



If you are looking for information on the benefits of hoop houses, check out this [on-line webinar](#) from the National Center for Appropriate Technology.

Topics include the uses and benefits of hoop houses, including increases in crop quality and yields; different types of hoop houses; construction, materials and cost estimates; management of crops, soil fertility, pests and weeds and the economics and marketing of crops.

[Slides](#) from the seminar are also available in pdf format.

## 2009 Reader's Choice Award

GreenhouseGrower.com has posted their ballot for voting on the 2009 Reader's Choice Award.

The choices are:

- Euphorbia 'Breathless Blush'
- Osteospermum 'Voltage Yellow'
- Caliente & Calliope Geranium Series
- Lobularia 'Snow Princess'

[Vote for your choice.](#)

## AAS 2010 Cool Season Award Winner

Viola 'Endurio Sky Blue Martien' has been named AAS's 2010 Cool Season award winner.

This spreading/mounding viola looks delicate, but delivers tough-as-nails performance in the garden. In northern temperate climates, it dazzles gardeners with two-season color - flowering well after first frost when planted in autumn and once again in the spring after the snow has melted and soil has warmed. It can also be planted



in early spring, covering planters and landscapes with sky blue blooms well into summer.

The spreading/mounding plants grow to 6 inches tall and 10-12 inches wide. It is perfectly suited to window boxes and hanging gardens as well as balcony and patio planters.

'Endurio Sky Blue' is bred by Syngenta Flowers.

## On-Line Publications

[Grower Talks](#) and [Green Profit](#), publications of Ball Publishing are now on-line in magazine format. For those who need to flip the pages and see the layout, now you can do it on line. Check out the latest issues in magazine format.

## Growing Garden Mums

For information on fertilizing fall garden mums and the causes and symptoms of heat delay in garden mums, view these two short video programs sponsored by Greenhouse Grower Magazine.

For easy viewing the video can be enlarged to fit the whole screen.

Check the whole list of podcasts on production issues in the greenhouse for others of interest.

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## Northern Green Expo

The Minnesota Green Expo, sponsored by the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) and the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation (MTGF), has a new name: the Northern Green Expo. The annual event will take place Jan. 6 to 8, 2010, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The new name and logo were adopted to reflect the increased level of regional participation in the show. The name also emphasizes the show's focus on the unique challenges and opportunities of green industry professionals who work in the northern climate.

"Over the years, we have continually re-shaped this event to address the evolving needs of green industry professionals and realize that the attraction of the show reaches beyond the borders of Minnesota," said Bob Fitch, executive director of MNLA.

MTGF Executive Director Kathy Aro said, "We recognize the green industry values education as well as trade opportunities. It remains our top priority to provide a comprehensive event that engages both our local and regional audiences, highlights the northern climate and provides the unparalleled networking opportunities our attendees have come to expect."

## Perennial Plant Association

A copy of the July-August PPA News can be found [here](#).

The PPA Website is at [www.perennial-plant.org](http://www.perennial-plant.org).

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## Retail Roadshow

Today's Garden Center editor Jen Polanz provides [videos and blog entries](#) on marketing ideas she learned on the American Nursery and Landscape Association's Retail Roadshow in the Mid-Atlantic.

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## Michigan Garden Plant Tour

Retail garden centers and greenhouses, landscapers and nurserymen are invited to visit 8 sites during the two week period of August 3-14, 2009. The tour is free, but growers would appreciate a call ahead to know you will be coming.

[Link here](#) for information on each of the sites.

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