

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Shamp (706) 298-0022, ashamp@asginfo.net

New Edible Plants Win 2018 Green Thumb Award



The two best new edible plant varieties for this year have won the 2018 Green Thumb Award presented by the Direct Gardening Association (formerly called the Mailorder Gardening Association). Honored in the Edible Plants division are the Stark® Scarlet Crush™ Apple Tree ('Cherry Parfait #19' cultivar) from Stark Bro's Nurseries & Orchards Co. and The Organic Potato Plant Detective from Wood Prairie Family Farm.

Winners of the 2018 Green Thumb Awards were selected by an independent panel of garden writers and editors. The winning product was selected based on its uniqueness, technological innovation, ability to solve a gardening problem or provide a gardening opportunity, and potential appeal to gardeners.

The Green Thumb Awards recognize outstanding new garden products available by mail or online. The awards are sponsored by the Direct Gardening Association (DGA), a nonprofit association of companies that sell garden products directly to consumers via catalogs and websites. For more information visit www.directgardeningassociation.com.

2018 Green Thumb Award Winners ~ Edible Plants ~

Stark® Scarlet Crush™ Apple Tree ('Cherry Parfait #19' cultivar)
Stark Bro's Nurseries & Orchards Co.

An important breakthrough in pomology is this Honeycrisp x Pink Lady® cross, which offers the best of Honeycrisp – snap, sweetness and juice – coupled with Pink Lady's ease of growing and tolerance of warmer climates. Stark® Scarlet Crush™ will thrive as far south as Zone 7 and has exhibited resistance to bitter pit, scab and cedar apple rust. This very attractive, uniform, conical apple is ready to pick in late September, extending the growing season for growers who have been frustrated by Honeycrisp's short "here today, gone tomorrow" ripening window. Stark® Scarlet Crush™ Apple Tree ('Cherry Parfait #19' cultivar) is available at www.starkbros.com for \$29.99 each.





The Organic Potato Plant Detective *Wood Prairie Family Farm*

The **Organic Potato Plant Detective** is a special seed potato collection on a mission. Our hardworking twelve-tuber collection serves double-duty and features two of the best organic Maine Certified Seed potato varieties – **Island Sunshine** and **King Harry**. In addition to growing a bountiful crop of delicious potatoes for eating, the two unique *Organic Potato Plant Detective* varieties perform a detective-like *bioassay* function, helping growers of all sizes diagnose potato growing problems. Both are traditionally-bred, Non-GMO varieties. Early-season, round-white **King Harry** was crowned king



of the Cornell University hairy-leaf-potato breeding program. Cornell has been breeding for potato crosses possessing hairy-leaves or “glandular trichomes” which repel and keep bad bugs at bay. Late-season **Island Sunshine**, descended from two savory Dutch varieties, was bred by organic farmer brothers on Prince Edward Island, and is highly regarded for its substantial ability to stand up to diseases like Potato Late Blight. The *Organic Potato Plant Detective* serves as a simple and effective diagnostic tool for differentiating whether potato problems are being caused by insect or disease pressure. Complete with *How-To Plant Diagnosis Flow Chart*, *Organic Potato Growing Guide* and *Wood Prairie Family Farm Potato Recipes Booklet*. Available exclusively from the Wood Prairie Family Farm Catalog and Website, www.woodprairie.com. Retail price is \$19.95.