

2010 AAS Winners

| Jennifer Duffield White

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With trial gardens throughout the U.S., All-America Selections (AAS) continues its tradition of recognizing and promoting top-performing new varieties. Three flower varieties (no vegetables this time) made the cut and were named 2010 AAS Winners.

Chosen for their distinct genetics and proven garden performance, these varieties will also have promotional backing as AAS strives to get them recognized in the consumer media outlets in the coming year. These new cultivars are brand new, with seed being available to purchase from your distributor after May 1, 2009.

Gaillardia F1 Mesa Yellow

Mesa Yellow is the first F1 hybrid gaillardia or blanket flower. One of the main advantages of this new variety is its uniformity of seed germination and young plant performance. For spring production, expect a total crop time of 16 to 18 weeks depending on light levels and temperatures with natural day length. Since this first-year-to-flower perennial quickly “fills in” the container with a branching, mounding habit, it works well with 4-in. and larger size containers. Its horizontal vigor means that you should only need one plant per pot. With a USDA hardiness to Zone

4, gardeners should be attracted to Mesa Yellow’s continuous blooming and its natural drought tolerance. With a height that can reach 18 to 20 in., flowers may be cut and used for bouquets, as well. Bred by Pan American Seed Company, West Chicago, Illinois.



Snapdragon Twinnny Peach

Twinnny Peach is a unique dwarf snapdragon with a double or butterfly flower form (thus the “twin” reference in the name). Plant production can be scheduled for 10 to 12 weeks from sowing to bloom. When grown in 3- to 4-in. pots or premium packs, a plant growth regulator is recommended. When grown in full sun, Twinnny Peach can reach 12 to 14 in. tall, spreading about 7 to 8 in. With a unique color combination, flowers appear peach, yellow or light orange, blending together for a novel presentation. According to AAS, you can easily see the pastels from a distance for a striking contrast in the flower bed. Gardeners can expect spikes of color throughout the growing season. Bred by Hem Genetics BV, Hemmerbuurt, Netherlands.



Zinnia Zahara Starlight Rose

Zahara Starlight Rose is the first zinnia to combine rose and white bicolor blooms with disease-resistant plants. These branching zinnias are resistant to leaf spot and mildew, resulting in superior quality bedding plants. Easy to grow and schedule, you can produce Zahara Starlight Rose in eight to nine weeks for spring and in just five to six weeks during summer, depending on light levels and temperatures. While plants can be grown in 306 premium-size packs, you’ll find larger-size containers such as a 4-in. result in excellent quality, multibloom plants with exceptional sell through at higher price points. Gardeners will find these zinnia plants mature at 12 to 14 in., tolerating hot and dry or wet summer growing conditions. AAS judges noted exceptional garden performance in spite of higher-than-normal rainfall during the trials. Zahara Starlight Rose provided continuous flower color with minimal plant care—traits sure to please gardeners. Bred by PanAmerican Seed Company, West Chicago, Illinois.