

All-America Selections Winners For 2018: The Newest and Best Ornamentals and Edibles for North America and Producers

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Abstract

Twelve varieties became All-America Selections (AAS) National Award Winners for 2018. AAS includes a network of over 80 trial grounds across the United States and Canada where new, never-before-sold varieties are "Tested Nationally and Proven Locally[®]" by skilled, impartial AAS Judges. Only the best performers are declared AAS Winners. Once these new varieties are

announced as AAS Winners, they are available for immediate sale and distribution. An additional three varieties were selected as AAS Regional Award Winners for 2018. Regional winners undergo the same trialing process as national winners, but are recognized as varieties that exhibit outstanding performance in specific regional climates.

AAS NATIONAL WINNERS FOR 2018

***Brassica rapa* 'Asian Delight' (F₁ pak choi)**

'Asian Delight' forms small to medium-sized (5- to 7-inch) heads that have a tasty, tender white rib and dark green, textured leaves. Plants are slower to bolt than other varieties. Bred by Seed Solutions of America LLC.

***Canna generalis* 'South Pacific Orange' (F₁ canna)**

Attractive, vivid, bright orange flowers contrast nicely with bright green foliage on compact, seed-grown plants. More vigorous, uniform, and more basal branching than comparison varieties. Bred by Takii & Co., Ltd.

***Capsicum annuum* 'Onyx Red'**
(ornamental pepper)

Compact, well-branched plants are adorned with eye-catching, dark black foliage. The contrast between the diminutive black foliage and many shiny red peppers is striking and makes a bold statement in the garden. Bred by Takii & Co., Ltd.

***Capsicum annuum* 'Red Ember'**
(F1 cayenne pepper)

This new introduction is earlier to mature than similar varieties, an important characteristic in areas with shorter growing seasons. 'Red Ember' produces many rounded-end fruits with just enough pungency for interest on durable, medium-sized plants. Bred by Johnny's Selected Seeds.

***Capsicum chinense* 'Roulette'**
(F1 habanero pepper)

'Roulette' resembles a traditional habanero pepper in every way (fruit shape, size and color, and plant type) with one exception – no heat! When mature, the one-ounce, thick-walled fruits are red with a pleasant citrusy habanero flavor. Bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

***Cuphea FloriGlory*® 'Diana'**
(Mexican heather)

Compact plants with dark green foliage bloom over a long period and are heat tolerant, making them ideal for borders, mass plantings, and containers. The intensely colored, magenta flowers are slightly larger and more numerous than on current varieties. Plants are vegetatively propagated. Bred by Westhoff.

Gypsophila muralis
'Gypsy White Improved' (gypsophila)

Semi-double blossoms on this new, improved variety exhibit better branching, growth habit, and heat tolerance than the older 'Gypsy White', making it perfect for containers, small spaces, and garden beds. Flowers are semi-double, larger in size, and more numerous than its predecessor, resulting in attractive mounds of white flowers. Bred by Sakata Seed Corp.

***Solanum lycopersicum* 'Red Racer'**
(F1 cocktail tomato)

Cocktail tomatoes have a good sweet/acid balance and are a smaller variety tomato (although larger than cherry or grape tomatoes). Fruits are uniform in size and mature in clusters on determinate plants. Plants may be grown in small spaces and in containers. Bred by EarthWork Seeds (distributed by Garden Trends Wholesale).

***Solanum lycopersicum* 'Valentine'**
(F1 tomato)

'Valentine' has an appetizing, deep-red color with a very sweet (Brix of 7 to 9) taste and will hold longer on the vine without cracking or losing the excellent eating quality. Gardeners should plan on staking the indeterminate vines for best results. Plants tolerate heat and keep on producing through the summer. Bred by Johnny's Selected Seeds.

***Tagetes patula* Super Hero™ Spry**
(crested French marigold)

This compact French marigold produces dark maroon lower petals and golden yellow upper petals on top of the dark green foliage. Flowers show a more uniform and stable color pattern, plants are earlier to bloom, and deadheading is not required. Bred by Ernst Benary of America, Inc.

***Zea mays* 'American Dream' (sweet corn)**

With excellent seed germination and very tender, super sweet kernels, this new sweet corn makes a great addition to the home garden. 'American Dream' matures slightly earlier than comparison varieties and produces vigorous, healthy plants with cobs that have good tip fill of bicolored kernels. Bred by Illinois Foundation Seeds, Inc.

***Zinnia elegans* 'Queeny Lime Orange' (zinnia)**

Sporting large, dahlia-like blooms on sturdy, compact plants, this variety provides cut flower gardeners and growers with an attractive hue for today's floral trends. The unique flower color evolves from dark coral/peach/orange to a light peach with a dark center as the flowers age. Bred by Hugo Dittmar (available through Floragran).

AAS REGIONAL WINNERS FOR 2018

***Capsicum annuum* 'Mexican Sunrise' (F₁ Hungarian pepper) (Regions: Southeast, Mountain/Southwest)**

These earlier maturing, conical, pendant-shaped peppers feature a thick-walled fruit that can be eaten at any stage. The semi-hot fruits exhibit a full spectrum of colors from lime green to yellow, then orange and red as they mature. Bred by Seeds by Design.

***Capsicum annuum* 'Mexican Sunset' (F₁ Hungarian pepper) (Regions: Southeast)**

The high heat, conically pointed peppers develop as a thick-walled fruit that can be eaten at any stage, but the taste tends to improve as the fruits ripen. Fruits set early and prolifically, and the plants may be grown in the ground or in containers. Bred by Seeds by Design.

***Solanum lycopersicum* 'Chef's Choice Red' (F₁ tomato) (Regions: West/Northwest)**

This fifth addition to the popular Chef's Choice tomato series is produces globe-shaped, tomato-red, beefsteak-type tomatoes with just the right balance of acid to sugar. Plants will produce 30 or more scar-free fruits throughout the season on disease-resistant, indeterminate vines with dark green foliage. Bred by Seeds by Design.

In summer 2018, the first two AAS Regional Winners for 2019 were announced:

***Citrullus lanatus* 'Cal Sweet Bush' (F₁ watermelon)**

This short-node watermelon produces two to three fruits weighing 10 to 12 pounds each on bushy vines with enough foliage cover to protect the fruits. Bred by Seeds by Design and Enza Zaden.

***Cucumis melo* 'Orange SilverWave' (F₁ melon)**

Plants produce attractive, 5-inch oval melons with an extremely sweet, orange flesh and unique rind color. Bred by Asia Seed Co., Ltd.

More information on AAS and AAS winners is available at:

www.all-americanselections.org.