



PHS Announces 2017 Gold Medal Plant Winners

Trees and plants chosen for their beauty and ease of care

PHILADELPHIA (August 2016) – The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has selected the 2017 winners of the PHS Gold Medal Plant awards, recognizing exceptional plants for the home gardener and professional landscaper. PHS and its Gold Medal committee also chose hardy favorites in the perennial category.

“The Gold Medal Plant program recognizes exceptional trees, shrubs, vines, and perennials for the home gardener. These plants are selected for their beauty, reliability and ease of care. Their performance and hardiness in the Mid-Atlantic growing region, from New York to Washington, D.C., has been proven,” said Matt Rader, PHS President.

The Gold Medal program has honored and promoted woody plants of outstanding merit since 1979. Nominations for plants are submitted by home gardeners, garden designers, horticulturists, landscape architects, nursery owners and propagators. The program was originally conceived by noted nurseryman Dr. J. Franklin Styer, who realized homeowners and gardeners needed to learn about superior woody plants for their landscapes. These plants are evaluated and chosen for their superb eye-appeal, performance, and hardiness in the growing region of Zones 5-7. Many winners are hardy in a much broader geographic range. Nominated plants are reviewed by a committee of expert horticulturists.

“I’m proud to be a member of the Gold Medal Plant Award selection committee. We serve this important PHS program by using our horticultural expertise to evaluate the nominated perennial and woody plants,” said Steve Mostardi, PCH, Chairman of the Gold Medal Plant Committee. “Through in-person discussions and an online rating system, we award the Gold Medals on a yearly basis to those who meet the rigorous criteria for excellence set forth by PHS.”



When a gardener acquires a plant designated a Gold Medal winner, he or she can be assured the plant will exhibit standards of excellence for pest and disease resistance, as well as ease of growing when planted and maintained appropriately. Gold Medal Plants are also chosen for their beauty through many seasons, whether it be foliage, flower, form or bark.

A full list of all Gold Medal winners and photos of this year's winners can be found at: <http://phsonline.org/learning/gold-medal-plants>

The 2017 PHS Gold Medal winners are:

Trees

***Lagerstroemia* 'Natchez' (Crapemyrtle)** is a flowering tree known for its white flowers in July and August, spectacular mottled exfoliating bark in shades of tan and chocolate, and yellow-red fall color. Growing 20 to 30 feet tall and 20 to 25 feet wide, this tree is sought after for its beauty and low maintenance, as well as its long bloom period (from summer to frost). From Dr. Donald Egolf and the U.S. National Arboretum, *Lagerstroemia* x 'Natchez' is truly a four-season plant. The tree reblooms reliably after its first summer display. Crapemyrtle can be planted as a specimen or in groups, and looks attractive when underplanted with a ground cover. Leaves are bronze when they first unfold in the spring and become yellow, orange or red before falling late in autumn.

***Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Gulftide' (Holly Tea Olive)** is a lovely upright English Holly look-alike, with excellent shade tolerance and deer resistance. The evergreen leaves are lustrous, fine and spiny. *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Gulftide' can be used as a foundation plant, or as a hedge in the shade. This tree does well in partial to full shade and average soil conditions, and grows to 6 feet tall by 4 feet wide.

Vines

***Clematis viticella* Group** blooms for a prolonged period from late June to September, producing a large quantity of 3-inch blooms in two different flower shapes. The viticella Clematis blooms on new growth, so they do well with a hard pruning in late winter to early spring. The habit is vigorous and it covers a trellis rapidly. All *C. viticellas* are highly resistant to Clematis wilt. As self-clinging vines, they do very well growing up trellises or winding up small trees or through large shrubs. The roots are happiest in cool shade and the tops prefer full sun.

Perennials

***Agastache* x 'Blue Fortune' (Giant Hyssop)**

'Blue Fortune' Anise Hyssop has lavender-blue flowers mid-summer to fall. Flowers bloom freely over a long summer to early fall and are attractive to butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Ovate-lanceolate leaves (to 4" long) are downy beneath and have a pleasant minty-anise fragrance. Leaves may be used in potpourris or to flavor cold drinks. This perennial is easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Good soil drainage is essential. From the Trompenberg Arboretum in Holland, *Agastache* bloom time is prolonged by dead-heading. This perennial is also deer resistant.

***Allium* x 'Summer Beauty' (Ornamental Onion)**

'Summer Beauty' Ornamental Onion produces a quantity of flat, refined, strap-like leaves in spring, topped by soft pink round umbels on long stalks starting in June. *Allium* 'Summer Beauty' continues blooming almost all summer, and the dried round seedheads add interest to the winter landscape as well. Roy Diblik of Northwind Perennial Farm introduced 'Summer Beauty' after finding it thriving in someone's driveway. It is extremely deer resistant and drought tolerant, and prefers partial shade.



***Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna' (Hybrid Sage)**

'Caradonna' Hybrid Sage has violet-blue flowers on tall dark purple flower stems, making a very showy combination. From Zillmer Plants in Germany, this perennial was introduced into this country by Dale Hendricks and Ron Strasko while at North Creek Nurseries. 'Caradonna' grows to a height of 24 to 30 inches, with a spread of 18 to 24 inches. The flowers attract hummingbirds and are deer-resistant. 'Caradonna' prefers full sun and well-drained soil.

***Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina' (Stonecrop)**

Sedum rupestre 'Angelina' has striking chartreuse to gold needle-like evergreen foliage, topped by inconspicuous yellow flowers in summer. It is a terrific low evergreen groundcover for sunny areas. The plant takes on a reddish tinge on the tips in winter. This perennial tolerates dry sites and roots itself easily. It also does well in containers and in rock and roof gardens, and is drought tolerant. Plants may be pruned back at any time if they get too large.

ABOUT PHS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1827, that connects people with horticulture and together we create beautiful, healthy and sustainable communities. PHS offers gardening programs and events for people of all skill levels, and works with volunteers, organizations, agencies and businesses to create and maintain vibrant green spaces. Proceeds from the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show -- which was named the top event in the world by the International Festivals & Events Association -- and donations from foundations, corporations, government and individuals support PHS programs, including PHS City Harvest, Plant One Million and Philadelphia LandCare, and Public Landscapes. For information, visit [PHSONline.org](https://www.phsonline.org).

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