



Gold Medal PHS Plants

2023 Gold Medal Plant Winners

**OUTSTANDING PLANTS FOR
MID-ATLANTIC GARDENS**



PHS Gold Medal Plants

Wondering what to plant? Each year, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society recognizes exceptional plants for the Mid-Atlantic garden. Current and past winners include a variety of perennials, vines, shrubs, ornamental grasses, and trees. This year's winners were chosen for hardiness, ecological benefits, and beauty.

Complete list of PHS Gold Medal Plants

To view a searchable database of all past and present winners, please visit the Gold Medal Plant page at PHSonline.org/gold-medal-plants.

Where to buy PHS Gold Medal Plants

You can find many of the plants on the PHS Gold Medal Plants list at area garden centers that also offer a discount for PHS members. Please visit PHSonline.org/phs-members-partners-program.

Gardening Questions

Visit AskPHS at PHSonline.org or visit the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society McLean Library at 100 N. 20th St., Philadelphia, PA.

Thank you to our 2023 PHS Gold Medal Plants program sponsor: Mostardi Nursery, Newtown Square, PA.

About PHS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), an internationally recognized nonprofit organization founded in 1827, uses horticulture to advance the health and well-being of the Greater Philadelphia Region. PHS programs create healthier living environments, increase access to fresh food, expand access to jobs and economic opportunity, and strengthen deeper social connections between people. PHS's work spans 250 neighborhoods; an expansive network of public gardens and landscapes; year-round learning experiences; and the nation's signature gardening event, the Philadelphia Flower Show. PHS provides everyone with opportunities to garden for the greater good as a participant, member, donor, or volunteer.

For information and to support this impactful work, please visit PHSonline.org.



PHS

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1 *Juniperus 'Grey Owl'*

This native shrub has a proven track record as a low spreading evergreen that thrives in the sun. It tolerates extreme heat and cold and tolerates fairly poor soil. It is drought-resistant and has attractive evergreen silvery-blue-green foliage. It produces many berry-like bluish cones that birds like. 'Grey Owl' grows fast, making it an excellent choice for covering a sunny bank or other large, open area. It is deer resistant, attracts birds, and has winter interest. Evergreen shrub, 6' – 8'. Zones 2 – 9.



2 *Nyssa sylvatica Green Gable™*

This native tree is known for its brilliant red leaves in the fall and its small blue berries that are a good source for birds and mammals. This stately tree is an excellent street tree and will grow 40' – 60' tall. It is tough, adaptable, shade tolerant, and low maintenance. Deciduous tree, 40' – 60'. Zones 4 – 8.



3 *Quercus bicolor*

A multi-season native tree that will survive in both urban and rural settings and tolerates most soils better than many other oak cultivars and species. A beautiful stately tree, the acorns are an important source of food for wildlife and birds. The fall color of the leaves are yellow or reddish brown and the leaves will retain a tan color throughout the winter. This oak grows to about 50 feet in most urban conditions. Its growth rate is fairly fast (1½ to 2 feet per year). The branching habit resembles that of "pin oak" but the branches are shorter and more dense. Deciduous tree, 50'. Zones 4 – 8.



4 *Spigelia marilandica*

This native perennial blooms in early summer with red tubular flowers with yellow throats held above green foliage. It is very attractive to hummingbirds. It is best in mostly full sun and average to moist soils. It grows about 18 – 24" tall and does not flop with adequate sunshine. It is deer resistant. Perennial, 18" – 24". Zones 4 – 8.



5 *Vernonia lettermannii 'Iron Butterfly'*

This is a native perennial that thrives in a wide range of soil conditions. The stems of the plant are topped with a multitude of fine bright purple flowers in late summer and fall. The thread-like foliage is showy and clean and attracts a host of pollinators including butterflies. Perennial, 18" – 24". Zones 4 – 8.



6 *Viburnum dentatum Chicago Lustre®*

Chicago Lustre® is a native shrub that is an Ideal plant for hedging. It can grow to a mature size of 12' x 10', blooms in late May – early June with white flower clusters and blue-black fruit in the fall. It attracts birds and wildlife. Deciduous shrub, 10' – 12'. Zones 3 – 8.



Photo credits:
1, 2, 3, 5: Lisa Strovinsky
4: Tom Potterfield
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