

Greenhouse

MANAGEMENT

2020's TOP PERFORMERS

As tallied by trial garden managers around the country, here are the year's top-performing varieties.

ALSO INSIDE

Plant price and perception,
pg. 8

Managing seasonal employees,
pg. 32

Water conservation education,
pg. 42

SOUTHEAST



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

Clear raspberry-red colored flowers continuously blooming on sturdy upright stems are good for cuts or you can leave the seed heads for the birds. Low maintenance, and pollinators love these guys!

MIDWEST



Heuchera 'Grande Amethyst'
(Terra Nova Nurseries),
Michigan State University

This Heuchera received perfect marks all summer. With vigorous mounding growth of purple wavy leaves, this variety practically formed a groundcover by mid-summer of its first year in the ground.



Agastache Sunrise Blue
(Greenfuse Botanical),
Raker-Roberta's Trial
Gardens

First year planting with many flowers and the plant bulked up nicely. The whole series performed well.



Phlox LUMINARY 'Opalescence'
(Proven Winners), Walter's Gardens

'Opalescence' is one of two new introductions of *Phlox paniculata* in the Proven Winners perennial program. This variety is the gold standard for powdery mildew resistance and also has the darkest green foliage of any *Phlox paniculata* we've seen. The fragrant, light pink flowers have dark pink eyes and are produced in large panicles.

BEST DROUGHT-TOLERANT PERENNIALS

SOUTHEAST



Veronica 'Venture Blue'
(Terra Nova Nurseries),
North Carolina State University

Compact, low growing plants that are covered in dark blue flowers. Continuous flowering spikes on sturdy upright stems. Low maintenance, easy to grow and no deadheading needed. Handles the heat well.

MIDWEST

Digitalis Camelot Lavender
(Syngenta Flowers), Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens

First year planting. Still flowering into October. Series typically performs well.



Perovskia 'Sage Advice'
(Proven Winners), Walter's Gardens

This perennial is perfect for hot, dry climates, but performs well in a wide variety of environments. 'Sage Advice' has rich, lavender purple flowers that are a darker shade than other Perovskia to date. Compared to 'Denim 'n' Lace', this variety has darker flowers and calyces, broad (vs. dissected) foliage, and is slightly taller.

MIDWEST

Lobularia Stream Lavender and White
(Danziger),
Plantpeddler

Lobularia is one of those flowering annuals that keeps on giving all season long. If you give it a little care, it will give you total flowering enjoyment all season. In addition, you can get a great crop of honey as a bonus. Bees love it! We had swarms of happy bees hovering over it throughout the season.



Salvia Bodacious Smokey Jazz
(PlantHaven), Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens

Hummingbirds love this plant. The black calyx with bright purple leaves and lighter green leaves really stand out.



Salvia 'Lancelot' (PanAmerican Seed), Michigan State University

Lancelot is a *Salvia canariensis*, which typically have a wild and wooly habit. This variety, however, has been tamed. This unique border plant will reach almost 4 feet high by the end of the season. It has silvery-white, fuzzy and aromatic leaves followed by lavender flowers, which appear mid-summer. Insect pollinators just love it!



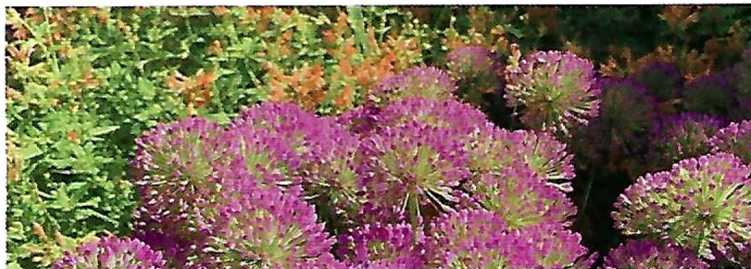
SOUTHEAST



**Echinacea Kismet Series
(Terra Nova Nurseries),
North Carolina
State University**

All colors — intense orange, red, white and raspberry — provide continuous flowering on sturdy upright stems that are good for cuts or you can leave the seed heads for the birds. Low maintenance, attractive flower colors and easy to grow. Makes coneflowers a gardener's favorite!

MIDWEST



**Allium 'Serendipity' (Walter's Gardens),
Michigan State University**

Serendipity is in its second year of evaluation in our perennial trial. It is a sport off of the popular Allium 'Millenium', but with blue foliage. The clumps of drumstick-shaped flowers are very impressive en masse and are a favorite food source for honeybees and native pollinators alike.



**Nepeta Whispurr Blue
(Darwin Perennials), Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens**

Bees love this one. Lots of flowers. My cat also really enjoyed this plant.



**Origanum 'Drops of Jupiter', (Proven Winners),
Walter's Garden**

Origanum 'Drops of Jupiter' is a new introduction to the Proven Winners perennial program. This ornamental herb has beautiful chartreuse foliage with mauve pink flowers appearing later in the summer. The purple calyces remain on the plant after the flowers drop, extending its appeal into fall. This plant is great in the landscape and in containers, and is an attractive pollinator plant for both bees and butterflies.

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BEST HEAT-TOLERANT PERENNIALS

SOUTHEAST



Penstemon 'Dakota Verde'
(Terra Nova Nurseries), North Carolina State University

Glossy, green leaves provide long term interest. Flowers are a lavender/pink color; the showy dark seed heads that form after bloom are attractive. Can use both the flower and seed heads for cuts. Pollinators like these plants, a bonus!

MIDWEST



Echinacea 'Sombbrero Rosada'
(Darwin Perennials), Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens

The Sombreros always look good. This one's Pinkish Rose color stood out in our trial.



Kniphofia PYROMANIA
'Backdraft', (Proven Winners), Walter's Gardens

The six colors of Kniphofia in the PYROMANIA Collection are tropical looking perennials but are hardy to zone 5b. 'Backdraft' has wide flower spikes that start out an intense reddish orange and open to a peachy yellow for a two-tone color effect. All members of the collection have excellent rebloom until late into the season and grass-like, textural foliage.



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