

## **All-America Selections Celebrates 80 Years of Outstanding Garden Performers with All-America Selections Winners for 2012<sup>©</sup>**

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All-America Selections (AAS), founded in 1932, celebrates their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. AAS includes a network of over 50 trial grounds all over North America where new, never-before-sold varieties are grown and evaluated by skilled, impartial AAS Judges. Only the best performers are declared AAS Winners. AAS continues as the oldest, most established international testing organization in North America.

### **THE AAS WINNERS FOR 2012 ARE:**

#### ***Capsicum annuum* ‘Black Olive’ (Ornamental Pepper)**

The AAS Judges said this entry was a standout, especially in the southern gardens where heat was a major presence during the 2011 trials. All season long this beauty kept its upright habit with nicely draping leaves and dark purple/black fruit which appeared in small clusters along the stems. As summer progresses, the fruits mature to red, giving a beautiful contrast against the dark purple foliage and bright purple flowers. Retailers and growers can sell this multi-use ornamental as a 20-in. border plant, a great color splash for containers or as a cut flower in mixed bouquets. Bred by Seeds By Design.

#### ***Capsicum annuum* ‘Cayennetta’ (F<sub>1</sub> Pepper)**

‘Cayennetta’ is an excellent tasting, mildly spicy pepper that is very easy to grow, even for novice gardeners. This 3- to 4-in. chili pepper yields bigger fruits from a very well-branched, upright plant that requires no staking, which makes it perfect for a container or patio planter. Unique to this variety is that it has good cold tolerance as well as dense foliage cover to protect the fruits from sun scorch, and it handles extreme heat very well. This pepper is an all-around good choice no matter where you're gardening. Market growers will benefit from the heavy yield and prolific fruit set from each plant. Bred by Floranova Ltd.

#### ***Catharanthus roseus* ‘Jams ’N Jellies Blackberry’ (Vinca)**

Extremely unique, velvety deep-purple with white-eye flower color will add excitement to summer gardens. This superb accent plant will work beautifully in Americana color schemes and in combination with blue, pink, white, or lavender. In some settings, the flower petals appear almost black, making this color a designer's delight. Easy-to-grow plants have excellent tolerance to drought and heat. Mature plants will reach 10 to 14 in. tall, making them a perfect medium-height divider. The 2-in. flowers are complemented by deep-green shiny leaves creating a rich background for the richly dark flowers. Bred by Kirin Agribio/PanAmerican Seed.

#### ***Citrullus lanatus* ‘Faerie’ (F<sub>1</sub> Watermelon)**

‘Faerie’ is a non-traditional watermelon in that it has a creamy yellow rind with thin stripes, yet still yields sweet pink-red flesh with a high sugar content and crisp texture. Home gardeners will like growing something unique in their garden. The fact that the vines are vigorous, yet spread only to 11 ft, means it will take up less space in the garden. Each 7- to 8-

in. fruit weighs only four to six pounds, making it a perfect family size melon. Professional growers will appreciate the disease and insect tolerance as well as the prolific fruit set that starts early and continues throughout the season. Bred by Known-You Seed Company.

***Salvia coccinea* ‘Summer Jewel Pink’**

Sister to earlier AAS Winner *S. coccinea* ‘Summer Jewel Red’, this dwarf-sized, compact plant has a prolific bloom count throughout the growing season. As a bonus, the blooms appear almost two weeks earlier than other pink salvias used as comparisons. And of course, the hummingbirds love pink, just as much as they do red! Commercial growers will appreciate the earliness, excellent pack performance, and uniformity. Bred by Takii & Co., Ltd.

**IN SUMMER 2012, THE FOLLOWING TWO 2013 AAS WINNERS WERE ALSO ANNOUNCED:**

***Canna* ‘South Pacific Scarlet’**

This cultivar is grown from seed, not tubers. Plants are compact in habit and well-suited for both landscape and container use. ‘South Pacific Scarlet’ canna prefers warm and humid conditions over 77°F. This cultivar is more vigorous, more uniform, and has more basal branching than *C. generalis* ‘Tropical Red’. Bred by Takii & Co., Ltd.

***Echinacea* ‘Cheyenne Spirit’ (Coneflower)**

This stunning first-year flowering coneflower captures the spirit of the North American plains by producing a delightful mix of flower colors from rich purple, pink, red, and orange tones to lighter yellows, creams, and white. This wide range of flower colors on well-branched, durable plants are sure to please the color preferences of any gardener. As an added bonus, ‘Cheyenne Spirit’ coneflower does not require a lot of water and offers a wide range of uses from the perennial border, in a mass landscape planting, in a butterfly garden or as a cut flower. Bred by Kieft Seed.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

More information on AAS and AAS winners is available at: [www.all-americanselections.org](http://www.all-americanselections.org) or [www.aaswinners.com](http://www.aaswinners.com).