
SUNNYSIDE THYMES

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“Helping Others Grow”

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A Gardener's Wish List

By Colleen Craven-Becker, SMG Member

This year, the Education Committee and your fellow Master Gardeners will be providing monthly articles on plants that have proven success in our sometimes rather difficult growing climate. We are utilizing two resources to provide you with information on specific plants that work well here – the Theodore Klein Plant Awards and the All America Selections. We have attempted to cover a wide variety of plants – trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, shade lovers, pollinators, hummingbird attractors, vegetables and so on.

Theodore Klein Plant Awards

This program, established in 1995, promotes superior woody and herbaceous plants for Kentucky landscapes. Named for one of the patriarchs of the Kentucky nursery industry, Theodore Klein, each year the program names plants that offer excellent ornamental and performance characteristics in the Kentucky climate. Award winners are selected by a panel of plant professionals representing Yew Dell Gardens, the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association, University of Kentucky Landscape and Nursery program, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Though the emphasis is on plants that do well in Kentucky, the same plants should work equally well in our climate since southern Indiana shares the same growing Zone 6 with Kentucky. More information at Theodore Klein Plant Awards | Nursery Crop Extension Research (uky.edu).

All America Selections

All-America Selections National and Regional Winners have been tested for garden performance by a panel of expert judges. Varieties that perform best over all of North America become AAS National Winners. Entries that performed particularly well in certain regions are named AAS Regional Winners. The AAS Winners offer gardeners reliable new varieties that have proven their superior garden performance in Trial Grounds across North America.

Independent AAS judges determine the AAS Winners by judging and scoring the entries. Judges look for significantly improved qualities such as earliness of bloom or harvest, disease or pest tolerance, novel colors or flavors, novel flower forms, total yield, the length of flowering or harvest and overall performance. More info at:

all-americanselections.org

We also need your help. We need Master Gardeners and Interns to write a few of the monthly articles. You can use the Theodore Klein Awards website and the All American Selections site for your initial research. Another site that might be helpful is the Missouri Botanical Gardens Plant Finder website: (Plant Finder (missouribotanicalgarden.org)).

If you are interested in writing an article, contact Jane Jones at janejhjones@icloud.com and she will provide you with a list of selected plants to choose.

