

CLASSIC CITY GARDEN AWARDS SERIES



2018's Best New Plants

from the Trial Gardens at the University of Georgia

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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION





THE BEST PLANTS of 2018 at a glance:

- Begonia ‘Canary Wings’
- Calibrachoa Superbells® ‘Holy Smokes!’
- Calibrachoa Lia™ ‘White’
- Echinacea Sombrero® ‘Tres Amigos’
- Euphorbia ‘Crystal White’
- Gaillardia SpinTop™ ‘Red Starburst’
- Impatiens New Guinea Harmony® Radiance™ ‘Hot Pink’
- Pelargonium Calliope® ‘Large Rose Mega Splash’
- Petunia Dekko™ ‘Star Coral’
- Portulaca Hot Shots™ ‘Tangerine Glow’
- Salvia Skyscraper™ ‘Pink’
- Solenostemon ColorBlaze® ‘Torchlight’

In 1982, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences established the Trial Gardens at the University of Georgia with the mission to facilitate teaching, research, and new plant introductions. The gardens are an essential trialing site for heat and humidity tolerance for many of the world’s annual and perennial ornamental breeding companies due to the number of days that temperatures reach 90 degrees Fahrenheit and above, which is between 50 and 60 annually. The research and trialing gardens work with over 20 of the major ornamental breeding companies from around the world. Each year, UGA Cooperative Extension publishes the current year’s best performers.

Begonia 'Canary Wings' | Ball Ingenuity



It's refreshing to relax in the shade with a nice glass of sweet tea here in Georgia. That is until you spot Begonia 'Canary Wings' from Ball Ingenuity and, all of a sudden, you have the excitement and vigor to go forth and conquer the world! The plant world, that is. We have been watching this novel shade begonia in the garden since day one. To our satisfaction, shady areas become bright and vibrant with the chartreuse leaves and bright red flowers of 'Canary Wings'. It's an exceptional plant for both containers and in-ground plantings.

Calibrachoa Superbells® 'Holy Smokes!' | Proven Winners



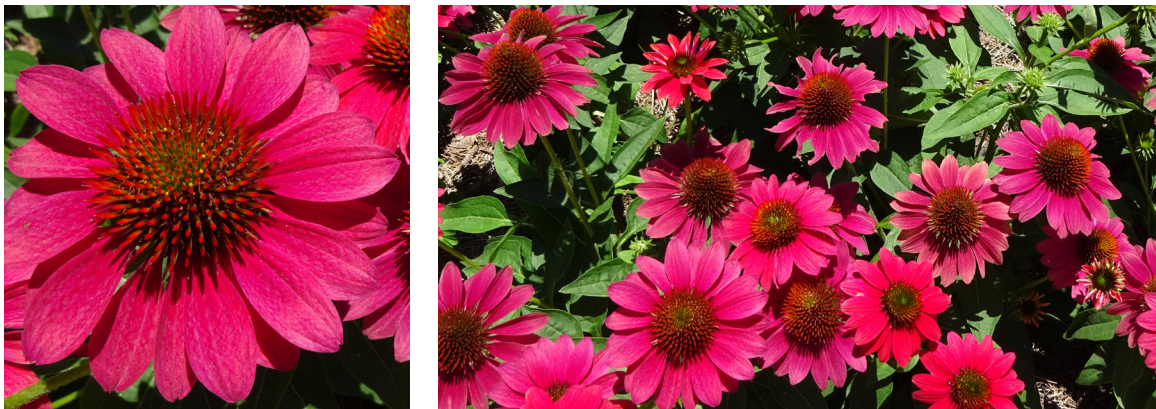
'Holy Smokes!' is what you will say when you lay your eyes on this beauty from Proven Winners' Superbells® Calibrachoa collection. Summer longevity is a must for the Southeast as we have a growing season that can be stretched out over 25 weeks. For any plant to maintain interest over such a period of time it's got to be a stunner and 'Holy Smokes!' did it like a champ. The flowers have white petals with watercolor-like purple-blue swatches and yellow centers. This year, 'Holy Smokes!' maintained a mounding habit throughout spring and summer that made it without a doubt one of the showiest flowering plants in the garden.

Calibrachoa Lia™ 'White' | Danziger



Hanging baskets bring brilliant color to eye level and are a staple form of growing plants around the country. Calibrachoa Lia™ 'White' from Danziger sets the bar for other Calibrachoa varieties with its nearly perfect shape, which it maintained in full bloom for months this year. Medium-sized, pure-white petals with yellow throats are anything but just another white flower in the garden. Anybody who wants to have constant color needs Lia™ 'White' added to their hanging baskets or mixed planters, as white is an essential color to make all other colors pop.

Echinacea Sombrero® 'Tres Amigos' | Darwin Perennials



Showstoppers are a must for every garden, but they can be hard to find if you don't know where to look. Look no further—Echinacea Sombrero® 'Tres Amigos' is going to be your new favorite perennial. Flowers transition through three distinct colors that emerge from peachy coral to rose and finish with a hint of burgundy.

You would think that these kinds of colors are only imaginary, but they are real. This selection is a must for any perennial garden. The plants perform well in full sun and can take drier soil conditions. Leave the flowers for the goldfinches to enjoy late in the season.

Euphorbia 'Crystal White' | Green Fuse Botanicals



Euphorbia is a well-known landscape plant, especially in hot parts of the country where it thrives. 'Crystal White' from Green Fuse Botanicals has a desirable shape that's about half the size of other popular varieties on the market.

At only about a foot tall, it packs a punch with flower production and has very tight branching. The plant was blooming in April when it was planted and is still in full bloom going into September – very nice!

Gaillardia SpinTop™ 'Red Starburst' | Dummen Orange



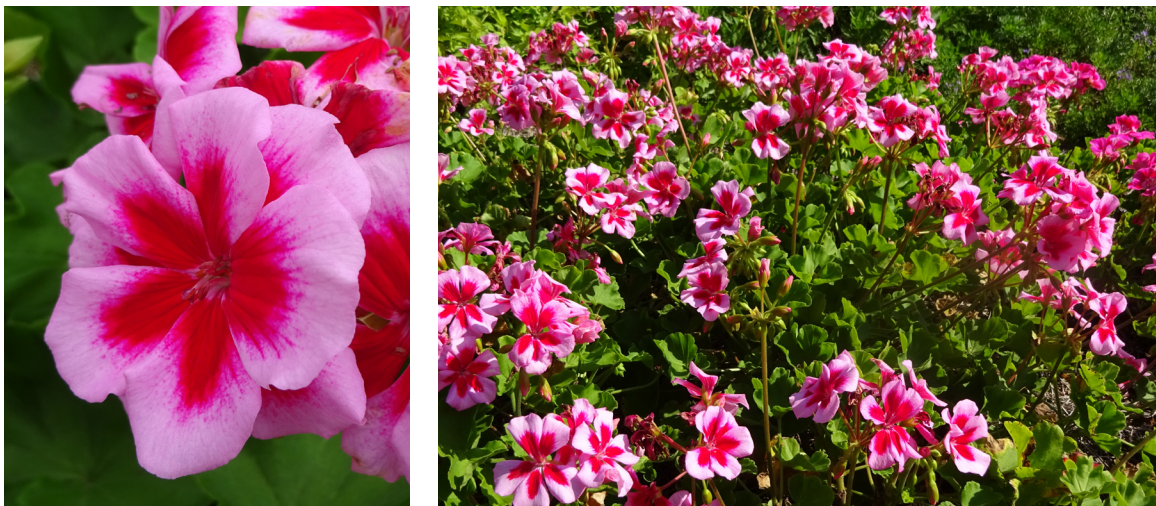
Gaillardia SpinTop™ 'Red Starburst' from Dummen Orange just makes people smile. The flowers on this plant exude color with their red centers that burst into red-orange and finish with bright yellow tips. This plant would make an excellent border plant or container planting. This selection needs to be beside your front door so that you can get a little burst of happiness whenever you walk by!

Impatiens New Guinea Harmony® Radiance™ ‘Hot Pink’ | Danziger



“Hot Pink” is a vast understatement; something more like “Hot, Hot, Hot Pink” is better suited to Danziger’s new cultivar of impatiens! We are growing this plant in a location getting no more than four hours of sun in the morning and it is thriving. Three uninterrupted months of blooming is what separates the good plants from the stellar plants. In the South, where so many of our landscapes need color under mature trees, this plant will light up dark corners with exceptional color.

Pelargonium Calliope® ‘Large Rose Mega Splash’ | Syngenta Flowers



Geraniums tend to do either great or not so good here in the South.

Calliope® ‘Large Rose Mega Splash’ from Syngenta Flowers tops the list in the great category. The cultivar’s showy pink petals with rose starbursts from the center of the flowers are sure to please in containers, hanging baskets, or in-ground plantings. Production of flowers has been nonstop. This cultivar has been the best of all our geraniums this year and it has maintained excellent disease resistance even with a wetter-than-usual summer in Athens, Georgia.

Petunia Dekko™ 'Star Coral' | Syngenta Flowers



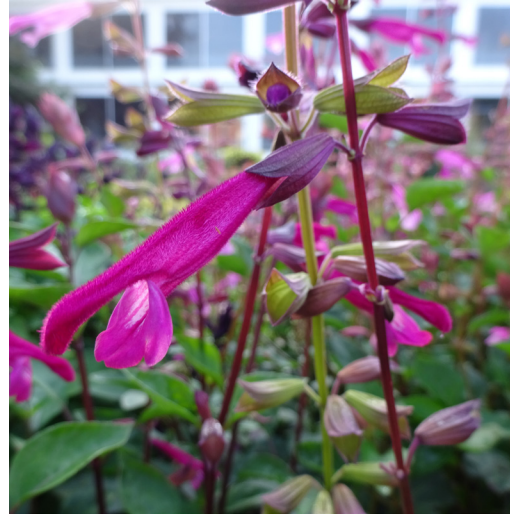
Picking the best petunia each year is a challenge because petunias produce vibrant colors and make bold statements in containers here in the South. The Dekko™ series from Syngenta Flowers had several stellar performers this year and we have chosen 'Star Coral' to top the list simply because it has bloomed the longest and had the best overall shape. The hot pink, coral-colored blooms have a touch of white in the petals that gives them a dramatic coloration. This cultivar would lend itself well to just about any other range of colors as companion plants, and it performs beautifully in a standalone planter.

Portulaca Hot Shots™ 'Tangerine Glow' | Green Fuse Botanicals



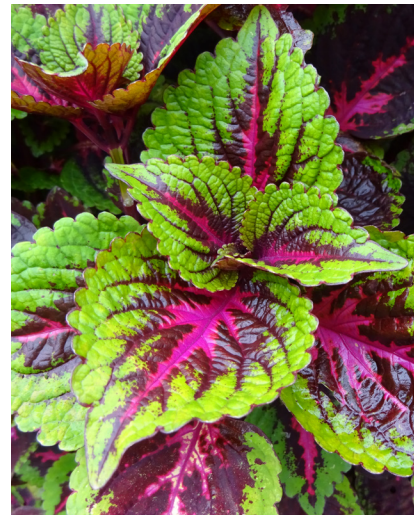
Portulaca Hot Shots™ 'Tangerine Glow' from Green Fuse Botanicals is in a league of its own in terms of overall interest. Our planting of 'Tangerine Glow' took over a 6-by-3-foot area and is just simply beautiful. The added interest of a flower that opens in the morning and closes in the afternoon is just too cool. Bright tangerine petals with scorching yellow centers bloom abundantly like a carpet of magnificence that deserves to be in every garden with full sun.

Salvia Skyscraper™ 'Pink' | Selecta



We all know and love salvia and who wouldn't? They attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and are just downright beautiful with a plethora of colors and sizes to choose from. Selecta struck a vein with Salvia Skyscraper™ 'Pink' and the plant speaks for itself. We are in the business of novel plants and we are all used to blue, purple, and red salvias, but pink? The flowers burst forth with a pale magenta calyx followed by a bright pink corolla that emerges to tower over the lush, dark green foliage on this unique cultivar.

Solenostemon ColorBlaze® 'Torchlight' | Proven Winners



The ColorBlaze® Series of coleus from Proven Winners has been nothing short of spectacular this year, so the top pick from this category had to be nearly perfect. 'Torchlight' has superior qualities in every way, from its lush, mythical green leaves with red and hot-pink veins to its seemingly indestructible growth habit. This plant is also very responsive to trimming.

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