

The Winners' Circle

Compiled by
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Choosing new varieties to keep stocked on your benches can be quite taxing. Which ones will sell, which ones will perform, and which ones will keep your customers happy? Following is our annual breakdown of award-winning varieties that deserve your attention.

It is not easy to predict which new introductions will perform from the greenhouse to the end consumer. That is why multiple organizations take on the responsibility of trialing and evaluating new varieties each year in various regions around the world.

These awarded varieties left a lasting impression on judges with their enduring color, strength and versatility. If you're looking for new plants to diversify your offerings, look no further.

ASSOCIATION OF SPECIALTY CUT FLOWER GROWERS

www.ascfg.org

1. Eucalyptus 'Silver Drop'

'Silver Drop', the Cut Foliage of the Year, has silvery green leaves that provide a unique texture and light scent in floral designs. Field-grown plants will produce usable stems from late summer until frost, and they will usually overwinter in Zone 8 and warmer. This variety can also be grown in a high tunnel, allowing it to overwinter reliably in Zone 6 or higher.

2. Daucus 'Dara'

The delicate flowers and aromatic foliage of 'Dara' — the Fresh Cut Flower of the Year — add accents and interest to floral designs. Its subtle blend of colors in each bloom make it the perfect bridge between summer and autumn tones. Stem length ranges from 2 to 4 feet, and some trailers cut up to 40 stems per plant.

3. Anemone 'Galilee White' | Yodfat

This anemone can be grown in the field or under cover and is tolerant of low light levels and cool temperatures. Earning the Bulb Cut Flower of the Year designation, 'Galilee White' brings a wow factor to spring lineups with 18- to 24-inch stems and large white flowers with black centers.

4. Hydrangea 'Quick Fire' | Spring Meadow Nursery

The Woody Cut of the Year, 'Quick Fire', is one of the earliest *Hydrangea paniculatas* to bloom each year, usually two weeks ahead of others — making it a perfect season extender for cut flower growers. The flowers on this lacecap bloom white, and age to red. They are lightly fragrant and attract pollinators.



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ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS

www.all-americaselections.org

1. Zinnia 'Holi Scarlet' | AmeriSeed

This beautiful zinnia is named after the famous Holi Festival of Colors because of its vibrant color. Its bright color, size, number of blooms and disease resistance impressed judges. 'Holi Scarlet' will keep producing fresh blooms all season long, even through heat, humidity and drought. The uniform, mounding plants will make a stunning display in mass plantings.

2. Vinca 'Mega Bloom Polka Dot' | AmeriSeed

Mega Bloom was bred to withstand heat and humidity without succumbing to disease. Polka Dot exhibits these traits plus boasts large, 3- to 4-inch, showy flowers on vigorous plants that stay tidy and compact.

3. Petunia 'Wave Carmine Velour' | PanAmerican Seed

The newest addition to the popular Wave collection, 'Carmine Velour' was one of the highest scoring plants in the 2018 trials. Judges enjoyed the unique color, describing it as nonfading, stunning and intense. This petunia features large, 2- to 2½-inch flowers on easy-care plants that rarely need deadheading.

4. Nasturtium 'Baby Rose' | Takii Europe

This is the first nasturtium to be awarded by All-America Selections since the 1930s! 'Baby Rose' is a petite-flowered, mounding variety with dark foliage. It is ideal for containers and small space gardens with its compact habit and upright blooms. The rose color is uncommon in nasturtiums and contrasts beautifully with the foliage.



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ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS

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5. Marigold 'Big Duck Gold', 'Big Duck Orange', 'Big Duck Yellow' | AmeriSeed

All three colors in the Big Duck series were long-lasting winners in the trial gardens. These marigolds grow vigorously creating well-branched plants with clean, deep-green foliage. Full double 4-inch blooms pop on the 15-inch plants and continue blooming through the end of the season. Easy to grow, they are great for beds, containers, landscapes, hedges and borders, 'Big Duck Yellow' is pictured.

6. Begonia 'Viking XL Red on Chocolate' | Sakata

This brand new begonia with large, uniquely colored dark leaves impressed judges with how deep the bronze color remained sharp and intense throughout the season. Covered with vibrant red flowers, this compact plant keeps its shape all season and is perfect in both landscapes and containers.

AMERICAN HOSTA GROWERS ASSOCIATION

www.hostagrowers.org

Hosta 'Lakeside Paisley Print' | Chastain 2006

This small hosta features wavy, heart-shaped leaves with green margins. The narrow, creamy white markings in the center of the leaves shoot out from the cream-color petioles in a feathery pattern. Pale lavender flowers bloom in midsummer. It grows 10 inches tall by 30 inches wide.

PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION

www.perennialplant.org

Stachys 'Hummelo'

The 2019 Perennial Plant of the Year, stachys 'Hummelo' was the highest rated stachys in the Chicago Botanic Garden evaluation trials for its strong flower production, vigor, quality and winter hardiness. A colorful and compact winter, it is an excellent addition to full sun perennial borders or in combination with ornamental grasses, echinacea, and asclepias.

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1. Leucanthemum ‘Madonna’ | PanAmerican Seed
This new leucanthemum from seed has been developed to compete with latest cutting-raised varieties. ‘Madonna’ is easy to care for, builds new flowers over the fading ones and flowers from summer to early fall. It is a beauty in pots and containers and also offers a lovely display in beds or landscaping.

2. Silene ‘Sibella Carmine’ | Van Hemert
This new Silene pendula presents multifunctional color for pots, containers and bedding applications. ‘Sibella Carmine’ is self-cleaning, so flowers do not scatter and deadheading is not needed. Judges were impressed with the intense purple-red color, semi-double flowers and early flowering.

3. Nasturtium ‘Baby Rose’ | Takii Europe
A double award winner, this nasturtium earned judges’ praise for its non-trailing, compact habit and innovative deep-rose color. Like other nasturtiums, Baby Rose is an excellent home garden performer. 🌱



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