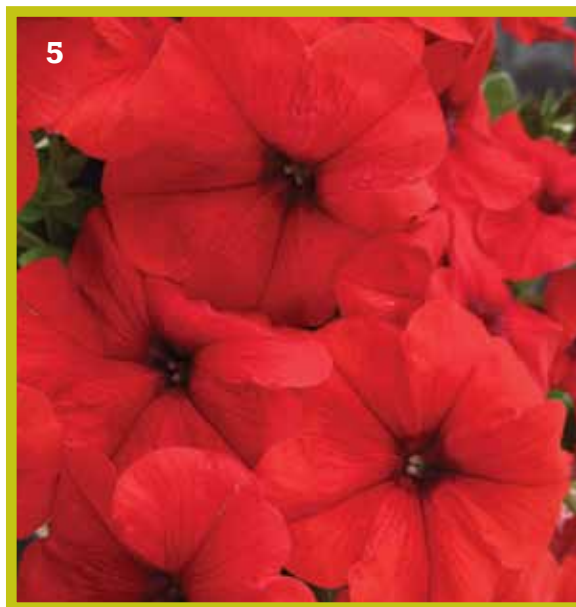
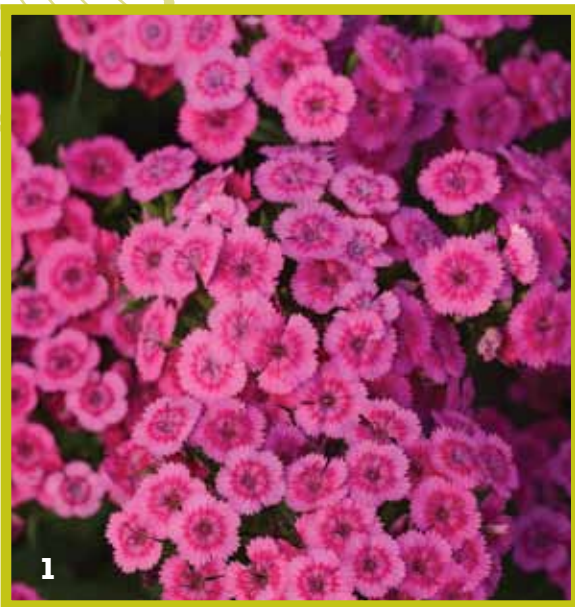


WINNERS CIRCLE

READ ON TO SEE THE LIST OF AWARD-WINNING VARIETIES THAT GPN AMASSED TO HELP GROWERS FIND PLANTS THAT ARE THE PERFECT FIT FOR THEM.

Compiled by Lynn Tangorra

Gardens in 2015 are seeing bold colors and drought-resistant, easy-to-care-for plants that are suitable for containers, borders and landscapes. Each year, GPN compiles a list of award-winning varieties for the year to share with readers. Judges have looked for unique appearances, weather tolerances, growth habits and other factors. Using these elements and more, the following plants were awarded with this year's top honors.



ALL-AMERICAN SELECTIONS

1) Dianthus, Interspecific 'Jolt Pink' (PanAmerican Seed). This variety has brightly colored and large, showy flower heads on strong stems that perform well all summer.

Jolt is bred for extreme heat tolerance with bright pink fringed flowers. It is shorter on the bench, which makes it better for shipping, and the uniform blooms last up to four weeks longer than the comparison varieties, making it an attractive option for landscapers.

2) Impatiens 'Bounce Pink Flame' (Selecta). Bounce looks like an *Impatiens walleriana* in habit, flower form and count. It is downy mildew resistant so impatiens last from spring through fall in the shade or sun. 'Bounce Pink Flame' contains bright pink, bicolor blooms.

3) Impatiens 'SunPatiens Spreading Shell Pink' (Sakata Ornamentals). These impatiens deliver season-long, soft pink flowers with strong

roots that quickly take hold after transplanting.

They thrive under high heat, rain and humidity and keep their shape all summer long, doing well in full sun and shade. The low-maintenance plants are resistant to downy mildew.

4) Petunia 'Tidal Wave Red Velour' (Pan American Seed). Any time-crunched gardener looking for petunias that are carefree should choose Tidal Wave. Its deep red, velvety blooms will not fade in the heat of summer, and as the tallest of the Wave family, they will re-bloom all season long and recover quickly, even after hard rains.

The vigorously spreading plants rarely need deadheading as new blooms continuously pop up and cover old blooms. Tidal Wave covers a large area quickly, making it a first-rate landscape performer.

5) Petunia 'Trilogy Red' (Takii & Co. Ltd.). The Trilogy petunia series welcomes this new color:

Trilogy petunias, known for their compact dome-shaped habit sporting large non-fading blooms throughout the season, cover and recover themselves in upright blooms and provide a constant mass of color in flower beds, baskets and containers.

Trilogy performs in high heat areas and bounces back after rain. For this series, there was less need for PGRs and on the bench, the controlled growth habit means tidier plants that are easier to separate and ship.

6) Salvia 'Summer Jewel White' (Takii & Co. Ltd.). This dwarf-sized compact plant has an abundant bloom count throughout the summer, with blooms appearing almost two weeks earlier than other white salvias.

Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds love the large flowers, making it a perfect pollinator garden. 'Summer Jewel White' is perfect for large landscape areas, containers and small beds because of its compactness and number of flowers.

AMERICAN GARDEN AWARD WINNER



1) Digiplexis 'Illumination Flame' (Cultivaris). A cross between digitalis and the Mediterranean shrub isoplexis, the hybrid resulted in a well basal branched, vigorous, colored and long blooming foxglove.

The variety flowers for several months, beginning in mid-spring and continues through the summer until the first hard frost. The 2-inch tubular, hooded flowers have fuchsia-pink tones on the outside with blooms that transition from fuchsia pink to golden apricot throats streaked with lavender spots on the inside.

2) Petunia 'Sanguna Radiant Blue' (Syngenta Flowers). With a bicolor flower pattern, this hybrid petunia works well on porches, decks and in garden beds. The petunia has early and continuous flowering, prefers full sun and blooms mid season.

3) Celosia 'Arrabona Red' (PanAmerican Seed). With masses of red-orange plumes that will last all summer, 'Arrabona Red' is easy to care for, drought tolerant and performs well in the heat making it perfect for tropical, sub-tropical and continental climates. It is exceptionally long-flowering when used in borders or containers.



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CONTROL CITRUS MEALYBUGS IN ORNAMENTAL CROPS

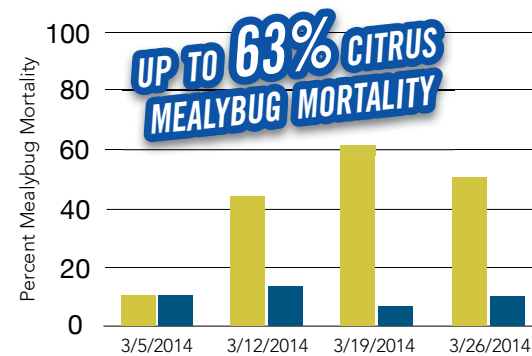
PEST: Citrus Mealybug (*Planococcus citri*)
RESEARCHERS: Amy L. Raudenbush and Raymond A. Cloyd,
Kansas State University

A greenhouse research study conducted in early 2014 at Kansas State University evaluated the efficacy of AzaGuard against Citrus Mealybugs (CMB) of Red Coleus under greenhouse conditions. A total of 4 weekly foliar applications were made with AzaGuard starting one week after infesting the established plants with CMB instars.

Results from CMB mortality assessments (Total 4 assessments) showed significantly higher % CMB mortality (up to 63.0%) on coleus plants treated with AzaGuard when compared to plants treated with the water control. Study concludes that multiple applications of AzaGuard can help suppress CMB populations significantly.

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Citrus Mealybug Control



Legend: AzaGuard - 16.0 fl.oz./100 gallons of water (Yellow), Water Control (Blue)

BioSafe Systems recommends AzaGuard as an important part of your spray program. AzaGuard can be effective on egg/crawler stages of the insect life cycle and should be applied as a foliar spray at a rate of 16 fl. oz./100 gals of water. Apply once every 5-7 days with thorough coverage and continue until complete suppression is achieved.



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FLEUROSELECT

1) *Calamintha nepeta* 'Marvette Blue' (Van Hemert & Co.). This first-year flowering perennial flowers within 12 weeks from spring sowing. The mint smell of the mid-green foliage attracts butterflies and bees. It makes a great filler in sunny borders and can also be used as an edging for walks or as a potted plant.

2) *Cosmos bipinnatus* 'Xanthos' (Van Hemert & Co.). The dwarf, early flowering (from June to September) yellow 'Xanthos' is fitting for the patio or terrace. Because of its compactness, 'Xanthos' is ideal for transport, with a short production time that makes it an early-season attraction. The yellow is new to the compact cosmos range.

3) *Echinacea purpurea* 'Feeling Pink' (HM. Clause). Blooming from May-June until September-October, the rose-colored flowers attract bees and other insects; it is also suitable

for cutting. Performs well in tough conditions such as wind, heat and dry soil, and due to a shorter cycle, 'Feeling Pink' is easy to produce and allows for a higher rotation in growing schemes. The variety is also compact and displays a good basal branching habit.

4) *Helianthus autumnale* 'Western Mixture' (HM. Clause). The highly floriferous perennial is dwarf, compact, early flowering and will embrace any border from summer until the end of autumn. 'Western Mixture' offers masses of yellow, red and bicolor red/yellow flowers. Its better branching allows for growth in a wider range of pots and its compactness enables efficient transport.

5) *Ocimum basilicum* 'Purple Ball' (NARIC Fruitculture). This aromatic annual has original, small purple leaves and small, tubular purple flowers. It thrives in sunny, warm

weather and is drought resistant. Purple Ball can work in a pot, as a filler in balcony boxes and in flower beds.

6) *Petunia* 'Tidal Wave Red Velour' (PanAmerican Seed). Due to its spreading habit, this petunia (also an AAS Flower Award Winner) is a fast grower and can wind around a fence to create a hedge; make ground cover in a bed; or fill a large container as a patio show-piece. It has a long-flowering season and excellent rain resistance.

ASSOCIATION OF SPECIALTY CUT FLOWER GROWERS



1) Celosia 'Sunday Orange' (PanAmerican Seed). Short, programmable production time and high stem yield makes Sunday ideal for high-density cut flower programs. Sunday has full plumes; long, strong stems; and has excellent shipability and vase life.

2) Caryopteris 'Longwood Blue' (Longwood Gardens). This variety was named after its breeder and violet-blue flowers. The foliage is silvery-gray, lance shaped and aromatic. This is a favorite woody plant for flower growers because of its sturdy stems, stunning color and long vase life. It blooms mid-late summer into fall.

3) Ranunculus La Belle Series (Comptoir-Paulinois). This series is fully double flowering; has high production (nine to 15 stems per tuber); 21 homogenous colors; early uniform flowering and large flowers on tall, sturdy stems. Ranunculus may be grown in the same greenhouse as other plants, but its best growth will come from night temperatures of 45-48 °F, and day temperatures of 58-65 °F. Corms planted in early October should start producing flowers in January and continue through April.



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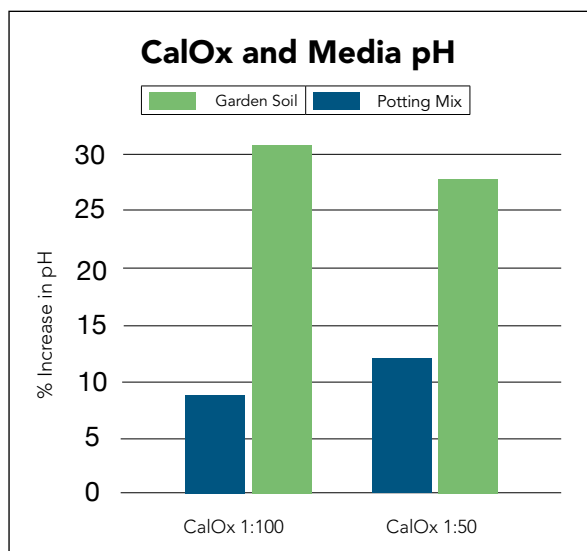
EVALUATING PH RESPONSE IN ACIDIC SOILS

IMMEDIATE PH ADJUSTMENT

ORGANISM: Garden soil, potting mix
RESEARCHERS: Vijay Choppakatla, Ph.D.
BioSafe Systems LLC

A recent in-house study performed by BioSafe Systems, evaluated the pH change in acidic soils after the application. In this study two acidic soils were tested, potting mix and garden soil. Results show, that just 24 hours after application the pH in the potting mix increased by 30.4% when direct injected at 1:50 and 9.6% when direct injected at 1:100. The garden soil also showed an immediate pH adjustment with a 12.3% increase when direct injected at 1:100 and a 27.6% pH increase when direct injected at 1:50. These results proved that CalOx immediately adjusts soil pH.

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Treatment	Application Method	Garden soil pH 24 hrs. after	Potting mix pH 24 hrs. after
No CalOx	Soil/media drench to saturation without leaching	4.63	4.05
1:100		5.20	4.44
1:50		5.91	5.28



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CalOx is the ideal product for longer-lasting, immediate pH treatment. CalOx's flowable micron size does not clog irrigation systems. It is direct injected as a drench application, stabilizing the soil pH for 35+ days. Save on labor and time with CalOx.

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2" System shown as shipped



Customize to your exact needs.

*Optional pH & EC monitor/alarms

More Affordable Than You Think!

Simple Operation

Fully Adjustable Feed

Accurate & Dependable

Low Maintenance

Long Life



WINNERS' CIRCLE



AMERICAN HOSTA GROWERS ASSOCIATION


Hosta 'Victory' (Zilis/Solberg 2003).

Maturing on average to 38 inches in height with an 88-inch spread, 'Victory' rivals in the giant, upright, variegated category.

Individual leaves measure 17 inches long and 13 inches across. The hosta has a shiny, dark green center and a yellow to creamy-white margin. Near white flowers are born on 6-foot-tall scapes in midsummer.

PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION

Geranium x cantabrigiense 'Biokovo'. The 2015 Perennial Plant of the Year performs best in sun to partial shade and prefers average, well-drained soil. Its delicate pinkish-white flowers in spring give way to reddish orange leaves in the fall.

It blooms in late spring with masses of five-petaled white flowers about 3/4 inches in diameter. The perennial reaches 6-10 inches tall, tends to be deer and rabbit resistant, is hardy in Zones 4 to 8 and only requires deadheading. 



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Jasmina Dolce
Managing Editor

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