

The University of Tennessee Gardens 2007 Best Plants Report

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2007 UT Garden Winners

Best in Show – Celosia ‘Smart Look Red’ from Benary boasted bright crimson plumes against burgundy foliage. Dense, uniform plants held numerous blooms all summer long.

Best New 2007 Variety – Snapdragon ‘Speedy Sonnet Rose’ from Ball Seed had showy blooms on dense plants all season. Fantastic clear pink blooms!

Best Old Variety – Zinnia ‘Profusion Fire’ from Sakata bloomed profusely all summer. Bright, deep orange blooms were a showstopper in the garden!

Top 10 Performers:

Pentas ‘Northern Lights Lavender’ from Benary was a beautiful selection with compact, uniform plants that were weather durable. Large blooms were held above the foliage and were self-cleaning.

Petunia ‘Supertunia Raspberry Blast’ from Proven Winners was notable for abundant blooming and really large flowers. The two-toned pink blooms were a great attention-getter!

Snapdragon ‘Speedy Sonnet Rose’ from Ball Seed had showy blooms on dense plants all season. Fantastic clear pink blooms!

Ageratum ‘Artist Rose’ is a profuse bloomer with compact form with a deep dusty rose color that is dark enough that it doesn’t fade out in the sun. From Proven Winners.

Scaevola ‘White’ and **‘Blue’** were vigorous selections from Jackson & Perkins that were covered with huge, showy blooms all season long.

Calibrachoa ‘Superbells Dreamsicle’ had impressive and striking color and great growth habit. Heat tolerant and prolific blooming. From Proven Winners.

Geranium ‘Caliente Coral’ had great color; numerous blooms on strong plants. An interspecific hybrid from Fischer.

Chrysocephalum ‘Flambe Yellow’ was a unique plant which flowered non-stop all season and was self-cleaning. They have silver-grey foliage and button-like flowers. From Proven Winners, they are great for containers or as a border/edging plant in the garden.

Petunia ‘Surfinia Mini Mini White’ from Jackson & Perkins. Vigorous, uniform plants were literally covered in masses of the white blooms, which were smaller than those of the typical petunia.

Calibrachoa ‘Liberty Dark Blue’ from Bartlett offered season long impact with its prolific blooms. Plants were heat tolerant and vigorous.

Other ‘Top Performers’

Achillea ‘Gypsy White’ - a long-blooming perennial that looks like Baby’s Breath and can be used as an annual bedding plant. From GoldFisch, it was compact and flowered all season.

Agastache ‘Golden Jubilee’ - a 2003 AAS winner valued for its golden chartreuse colored foliage and light blue flowers. Attracts bees butterflies, and birds; fragrant.

Ageratum ‘Artist Rose’ - Profuse bloomer with compact form with a deep dusty rose color that is dark enough that it doesn’t fade out in the sun. From Proven Winners.

Alternanthera ‘Royal Tapestry’ - from PanAmerican. This narrow-leaved form has a delicate appearance but is a sturdy plant with burgundy stems and dark green foliage with burgundy undersides. Small, white flowers appear in late summer.

Angelonia – ‘**Angelface**’ series from Proven Winners had a great branching pattern with upright sturdy stems. Four ‘**Angelface**’ colors of note: **Dresden Blue, Blue, Wedgewood Blue** and **Dark Violet**. The ‘**Carita**’ and ‘**Carita Cascade**’ series from GoldFisch were all excellent performers. The ‘**Carita Cascades**’ have a semi trailing growth habit that make them ideal for baskets. ‘**Angelmist White**’ from Ball Floraplant is improved with pure white large blooms on medium height plant.

Begonia - ‘**Braveheart Rose Bicolor**’ was covered with loads of beautiful rose and white flowers all season. The more compact ‘**Volumia Rose Bicolor**’ had a delicate brush of blush rose on flower margins with deep green foliage. Both from Syngenta.

Bidens – ‘**Mexican Gold**’ from GoldFisch was a mass of early blooming yellow blooms over fine-textured foliage. Plants massed together well.

Calibrachoa - The ‘**Callie**’ series from GoldFisch was mounding and uniform and great for containers. ‘**Liberty**’ series from J. P. Bartlett had wonderfully intense, almost neon colors. ‘**Superbells**’ 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 – past AAS Winners ‘**Fresh Look Red**’ and ‘**Fresh Look Yellow**’ were self-cleaning and had brilliant colors all summer. ‘**Smart Look Red**’ from Benary was our 2007 Best in Show variety, with bright crimson plumes against burgundy foliage. It was a dense, showy plant even into the fall.

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**' from Proven Winners had larger blooms and a more open habit. Great show through early August.

Coleus - '**Electric Lime**' from Ball Floraplant was striking in the garden. Yellow stems against green and yellow leaves provided a good foliage contrast to flowering plants nearby, and the plants were uniform and vigorous.

Cosmos '**Double Click**' – from Thompson & Morgan had masses of double and semi-double blooms against fine-textured foliage. Bloom colors ranged from white to light pink to dark pink.

Cuphea '**Totally Tempted**' put on a show all summer long, with dense plants covered in bright magenta blooms. From Proven Winners, it stood up well to our heat and humidity.

Diascia – the '**Darla**' series from GoldFisch performs well as a cool-season annual in our garden.

Echinacea – '**Prairie Splendor**' and '**Prairie Splendor Deep Rose**' from Syngenta offered large blooms in lovely pink shades.

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.

Gaillardia – AAS Winners '**Arizona Sun**' and '**Sundance Bicolor**' are perennial selections that can be grown as bedding annuals. Both are colorful and have a long season of bloom in the garden.

Geranium Vegetative types: The '**Rocky Mountain**' and '**Eclipse**' series from GoldFisch were outstanding as well as their '**Avenida Mosaic Purple**' selection; '**Mystical White**' from J.P. Bartlett was a strong bloomer with uniform plants and had little botrytis disease. **Ivy Types:** '**Freestyle Arctic Red**', '**Freestyle Cherry Rose II**', '**Freestyle Pink II**', '**Marimba**', '**Molina '05**', '**Picasso**', and '**Taj Mahal**', all from GoldFisch, were impressive for habit and flowering.

Gypsophila '**Gypsy Deep Rose**', an AAS Winner, was heavily covered with delicate pink blooms all season long.

Hibiscus '**Luna Rose**, from PanAmerican Seed, boasts huge blooms on dense, compact plants.

Impatiens - Trailing Impatiens '**Butterfly Cherry**' from GoldFisch was mounded and loaded with blooms; the Mini Impatiens '**Firefly**' series from GoldFisch were good performers and unique for their petite flowers, our trials included '**Firefly Lavender '07**', '**Firefly**

Watermelon', and **'Firefly White II'**. From Ball FloraPlant, **'Fiesta Ole Purple Stripe'** and **'Fiesta Burgundy'** were unique for flower color pattern, size of bloom, and habit. The Double Impatiens **'Silhouette'** series from GoldFisch was beautiful with great colors.

Impatiens, New Guinea Type –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 **'Amethyst '06'**, and **'Magic Pink'**. Favorites from the Super Sonic series include: Super Sonic **'Pastel Pink'**.

Iresine 'Blazin' Lime' from Ball FloraPlant provides a colorful foliage contrast to flowering plants. Green and yellow leaves play off pink stems.

Juncus – **'Blue Arrows'** and **'Javelin'** from PanAmerican Seed offer unique colors and texture to the garden. **'Blue Arrows'** is compact with a blue-gray color, while **'Javelin'** is a tall, bright green selection.

Lamium 'Pink Chablis' from Proven Winners is a great groundcover with variegated foliage and soft pink blooms.

Lantana **'Bandana Red'** and **'Bandana Cherry'** from GoldFisch; **'Landmark Blaze'** and **'Landmark Citrus'** from Ball FloraPlant; **'Patriot Jo's Chiffon'** and **'Patriot Dark Purple'** from Proven Winners were all impressive and made a great show in the landscape or in containers. Many great new colors not seen before! **'Luscious Tropical Fruit'** from Proven Winners paired soft yellow and pink blooms with beautiful variegated foliage.

Laurentia – **'Avant Garde Pink'** from Thompson & Morgan and **'Starshine Blue'** from Syngenta were covered all summer long in delicate blooms. Ferny foliage worked well in the garden.

Lavandula – the **'Ellagance'** series from Kieft were strong and vigorous bloomers all season long. We trialed **'Ellagance Sky'** and **'Ellagance Purple'** – both selections performed well.

Nicotiana 'Perfume Deep Purple' from AAS Winners boasted an unusual, beautiful color; with healthy blooms and foliage.

Nierembergia 'Summer Splash Patio Blue' – numerous cup-shaped blooms covered this selection from Jackson & Perkins. Airy, attractive foliage on dense plants was an added bonus.

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. **'Holiday Flame'**, **'Pepper Masquerade'**, and **'Pepper Medusa'** from PanAmerican, along with **'Explosive Blast'** from Syngenta and **'Garda Tricolor'** from Kieft, were all loaded with colorful, erect fruit above the foliage.

Osteospermum – the AAS Winner ‘**ASTI White**’ had a long season of striking blooms. The ‘**Tradewinds**’ series from GoldFisch also turned in impressive performances, most notably from the ‘**Purple Bicolor**’ and ‘**Light Purple**’ selections.

Otacanthus (Brazilian Snapdragon) ‘**Peek a Blue**’ from Proven Winners had strong foliage and kept a deep color all season.

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

Penstemon ‘**Lilliput Rose**’ was a vigorous, compact selection with numerous delicate pink blooms. From Proven Winners.

Pentas – ‘**Butterfly Blush**’ from PanAmerican and ‘**Graffiti Lipstick**’, ‘**Kaleidoscope Appleblossom**’, ‘**Kaleidoscope Lilac**’, and ‘**Northern Lights Lavender**’, all from Benary, were compact and uniform with large flowers - self-cleaning and weather durable.

Petunia - From seed, AAS Winners ‘**Wave Blue**’ and ‘**Wave Purple**’ were vigorous and impressive. The ‘**Easy Wave**’, ‘**Shock Wave**’, and ‘**Wonderwave**’ series from PanAmerican performed well, as well as their ‘**Baby Duck Yellow**’ selection. The ‘**Plush**’ series from Syngenta had great colors and a durable, showy habit too. 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 ‘**Surfinia Mini Mini White**’, ‘**Surfinia Patio Lemon**’, ‘**Surfinia Baby Pink Ice**’, ‘**Surfinia Baby Vanilla**’, and ‘**Surfinia Pastel Pink**’; ‘**Jamboree**’ and ‘**Whispers**’ series from GoldFisch, especially ‘**Whispers Rose Vein**’, ‘**Whispers Blue Amethyst**’, ‘**Jamboree Blue**’, and ‘**Jamboree White II**’; the ‘**Fantasy**’ series from Goldsmith had great colors and performance; and the ‘**Supertunia**’ series from Proven Winners was impressive and care-free.

Phlox – The ‘**Intensia**’ series from Proven Winners was incredibly showy and heat tolerant! – most notably the ‘**Star Brite**’ and ‘**Neon Pink**’ selections.

Rudbeckia - ‘**Autumn Colors**’ from Benary had excellent, long lasting flowers. AAS Winner ‘**Prairie Sun**’ and ‘**Radiance**’ from Ball both had bright, showy blooms.

Salvia – **farinacea types**: AAS Winner ‘**Evolution**’ and ‘**Fairy Queen**’ from Benary were vigorous and floriferous all season; **splendens types**: ‘**Sangria**’ from Takii and ‘**Sizzler Red**’ from Floranova were vigorous and showy in the garden.

Scaevola – The ‘**Whirlwind**’ series from Proven Winners was compact with huge, showy blooms. ‘**Whirlwind Blue**’ and ‘**Whirlwind White**’ were both vigorous and floriferous. ‘**Bombay Blue**’ and ‘**Bombay Pink**’ from GoldFisch flowered prolifically all summer. ‘**Blue**’, ‘**Light Blue**’, and ‘**White**’ from Jackson & Perkins had strong foliage covered in profuse blooms.

Scorparia ‘**Ilumina Powder Blue**’ from Jackson and Perkins made a great groundcover and covered itself with blue flowers all summer.

Snapdragon – ‘**Speedy Sonnet Rose**’ and ‘**Speedy Sonnet White**’ from BallSeed were dense, showy plants with incredible season-long color.

Talinum (Jewel of Opar) ‘**Limon**’ from PanAmerican was a perfect selection with dense, golden growth and vigorous, airy blooms.

Torenia – ‘**Catalina**’ series from Proven Winners and ‘**Summer Wave**’ series from Jackson & Perkins had great colors and prolific blooms. Cascading habit great for containers or as a groundcover in the garden.

Verbena – the ‘**Escapade**’, ‘**Lanai**’, and ‘**Rapunzel**’ series from GoldFisch 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 - ‘**Nirvana**’ and ‘**Nirvana Cascade**’ series from GoldFisch had large blooms and great colors all season long. AAS 2007 Winner ‘**Pacifica Burgundy Halo**’ was striking with a great upright habit. ‘**Titan Pure White**’ from BallSeed had white blooms - very showy in the garden. AAS Winners ‘**First Kiss Blueberry**’ and ‘**Jaio Dark Red**’ had impressive color, large blooms and uniformity in habit.

Zinnia – AAS Winner ‘**Magellan Coral**’ had great color and habit. ‘**Zowie! Yellow Flame**’ AAS Winner is a showstopper with its pink and yellow bi-color flowers. The ‘**Profusion**’ series from Sakata had profuse, hearty blooms in great colors (We trialed ‘**Fire**’, ‘**Knee High White**’, and ‘**Double Cherry**’.) ‘**Solcito**’ from Ball also performed well.

Herbs:

Amaranthus gangeticus - Elephant Head Amaranth is an annual flowering plant with deep burgundy flowers. It can grow to 2-3 feet high. In Bangladesh, it has been used as a leafy vegetable.

Basil ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ is a beautiful variegated basil which grows to 3 feet tall.

Basil ‘Fino Verde’ is a sweet, compact plant with miniature leaves.

Basil ‘Valentino’ is one of the lettuce leaf basil. Its bold puckered leaves look like green seersucker. This basil has a mild flavor and a pleasant fragrance. Grows to 24" tall.

Basil ‘Purple Delight’ has dark purple leaves and compact habit. Sweet and spicy flavor.

Bloody Dock is a perennial leafy herb with deep burgundy veination and midrib.

Bronze Fennel has super fine, feathery texture and deep bronze foliage. Good food source for monarch caterpillars. Easily reseeds.

Calamintha grandiflora ‘Variegata’ is a perennial herb with white and green variegated foliage and lavender blooms. Grows to 24" .

Oregano laevigatum ‘Pilgrim’ is a highly ornamental oregano. Loads of pink blooms cover this plant from mid to late summer. Grows to 12" tall.

Petroselinum crispum 'Afrodite' is a showy, curly type parsley with bright green foliage. Has a tight and compact habit but really large foliage.

Tagetes tenuifolia 'Orange Gem' - Citrus Marigold is highly fragrant annual herb and loaded with small but vibrant orange all season long.

Perennials:

Asiatic Lily 'Matrix', 'Latvia' are both beautiful lilies for early summer color. 'Matrix' is a scarlet orange and 'Latvia' is a soft yellow with burgundy specks.

Aquilegia vulgaris 'Black Barlow' is a double flowering columbine with a unique soft yellow and burgundy bicolor flowers.

Astermoea angolica - Japanese Aster is a perennial that is self-cleaning and flowers non-stop all season with clear white flowers.

Carex oshimensis 'Evergold' - Striped Weeping Sedge is a bright and showy sedge that is showy in every season. Does well in sun or shade.

Carex Testaceae - Orange New Zealand Sedge has super fine texture and is bronze color with orange overtones. Especially colorful in spring and fall.

Carex comans 'Frosty Curles' - New Zealand Hair Sedge is a creamy white sedge with long and curly leaves. Does well in sun or shade.

Caryopteris divaricata 'Snow Fairy' is a green and white variegated Blue Mist Shrub covered with soft lavender flowers from mid-summer on.

Caryopteris incana 'Summer Sorbet' is a green and yellow variegated Blue Mist Shrub covered with soft lavender flowers from mid-summer on.

Echinacea 'Harvest Moon' - Purple Coneflower is a soft-yellow flowering coneflower.

Euphorbia polychroma 'Bonfire' is a Cushion Spruce that has burgundy foliage tipped in orange-red. Foliage is quite showy. Does well in full-sun.

Fargesia nitida 'Green Panda' - Fountain Bamboo is a clumping type which only grows to 3 feet tall. Does well in sun or shade.

Gaillardia 'Arizona Sun' is an AAS winner and a perennial that flowers all season. The vibrant red and yellow bicolor flowers are showy with a huge red eye.

Gaillardia x grandiflora 'Oranges & Lemons' is a perennial Blanket Flower that covers itself in

yellow and orange flowers all season. Blooms all season.

Heuchera 'Gypsy Dancer' - American Alumroot with pewter and burgundy colored foliage with pink blooms.

Hosta 'Sugar & Cream' is a medium leaf hosta with bright green leaves with a white margin.

Imperata cylindrica 'Red Baron' - This sterile Japanese Blood Grass does not produce seed and has incredibly vibrant red and showy foliage in later summer into winter. Prefers a moist to damp soil. More colorful in full-sun.

Lamium 'Pink Chablis' is a perennial lamium which produces pink flowers all summer. The flowers are beautiful against its silver and green foliage.

Liriope 'Pee Dee Ingot' is a bright yellow monkey grass great for brightening a shady spot. Does best in partial sun to shade.

Miscanthus sinensis 'Gold Bar' - Gold Bar Maiden Grass is a dwarf growing selection growing to just 2 feet tall. Bright yellow and green specked foliage.

Muhlenbergia capillaris - Muhly Grass is a fantastic perennial grass that burst with feathery pink plumes in late summer into fall. Most showy when massed together. Grows to 24" tall. Does best in full-sun to partial shade.

Phlox paniculata 'Lilac Flame' is a vibrant violet colored phlox that flowers most all season. Grows to just 2 ½ feet tall. No mildew problems.

Tiarella cordyfolia 'Heron's Wood Mist' Foam Flower has foliage which is burgundy on the underside and splattered cream and pink on top.

Trees & Shrubs:

Abelia x grandiflora 'Canyon Creek', 'Kalidescope' are two great new selections valued for their colorful variegated foliage. Both thrive in full-sun and grow to about 3' tall.

Acer palmatum 'Sango Kaku' - Coral Bark Japanese Maple is a must have in every landscape for its coral-colored trunk and branches during the winter.

Calycanthus raulstonii 'Hartlage Wine' - Raulston Allspice, Eastern Sweetshrub is a choice selection for its large burgundy flowers growing to about 4" across.

Cedrus deodara 'Snow Sprite' - Snow Sprite Deodar Cedar is a standout prostrate- type cedar for its bright white and green variegated evergreen foliage.

Clethra alnifolia 'Rosea' is a unique sweetshrub valued for its soft pink spring flowers.

Cornus officinalis 'Sunsphere' - Sunsphere Japanese Cornel Dogwood is one of the first plants to flower in spring with small yellow flowers covering the plant. Flowers lead to showy red fruit in the summer.

Cupressus arizonica glabra 'Blue Ice' - Blue Ice Arizona Cypress is a narrow growing cypress with bright blue foliage. Grows to 15' tall and 7' wide.

Cupressus glabra 'Raywood's Weeping' - Raywood's Weeping Arizona Cypress has a soft gray-blue foliage with a weeping habit.

Fothergilla 'Mt. Airy' is a spring flowering shrub covered with flowers. The deciduous foliage turns yellow-orange in fall. Grows 4 feet tall by 4 feet wide.

Hydrangea quercifolia 'Sike's Dwarf' - An Oakleaf Hydrangea that grows to just 3 feet tall.

Hydrangea macrophylla 'Blushing Bride' - Endless Summer 'Blushing Bride' Hydrangea is the newest of this series with white to pastel pink flowers. Reblooms all summer.

Juniperus x media 'Daub's Frosted' - Daub's Frosted Juniper is a beautiful yellow and blue variegated prostrate juniper. Grows to just 6 inches tall but 6 feet wide.

Mimosa 'Chocolate Summer' is a burgundy leaf mimosa that is quite striking in the landscape.

Nandina domestica 'Fire Power' is a compact evergreen nandina with vibrant red and orange winter foliage.

Physocarpus 'Diablo', 'Coppertina' - NineBark selections valued for their deep burgundy to bronze foliage. Spring flowering with soft white blooms.

Picea pungens glauca 'Thume' - Thume Colorado Blue Spruce is a dwarf, round spruce with bright blue foliage.

Picea orientalis 'Skylands' - Skylands Oriental Spruce has striking bright yellow foliage.

Pinus strobus 'Blue Shag' - Blue Shag Pine has soft blue foliage and a round compact habit.

Punica granatum 'Nana' - Dwarf Pomegranate grows to just 4 feet tall and covers itself with orange flowers leading to colorful dwarf fruit in the fall.

Rosa 'BAgirl' - Easy Elegance 'My Girl' Shrub Rose is a pink blooming disease-resistant shrub rose.

Thuja occidentalis 'Sudsworth Yellow' - American Arborvitae has vibrant yellow-orange color. Most showy in full-sun.

Vitex agnus-castus 'Lavender Lady' - Lavender Lady Chastetree flowers all summer long with spiky, lavender blooms.

X *Cupressocyparis leylandii* 'Gold Rider' - Gold Rider Leyland Cypress is a fast growing and bright yellow selection.

Vines:

Jasminum officinalis 'Frojas' - Fiona Sunrise Jasmine is a great new introduction. It has excellent, golden-yellow foliage all summer, becoming a stronger gold as the plant becomes mature. It flowers from May to September, producing white flowers with a heavenly scent. It is an excellent choice for growing over garden fences, trellis or arches. Suitable for a position in full sun or light shade and grows well in most well drained soils.

Campsis radicans 'Morning Calm' is J.C. Raulston selection. It has a delicate, apricot orange in the throat, veined darker orange-red. The large, round, wide corolla lobes are glowing with hues of coral, vermilion, and bright orange depending on the time of day and age of the flower.

Be sure to visit the UT Gardens in Jackson and Knoxville in 2008. 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.