

# winners circle

Clear some bench space and make room for these brilliant beauties!

Compiled by Jasmina Radjevic

**S**elling extraordinary plants is critical to your business and reputation. As you know, the success of the plants you offer greatly depends on various factors: color, fragrance, heat tolerance, etc. It can be difficult to foresee which plants will be successful for you and your customers. That is why *Lawn & Garden Retailer* puts this list together each year. All-America Rose Selections, All-America

Selections, All-American Daylilies, American Garden Award, American Hosta Growers Association, Fleuroselect and Perennial Plant Association are all respected and recognized for the valuable information they provide growers, retailers and gardeners. Read on to learn more about how these award-winning varieties performed in trials and impressed judges across the country.

## ALL-AMERICA ROSE SELECTIONS

[www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)



**Rose 'Walking on Sunshine' (Jackson & Perkins).** This rose should be an easy success for those new to roses because of its excellent bloom production, plant vigor and good disease resistance. It produces clusters of bright yellow anise-scented flowers, which finish light yellow in color. The gradual fade in color adds another layer of interest to this neat, rounded rose.



**Gaillardia 'Arizona Apricot' (Ernst Benary of America).** This Flower Award winner offers a unique color; blooms have yellow edges that deepen to a rich apricot in the center. Judges noted the distinct flower color of the 3- to 3½-inch flowers, described as lighter in color than traditional gaillardia. Just 105 days after sowing seed, 'Arizona Apricot' will bloom from early summer into fall. This long-flowering perennial is hardy to Zones 2 through 10 and drought tolerance once established.

**Rose 'Dick Clark' (Weeks Roses).** No two flowers are exactly alike on this chameleon of a rose. Black-red buds spiral open to show off swirls of cream washed with vibrant cherry pink. Put all this color against shiny, green foliage with long cutting stems and a killer combo is born. In addition, 'Dick Clark' is easy to grow with great vigor.



**Salvia 'Summer Jewel Red' (Takii & Co.)** Winner of the Bedding Plant category, this salvia was consistently rated "superior" or "above average" by the AAS judges because of its early and abundance flower blossoms that continue from spring to fall. Each dwarf and densely branching plant remains a tidy 20 inches tall, even at maturity. As an added bonus, the bright-red color acts as a magnet for hummingbirds. 'Summer Jewel Red' is ideal for full-sun containers, mixed beds and borders where uniformity is desired.

## ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS

[www.all-americaelections.org](http://www.all-americaelections.org)



**Pumpkin 'Hijinks' (Sakata Seed America).** Vegetable Award winner 'Hijinks' produces small-sized, 6- to 7-pound fruits of a very uniform size and shape. It has smooth, deep-orange skin with distinctive grooves giving it a classy appearance for fall decorating. Allow plenty of space in the garden for long vines that spread up to 15 feet.



**Tomato 'Lizzano' (Pro-Veg Seeds Ltd.)** This Vegetable Award winner is a vigorous semi-determinate tomato with a low-growing, trailing habit, making it ideal for patio containers or hanging baskets. The durable plants grow 16 to 20 inches tall with a compact spread of only 20 inches. Expect generous yields of high-quality, bright-red, cherry-sized fruits.



**Viola 'Shangri-La Marina' (Tokita Seed Co. Ltd.)** This Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner is an early-flowering, mounding viola in a vibrant new color for its type. In trials, the 6-inch tall plants kept a low-growing mounding habit. Blooms have light-blue petals

with a dark-blue face that is surrounded by a narrow white border. This vigorous frost-tolerant biennial provides a solid mat of fall color until covered with snow followed by a great recovery in spring.



**Pepper 'Orange Blaze' (Seminis).** This Vegetable Award winner proved itself a winner due to early maturity, sweet flavor and disease resistance. It matured to a beautiful orange color earlier than the comparisons. 'Orange Blaze' produces 3- to 4-inch long fruits about 1½ inches wide with two to three lobes.



**Tomato 'Terenzo' (Pro-Veg Seeds Ltd.)** Also winning the Vegetable Award category, 'Terenzo' is a 'Tumbler' type of tomato that is a prolific producer on a tidy, low-growing plant. This easy-to-grow determinate bush variety requires little maintenance and produces fruits that are more resistant to cracking.



**Ornamental kale 'Glamour Red' (Takii & Co.)** This is All-America Selections' first winning kale in more than 70 years of trialing! Winning the Cool Season Bedding Plant category, 'Glamour Red' is a fringed leaf type *Brassica oleracea* with flower head size of 10 to 12 inches. The waxless quality of the leaves makes them shiny with an intense, vivid color. Judges noted that the shiny foliage is striking in the landscape and it outperformed comparisons with outstanding success.

## ALL-AMERICAN DAYLILIES

[www.americangardenaward.org](http://www.americangardenaward.org)



**Hemerocallis 'Lady Elizabeth'.** This variety boasts sparkling, diamond-dusted, white blooms. For decades, near-white to white daylilies have been considered weak novelties, but 'Lady Elizabeth' defies those stereotypes by delivering dependable performance and a hearty display of blooms throughout the season. It blooms 30 to 110 days per year in Zones 4 through 10 and adds a stunning highlight to any landscape. Dense, bright-green foliage provides a graceful pedestal below the flower display.



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## AMERICAN GARDEN AWARD

[www.americangardenaward.org](http://www.americangardenaward.org)



**Rudbeckia 'Denver Daisy' (Ernst Benary of America).** This first-place winner wowed voters with masses of reddish ringed golden flowers. It demands attention with huge 4- to 6-inch blooms that cover attractive deep-green foliage. The long-lasting dark-eyed blooms proved their ability to stand up under extreme weather conditions.



**Echinacea 'Prairie Splendor' (Syngenta Flowers).** Second-place winner 'Prairie Splendor' creates a show-stopper display with its large and abundant flowers that bloom from early summer into the fall. Voters liked the large 3- to 3½-inch soft, rosy purple blooms. Butterflies will also be attracted to this 24-inch tall beauty.



**Ornamental pepper 'Purple Flash' (PanAmerican Seed).** Unique and exotic looking, third-place winner 'Purple Flash' will enhance mixed containers and in-ground plantings with its striking color. Its layered leaves are almost black with "flashes" of bright purple, topped with small, round, glossy pepper fruits. Be warned — this is one spicy pepper!

## AMERICAN HOSTA GROWERS ASSOCIATION

[www.hostagrowers.org](http://www.hostagrowers.org)



**Hosta 'Praying Hands' (G. Williams 1996).** This hosta is a unique cultivar with a very upright habit. It will grow to 16 inches high by 30 inches wide. The 7x2-inch dark-green leaves with a narrow white margin are cupped along their length and very wavy. Narrow, funnel-shaped, lavender flowers open in late July into August.

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**Agastache 'Astello Indigo' (Van Hemert & Co.)** This highly versatile hybrid can be grown for perennial and annual borders, containers and patio pots, alone or in mixed containers. The judges were impressed by the strong, bushy plants, showing the ideal combination of vigorous growth and compact habit. Retailers will profit from robust plants that do not suffer during transportation and will stay attractive on the bench for up to three weeks. Upright spikes are fully covered with fragrant, deep indigo-blue flowers that attract butterflies and bees.



**Alcea 'Spring Celebrities Crimson' (Sahin/Takii & Co.)** The newest and most compact variety in the Spring Celebrities series has unique, bushy dwarf plants that produce sturdy stems with an abundance of large, rich crimson, double blooms. Full yet compact plants look good on the bench and show richly colored, large blooms that will catch the customer's eye. This variety is perfectly suited for containers and also performs in beds and borders. It thrives in cool and sunny conditions.



**Echinacea 'Cheyenne Spirit' (PanAmerican Seed)**. This vivid new mixture is a complete innovation in first-year flowering seed perennials and in echinacea. In addition to raving about the color mix, the Fleuroselect judges also praised this variety for its good plant habit and flower quality. Consumers will enjoy gorgeous colors, flowering from July to September, on durable and sun-loving plants with low water needs. 'Cheyenne Spirit' prefers a sunny spot in garden beds and is well suited to landscape plantings.

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GREENGOODS



**Salvia 'Summer Jewel Red' (Takii & Co.)** Winning its second award this year, 'Summer Jewel Red' impressed Fleuroselect judges with its earliness and short cultivation time (nine weeks from sowing to flowering). It is earlier and more compact than any dwarf salvia on the market. Retailers can fill benches with well-filled packs or pots showing bright, attractive blooms earlier in the season. Consumers will be drawn to these little jewels in the garden center and continue to enjoy them in garden beds or patio containers all through the season.



**Viola 'Sorbet XP Delft Blue' (PanAmerican Seed).** Retailers and consumers will love this stunning new color pattern, with its bright face that seems to be basking in the spring or fall sunshine, and keeps flowering abundantly throughout the season. Judges noted the flower color as well as the plant's earliness and stable garden performance. 'Sorbet XP Delft Blue' is ideally suited for spring and fall use in garden beds, pot and patio containers, and baskets.

## PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION

www.perennialplant.org



**Amsonia hubrichtii.** The 2011 Perennial Plant of the Year carries the common name Arkansas blue star. This all-season perennial has blue star-shaped flowers in spring and light-green foliage all summer. The foliage turns a beautiful golden yellow in fall. Arkansas blue star is very soil adaptive, and insects and diseases are rare. Once well established, this variety is drought tolerant and can withstand a season of neglect. 🌿

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