

Plants have staying power long past summer

In celebration of its 75th anniversary this year, All-America Selections announces the All America Classics.

Five plants, known for improved traits and worthy of praise, have stood the test of time.

Dianthus F1 Ideal Violet has held the attention of lovers of annuals since 1992 with its 1½-inch single violet blooms. Gardeners appreciate its cold and heat tolerance.

Guy Lassartesse bred Ideal Violet looking for earliness to bloom and continuous flowering while plants endured the cold winters and thrived in the sun-baked earth of the South of France.

These crosses he noted and saved. His observations and hybrid crosses resulted in the crème de la crème Ideal Violet plants.

These petite plants will reach about 10 to 12 inches tall and branch about a foot wide. In southern climates, Ideal Violet can color a fall and winter garden while withstanding considerable cold. Unlike other annuals, Ideal Violet tolerates a wide variation in seasonal temperatures.

In northern areas, Ideal Violet deserves a place in the early spring garden next to pansies and violas.



Kimberly J. Moore

Easy to grow with minimum garden care, Ideal Violet is recommended for any container plantings.

Originally introduced in 1966, Pansy F1 Majestic Giants Mix has stood the test of time.

The plants, sprouting large 4-inch blooms with the traditional pansy face, have been planted by four generations of gardeners in the North and South, in the spring or fall.

Majestic Giants Mix was the first pansy that didn't require cool temperatures for flower initiation.

Thus, in the Southern states, seed could be sown in the summer, and the anticipated fall flowers would occur naturally, without an artificial cool treatment.

While only 6- to 8-inches tall, Majestic Giants Mix enhanced its

diminutive size with consistently large flowers.

Since the introduction of the hybrid Majestic Giants Mix, most pansies are hybrids due to increased vigor and freedom of bloom.

The hybrid vigor enabled Majestic Giants Mix plants to thrive under diverse growing conditions. Adaptable to full sun or partial shade, Majestic Giants Mix will perform in a garden or in a container. Another desirable trait is the bright vivid colors.

This classic mix offers a wide range of colors from blue, scarlet, cherry red, yellow, and orange to pure white. Majestic Giants Mix is an exceptionally long-lived pansy for spring and fall seasons.

Petunia F1 Ultra Crimson Star blazed a new path in 1988 as the first AAS Bedding Plant Award Winner for its improved traits of earliness and the consistent white star pattern on flamboyant 3- to 4-inch crimson blooms.

Gardeners will find Ultra Crimson Star plants flower freely all season with a minimum of care. Pinching or pruning plants is unnecessary.

Unlike all other petunias in 1992,

Petunia F1 Wave Purple did not grow vertically but grew along the soil like an ivy ground cover. The self-rooting stems radiated in all directions, growing 3- to 4-feet and hugging the ground with a height of 4- to 6-inches.

The totally unique plant habit, obvious vigor and continuous flowering were traits previously unseen.

The flower color was debated. Finally in 1995, the petunia was introduced as an AAS Winner named Wave Purple.

Since 1994, Tomato F1 Big Beef has remained one of the most popular red tomatoes in North America. Almost foolproof, 8- to 12-ounce fruit can be harvested beginning about 73 days from transplanting into warm garden soil.

Easy to grow from seed or plants is an understatement. The hybrid vigor is obvious from seedling size to vining plant.

Big Beef began a trend toward multiple disease resistances packed into plant genes using old-fashioned breeding techniques.

Kimberly J. Moore is extension educator for agriculture and natural resources at the Johnson County Purdue Extension Office.

JANUARY GARDEN CALENDAR

Indoor plants and activities

- Keep holiday poinsettias and other plants near a bright window. Water as top of soil becomes dry.

- Check produce and tender bulbs kept in storage, and discard any that show signs of decay, such as mold or softening. Shriveling indicates insufficient relative humidity.

Lawns, ornamentals, landscape plants and tree fruits

- Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.

- Leaf through nursery catalogs and make plans for landscape and home orchard additions. Order plants early for best selection.

- Cut branches of forsythia, pussy willow,

crabapple, quince, honeysuckle and other early spring-flowering plants to force into bloom indoors. Place the branches in warm water and set them in a cool location.

Flowers, vegetables and small fruits

- Browse through garden catalogs and order seeds and plants early for best selection.

- Sketch your garden plans on paper, including what to grow, spacing, arrangement, and number of plants needed.

- Wood ashes from the fireplace can be spread in the garden, but don't overdo it. Wood ashes increase soil pH, and excess application can make some nutrients unavailable for plant uptake. Have your soil tested to be certain of the pH before adding wood ash.

Franklin doctor honored for long career in family medicine

Dr. Merrill M. Wesemann, a Franklin family physician, has achieved life membership status with the American Academy of Family Physicians.



WESEMANN

The academy recognizes family physicians who have distinguished themselves through service to family medicine and ongoing professional development.

To achieve the life-member status, a family physician must be a continuous member for at least 20 years and demonstrate dedication to continuing medical education and the family medicine specialty.

Molly M. Andrews, a mathematics education major from Greenwood, has been selected as a national outstanding campus



Annette Jones

PEOPLE

leader in the 2007 edition of Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges.

She attends Huntington University.

Farm City Rural Life Awards were presented recently by the Franklin Kiwanis Club.

Recipients are Scott Williams, son of Fred and Belinda Williams, Needham Township, Hopewell Boys and Girls 4-H Club; Mark Appleton, adult leader for 12 years of Indian Creek 4-H Club; Christy Davis,

daughter of Jeff and Jean Davis, Franklin Livewires 4-H Club; and Brenda Briggs, adult leader for 13 years, Hoosier Hotshots 4-H Club.

The George F. Hixson Award went to Anabel Howard and Walter Howard.

Ric Schlosser has been hired as the new director for the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Schlosser graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University with a bachelor's degree in business management and from the Community College of the Air Force with an associate's degree in human resources.

Schlosser retired from active duty in 2000 after serving 27 years in the Air Force and the Indiana Air National Guard.

Annette Jones is features editor of the Daily Journal. Items for her People column can be sent to ajones@thejournalnet.com.

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