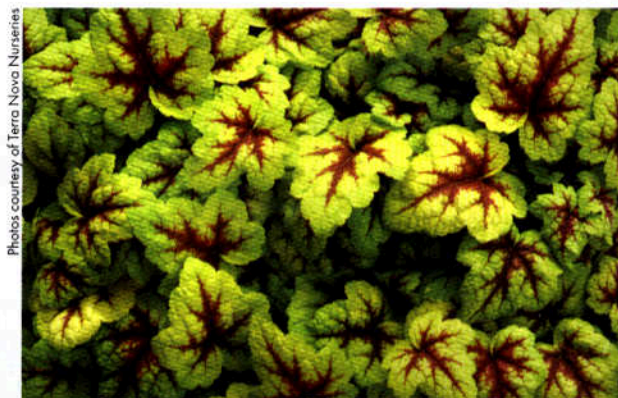
### Winning hybrid

x *Heucherella* is a cross between *Heuchera x brizoides* and *Tiarella cordifolia*. *Heuchera* (coralbells), the female parent of the cross, is an interspecific hybrid — a cross between *H. micrantha* and *H. sanguinea*, both native to North America. *T. cordifolia* (foamflower) is a woodland plant from the southern Appalachians.

As an intergeneric hybrid, x *Heucherella* combines the physical traits of the two parents. It retains the stoloniferous habit of foamflower and the attractive foliage of coralbells. The flowers have the abundance found on the foamflower parent, but the size, color and shape found on coral bells.

◆ **For more:** Terra Nova Nurseries, P.O. Box 23938, Tigard, OR 97281-3938; (800) 215-9450; [www.terrannotnurseries.com](http://www.terrannotnurseries.com). Walters Gardens, 1992 96th Ave., Zeeland, MI 49464; (888) 925-8377; [www.waltersgardens.com](http://www.waltersgardens.com).

— Kelli Rodda



Brightly colored foliage is the top attribute of 'Stoplight.'

### specifics

**Name:** x *Heucherella* 'Stoplight'

**Common name:** 'Stoplight' heucherella.

**Description:** Heucherellas are intergeneric hybrids between *Heuchera* and *Tiarella*. Bright-yellow leaves have bold, red centers. White flowers are produced on 12-inch stalks.

**Growth rate:** Medium.

**Propagation:** Tissue culture.

**Hardiness:** USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

**Uses:** Borders, containers, groundcover.