

# Horticulture

## All America Selection winners for 1999



Twelve new garden plants have been awarded the prestigious honor of being an All America Selection (AAS) for 1999. These new cultivars have been judged as superior in their class based on their performance in test gardens all over the country.

### Flowers

#### Begonia F1 Hybrid 'Pinup Flame'

The first begonia to earn the AAS Award, 'Pin-up Flame' is an unique yellow flower with orange petal edge. The single bloom can be 2 to 4 inches. This tuberous rooted begonia prefers shade and will attain a height of only 10 to 12 inches. Plant it in the front of your garden bed for maximum visibility.



#### Marigold 'Bonanza Bolero'

'Bonanza Bolero' is an improved dwarf french marigold distinct because of its irregular gold and red bicolor pattern. The large 2 1/4 inches double flowers are primarily gold with red petal tips. Plants will attain a height 8 to 12 inches and spread 12 to 24 inches when given adequate moisture and nutrients.



Marigold 'Bonanza Bolero'

flowers with azure blue centers. Flowers are pink, rose, purple or pure white. The branching plants will reach 12 inches and are relatively pest free. Grow this plant in full sun. Once plants are

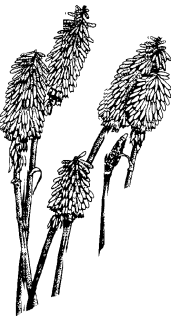


Portulaca F1 Hybrid 'Sundial Peach'

established, 'Passion Mix' is drought tolerant. **Portulaca F1 Hybrid 'Sundial Peach'** This is the first portulaca to win an AAS Award. The unique, glowing peach color is unmatched and the flower size is improved to two inches. 'Sundial Peach' flowers resist closing and so provide more garden color. The small plant spreads 8 to 12 inches and is recommended for containers.

#### Tritoma 'Flamenco'

This perennial, Kniphofia uvaria, also called Red-Hot-Poker, offers gardeners the advantage of each plant flowering the first year. The flowers are tubular and layered on a spike. The flowers are creamy white, orange, yellow or red. The spikes are excellent cut flowers with stems up to 30 inches. Mature plants can reach 36 inches and thrive in well drained soil. This



Tritoma 'Flamenco'

perennial is recommended for zones 5 to 9.



Verbena 'Quartz Burgundy'

and will perform best with adequate moisture and nutrients.

#### Zinnia 'Profusion Cherry'

This 1999 Gold Medal Winner has two-inch single red blooms. This zinnia is disease and heat tolerant. Free



Zinnia 'Profusion Cherry'

flowering all summer, plants will grow about 12 to 18 inches tall in full sun.



Zinnia 'Profusion Orange'

**Zinnia 'Profusion Orange'** This 1999 Gold Medal Winner has bright orange flowers. It is disease and heat tolerant. This zinnia will bloom all summer and no deadheading is needed.

continued on page 15

## One garden, many uses



Many people plan their gardens as if flowers and vegetables could not coexist in the same soil. Others know that a multi-purpose garden that mixes flowers, vegetables, herbs and ornamentals can help save space, improve the appearance of the home grounds and be a reproductive source of cut flowers, herbs for many uses and fresh produce.

Some people believe that planting certain crops together aids in controlling some insect pests or somehow benefits the plants in other ways. Lists of plants that grow well together are readily available though there's been very little research to investigate such relationships. Try out combinations that look

promising. Even if they don't keep the garden insect-free, they'll add different colors and textures to the garden.

If gardening space is limited, mixing the various types of plants is one way to make maximum use of available space. Seeds of annual flowers could be planted around early maturing vegetables, seeds or transplants of warm-season vegetables and annual flowers could be planted among spring flowering bulbs. A wide, sunny flower bed could have a border of strawberries flanked by a mass of zinnias backed by pepper plants, caged tomatoes, pole beans and sunflowers. The combinations are endless. (DJ)

## Easter lily care



If you have an Easter lily, you can save the bulb and plant it outdoors. Spring flowering bulbs that are forced, such as tulips, narcissus and hyacinths, are often discarded after flowering. Easter lilies can be replanted after the blooms are gone.

The most successful place to plant an Easter lily and get it to bloom again is outdoors. You can plant the Easter lily outdoors after the danger of frost is past. Select a sunny site with well drained soil. Set the top of the bulb six inches below the soil surface. Do not remove the flower stalk until it dries, then cut it off at the soil surface. The lily will likely rebloom the first year in late summer and thereafter in early summer. After the soil surface freezes in the fall, mulch the soil and do not remove the mulch until new growth begins in the spring. (MJM)

## 1999 March/April Garden Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Order seeds	2 Prune fruit tree	3 Start perennial flower seeds indoors	4 Put up bird houses	5 Prune grape vines	6
7	8 Start a garden journal	9 Prune deciduous trees	10 Prune deciduous trees, non-spring flowering shrubs	11 Make a garden plan	12	13
14	15	16	17 Service lawn mower & garden equipment	18	19	20
21	22 Start seeds indoors for transplants	23	24	25 Watch for spring bulb growth	26	27
28	29	30	31 Inventory garden tools and supplies	1 Turn compost pile	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Plant cool season vegetable seeds outside	9	10
11	12 Power rake or aerify bluegrass	13	14 Apply fungicide to pines for tip blight	15	16	17
18	19 Fertilize bluegrass	20 Fertilize tall fescue	21 Apply preemergence	22 Apply fungicide to crabapples for cedar apple rust and scab	23	24 Spring Affair State Fair Park
25	26	27	28	29	30 Arbor Day	

Many of us need reminders. That is the purpose of this calendar. Check the calendar each month and follow the recommendations if they are necessary in your landscape situation. (MJM)

## Cover or uncover?

Due to the nature of our climate, it is as difficult to decide on when to mulch a crop as it is to decide on when to remove the cover.

If the cover is left on too long, the new growth is spindly yellow and readily damaged when the mulch is removed. Further, if successfully removed, this soft new growth is readily desiccated by early cold spring winds. Uncovering

strawberries too soon results in early flowering. These flowers are often killed by late spring frosts.

Thus, ideally, uncover plants as soon as new growth is indicated. However, be prepared to cover the crop (strawberries, roses) when low temperatures are predicted. The temperature which will cause injury, will depend on the stage of growth: strawberry plants in early spring

can tolerate 20 to 25 degrees F, whereas flower buds are killed at 32 degrees F.

One further note: more roses are killed by spring cold than by low temperatures in the fall. (DJ)

