

The University of Tennessee Gardens 2006 Best Plants Report

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2006 UT Garden Winners

Best in Show – New Guinea Impatiens 'Kokomo Petite Scarlet' is a mini-New Guinea which was more compact and smaller than standards. Flowered earlier and covered itself in blooms. Good in containers. All of our 'Kokomo' selections were impressive which included Kokomo 'White', 'Petite Salmon', 'Petite Scarlet', and 'Petite Rose'.

Best New 2006 Variety - Cuphea 'Flamenco Samba' from Proven Winners had large, showy red and purple blooms which were striking in the garden. A favorite among trial garden visitors.

Best Old Variety – Celosia AAS Winner 'New Look' had striking burgundy foliage with bright red plume flowers. Very striking! Self-cleaning and uniform. A favorite among Garden visitors.

Top 5 Performers:

Pentas 'Graffiti' series from Benary with three great colors (Rose, Lavender, and Red Lace). All were compact, uniform plants with large flowers, self-cleaning, and weather durable.

Vinca 'Nirvana' and 'Nirvana Cascade' series from GoldFisch had great colors and growth habit making these vincas outstanding in our Garden. 'Nirvana Cascade' had a semi-trailing growth habit and large blooms great for mass bed displays, containers or hanging baskets. The 'Nirvana' series was more upright.

Petunia the 'Surfinia' series from Jackson & Perkins is notable for abundant blooming and typically really large flowers

Calibrachoa 'Callie Orange' had impressive and striking color and great growth habit. Heat tolerant and prolific blooming. From GoldFisch.

Lantana 'Pinata' from Ball FloraPlant was a new color and incredibly showy in the garden.

Other 'Top Performers'

Angelonia 'Serena Purple' from Pan American was short and compact. Impressive flower-power all season long. Great in containers but really impressive in mass plantings in the landscape.

Begonias - The 'Nightlife' series from Benary is bronze-leaved and early to flower. Available in four colors; Deep Rose, Red, Rose, and White. Large colored blooms are vibrant against bronze foliage. 'Sprint Scarlet' and 'Sprint Blush' are early flowering, green leaved selection from Benary. 'Olympia Starlet' from Benary has white flowers with a pink edge that are striking. 'Braveheart Rose Bicolor' from Syngenta was covered with loads of beautiful rose and white flowers all season .

Calibrachoa - The 'Callie' series from GoldFisch was mounding and uniform and great for containers. 'Superbell' series from Proven Winners was disease resistant and a bit up-right in habit. 'Million Bells' series from Jackson & Perkins had great colors, habit and performance. **Celosia** AAS Winner 'New Look' had striking burgundy foliage with bright red plume flowers. 'Fresh Look Red' and 'Fresh Look Yellow', both past winners as well, were self-cleaning and had brilliant colors all summer. The new AAS 2007 Winner 'Fresh Look Gold' has a deep gold color and all the outstanding traits as others in the series.

Chrysocephalum (Strawflower) 'Flambe Orange' and 'Flambe Yellow' from Proven Winners were unique plants which flowered non-stop all season and were self-cleaning. They have silver-grey foliage and button-like flowers. Great for containers or as a border/edging plant in the garden.

Cleome 'Senorita Rosalita' from Proven Winners was a deep purple with tight, compact flower spikes. 'Spirit Appleblossom' and 'Spirit Frost' from Proven Winners had larger blooms and more open habit. Great show through early August.

Coleus - 'Black Knight' and 'Quarterback' from Proven Winners were striking in the garden. New introductions from the UT Gardens which were favorites among visitors included: 'Rocky Top Miss J', 'Rocky Top Naughty Newburn', 'Rocky Top Sue's Blush', 'Rocky Top Peter's Wonder', and 'Rocky Top Judy's Gem'.

Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost' from Proven Winners had loads of soft, airy flowers which covered the plant all season adding a soft texture to the landscape. Great for containers or in mass plantings.

Geranium Vegetative types: the new for 2007 Exotic Geraniums from GoldFisch were incredibly showing and striking in our Gardens. Outstanding selections included: 'Crystal Palace Gem', 'Graffiti Double Red', 'Graffiti Double White', 'Graffiti Salmon', 'Graffiti White', 'Graffiti Double Salmon', and 'Happy Thought'; The 'Rocky Mountain' series, 'Americana' series, 'Tango' series, and 'Eclipse' series from GoldFisch were all outstanding as well as their new 'Aquarello '07', 'Himalaya Fire', 'Schoene Helena '06', and 'Bravo' selections; 'White Mountain', 'Yours Truly', 'Mayflower', 'Mayday', 'Samaritan', 'Patriot', 'Red Coat', 'Freedom', 'Puritan 2', 'Quaker', 'Faith', 'Olivial', 'Abigail', 'Emily', 'Beth', 'Amy' and 'Anne' from J.P. Bartlett were all strong bloomers on uniform plants and had little botrytis disease. **Ivy Types:** 'Amethyst', 'Beach', 'Black Magic', 'Burgundy Compact Blizzard', 'Freestyle Arctic Red', 'Freestyle Deep Rose', 'Holiday Purple Dream', 'Holiday Purple Blizzard', 'Holiday Red Blizzard', 'Pink Spirit', 'Purple Dream', and 'Cascade Acapulco Blizzard' all from GoldFisch were impressive for habit and flowering. **Seed Types:** from Syngenta: 'Pinto Violet', 'Pinto Red', 'Pinto White', 'Pinto Deep Rose', and 'Pinto Coral' were all top performers.

Impatiens - Trailing Impatiens 'Fanfare Orchid' from Ball FloraPlant was mounded and loaded with blooms; 'Butterfly Lilac' and 'Butterfly Salmon W/Eye' from GoldFisch were striking for

there flower shape and abundant blooming; the Mini Impatiens 'Firefly' series were good performers and unique for their petite flowers, our trials included 'Firefly Pink', 'Firefly Red', 'Firefly Salmon', and 'Firefly Watermelon'; From Ball FloraPlant 'Fiesta Purple' and 'Salmon Stardust' were unique for flower color pattern, size of bloom, and habit. The Double Impatiens 'Silhouette' series from GoldFisch was beautiful with many great colors. Impatiens 'Envoy Peach Butterfly' from Bodger had a great soft peach and cream swirled colored bloom.

Impatiens, New Guinea Type – The 'Compact Sonic' series from GoldFisch is impressive for compactness yet large, showy blooms. 'Deep Salmon', 'Light Orchid', 'Salmon Ice', 'Sweet Red', and 'White' were favorites. The 'Sonic' and 'Super Sonic' series from GoldFisch always put on a great show. You are guaranteed success with selections from either of these series. Favorites from the Sonic series include: Sonic 'Burgundy '06', 'Light Pink '06', 'Mango', 'Salmon on Gold', and 'Sweet Cherry'. Favorites from the Super Sonic series include: Super Sonic 'Dark Salmon', 'Deep Purple', and 'Pink'. The 'Celebration' has extremely large blooms. Celebration 'Pink', 'Purple', and 'Deep Red' had great performance. From seed, 'Divine White' and 'Divine Scarlet Red' by Ball Seed were impressive.

Lantana 'Bandana Rose' and 'Bandana Cherry' from GoldFisch; 'Landmark Peach Sunrise' and 'Landmark Rose Glow' from Ball FloraPlant; and 'Pinata' from Proven Winners were all impressive and made a great show in the landscape or in containers. Many great new colors not seen before!

Lobelia – 'Laguna Sky Blue' from Proven Winners, 'Techno Blue' and the new 'Techno Light Blue' from GoldFisch all had great heat tolerance and prolific blooming. The blue colors are terrific. All are great in containers as well as for a border or foreground in a landscape bed.

Lobelia – 'Laguna Sky Blue' from Proven Winners, 'Techno Blue' from Fischer USA, and 'Waterfall White Sparkle' all had great heat tolerance and they all flowered prolifically. The blue colors are terrific. All are great in containers as well as for a border or foreground in a landscape bed.

Lophospermum 'Great Cascade Wine Cascade' had deep burgundy blooms with silvery-green foliage. Has a trailing habit great for containers and large mixed hanging baskets. From Jackson & Perkins.

Marigold - 'Moonstruck Yellow' and 'Moonstruck Orange' from Syngenta had large blooms and clear color and both lasted late into the season with little disease.

Mercardonia 'Prima Lemon Yellow' is new from Jackson & Perkins. It covered itself in yellow blooms all season. Durable and mat forming. Great groundcover in the landscape or cascading plant in a container.

Melampodium 'Golden Globe' from Benary was short and compact with bright, gold flowers all season. Self-cleaning and uniform.

Ornamental Pepper 'Black Pearl' - AAS Winner - Striking purple-black foliage with lavender blooms leading to round black-purple peppers turning bright red in late summer. A real

showstopper in our gardens. AAS Winner 'Chilly Chili' was compact and loaded with erect fruit above the foliage.

Ozothamnus (Rice Flower) 'Rose' - A tall, finely textured cutflower growing 36"-54". Sturdy stems with soft, green foliage. From Proven Winners.

Perilla 'Gage's Shadow' from Proven Winners was beautiful with its green and deep purple bi-color foliage. Fragrant foliage as well. Great foliage accent plant.

Petunia - From seed, 'Madness Red Picotee' and 'Madness Red Morn' from Ball Seed were vigorous and impressive. The 'Plush' series from Syngenta had great colors and a durable, showy habit too. 'Easy Wave Coral Reef' from Pan American was a prolific bloomer with coral-pink flowers. The new 2007 AAS Winner, 'Opera Supreme Pink Morn' was a showstopper with its bright pink and white blooms. Vegetatively reproduced and groundcover types: The 'Surfinia' series from Jackson & Perkins, especially the new 'Surfinia Baby Red' and 'Surfinia Patio Hot Pink'; 'Jamboree' and 'Whispers' series from GoldFisch, especially 'Whispers Appleblossom'; 'Sanguna Pastel Yellow', 'Sanguna Pink Blossom' and 'Sanguna Blue Vein' from Syngenta had great colors and performance; and 'Suncatcher Dark Coral', 'Suncatcher Plum Vein', and 'Suncatcher White' from Ball FloraPlant were impressive and care-free.

Phlox – The 'Intensia' series from Proven Winners was incredibly show and heat tolerant! 'Cabernet', 'Lavender Glow', 'Lilac Rose', 'White' and 'Neon Pink' were all outstanding and quite eye-catching in the gardens. **Phlox** – The 'Intensia' series from Proven Winners was incredibly show and heat tolerant! 'Cabernet', 'Lavender Glow', 'Lilac Rose', and 'Neon Pink' were all outstanding and quite eye-catching in the gardens.

Portulaca 'Margarita Coral' from Pan American Seed was a showy coral color and flowers stayed open late into the day.

Rudbeckia hirta 'Corona' from Benary had long lasting, large gold flowers with large brown cones. Well-branched growing to just 18" tall. 'Maya' Flora Select Winner had double flowers which were long lasting.

Salvia 'Red Hot Sally II' from Ball Seed is a deeper red on compact 12" tall plants. Durable all season.

Scaevola – The 'Whirlwind' series from Proven Winners was compact with huge, showy blooms. 'Whirlwind Blue' and 'Whirlwind White' were both vigorous and floriferous. 'Carissa's Secret' and 'New Wonder' from Proven Winners were both bright blue and showy. 'Bombay Light Blue' and 'Bombay Pink' from GoldFisch flowered prolifically all summer. **Scaevola** – The 'Whirlwind' series from Proven Winners was compact with huge, showy blooms. 'Whirlwind Blue' and 'Whirlwind White' were both vigorous and floriferous.

Sanvitalia 'Sunbini' from Proven Winners and 'Sundance Yellow' from GoldFisch were good performers. Both have large, bright yellow flowers.

Scorparia ‘Ilumina Lemon Mist’ from Jackson and Perkins made a great groundcover and covered itself with yellow flowers all summer.

Torenia ‘Summer Wave’ from Jackson and Perkins had clear lavender-blue flowers and was a prolific bloomer. Cascading habit great for containers or as a groundcover in the garden.

Verbena – ‘Superbena Coral’ and ‘Tukana Raspberry Blast’, ‘Scarlet’, and ‘Deep Red’ all from Proven Winners; the ‘Tapien’ and ‘Temari’ series from Jackson & Perkins; the ‘Lanai’ and ‘Rapunzel’ series from Fischer; and ‘Aztec White and ‘Aztec Pink Light’ from Ball FloraPlant’ all displayed uniform habit, compactness, profuse blooming, and showy colors. Plants were fast growing and resistant to powdery mildew. All thrived in our heat and full sun.

Vinca - The ‘Pacifica’ series from Pan American Seed had large blooms and great clear color. ‘Burgundy’, ‘Pure White’, and ‘Polka Dot’ all had high ratings. The new AAS 2007 Winner ‘Pacifica Burgundy Halo’ was striking. Great upright habit. ‘Sunstorm Red’ from Syngenta was a bright red, really showy in the garden. ‘First Kiss Blueberry’ AAS Winner had impressive blue-purple color, large blooms and uniform in habit.

Zinnia – AAS Winner ‘Magellan Coral’ had great color and habit. ‘Zowie’ AAS Winner is a showstopper with its red and yellow bicolored flowers. FloaSelect Winner ‘Astec Sunset’ had petite flowers but bold burgundy and gold colors.

Cool Season Annuals

In Tennessee, the following annuals do well early in spring and late summer into winter. They survive our summer heat but they do not flower prolifically until cooler temperatures.

Ageranthemum ‘Molimba’ series from Proven Winners performed well. Beautiful foliage. Standout selections included: ‘Molimba Helio Double Pink’, ‘Molimba Mini Frizzle Pink’ ‘Molimba Mini Double White’, and ‘Molimba Mini White’. Also from Proven Winners, ‘Courtyard Buttercream’ had soft yellow blooms and performed well. ‘Sassy White’ from GoldFisch did well too.

Bacopa ‘Snowstorm White’ from Proven Winners was a strong bloomer.

Diacisia ‘Diamonte Coral Rose’ is a 2006 AAS Winner and rightfully so. Beautiful color and prolific flowering during cooler temperatures. ‘Flying Colors Orange’ from Proven Winners was a great new color with great performance; From GoldFisch, the ‘Darla’ series was impressive. Standout selections included ‘Darla Deep Salmon’, ‘Darla Light Pink’, and ‘Darla Rose’.

Nemesia ‘Opal Innocence’ and ‘Safari White’ from Proven Winners were showy and prolific bloomers.

Osteospermum ‘Tradewinds’ series from GoldFisch flowered well all summer. Bright foliage stood out against the varieties of ‘Light Purple’, ‘Pink’, ‘Pure Yellow’, and ‘White’.

Snapdragons The ‘Sultan’ series from GoldFisch was impressive. Standout selections included: ‘Sultan Bronze’, ‘Sultan Red & Yellow’, ‘Sultan White’, and ‘SultanYellow’.

2006 Top Perennials

Achillea 'Gypsy' from GoldFisch was compact and flowered all season. Looks like Baby's Breath.

Baptisia 'Chocolate Chip' is an unusual Baptisia in that it has a striking bi-color bloom of deep burgundy and gold. It makes a compact clump growing to about 2' tall x 3' wide.

Chrysanthemum morifolium 'Hillside Sheffield Pink' is a vintage hybrid Korean mum. Blooms in October making a stunning show of single daisy-type flowers in an apricot pink color.

Dahlia 'Gallery Art Deco' from Brent & Becky's Bulbs is a beautiful terracotta color. Double flowers bloom all summer on top of 2' tall plants.

Dianthus 'Bouquet Rose Magic' from PanAmerican Seed grows to 24" tall and has sturdy stems. Blooms turn from white to pale pink to deep pink. Heat tolerant.

Gallardia 'Arizona Sun' AAS Winner. Large, 3-4" blooms were loaded on plants all season-long. Compact habit growing to 10". Bright, showy red and gold color. Self-cleaning!

Lillium 'Red Hot' Trumpet Lily from Brent & Becky's Bulbs was an unusual and impressive rosy red color.

Lillium 'Vermeer' Asiatic Lily from Brent & Becky's Bulbs was a soft, rosy pick on strong, sturdy stems.

Miscanthus 'Little Zebra' - Dwarf Zebra Grass - makes a tidy, compact mound of green foliage with prominent yellow horizontal banding that holds well through the summer. In late summer, the attractive plumes emerge wine-purple. A good addition to smaller gardens.

Panicum amarum 'Dewey Blue' - Bitter Switchgrass - Grows to about 48" tall with great glaucous blue foliage. In late summer, this graceful grass is topped by light airy tan plumes that persist all winter.

Panicum virgatum 'Northwind' - Upright Switchgrass. This is the most vertical of all Switchgrasses. Its blue-green foliage along with its striking form makes it a great grass in any garden.

Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah' - Purple Foliage Switchgrass. Grows to about 3' tall. The foliage is burgundy all summer and then in the fall, it covers itself in airy plumes and the foliage turns a striking black-purple!

Penstemon 'Phoenix' series from GoldFisch flowered all summer with large, showy flowers. Heat durable. 'Phoenix Appleblossom', 'Phoenix Pink', and 'Phoenix Violet' were all impressive colors in our trials.

Salvia darcyi - Mexican Sage. Can grow to 4' tall and just as wide. Flowers all summer with bright red, spiky flowers which intensify in the fall making a real show in the garden.

Salvia koyama - Japanese Yellow Sage. Thrives in the shade and makes a nice groundcover. Flowers late summer thru fall. Grows 1'-2' tall.

2006 Top Herbs

***Amaranthus tricolor* ‘Aurora’** - Joseph’s Coat, Chinese Spinach, Hinn Choy. Beautiful in the garden for its colorful gold and green leaves which are edible. Can grow 3' to 4' tall. Young leaves are eaten either cooked or raw like spinach, but contain more calcium and iron. Very tender with distinctive bittersweet flavor. Stems can be cooked like asparagus.

Anchusa azurea - Italian Bugloss is a perennial that grows to about 2' tall and covers itself in royal blue flowers May thru June. True-blue is one of the rarest colors in the garden, so the bright blue clusters of blooms on this perennial herb command a lot of attention in the spring. As if that weren't enough, the blooms are edible and the root produces a red dye used in the cosmetic industry.

***Anthemis tinctoria* - Golden Marguerite**- this perennial herb produces masses of vivid yellow blooms during early to mid-summer, which are striking against its feathery silver foliage. The flowers can be used to produce a yellow dye and the plant has been used medicinally as well.

***Boehmeria nivea* - Chinese Silk Plant**- the flowers on this perennial herb aren't showy, but the foliage is so attractive you won't mind. The large leaves are a heavily textured dark green, with a distinctive notch at the end. This plant is the source of a textile fiber, ramie, which is reputed to be many times stronger than silk.

Digitalis lutea - Hardy Yellow Foxglove - Attractive spikes of small yellow flowers spotted with brown flecks. Unlike some of its flashier biennial cousins, this is a long-lived perennial that likes a compost enriched garden soil and regular watering.

***Eucalyptus bridgesiana* - Apple Eucalyptus and *Eucalyptus cinerea* – and Silver Dollar** – the distinctive blue-gray foliage of the eucalyptus tree provides year-round interest in the garden, especially in the winter when its stems turn a bright red. Eucalyptus is well known for its medicinal properties, and it is often used in cutflower and dried arrangements.

***Hypericumx moserianum* ‘Tricolor’** - Tricolor St. John’s Wort. Great selection for its tricolor variegation of white, pink, and green foliage. Yellow blooms can appear from mid thru late summer. Foliage color intensifies in fall making a striking show in the garden.

***Passiflora incarnata* - Passionflower** – this perennial vine is a vigorous climber. During the summer, it is covered in the unusual white blooms, which have an eye-catching “fringe” of blue. This herb has culinary and medicinal uses.

***Pelargonium* sp. - Scented Geranium** – this tender perennial is available in dozens of varieties, with scents ranging from rose to mint to citrus and beyond. Grown mainly for their attractive foliage and pleasant fragrance, they have culinary and cosmetic uses as well. [Scented Geraniums were named the 2006 Herb of the Year by the Herb Society of America]

Salvia argentea - Silver Downy Leaf Sage. The large oval leaves of this sage are densely furred with silver hairs that produce a wonderful, wooly effect. It produces a 2'-3' dramatic candelabra-like blooms in summer that are best removed to make the foliage last longer.

Salvia discolor - **Peruvian Sage** – this perennial herb is stunningly elegant. The velvety white stems and undersides of the leaves contrast beautifully with the almost-black blooms. This particular salvia is most often grown for its ornamental value.

2006 Top Tropicals

Alocasia ‘**Portadora**’ - Extremely large, vertical, erect foliage.

Alocasia ‘**California**’ - Very erect foliage with a good heart-shaped leaf.

Colocasia ‘**Giant Thailand Giant Strain**’ - The largest Colocasia we’ve ever seen! Makes a statement in any garden! Solid green foliage.

Colocasia esculenta ‘**Coffee Cups**’ - Unique cupped foliage with burgundy stems.

Colocasia wentii - Underside of foliage is a striking burgundy color.

Musa ‘**Little Prince**’ from Ball FloraPlant is the smallest banana we’ve ever seen. Large bold leaves on compact plants growing to 3’ tall.

Musa acuminata ‘Sumatrana’ (Roja) - Striking burgundy and green variegated foliage.

Be sure to visit the UT Gardens in Jackson and Knoxville in 2007. Watch for details about Blooms Days in Knoxville the last weekend in June and Summer Celebration in Jackson. Check out the UT Gardens website at <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/> for more information.