

Gold medal award winners! Maximum impact/minimum maintenance

For ten years, a team of expert horticulturists and home gardeners have evaluated entries and awarded the Gold Medal to superior plants that are both disease and pest resistant. Hardy from New York to Washington, D.C., each plant has The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Seal of Approval. To date, 61 plant selections have won this award. Five outstanding plants have been selected as 1998 Gold Medal Plant Award recipients.

The Bottlebrush Buck-eye. *Asclepias peruviana*. Is a low maintenance shrub whose large white summer flowers are set against a bold texture. Growing to 12' with a width of 15' in moist soil. Buckeye prefers partial shade and acid soil. It is also deer resistant.

Ruby Spice. *Clethra alnifolia*. Is the only pink blooming summersweet that will not fade to white. It will delight gardeners with rich pink flowers in July. Grown in moist soil. Ruby Spice tolerates sun or shade, and works well as a specimen or in mass.

Mahonia bealei is a striking evergreen shrub, adding a bold textural statement to any garden. Deer resistant, the plant will grow to 5' in part shade and prefers moist, well-drained soil. Older plants bloom with chains of yellow flowers followed by blue berries. *Schizophragma Hydrangeoides*. **Moonlight**.

is a noninvasive vine. It displays a silver variegation and will attach itself with no mechanical supports. 'Moonlight' tolerates sun or shade. It is a wonderful accent plant with white flowers blooming in June and July.

Thuja. **'Green Giant'**, has a graceful texture and is a vigorous grower in any soil condition. A wonderful habit makes it ideal for use as an evergreen screen or specimen plant. It ultimately reaches a height of 75' with a spread of 12-20'.

A visit to your local garden center or landscape professional will provide you with the information you need to include these plants in your garden. Visit the Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association's (PLNA) website (www.plna.com) for more gardening and landscape ideas.

You can also visit The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's website (libertynet.org/~phis).

Begonia's beauty regimen: Warm, moist, not too much sun

Begonias are available as tubers in early spring and as bedding plants in late spring through summer. In most parts of the country, plants grown from tubers, as well as plants that have been lifted and stored over winter, should be started indoors. They should be planted out into the garden after the threat of frost has past. They will flower 12 to 15 weeks from start-up.



Lush, velvety begonia light up the shade with colorful flowers in the yummiest hues of rose, red, pink, apricot, orange, white and bi-colors.

Tuberous Begonias in the Garden or Containers

1. Tuberous begonias also may be planted directly into the garden.
2. Keep in mind, they do not like hot sun. In warm climates, place plants in beds that receive filtered, indirect sunlight. Keep away from direct sunlight, midday heat, and out of the wind.
3. Most upright-flowering plants will need staking. Be careful not to damage the roots with the stake.
4. For container plantings, tuberous begonias do not like much root space. Depending on the size of the plant, an 8-inch pot is plenty large for individual plants. Keep sun and heat restrictions in mind when selecting a location. (Hanging baskets are especially susceptible to being dried out in a windy location).
5. Keep moist, but don't overwater. Never let the soil dry out. Water the soil only and not the plant. A light application of houseplant fertilizer is recommended about once a month.
6. Pinching leggy plants promotes stronger stems and better flowers. The time to pinch (nip off extra or too-long stems) is when plants are developing. Keep the strongest three stems and nip off any others. Potted showpiece begonias look best with fewer (thus larger) flowers, so pinch off early developing flowers (until the plant reaches 10 inches) to promote sturdy growth and fewer buds.
7. In fall when night frosts hit, begonia seasons over. Either bid adieu to a killing frost, lift the tubers for over-winter storage. To store, after letting the tubers dry off for several days, layer them in peat or vermiculite in a cool dry place (45 to 50 F). In spring, replant plump, healthy tubers.

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'Goldsturm' black-eyed susan named Perennial Plant of Year

The Perennial Plant Association (PPA) has named Redbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii Goldsturm ('Goldsturm' black-eyed Susan) the 1999 Perennial Plant of the Year.

'Goldsturm' blooms from July through September. It's 2-1/2 to 3-inch flowers feature bright yellow rays surrounding a black eye. The plant reaches 3 feet tall and requires 1-1/2 feet of spacing between specimens. It reportedly combines well with Sedum 'Autumn Joy' ('Autumn Joy' stonecrop), Stokesia laevis Omega Skyrocket ('Omega Skyrocket' Stokes aster) and Pennisetum alopecuroides (Chinese Pennisetum).

Hardy in zones 3 to 9, 'Goldsturm' prefers full sun or partial shade. It grows well in average garden soil and reportedly doesn't have any significant pest or disease problems.

'Goldsturm' is a seed-propagated strain that should be sown at temperatures between 68 and 77°. Some germination may occur after two or three weeks, but a subsequent three- to four-week cold period with temperatures between 25 and 40° is necessary to initiate development.

Be sure to visit the Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association's (PLNA) website (www.plna.com) for more gardening and landscape ideas. Or, visit your local garden center or landscape professional. PPA is an international professional association which disseminates information of benefit to the public regarding the use and care of perennials.

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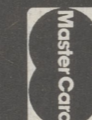
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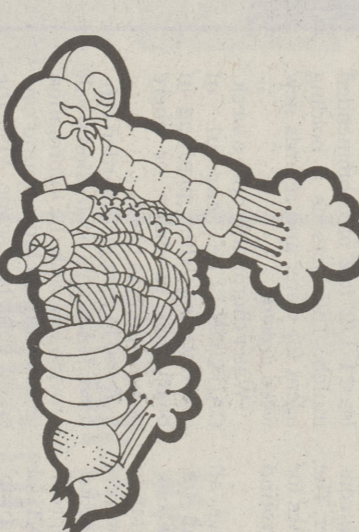
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ANNUALS

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PERENNIALS

Perennials are plants that survive through out the winter. They do not need to be planted every year. Although, most have a short blooming period. This problem can be relieved by picking varieties with staggered flowering periods or filling in with large potted annuals.

Kettell's Greenhouse

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