

WINNERS CIRCLE

Clear some shelf space, and make room for these honored beauties!

Compiled by Jasmina Dolce

Choosing which crops to add to your lineup each year involves some risk. Offering exceptional plants is critical to your business and reputation, and the success of your plants relies on various factors such as tolerance to weather, maintenance requirements, appearance at maturity and so on.

It can be difficult to predict which plants will be successful for you and your customers. So in an effort to help you plan what to grow, *Lawn & Garden Retailer* puts together a list of the year's winning varieties. Read on to learn more about how these award-winning varieties performed in trials and impressed judges in the United States and abroad.

AMERICAN GARDEN AWARD



1. Begonia 'Santa Cruz Sunset' (Benary). This first place winner boasts an abundance of scarlet-orange blooms. Its elegant cascading form is perfect for hanging baskets, urns or mass plants in the garden. It is heat, drought and rain tolerant and thrives in full sun to shade.

2. Gazania 'Big Kiss White Flame' (Syngenta Flowers). Coming in second, 'Big Kiss White Flame' has huge white- and rose-striped flowers that cover full, bushy plants. This carefree, heat-loving and drought-tolerant annual loves the sun and thrives in tough conditions all summer long.

3. Petunia 'Surfinia Deep Red' (Suntory Flowers). In third place, this is a true deep-red petunia gardeners will love. For 20 years, Surfinia has been a top-selling vegetative petunia series, offering superior garden performance with no pinching of pruning needed. Deep Red can be used in container gardens or in the landscape from spring through fall.

ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS



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1. Canna 'South Pacific Scarlet' (American Takii). Grown from seed, this variety is compact in habit and well suited for both landscape and container use. It prefers warm and humid conditions over 77° F. 'South Pacific Scarlet' is more vigorous, more uniform and has more basal branching than canna 'Tropical Red'.

2. Echinacea 'Cheyenne Spirit' (Kieft Seed). This stunning first-year flowering echinacea produces a delightful mix of flower colors from rich purple, pink, red and orange tones to lighter yellows, creams and white. It doesn't require a lot of water and offers a wide range of uses from the perennial border, in a mass landscape planting, in a butterfly garden or as a cut flower.

3. Geranium 'Pinto Premium White to Rose' (Syngenta Flowers). This geranium boasts a unique ombre-like flower coloration and numerous long-lasting 5-inch blooms. Petals start out white and deepen to rose-pink as flowers mature, giving an attractive bicolor effect. Dense, well-branched plants sport deep-green leaves

with darker zones that contrast nicely with the light-colored flowers.

4. Melon 'Melemon' (Known-You Seed Co.). The earliness, high yield on strong plants and superior taste all contributed to this melon becoming an AAS winner. Judges related the taste of this melon to honeydew, but with a surprising tanginess. A uniform fruit shape makes it perfect for home gardeners.

5. Zinnia 'Profusion Double Deep Salmon' (Sakata). This zinnia features intensely vibrant, pink-orange flowers with double petals. Like other Profusion zinnias, it continuously flowers from spring through frost and is easy to grow. It is self cleaning, disease resistant and grows well in a range of climates, including areas with high night temperatures. The flowers can grow 2½ to 3 inches in diameter.

6. Watermelon 'Harvest Moon' (Seeds by Design/K&B Development). This first-ever hybrid, triploid seedless watermelon is an

improvement of 'Moon and Stars'. It features healthy, shorter vines that produce medium-sized fruits and sweet, crisp pinkish-red flesh.

7. Zinnia 'Profusion Double Hot Cherry' (Sakata). This zinnia features rich rose, double-petaled blooms that flower continuously from spring through frost. The bright color does not fade, even under high temperatures. Like all Profusion varieties, it is self-cleaning, disease-resistant and grows well in a range of climates. Plants grow 8 to 14 inches tall and 24 inches wide.

8. Tomato 'Jasper' (Johnny's Selected Seeds). Excellent taste, a long harvest window and outstanding performance in the trials contribute to this tomato's success. Judges liked the texture and sweetness of the tomato as well as the uniformity of the fruits that grow on vigorous, healthy plants.



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ALL-AMERICA ROSE SELECTIONS

1. Rose 'Francis Meiland' (Star Rose/The Conard-Pyle Co.). 'Francis Meiland' is a tall, hybrid tea rose with a very large bloom, good exhibition form and strong fragrance. It is also a multiple award winner in Europe, where it excelled in disease resistance and aesthetics.

FLEUROSELECT



1. Gaura 'Sparkle White' (Kieft Seed). This variety is a great summer performer that adds a touch of airiness to a border. This first-year flowering perennial presents early and flowers uniformly. Judges loved it for its garden performance and strong branching habit. It grows best in full sun and can survive lengthy periods of drought.

2. Geranium 'Pinto Premium White to Rose' (Syngenta Flowers). This two-time winner impressed judges with its showy flowers and foliage. It flowers very early, is compact and displays a good growing habit. The large flowers on shorter stems are easy to ship and hold up better at retail.

3. Penstemon 'Carillo Red' (PanAmerican Seed). This variety stands out in the front of a perennial

border or in more formal bedding-style gardening. It needs a well-drained, moderately fertile soil and a sunny spot. Its strong red color and high floridity on deep-green shiny leaves will make it easy to sell in an impulse market setting.

4. Petunia 'SweetSunshine Provence' (Selecta). Fleuroselect judges were impressed with this variety's vigor and color shading, citing it as a strong, versatile performer and an excellent addition to the current range of semitrailing, double-flowered petunias. It thrives in a temperate climate and loves the sun.

5. Zinnia 'Profusion Double Hot Cherry' (Sakata). Another two-time winner, 'Profusion Double Hot

Cherry', scored well in innovation and overall appearance. Judges were impressed by this annual's intense non-fading color and its outstanding garden performance. Profusion zinnias stand out for heat and humidity tolerance, disease resistance, easy maintenance and compact growth.

6. Zinnia 'Zahara Sunburst' (PanAmerican Seed). Flowers on this plant burst open gold, followed by the appearance of a red stripe down the center of each petal. Cold night temperatures will thicken the stripe; warm nights and the use of PGRs will diminish it. 'Zahara Sunburst' is a great addition to spring-summer bedding programs as it is highly suitable for packs and small pots.

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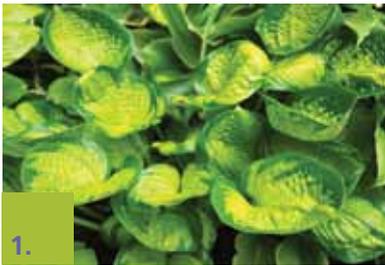
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GREEN GOODS

AMERICAN HOSTA GROWERS ASSOCIATION



1. Hosta 'Rainforest Sunrise'
(Winterberry Farms/Anderson 2003).

A sport of 'Maui Buttercup', this hosta features gold leaves with a nice dark-green margin. It is nicely corrugated even at a young age. The glossy, cupped leaves also have a thick substance. Pale lavender flowers appear in early summer.

PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION



1. Polygonatum odoratum 'Variegatum'.

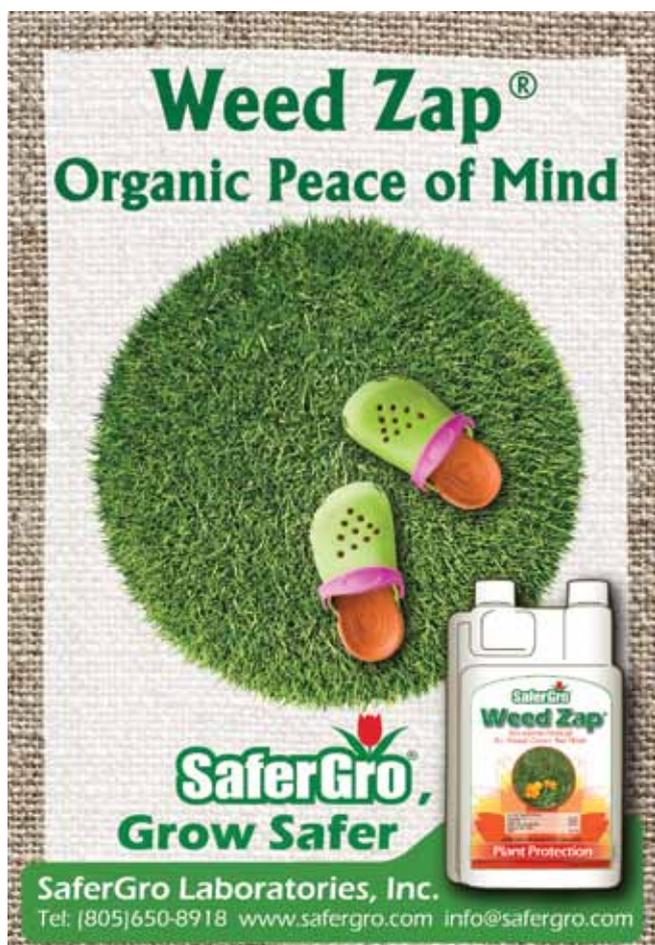
The 2013 Perennial Plant of the Year is an all-season perennial with greenish-white flowers in late spring and variegated foliage throughout the growing season. The foliage turns yellow in the fall and grows well in moist soil in partial to full shade. This variety is hardy to Zones 3 to 8.

ALL-AMERICAN DAYLILES



1. Hemerocallis 'Lemonn Vista'. This daylily features large 6½-inch fragrant, lemon-yellow blooms with a green throat. Recommended for USDA Zones 4 through 10, 'Lemonn Vista' is an ideal landscape plant and has great visibility from a distance. It blooms 48 to 185 days per year.

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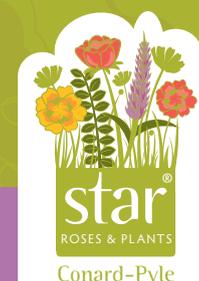
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