

2009 Plants of the Year

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Rose: 2009 Roses of the Year

All-American Rose Selection (AARS)

'Pink Promise'-- Hybrid Tea-- a graceful bloomer with long stems for cutting – will promise that your garden is a stunning spectacle this year. Most impressively, the National Breast Cancer Foundation selected this rose to officially represent a continual blooming promise of compassion and awareness. For every 'Pink Promise' plant purchased, a percentage of the sales will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation to help extend women's lives through education and early detection. This hybrid tea's beauty is enhanced by the contrast of its large pink blossoms set against lush dark green foliage. Along with its stunning appearance, 'Pink Promise' has good disease resistance, and flourishes even in cooler climates. A highly fragrant rose, 'Pink Promise' fills any room with a deliciously fruity scent. 'Pink Promise' was hybridized by Jim Coiner and introduced by Coiner Nursery of Lavern, CA.

'Cinco de Mayo'-- Floribunda-- brings fiesta of flowers to every garden. Mysteriously colored and deliriously novel...it's an indescribable blending of smoked lavender and rusty red-orange. This festive rose may be impossible to describe but you'll love the endless bounty of multi-colored clusters sitting amongst clean, glossy green foliage and dark red new growth. The flowers, which hold well and are fast to repeat, radiate the smell of fresh-cut golden apples. As an AARS Winner, this floribunda has fantastic disease resistance and has performed exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. As the offspring of the 2006 AARS award-winning 'Julia Child' rose, 'Cinco de Mayo' enlivens any garden, and it's clean, round habit is ideal for use as a hedge or in a border with mixed perennials. 'Cinco de Mayo' was hybridized by Tom Carruth and is introduced by Weeks Roses of Rancho Cucamonga, CA.

'Carefree Spirit'--A Landscape Rose--Recognizing that consumers want roses that are easy to care for, in 2004, AARS stopped spraying fungicides on all shrub roses in its nationwide test gardens. 'Carefree Spirit' is the first and only landscape shrub to date to endure this real-world testing and prevail as a Winner. This mounding rose produces deep red blossoms with white twinkles in their eyes; the blooms finish pink as they bask in the sun.' Carefree Spirit' amplifies the disease resistance associated with its 'Carefree' lineage, with more than ten years of hybridization improvement. Much like its parent rose, 'Carefree Delight'™, which was a All-America Rose Selections Winner in 1996, the petals are beautifully set amongst abundant glossy, dark green foliage, however it has even better disease resistance, habit and blooming power, and will perform well in any area of the country. Deep Cherry Red with white eye, with white reverse suffused with deep cherry pink. Finishes deep pink in heat. 'Carefree Spirit' was hybridized by Jacques Mouchotte, director of research at Meilland International and introduced by Conard-Pyle Co. of West Grove, PA.

UK: *Rosa floribunda* 'Frylucy' aka 'Lucky'

This lovely pink-flowered, dark-green leaved, floribunda rose has been named as Rose of the Year for 2009. A subtly fragrant rose that blooms repeatedly from late spring to frost. It will reach a height of 3 feet, with a width of 2.5 feet. This rose works well along a border, or planted with other perennials. It was bred by Gareth Fryer, and introduced for the 2008/09 growing season and is described as a phenomenal new floribunda rose, quite different from anything previously seen with pretty lilac-pink

blooms that are scented and borne in abundance on huge wave like clusters. The plant itself is remarkable and effortlessly produces a wealth of strong growth, lavishly covered with whistle-clean foliage. It makes a bold statement when used for specimen planting and is equally impressive for mass bedding and for adding color to mixed borders. This variety is scented, easy to grow and has amazing diseases resistance and will win praise and adoration from modern and old fashioned rose enthusiasts alike. Rosa 'Lucky' was launched at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in July 2008.

Jackson and Perkins:

Floribunda: "'Kimberlina': 'Kimberlina' is one of the most vigorous floribundas ever introduced. Set against glossy dark green foliage, 'Kimberlina's 'light pink blooms exhibit a soft-spoken elegance that lends itself ideally to any type of mixed landscape. Own-root rose.

Grandiflora: 'Sweetness': 'Sweetness' bursts with soft, versatile lavender color and fills your garden with clusters of high-centered hybrid tea blooms all season. 'Sweetness' is a must-have for gardeners demanding exceptional beauty coupled with superior garden performance. Own-root rose.

Hosta Society: 'Earth Angel' A beautiful sport of the ever popular H. 'Blue Angel'. Thick, wide, pointed blue leaves with a chartreuse margin. Thick substance and the same great characteristics of its parent. A fantastic specimen for the shade garden. Height is 36 inches with a 54 inch spread with pale lavender flowers on 44 inch scapes in summer.

Perennial Plant Association: How is the Perennial Plant of the Year selected? The selection process is quite simple – PPA members vote for the POY. In addition to their vote, each member nominates plants for future consideration. The Perennial Plant of the Year Committee reviews the nominated perennials and selects 3 to 4 plants to be placed on the ballot. Nominations are based on the following criteria:

- Suitable for a wide range of climatic conditions
- Low maintenance
- Pest and disease resistant
- Readily available in the year of release
- Multiple season of ornamental interest
- Easily propagated by asexual or seed propagation

Customarily, a high percentage of returned ballots are received, certainly much higher than in the November general election. The voting reflects the interest in the Plant of the Year© and the enjoyment and impact felt by the perennial market and consumers alike.

Perennial Plant of the Year 2009: Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola' ("Golden Japanese Forest Grass")

The graceful, flowing form and golden foliage of this ornamental grass merited selection. The color can vary depending on where the grass is planted. In partial shade, the foliage will appear almost all-yellow, with narrow green stripes near the margins. In full sun, the foliage can bleach to a parchment yellow, and in full shade, it becomes chartreuse. 'Aureola' will maintain its graceful, cascading habit throughout the season. In late summer, seed panicles will appear above the foliage. When the weather gets cooler, the foliage turns a reddish-pink hue. 'Aureola' can grow up to two feet tall and is hardy in Zones 5-9, and has been known to overwinter as low as Zone 4.

Herb of the Year: *To achieve Herb of the Year status, an herb must fit within at least two of the three following categories: (1) Medicinal, (2) Culinary, (3) Craft or Decorative. Bay is primarily a culinary plant but does have a few, limited uses as a craft herb, mostly for wreathes and decorative items.*

The Herb of the Year for 2009 is Bay (*Laurus nobilis*)

The Part Used: It is the leaves of bay that have the flavoring properties. The plant is a tree that came originally from Asia Minor but was quickly spread around the Mediterranean and beyond. Supposedly the Oracle at Delphi chewed bay leaves and inhaled the smoke of the burning leaves of bay to induce her visions. Bay, and laurel, were worn as wreaths on the head for protection, as an honor for being victorious in sports and battle. (The association with honor continues to this day, as we have poet laureates and the word baccalureate means laurel berries, signifying the completion of a bachelor's degree.

Uses: Bay leaves have long been used in flour and grain to keep pantry moths out. Medicinally, it has a long history of being used for treating high blood sugar, migraines, bacterial and fungal infections. Bay leaves and berries have been used as an astringent, carminative digestive and emetic properties. The oil (bay oil or oil of bays *Oleum Lauri*) has been used in bruise and sprain liniments and salves.

"It contains compounds called parthenolides, which have proven useful in the treatment of migraines. Bay leaf has also been shown to help the body process insulin more efficiently, which leads to lower blood sugar levels. It has also been used to reduce the effects of stomach ulcers. Bay Leaf contains eugenol, which has anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties. Bay leaf is also an anti-fungal and anti-bacterial. Bay Leaf has also been used to treat rheumatism, amenorrhea, and colic."

Growing Bay (*Laurus nobilis*) Bay is easy to grow in pots on the patio or indoors. Use any average potting soil and give the plant full sun for at least half the day, or indoors, use a sunny window or grow-light. Pick the leaves as needed. Keep the plant pruned to size as it wants to become a tree if left to do so.

Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association: Sponsored by FNGLA, the Florida Plants of the Year program is designed to promote the use of superior and proven Florida plants. Benefiting growers, garden centers and consumers alike, promotional displays can be seen at many industry and consumer venues highlighting the year's selected plant varieties. The 2009 Florida Plants of the Year celebrates a decade of Florida plants recapping the top successes from the program's last decade as determined by a jury of growers, horticulturists, retailers, landscape professionals and University of Florida faculty.

1. *Acca sellowiana* ("Pineapple Guava") 8-2 feet tall and wide. This is a large, very cold hardy, disease-resistant, salt-tolerant evergreen shrub. Leaves are grey-green on top and silvery and slightly fuzzy on the undersides. Spring flowers have dark red showy stamens surrounded by pink and white waxy petals which are edible and have a slight pineapple flavor. Pineapple guava produces an edible, oblong guava-like fruit about the same size and shape as a chicken egg. *Acca* was formerly known as *Feijoa*.
2. *Arachis glabrata* ("Perennial Peanut"): 6-12 inches tall with 2-4 feet spread. With perky, rounded, bright yellow blooms, this drought tolerant, evergreen plant is a great ground cover ideally suited for a well-drained soil in a sunny area. Perennial peanut adds great interest when in bloom bearing yellow flowers during late spring, summer and fall and crawls along the ground spreading as it grows. It does well when inter-planted with grass, is mowable and is a possible turf replacement as it remains extremely low, some varieties no more than 6" off the ground.
3. *Bismarckia nobilis* ("Bismarck Palm") 30-50 feet tall and 10-15 feet wide. A massive, robust, stout, symmetrical palm with large silver-blue colored fronds extending from a central trunk which is smooth when mature. Even young Bismarck palms appear massive as they sport full crowns of about 25 leaves and a full spread dominating the landscape. Both sides of the leaf stems have a sharp edge. Once established this palm is drought tolerant and needs no additional water to sustain in the landscape.

4. *Dryopteris erythrosora* ("Autumn Fern") 24 inches by 24 inches. This clumping fern has upright foliage reaching 24" in height and spread. Sometimes called Japanese Shield Fern, its young foliage is eye-catching bronzy-red maturing into a glossy, dark green. The best growth is achieved in a well-drained soil in light shade to shade. Though water requirements are moderate, autumn fern will signal its water stress by wilting and changing its foliage's color.
5. *Hamelia patens* ("Firebush") 8 feet by 6 feet, but usually smaller shrub From March to November, Firebush exhibits its showy flowers which are a big attractor to butterflies and hummingbirds. The leaves of this evergreen shrub are reddish for much of the year, turning green as the leaves mature. Its berries are black in color and are a good source of food for local wildlife. The drought tolerant Firebush thrives in full sun to partial shade and grows vigorously, particularly in spring. Dwarf varieties are available and are becoming increasingly popular.
6. *Serenoa repens* ("Silver Saw Palmetto") 6 feet by 6 feet. Extremely slow growing clumps form multiple trunks with slender, blue-green palm leaves. It is a cold-hardy, salt-tolerant Florida native and grows in clumps or thickets in sandy coastal lands or as undergrowth in pine woods or hardwood hammocks. Its leaf stalks are armed with fine, sharp teeth or spines that give the species its common name and the stalks produce fleshy, reddish-brown fruits which are an important food source for woodland wildlife. The berries are also used as alternative medicine associated with urinary tract infection relief and for increased prostate health.
7. *Torenia fournieria* ("Wishbone Pansy") 'Summer Wave'. 12 Inches tall by 18-30 inches wide. This small stature, delicate looking perennial spreads and trails with flowers produced in abundance all season long. 'Summer Wave' series is a *Torenia* hybrid consisting of 8 varieties with colors from deep blue to violet to white with purple throats. *Torenia* 'Summer Wave' is a low-maintenance sun-lover throughout even the hottest, most humid months of the year. In the southern half of the state, if knocked out by frost, it will soon recover as temperatures arise in the spring.
8. *Ulmus elata* ("Winged Elm") 45 feet tall and 40 foot spread at maturity. With it's medium-large stature and moderate growth rate, this Florida native tree gained popularity with urban planners and can be seen in a growing array of residential settings too. The winged elm tolerates a variety of soil environments and some alterations between wet and dry conditions. In summer, winged elm is an attractive tree with an upright habit and a dense round head. When it loses it's leaves, the winged branches are more visible, adding to the tree's winter interest.
9. *Viburnum obovatum* ("Compact Walter's Viburnum") 4-6 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide. This Florida native features a mass of white flowers in early springtime and reblooms in autumn. New growth appears reddish and it grows more compactly than the tree *Viburnum*. Red fruits ripen to black in the fall, attracting wildlife. In north Florida it is semi-deciduous. It grows in a range of soils with many cultivars showing drought tolerance once established in the landscape. Many compact forms have been made and are available including 'Whorled Class', 'Mrs. Shiller's Delight' and 'Densa'.
10. *Zamioculcas zamiifolia* ("ZZ plant") 2-4 feet tall and 3 feet wide. This interesting succulent resembles a cycad with its thick, glossy leaflets and its semi-erect fronds. ZZ is actually an aroid occasionally showing a yellow-brown spathe. From stout underground rhizomes, stalks with a swollen base and shiny green leaves arise. All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested. ZZ is

an extremely tough plant performing well indoors and handling neglect extremely well. New bulbs can form when leaflets are clipped and stuck directly into soil. It handles low light conditions, uses little water and has very few if any insect problems. It grows very slowly and appears practically picture perfect with very minimal maintenance making it a favorite for interiorscape professionals in commercial settings.

The National Garden Bureau All-American Selections (AAS):

All-American Selections New Flowers and Vegetables for 2009:

AAS winners are selected from many new cultivars, based on performance in the garden, as well as in the greenhouse. Although no plant offers a guarantee of success in an individual garden, the AAS winners have proven themselves worthy over a broad range of growing conditions. Try these new selections alongside your old standbys so you'll have a means of comparison. AAS winners should be available through local garden centers and mail-order catalogs this spring. For more information about these and previous years' winners, point your Web browser to <http://www.all-americaelections.org/>. Every year, the National Garden Bureau announces All-America Selections, or AAS, winners, cultivars that a network of independent judges across the country find superior. All of the cultivars are new and have never been sold. AAS was started in 1932 to give gardeners a heads-up of what to look for in spring. Four plants -- one flower, two vegetables and one fruit-- impressed the judges enough to get the nod for 2009.

Viola 'Rain Blue and Purple' (*Viola cornuta*), common name "Johnny Jump-Up".

This variety is so named because the flowers change naturally from purple and white to purple and blue. The plant grows to about 6 inches tall and spreads 10 to 14 inches. Length of time from seed to flower is 70 days. It was bred by Tokita Seed Co. Ltd. in Japan.

Eggplant 'Gretel' (*Solanum melong*), common name "eggplant" and "aubergine".

The plant grows to about 3 feet wide and 3 feet tall and has glossy white, elongated-teardrop fruit. This is the earliest white eggplant, which gives gardeners a longer time to harvest. Because the plant is small, it is adaptable to the popular trend of growing edibles in containers. From transplant to harvest is 55 days. It was bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds in Oxnard, CA.

Melon 'Lambkin' (*Cucumis melo*), common name "Christmas melon".

The melon has sweet, juicy and aromatic flesh and matures early, which is great news for gardeners who can't wait to sink their teeth into the fruit they've grown. What's more, 'Lambkin' can be stored longer than other melons. Plant height reaches 9¼ inches, and vines spread 6 feet or more. Length of time from transplanting to harvest is 65 to 75 days. Known-You Seed Co. Ltd. in Taiwan is the breeder.

Squash 'Honey Bear' (*Cucurbita pepo* L.), common name "acorn squash".

'Honey Bear' acorn squash was bred to be baked and served in the half shell. The honey in the name refers to the sweet flavor when cooked. The bushy, compact plant will reach 2 to 3 feet tall and spread 4 to 5 feet without vines. The yield is high because of the plant's tolerance of powdery mildew, and it bears fruit throughout the growing season. From sowing seeds in the garden until the harvest of the first squash will be about 100 days. 'Honey Bear' was bred at the University of New Hampshire, Durham.