

# The NEBLINE®

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County  
"Helping Nebraskans enhance their lives through research-based education."

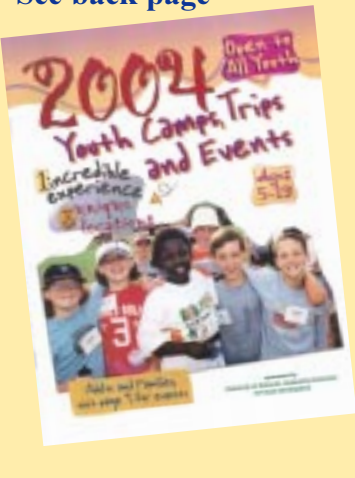
March 2004  
Vol. XVII, No. 3

Web site: [lancaster.unl.edu](http://lancaster.unl.edu)

## In This Issue

- Farm Views . . . . . 2
- Environmental Focus . . . . . 3
- Food & Fitness . . . . . 4
- Family Living . . . . . 5
- Horticulture . . . . . 6
- Urban Agriculture . . . . . 7
- 4-H & Youth . . . . . 8-9
- Community & Home Living . . . . . 10
- Miscellaneous . . . . . 11-12

**4-H CAMP  
EARLY BIRD  
REGISTRATION**  
Save 10% by  
registering before  
March 15!  
See back page



# All-American Selections

## 72 Years of Award-Winning Plants

Mary Jane Frogge  
*Horticulture Extension Associate*

Established in 1932, the All-American Selections (AAS) makes awards on a yearly basis for the new vegetable and flower varieties that it feels exhibit qualities that are superior to contemporary varieties. The awards are based on the votes of a council of professional judges, who have studied the new varieties at more than 50 trial sites scattered across the United States and Canada.

An average of six to ten awards are given out each year, in the form of bronze, silver or gold medals. A gold medal is the highest possible honor, designating a significantly superior variety, and is rarely awarded.

Seed entries pour in from around the world, representing years of breeding research done by seed companies, university researchers and even individuals. Each new variety is entered with a name of a comparison variety against which its performance can be judged. The choice of a comparison variety is crucial, since the merit of the new variety is based on how superior it is to the comparison. If no comparison were used, the only thing the trials would prove is that the new variety can indeed be grown. But when matched up and judged against the best-to-date variety of its type, the value of the new variety is apparent. The comparison variety suggested by each entrant is reviewed by a panel of experts from All-American Selections, and this panel either adopts it or proposes a better one.

In each of the trial grounds scattered throughout North America, the new varieties are planted side by side with their comparisons, then grown and observed under the same conditions. As an example, the criteria for judging vegetables include taste, texture, yield, disease resistance, fruit size, climatic adaptability and novelty or uniqueness. The designated judge at each trial ground rates

the new variety on a scale from 0 to 10, based on how the variety is perceived to benefit the home gardener. In order to win, a variety must receive points from at least three-quarters of the trial grounds. This rule ensures that the winning varieties are highly adaptable to different soil and climatic conditions.

Although the All-American Selection varieties are not perfectly adapted to all gardens, your chances of success are greater when you select an award winning variety. Here are the 2004 winners. Enjoy.



*Celosia plumosa 'Fresh Look Yellow'*

**Celosia plumosa  
'Fresh Look Yellow'**  
Flower Award Winner

'Fresh Look Yellow' offers season-long garden color with minimal care. The golden yellow plumes are produced in abundance, at times covering the plant. The central plume can be 9 inches tall and 6 inches wide. 'Fresh Look Yellow' grows numerous side shoots, which cover mature blooms, eliminating the need for deadheading. When grown in a full sun garden, 'Fresh Look Yellow' attains a height of about 12 to 17 inches and spreads 12 to 15 inches. Plants exhibit heat, humidity and severe weather tolerance. Like all *Celosia plumosa*, flowers can be cut for arrangements or dried as an everlasting bouquet. 'Fresh Look Yellow' is perfect for busy gardeners who want summer-long flower color on carefree plants.

dainty, rose-like blooms. This new variety showed several improvements over comparisons. The flower form is double and semi-double, is a darker rose color and is a larger size, up to 3/8 of an inch. The plant produces a higher number of blooms over a longer flowering season. 'Gypsy Deep Rose' forms an enchanting mounded plant with a height of 8 to 10 inches, spreading 12 to 14 inches. This diminutive plant prefers full sun and adapts to container culture. 'Gypsy Deep Rose' is easily grown from seed or bedding plants. Plants require little maintenance. *Gypsophila* is often associated with weddings because of their use in bridal bouquets.



*Hollyhock 'Queeny Purple'*

**Hollyhock  
'Queeny Purple'**  
Flower Award Winner

'Queeny Purple' is the shortest *Alcea rosea* and the first purple hollyhock available as a single color not part of a mixture. These unique traits combined with season-long flower color resulted in 'Queeny Purple' winning an AAS Award. The frilly edged blooms are a "powder puff" type having a cushion center. They measure 3 to 4 inches and are produced abundantly on the compact branching plants. 'Queeny Purple' plants will reach a mature height of 20 to 30 inches, perfect for smaller space gardens. 'Queeny Purple' is an annual that will flower prolifically the first year from an early spring sowing.

**Petunia F1  
'Limbo Violet'**

Bedding Plant Award Winner

'Limbo Violet' differs from all other single grandiflora petunias as a unique combination of large flowers on a compact  
*see SELECTIONS on page 12*



*Celosia plumosa 'Fresh Look Red'*

**Celosia plumosa  
'Fresh Look Red'**  
GOLD MEDAL  
Flower Award Winner

'Fresh Look Red' performs like a fresh floral arrangement all summer. Thriving in the summer heat and humidity with drought or rainy conditions, 'Fresh Look Red' decorates a garden or patio container with rosy red plumes. It won the coveted Gold Medal for its consistent performance with minimal maintenance and pest-free growth. 'Fresh Look Red' covers up spent plumes by producing new foliage and blooms. The plant always looks fresh, needing no grooming. When grown in the full sun, 'Fresh Look Red' plants mature at 12 to 18 inches tall and spread 12 to 20 inches. The central plume can be 8 to 10 inches tall and 5 inches wide. Like all *Celosia plumosa*, the flowers can be cut and dried for everlasting homemade bouquets.



*Gypsophila 'Gypsy Deep Rose'*

**Gypsophila 'Gypsy  
Deep Rose'**  
Bedding Plant Award Winner

'Gypsy Deep Rose' is an annual *Gypsophila muralis* with

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 537  
Lincoln, Nebraska

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Lancaster County 4-H Council  
Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County  
444 Cherry Creek Road • Suite A  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507