

# All-America Selections winners for 2015: ornamentals and edibles with proven national and regional garden performance<sup>©</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

Seventeen selections became All-America Selections (AAS) National Award Winners for 2015. AAS includes a network of over 80 trial grounds all over North America where new, never-before-sold cultivars are “Tested Nationally and Proven Locally<sup>®</sup>” by skilled, impartial AAS Judges. Only the best performers are declared AAS Winners. Once these new cultivars are announced as AAS Winners, they are available for immediate sale and distribution.

An additional eight cultivars were selected as All-America Selections (AAS) Regional Award Winners for 2015. Regional winners undergo the same trialing process as national winners, but are recognized as cultivars that exhibit outstanding performance in specific regional climates.

## AAS NATIONAL WINNERS FOR 2015

### *Allium tuberosum* ‘Geisha’ (garlic chives)

‘Geisha’ is a vigorous grower with a pleasant garlic flavor. Wider, flatter and more refined leaves topped by pretty white flower stalks late in the season allow this edible crop to serve a dual purpose as an ornamental. Bred by Terra Organics.

### *Beta vulgaris* ‘Avalanche’ (beet)

This beet exhibits a mild, sweet taste with a uniform root shape and no reddish tinge, making for more attractive produce. This beet is excellent for eating raw, without an earthy/beety taste, nor any bitter aftertaste. Bred by Bejo Seeds Inc.

### *Brassica oleracea* var. *italica* ‘Artwork’ (F<sub>1</sub> broccoli)

This stem (or baby) broccoli was previously available only in gourmet markets and upscale restaurants, but is now available for home gardeners. After harvest of the first crown, easy-to-harvest tender and tasty side shoots continue to appear long into the season. Plants resist bolting in warm weather better than other stem broccolis currently on the market. Bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

### *Capsicum annuum* ‘Emerald Fire’ (F<sub>1</sub> jalapeño pepper)

‘Emerald Fire’ produces attractive, glossy green peppers with thick walls that have very little cracking, even after maturing to red. Plants are high-yielding, with fruits rated at 2,500 Scoville units. Bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

### *Capsicum annuum* ‘Flaming Flare’ (F<sub>1</sub> chili pepper)

Unlike many Fresno chili peppers that typically grow better in warm and dry climates, ‘Flaming Flare’ performed well at all AAS trial sites. Fruits are sweeter tasting than similar Fresno chili peppers and consistently produce larger fruits and more peppers per plant. Bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

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***Capsicum annuum* 'Pretty N Sweet' (F<sub>1</sub> ornamental pepper)**

Plants of this cultivar are multipurpose, producing multi-colored peppers that are both ornamental and edible. Fruits are sweet and are produced prolifically on 18-inch plants that may be grown in the ground or in containers. Bred by Seeds by Design.

***Cucurbita moschata* 'Butterscotch' (F<sub>1</sub> butternut squash)**

This attractive, small-fruited butternut squash has an exceptionally sweet taste and is perfect for just one or two servings. Compact vines are space-saving for smaller gardens and containers and are resistant to powdery mildew later in the season. Bred by Johnny's Selected Seeds.

***Cucurbita pepo* 'Bossa Nova' (F<sub>1</sub> zucchini squash)**

The beautiful dark and light-green mottled exterior of this zucchini is more pronounced than other cultivars on the market. Compact plants produce fruits earlier in the season and continue producing for three weeks longer than comparable cultivars. Bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

***Dianthus* Jolt™ Pink (F<sub>1</sub> dianthus)**

This interspecific dianthus features large, showy flower heads with bright, pink, fringed flowers. This dianthus is heat tolerant, continues to flower through the season without setting seed and is ideal for low-maintenance gardens. Bred by PanAmerican Seed.

***Impatiens* 'Balboufink' Bounce™ Pink Flame impatiens**

This hybrid impatiens looks like an *I. walleriana* in habit, flower form, and flower count, but is downy mildew resistant. Plants produce bright pink bicolor flowers in sun or shade. This cultivar is available in plant form only. Bred by Selecta.

***Impatiens* SunPatiens®, Spreading Shell Pink impatiens**

This hybrid impatiens produces soft-pink flowers throughout the season on vigorous, spreading plants and is resistant to downy mildew. Plants thrive under high heat, rain, and humidity and may be grown in sun or shade. This cultivar is available in plant form only. Bred by Sakata Ornamentals.

***Lactuca sativa* 'Sandy' (lettuce)**

The first AAS winning lettuce since 1985, 'Sandy' is an attractive oakleaf-type lettuce with a multitude of sweet tasting, frilly, dark-green leaves. 'Sandy' also has exceptional disease resistance (especially to powdery mildew) and is slow to bolt. Bred by Terra Organics.

***Ocimum basilicum* 'Dolce Fresca' (basil)**

Plants produce sweet, tender leaves while maintaining an attractive, compact shape. Plants regrow quickly after a harvest. 'Dolce Fresca' may be used as both an herb and an ornamental. Bred by PanAmerican Seed.

***Petunia* ×*hybrida* Tidal Wave®, Red Velour (F<sub>1</sub> petunia)**

Large, deep-red, velvety flowers cover vigorously spreading plants of this petunia. New flowers are produced continuously to cover the old, spent blooms. Plants recover quickly after a hard rain. Bred by PanAmerican Seed.

***Petunia* ×*hybrida* 'Trilogy Red' (F<sub>1</sub> petunia)**

Compact, dome-shaped plants cover and recover themselves with non-fading, upright, vibrant-red flowers. Growers will appreciate the controlled growth habit of this cultivar, thus less need for plant growth regulators and greater ease in separating and shipping. Bred by Takii & Co., Ltd.

***Raphanus sativus* ‘Roxanne’ (F<sub>1</sub> radish)**

Roots have a uniform, bright-red color and a creamy-white interior, along with a great flavor and no pithiness. This radish stays firm and solid even when oversized and grows well in a wide range of climates. Bred by Bejo Seeds, Inc.

***Salvia coccinea* ‘Summer Jewel White’ (Texas sage)**

Dwarf-sized, compact plant features prolific production of creamy-white flowers throughout the summer. Flowers appear almost two weeks earlier than other white salvias and are useful for attracting pollinators to the garden. Bred by Takii & Co., Ltd.

**AAS REGIONAL WINNERS FOR 2015**

***Brassica oleracea* var. *gemmifera* ‘Hestia’ (F<sub>1</sub> brussels sprouts) (Regions: Southeast, Mountain/Southwest)**

This cultivar produces sprouts with a bright-green exterior and smooth, dense, yellow interior. Flavor improves when temperatures dip below 40°F; however, this cultivar tolerates both warm and cool temperatures, providing the potential for a second crop. Bred by Bejo Seeds, Inc.

***Brassica rapa* subsp. *chinensis* ‘Bopak’ (pak choi) (Regions: Northeast, Great Lakes, Mountain/Southwest)**

This is the first pak choi to become an AAS Winner. The upright, uniform, and dense plants mature early with tender leaves and crisp, sweet stalks that can be eaten raw in salads and sandwiches. Bred by Bejo Seeds, Inc.

***Capsicum annuum* ‘Hot Sunset’ (F<sub>1</sub> banana pepper) (Regions: Southeast, Heartland, Great Lakes)**

Large, healthy, vigorous plants are disease-free and produce tasty and attractive fruits all season long. Fruits (650 Scoville units) are thick-walled with a tasty flavor and may be used fresh, grilled, roasted, or pickled. Bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

***Capsicum annuum* ‘Sweet Sunset’ (F<sub>1</sub> banana pepper) (Regions: Southeast, Heartland, West/Northwest)**

‘Sweet Sunset’ is a compact banana pepper that is vigorous and produces a high numbers of concentrated fruit. The compact, upright plants do not require staking and can be grown in a container. Bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

***Cucumis sativus* ‘Parisian Gherkin’ (F<sub>1</sub> cucumber) (Regions: Northeast, Mountain/Southwest)**

‘Parisian Gherkin’ is an excellent mini (or gherkin) pickling cucumber which can be picked either at the midget size or small pickle stage and processed. The disease-resistant, semi-vining plants can be planted in the garden or staked in patio containers. Bred by Terra Organics.

***Ocimum basilicum* ‘Persian’ (basil) (Regions: Heartland, Mountain/Southwest, West/Northwest)**

‘Persian’ basil is a large, vigorous plant and a prolific producer of pleasant tasting leaves for culinary use. The green foliage, sturdy branches and large leaves also make this cultivar useful as an ornamental. Bred by Terra Organics.

***Origanum syriaca* ‘Cleopatra’ (Syrian oregano) (Regions: Northeast, West/Northwest)**

Attractive silver-gray foliage on a compact, trailing plant makes this oregano useful as an herb and an ornamental. Different from Greek and Italian oreganos, ‘Cleopatra’ has a mildly spicy, peppermint-like flavor. Bred by Genesis Seeds and offered by Terra Organics.

***Solanum lycopersicum* ‘Chef’s Choice Pink’ (F<sub>1</sub> beefsteak tomato) (Regions: Southeast, Great Lakes)**

Plants produce large numbers of 12- to 14-oz. pink, beefsteak tomatoes with a satisfying acid-to-sugar balance. The indeterminate, potato-leaved plants have resistance to multiple diseases. Bred by Seeds By Design.

In summer 2015, the first three AAS National and Regional Winners for 2016 were announced:

***Allium fistulosum* ‘Warrior’ (bunching onion or green onion) (Regional Winner: Southeast, Mountain/Southwest)**

This bunching onion grows quickly and matures early, producing a very uniform crop of slender, crisp onion stalks that are easy to harvest and clean. Bred by Seeds by Design.

***Brassica juncea* ‘Red Kingdom’ (F<sub>1</sub> mizuna or Japanese mustard) (National Winner)**

Foliage color of this high-yielding mizuna was a vibrant reddish-purple throughout the trial season and slower to bolt than other cultivars. This flavorful, mild-tasting green may be used as a vegetable or as an ornamental in containers and in the landscape. Bred by Asia Seed Co. Ltd.

***Raphanus sativus* ‘Sweet Baby’ (F<sub>1</sub> radish) (Regional Winner: Southeast, Great Lakes)**

This purple, white and rose-colored radish produces crops of uniform size with a crispy, crunchy and slightly spicy taste. Bred by Asia Seed Co., Ltd.

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