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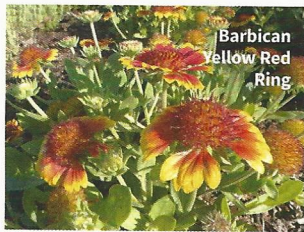
SERVING LEADING INDEPENDENT GARDEN CENTER RETAILERS IN NORTH AMERICA

TRIALED & NEW

Plant trials managers from various regions in the U.S. share the best-performing annuals and perennials from 2018.



BEST DROUGHT-TOLERANT PERENNIAL



Gaillardia SpinTop series (Dümmen Orange) and Barbican Yellow Red Ring (Syngenta Flowers), North Carolina State University

Tough compact plants that are uniform in growth. Attractive flower patterns. Survives our heat!

Phlox Ka-Pow Purple (Darwin Perennials), University of Georgia

Our perennial phlox varieties found themselves in a dry bed this year, and I was very impressed with Phlox Ka-Pow Purple by Darwin Perennials. We started this plant by seed early in the year, and to see it grow into a beautiful blooming garden plant was very rewarding. The flowers were big and colorful, and it maintained a very long flowering period of about eight weeks. We will be anticipating a successful season for Ka-Pow Purple for its second season in-ground.



BEST POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PERENNIAL

Agastache 'Morello' (Terra Nova Nurseries), North Carolina State University

Beautiful, rosy-pink-colored spikes cover the plant. Continuous bloomer. Performed well in our heat and humidity. Bees and other pollinators loved it!



Coreopsis Li'l Bang 'Red Enchanted Eve' (Dümmen Orange), University of Georgia

Coreopsis can be a tender perennial here in the South, but with good mulch and healthy plants going into the fall you can do it. Li'l

Bang 'Red Enchanted Eve' by Dümmen Orange was a hot spot for bees and native pollinators in the garden this year. We had a large swatch of yellow and flowers that encouraged many insects to find these beautiful flowers throughout the day. These were also very responsive to a heavy deadheading mid-season which resulted in a second full flush of flowers to provide food for our pollinators.



BEST POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY ANNUAL

Lantana Havana series (Dümmen Orange), North Carolina State University

Well-branched, compact plants covered in flowers make it a favorite of the pollinators. Low maintenance, attractive flower colors, and the fact that it is easy to grow make it a gardener's favorite!



Salvia 'Rockin' Deep Purple' (Proven Winners), University of Georgia

An appropriate name for Salvia 'Rockin' Deep Purple' by Proven Winners could have also been 'Buzz Buzz Buzz.' From sunup to sundown, this plant was covered with bees, butterflies and other native pollinators. Although salvias are traditionally known for their pollinator-friendly properties, this

selection was at the top of the list. And it helped that this test plot of plantings got big and tall, being one of the heaviest bloomers of our salvias this year, which just helped it have such a huge potential for attracting a crowd.

Salvia Skyscraper Dark Purple (Selecta One), Young's Plant Farm

Salvia Skyscraper Dark Purple was covered with flowers all summer long. With heat and humidity this Salvia just got bigger and better. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds all frequently visited this Salvia in our garden.

★ BEST HEAT-TOLERANT ANNUAL

Pentas Lucky Star series (PanAmerican Seed), North Carolina State University

Nonstop flowering. Bright flower color on compact plants. No deadheading necessary! Plants always look tidy. Thrived in our heat.



Gomphrena 'Truffula Pink' (Proven Winners), University of Georgia

Gomphrena 'Truffula Pink' from Proven Winners has no problems handling the heat and most likely uses our hot Georgia environment to its advantage. We all loved the smaller growth habit of this selection, not getting more than 3 feet high — which is saying a lot for Gomphrenas. But even with a smaller habit it lacked none in bloom production and gave us all constant blooms all summer long despite the heat.



Confetti Garden Cupcake Smarty Party combination (Dümmen Orange), Young's Plant Farm

This is a bright, colorful combination created from Portulaca Cupcake Upright Lavender, Orange and Lemon. It continued to flower all summer long and thrived in the heat and humidity.



★ BEST HEAT-TOLERANT PERENNIAL

Coreopsis Li'l Bang series (Dümmen Orange), North Carolina State University

Uniform, compact plants are easy to grow. Continuous bloomer — many different flower patterns.



Leucanthemum 'Sweet Daisy Birdy' (Dümmen Orange), University of Georgia

Leucanthemum is not typically a plant you find for Georgia as a heat-tolerant plant, but I'm just as surprised to be picking 'Sweet Daisy Birdy' by Dümmen Orange to be a super heat-tolerant plant. This selection broke all my expectations this year and by far was the superior daisy to be grown in the garden, with a large part of that being credited to the fact that it's been in bloom for 15 weeks! We have kept it watered, but this is no easy task for a Leucanthemum in the South, which is relentlessly hot from June until October.

★ BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE: ANNUAL

Begonia Canary Wings (Ball Ingenuity), North Carolina State University

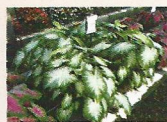
Wow, what a winner! The chartreuse colored foliage will blow your socks off! Got a shady spot, this plant will illuminate it. The bright red flowers are a bonus. Continued to impress all season long.



Solenostemon ColorBlaze Torchlight (Proven Winners), University of Georgia

We loved this Coleus from Proven Winners from the beginning of the season to the end of our growing season; it did nothing but get better and better.

ColorBlaze Torchlight was a powerhouse of color this year in the Coleus category due to its vibrant green leaves with red and hot pink veins. The strong stems put forth leaves with serrated margins each with hints of pink and red that helped the plant stand out from solid-leaf varieties. Torchlight remained lush throughout the entire growing season, and despite our occasional trimming, new growth came back with vigor every time.



Caladium Water's Edge (Classic Caladiums), Young's Plant Farm

Water's Edge is a stunning white and green Caladium. It is a large, fancy-leafed variety. The white is very clean and bright, which provides a nice contrast to the green edge. This Caladium will look awesome in the landscape.

★ BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE: PERENNIAL

Echinacea 'Kismet Raspberry' (Terra Nova Nurseries), North Carolina State University

The raspberry flower color is striking. Petals radiate out straight (flat) from the center. Continuous flowering on sturdy upright stems — good for cuts or leave the seed heads for the birds. Mass plantings of 'Kismet Raspberry' are breathtaking.



Echinacea Sombrero Tres Amigos (Darwin Perennials), University of Georgia

Echinacea can be hit or miss for the South, but Sombrero Tres Amigos was a solid hit from Darwin Perennials. A super long bloom time was a huge high point for the plant, which bloomed for more than 6 weeks straight. The color transition from peachy-coral to rose and finish with a hint of burgundy seemed to extend the overall interest of the plant. If in need of a full sun plant that performs well in drier soil conditions, Sombrero Tres Amigos is a great selection for any garden.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE TRIAL GARDENS

★ **BEST HEAT-TOLERANT ANNUAL**



Gomphrena 'Truffula Pink' (Proven Winners), Dallas Arboretum

The Gomphrena 'Truffula Pink' looks great even in 100-degree heat and above. This Gomphrena can be compared to that of 'Fireworks' but is much more compact and not as wild-looking.

★ **BEST POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY ANNUAL**



Bidens 'Bidy Boom Red' (Dümmen Orange), Colorado State University

Large amounts of long-lasting flowers were packed on a smaller, compact plant with a very tidy growth habit. Blooms also had very intense color to create a lot of flower power for a small plant. Bees love this flower as well as butterflies late in the season.



Bidens 'Bellamy White' (Benary), Dallas Arboretum

The Bidens 'Bellamy White' has been a pollinating superstar. During the season, we have seen bees, flies, moths, butterflies and so much more! The plant is compact with dark green leaves and covered in small white flowers. Perfect for cottage plantings and containers.

★ **BEST POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PERENNIAL**

Nepeta 'Aroma Violet' (Danziger), Colorado State University

This Nepeta is a pollinator garden dream. The plant starts blooming in early May and will continually bloom until a hard freeze, giving the longest season of bloom for pollinators. The growth habit forms a neat mound and gets about 2 feet across and 18 inches high. The lavender blooms complement silvery green foliage, but be aware it can reseed.



Salvia 'Rockin' Playin' the Blues' (Proven Winners), Dallas Arboretum

The Salvia 'Rockin' Playin' the Blues' is not only a pollinator-friendly perennial but a gorgeous burst of color to any landscape. This plant draws in butterflies, bees and even hummingbirds.

★ **BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE: PERENNIAL**

Echinacea 'Kismet Raspberry' (Terra Nova Nurseries), Colorado State University

This Echinacea has been a top performer in all categories. The variety has a 100 percent survival rate for two winters in the mountain west, attracts many types of pollinators, and blooms for an incredibly long period of time. The plants are uniform and compact with an upright growth habit. The vibrancy and floriferousness are what make this variety the best overall.



Gauriella Bicolor (Westhoff), Dallas Arboretum

The Gauriella Bicolor is a must-have for any perennial garden. The flowers are soft white with hints of pink along the edges. With nonstop blooms all season and a wonderful growth habit, this plant is unstoppable.

★ **BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE: ANNUAL**

Salvia Big Blue (PanAmerican Seed), Colorado State University

A later bloomer that is worth the wait, it was impressive with large flower spikes that are showy in the garden as well as making a good cut flower as well. Plants had dark green foliage, strong upright growth habit, excellent branching and very uniform overall. It was also a strong favorite with bees as well as humans.



Lantana Citrus Blend (Proven Winners), Dallas Arboretum

The Lantana 'Citrus Blend' has been blooming heavily, nonstop all summer. Not only can it take the Texas heat, but it can look good doing it. The habit has a bit of a wild look to it but is still manageable for landscapes. The blooms add a pop of color and attract many wonderful pollinators.

★ **BEST POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PERENNIAL**



Gaura WALBERTON'S Silver Fountain, PlantHaven

Gaura WALBERTON'S Silver Fountain is a must-have for pollinator-friendly gardens! Covered in stunning, pure white blooms that emerge from soft pink buds from early spring through fall. Compacted-well branched habit with lovely stable and highly variegated green and white foliage.



Agastache 'Morello' (Terra Nova Nurseries), Smith Gardens

Agastache 'Morello' from Terra Nova grew very well in the garden for us this year, as well as in pot trials. Its vigorous habit is well suited for landscape applications, where it attracts hordes of bees on its deep pink flowers. The flower display was very impressive, where its dense blooms covered tall flower spikes all summer and into fall.

★ **BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE: ANNUAL**

Begonia Solenia Apricot (Beekenkamp), Smith Gardens

We grew a number of Beekenkamp begonias this year, most of them in our planter display. They all performed wonderfully, particularly the Solenia series. The variety that stood out to us was Solenia Apricot, with its abundance of sunny, bright flowers and nice mounded habit, it bloomed all summer long with very little care. It was fully exposed to sun all day and there was no scorching or fading.



Pelargonium TALL DARK & HANDSOME Deep Orange

Pelargonium TALL DARK & HANDSOME Deep Orange is a phenomenal new upright columnar dark leaf geranium. Reaching up to 6' with a trellis. Flowers form along the entire stem providing a tower of flowers from late spring through summer. Quick growing and easy care ideal for retail garden centers.



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For questions or to schedule an appointment,

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