

Classic City Award Winners from the Trial Gardens at UGA – 2019

Dr. John M. Ruter, Director, and Brandon Coker, Garden Manager

Agastache Poquito™ ‘Butter Yellow’ Terra Nova

Caladium ‘Clowning Around’ Classic Caladiums

Calibrachoa Lia™ ‘Bubblegum’ Danziger

Calibrachoa Superbells® ‘Honeyberry’ Proven Winners

Celosia Kelos® Atomic ‘CESP 1889’ Beekenkamp

Cuphea ‘Honeybells’ Ball FloraPlant

Echibeckia™ Summerina® Sizzling Sunset™ Pacific Plug & Liner

Gaillardia Heat It Up™ ‘Yellow’ Proven Winners

Gaura ‘Graceful White’ Dummen Orange

Hollywood™ Hibiscus Rico Suave™ J. Berry Genetics

Petunia ColorRush™ ‘White’ Ball FloraPlant

Portulaca Hot Shots™ ‘Grapefruit’ Green Fuse Botanicals

Salvia Skyscraper™ ‘Orange’ Selecta



Agastache Poquito™ ‘Butter Yellow’

Terra Nova



The Poquito™ Agastache series from Terra Nova included ‘Dark Blue’, ‘Lavender’, ‘Orange’, and our winner featured here ‘Butter Yellow’. While each of these cultivars was very good, ‘Butter Yellow’ brought it’s ‘A’ game to the garden with showy strong yellow flower spikes. While many hyssops tend to blend into their surroundings due to wispy stems and leaves this plant did not. Despite it being the shortest of the 7 cultivars we trialed this year ‘Butter Yellow’ stood out from the rest of the cultivars due to its bold visual appeal.



Caladium 'Clowning Around'

Classic Caladiums

Who names a plant 'Clowning Around'? Some people call it how it is and Classic Caladiums was clearly seeing this plant for who it is. Curvy uneven green leaf margins, wild green spots, hot pink veins, and pink filler adorn this stand out Caladium. No two leaves quite match up, but all of the oblong heart-shaped leaves flow well together to form a plant worthy of taking a second look. This will be a cultivar that is sure to be seen clowning around pots or flower beds in both sun and shade.

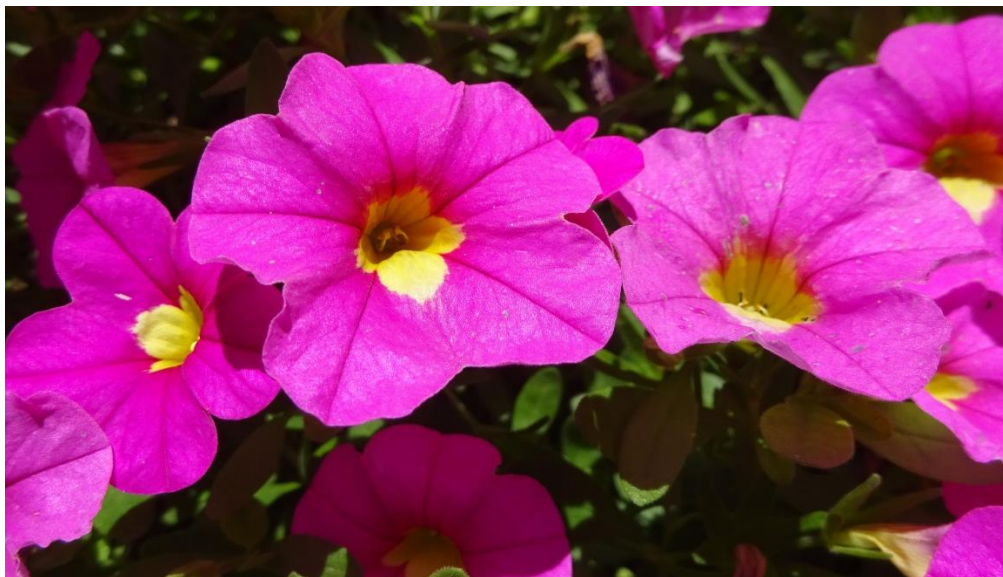


Calibrachoa Lia™ 'Bubblegum'

Danziger



There are plenty of pretty pink flowers out in the world but Calibrachoa Lia™ 'Bubblegum' by Danziger has got to be the leader of the pack. Large bright pink flowers with creamy yellow eyes make this plant show up from across the garden. The trend of million bells having larger flowers is evident with the Lia™ series as they commonly have the largest single flower compared to other series. Lia™ 'Bubblegum' will easily turn heads when combined with other bold colors for your container combinations.



Calibrachoa Superbells® 'Honeyberry'

Proven Winners

One of our personal favorites for the 2019 trialing season is Calibrachoa Superbells™ 'Honeyberry' from Proven Winners. Why? Because it was simply awesome! Constant uniformity from April to September and no matter how hot it got nor how humid it was this cultivar kept blooming. We find that when we enter into a heatwave our Calibrachoa's tend to shut down but 'Honeyberry' did no



such thing. All summer these plants kept pushing out flowers with iridescent pink petals accompanied by honey yellow throats.



Celosia Kelos® Atomic 'CESP 1889'

Beekenkamp



We love this Celosia from Beekenkamp for its showy hot pink erect flower spikes. Kelos® Atomic 'CESP 1889' in September was standing at 36 inches tall with no lodging which is no doubt due to slender flower spikes of which we have not had to trim or maintain thru the course of the summer. We have many Celosia from the Kelos® Atomic and Kelos® series all of which performed well here in Athens this year but this variety is, without doubt, a standout from the rest of the group. As with most Celosia this cultivar is also a strong pollinator plant with honey bees and bumblebees as regular visitors. Kelos® Atomic 'CESP 1889' is an excellent midrange plant with plenty of pizzazz that needs a place in gardens and planters all over the southeast.



Cuphea 'Honeybells'

Ball FloraPlant



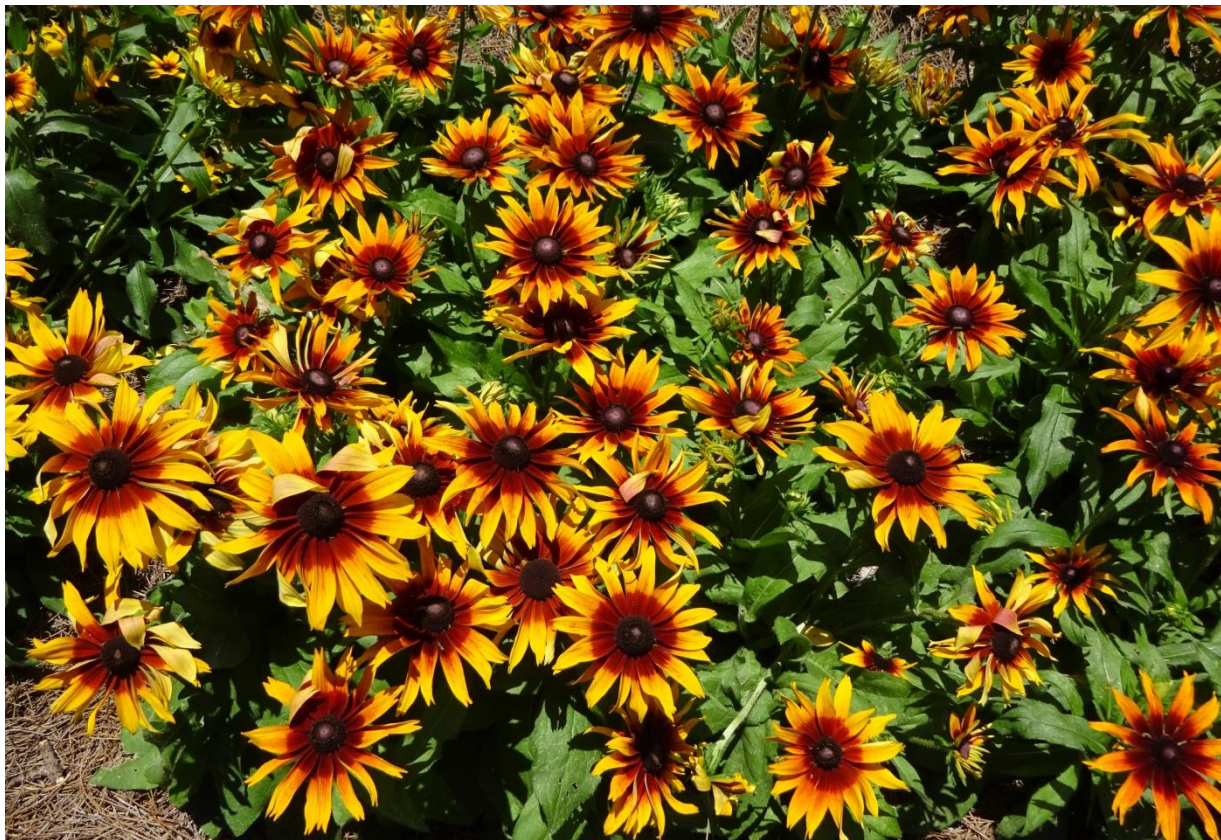
In Georgia and the rest of the southeastern United States, we have a super long growing season that can be easily stretched into 6 months! Ball FloraPlant has delivered to us Cuphea 'Honeybells' as a season-long interest and pollinator plant. We have planted this in-ground and as a hanging basket and each has performed exceptionally well over the course of the summer. At first we did not take to the small flowers but this cultivar quickly grew on us as it produced hot pink/yellow flowers in such volume that we could not help but fall in love with this selection. For anyone who has not yet discovered the wonderful world of Cuphea's, this would make a great starter plant.



Echibeckia™ Summerina® Sizzling Sunset™

Pacific Plug & Liner

Can't choose between a Cone Flower or a Black-Eyed Susan? No worries Pacific Plug & Liner has your fix: Echibeckia™. New and novel plants are our specialty and we had the privilege to trial the entire Summerina® series for the 2019 trial season. Sizzling Sunset™ takes the cake with its large yellow and red flowers with the traditional black 'eye' in the center. Early in the season we thought this cultivar would never bloom, the foliage was beautiful and very Rudbeckia like then - Bam! Our plants exploded and put on a spectacular show for the rest of the summer.



Gaillardia Heat It Up™ 'Yellow'

Proven Winners



Gaillardia Heat It Up™ 'Yellow' was indeed hot this summer! Bright, bright, bright yellow flowers and lots of them were the talking point for this selection from Proven Winners. Usually, deadheading is the name of the game to keep your Blanket Flowers blooming but this cultivar required minimal deadheading, which was a huge relief to our Master Gardeners. Heat It Up™ 'Yellow' started blooming in May and never slowed down which is why it earned the prestigious Classic City Award for 2019.



Gaura 'Graceful White'

Dummen Orange



We often talk about the importance of having white flowers in gardens because they act as a platform for all the other colors in the garden to play off of. Gaura 'Graceful White' from Dummen Orange fits this bill nicely with large white flowers accompanied with shades of pink as the flowers fade. The plant gave us an excellent first flush early in the season. Following a hard prune this plant had the audacity to bloom an even heavier flush of flowers in late summer! Extended season is an important factor when dealing with perennials and 'Graceful White' makes keeping season-long interest look easy.



Hollywood™ Hibiscus Rico Suave™

J. Berry Genetics

The J. Berry website defines a 'Rico Suave' as a confident self-assured impeccably dressed fitness fiend. I can just see this Hibiscus strutting his pure yellow flowers with hot pink to red centers thru the garden like, "Yea that's right petunias!" A sure stand out this year is the Hollywood™ Hibiscus Rico Suave™ from J. Berry Genetics. We had flowers daily from May till September with this stunner and the foliage remained deep green without any special care outside of normal water and feeding. I would recommend this plant for both containers and in-ground plantings due to its strong stems and bold colors.



Petunia ColorRush™ 'White'

Ball FloraPlant



You could rest in the shadow of Petunia ColorRush™ 'White' from Ball FloraPlant. Large pure white blooms cover the plant with a bold, mounding habit. Constant blooms and consistent mounding habit helped this plant to be the best in our petunia trials this year. We trim all our Petunias back to the pot mid-season and most cultivars have a bloom hiatus before flushing back out, but ColorRush 'White' was the first to flush out which speaks to its strong vigor. We plant 4 plants to a pot for evaluation and ColorRush™ 'White' is coming in with a width in excess of 48" in diameter per pot and has clearly earned its way to a 2019 Classic City Award.



Portulaca Hot Shots™ ‘Grapefruit’

Green Fuse Botanicals



Portulaca Hot Shots™ ‘Grapefruit’ from Green Fuse Botanicals will be an easy sell at any garden center. Very healthy foliage, heavy flower count, and vibrant pink/yellow flowers. This cultivar will add a popping spiller to any container or work easily into a border or rock garden in-ground or even could be skillfully used in a vertical garden. Versatility is a key characteristic to a plants success and Hot Shots™ ‘Grapefruit’ will fit that bill

naturally. An additional benefit is the attraction of pollinators as soon as the flowers open around mid-morning. We cannot help but to give a shout out to a 2018 Classic City winner the Hot Shots™ ‘Tangerine Glow’ from Green Fuse that was a beyond stellar cultivar and it’s easy to draw the line between that plant and Hot Shots™ ‘Grapefruit’.



Salvia Skyscraper™ 'Orange'

Selecta

A staple plant for all gardeners should be the pollinator and sun friendly salvias. Salvia Skyscraper™ 'Orange' from Selecta is a more compact version of Skyscraper™ 'Pink' by about a 12 inches in height when comparing our plantings here in Athens. But that does not take away from the overall appeal of the plant and in fact, it's what we love about it. Other than the large vibrant pink flowers and orange calyx, Skyscraper™ 'Orange' gives a huge presentation of flowers that play well with the overall compact growth of the plant as the flowers all converge into a block of color.

We were able to get two heavy bloom sets out of the selection and with our extended growing season here in the southeast I would not be surprised with to squeeze in a third heavy bloom before the season is over.



**A huge thank you for these excellent companies who trialed
with us for the 2019 season!**

All America Selections
AmeriSeed
Ball FloraPlant
Ball Ingenuity
Beekenkamp
Classic Caladiums
Danziger Flower Farm
Darwin Perennials
David Austin Roses
Dummen Orange
European Takii
Evanthia Seeds and Plants
Green Fuse Botanicals
Intrinsic Perennial Gardens
J. Berry Genetics
Jelitto Perennial Seeds
Must Have Perennials
Pacific Plug & Liner
PanAmerican Seed
Proven Winners
Selecta
Skagit Gardens
Star Roses
Terra Nova
Van Belle Nursery