

NEWS RELEASE

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10 New Garden Plants and Products Win 2011 Green Thumb Awards

Five new plant varieties and five new gardening products have won 2011 Green Thumb Awards presented by the Direct Gardening Association (formerly known as the Mailorder Gardening Association). Honored in the Plants, Bulbs and Seeds division were Grafted Vegetable Plants from Territorial Seed Company, Tickled Pink™ Grape from Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co., Salt and Pepper Cucumber from Johnny's Selected Seeds, Double Oriental Lily 'Magic Star' from Van Bourgondien and All-Ways Greener™ Brand Grass Seed Mix from Gardens Alive!.



Honored in the Tools, Supplies and Accessories division were Thatch Control from Natural Industries, Encapsulated Compost Worm Cocoons from Gardens Alive!, MiniGarden from EarthBox, Bean Grow Bag from Gardener's Supply and Timelapse ProjectCam from Wingscapes.

Winners of the 2011 Green Thumb Awards were chosen by an independent panel of garden writers and editors. The winning products were selected based on their 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), which recently changed its name from the Mailorder Gardening Association. The DGA is the world's largest nonprofit association of companies that sell garden products directly to consumers via catalogs and websites. For more information visit www.directgardeningassociation.com.

2011 Green Thumb Award Winners – Plants, Bulbs and Seeds

Grafted Vegetable Plants **Territorial Seed Co.**

Grafted vegetables represent a true technological advance, combining age-old techniques for grafting woody plants with innovative methods of healing and curing tender vegetable grafts. Grafted vegetables help solve common garden problems from temperature swings, drought, salt spray, pests and diseases. Tasty scion varieties (top growth) are grafted onto vigorous, disease-resistant rootstock. Grafted tomatoes are of particular value to home gardeners since they allow folks in challenging climates to enjoy ample harvests of America's favorite garden crop. Grafted Tomato Plants are available with two varieties on one plant or single varieties such as Brandywine, San Marzano Gigante, Japanese Black Trifele and more. Grafted Tomato Plants are available exclusively from Territorial Seed Company, (800) 626-0866, www.territorialseed.com.



Grafted Vegetable Plants (on right)
Territorial Seed Co.

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Tickled Pink™ Grape
Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co.

Tickle your tastebuds with Tickled Pink™ Grape. The intensely sweet fruity flavor and seedless, tender-crisp texture are a mouth-watering delight. The rosy pink color of the grapes is a visual delight, as is the sugary cream soda aroma. The plants are available in WOW Fruit Now!™ size, and these larger plants have more developed root systems that will bear fruit fast. These plants have a trained production leader (the portion of the plant that bears fruit), which is not available in normal bareroot or potted sizes. If planted in the spring, Tickled Pink™ Grape plants will fruit in the summer. (If planted in the fall, plants will fruit the following summer.) Each plant sells for \$29.99 from Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co., (513) 354-1491, www.gurneys.com.



Tickled Pink™ Grape
Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co.



Salt and Pepper Cucumber
Johnny's Selected Seeds

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Salt and Pepper is the first white-skinned pickling cucumber with resistance to powdery mildew. Similar in size (three to five inches long) to a variety called Miniature White which it replaces, this new variety has improved flavor along with increased disease resistance. Developed by Jason Cavatorta at Cornell University, Salt and Pepper Cucumber will mature 49 days after transplanting. A packet of seeds sells for \$2.95 from Johnny's Selected Seeds, (877) 564-6697, www.johnnyseeds.com.

Double Oriental Lily 'Magic Star'
Van Bourgondien

Combining the intense fragrance of its single counterparts with rich colors and a double set of flower petals (sometimes even triple!), Double Oriental Lily 'Magic Star' is a stunning addition to any garden. The petals are bi-colored in purple and white. 'Magic Star' flowers are so massive that it may take a year or two in the garden for them to reach their full impressive size. The blooms reach 32-42 inches tall, and the flowers last from July through August. Grow this new variety the way you would any other garden lily—in well-drained soil in full sun. Double Oriental Lily 'Magic Star' is cold hardy throughout USDA zones 3-8. One large bulb sells for \$9.99, two for \$18.98 and three for \$27.99 from Van Bourgondien, (800) 622-9997, www.dutchbulbs.com.



Double Oriental Lily
'Magic Star'
Van Bourgondien



Mowed **Unmowed**

All-Ways Greener™ Brand Grass Seed Mix
Gardens Alive!

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All-Ways Greener™ Brand Grass Seed Mix is an environmentally friendly blend of six superior fine fescues that offers the benefits of a lawn with significantly less hassle. This blend of grass varieties looks great when mowed just once a month at three to four inches tall. Or, leave it unmowed for a natural, meadow-like appearance. Either way, an All-Ways Greener™ lawn requires less water than many other turf grasses—about half the water of older bluegrass varieties. The fine fescues in All-Ways Greener™ Grass Seed Mix are the result of years of breeding for superior heat and stress tolerance. Unlike older fine fescues, this mix can be used in both shade and full sun much further south than older cultivars. A six-pound bag (item #4340) sells for \$39.95 from Gardens Alive!, (513) 354-1482, www.gardensalive.com.

2011 Green Thumb Award Winners – Tools, Supplies and Accessories

Thatch Control
Natural Industries

Thatch Control offers a safe, biological way to break down harmful thatch and increase the health and vigor of lawns. Thatch is the layer between the green, actively growing part of lawn grass and the soil. This tightly woven layer of thatch acts like a sponge that keeps water and nutrients from reaching roots. A little thatch can improve the heat tolerance of a lawn, but too much thatch makes a lawn susceptible to drought and heat damage, insect pests and lawn diseases. The active ingredient in Thatch Control is a patented microorganism called *Streptomyces violaceusniger* strain YCED 9. When applied to lawns in a water solution, these microbes will germinate and grow on harmful thatch, using the thatch as a food source and turning it into nutrients that the lawn can use to promote healthy growth. A two-ounce package of Thatch Control (which treats 5,000 square feet of lawn) sells for \$9.99 from www.naturehills.com.



Thatch Control
Natural Industries

Encapsulated Compost Worm Cocoons
Gardens Alive!



Encapsulated Compost Worm Cocoons
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Until now, adding redworms to a compost pile meant ordering live worms, which were shipped through the mail. Encapsulated Compost Worm Cocoons takes advantage of patented technology that gives the encapsulated worm eggs a shelf life of three months at room temperature. Just “plant” the encapsulated worm cocoons in a compost pile, and each cocoon can hatch up to 10 worms. Then the worms will start turning your kitchen scraps and yard waste into rich compost for your garden. 50 Encapsulated Compost Worm Cocoons (item #4339) sell for \$19.95 from Gardens Alive!, (513) 354-1482, www.GardensAlive.com.

— more —



**MiniGarden
EarthBox**

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The MiniGarden is an innovative modular growing container that makes it possible to have a vegetable plot, herb garden, flower garden or decorative living wall virtually anywhere. Perfect for urban dwellers and suburbanites alike, MiniGarden’s unique system of modules creates a self-contained vertical structure. Each MiniGarden kit includes three modules, which each have three planting pockets. So each MiniGarden can hold a total of nine plants. Included in the MiniGarden kit are container lids, a water-collecting tray (which is placed on the bottom) and clips used to connect the growing modules. Each module can be stacked and/or connected to additional modules. The MiniGarden sells for \$59.99 from EarthBox, www.earthbox.com, (800) 821-8838.

**Bean Grow Bag
Gardeners Supply**

The Bean Grow Bag makes it possible to grow pole beans anywhere—even without a garden plot. The grow bag is made from double-layer polypropylene fabric that breathes better than other materials, so plants won’t suffer from heat build-up, over-watering or poor aeration. The bag also root-prunes the plant for a healthier root system. The kit includes the grow bag, a sturdy steel support that’s 81 inches tall and 60 feet of jute twine. The bag is 24 inches wide at the base, so it fits even in tight spaces. The Bean Grow Bag Kit sells for \$39.95 from Gardener’s Supply, (800) 955-3370, www.gardeners.com.



**Bean Grow Bag
Gardeners Supply**



**Timelapse ProjectCam
Wingscapes**

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The new Timelapse ProjectCam from Wingscapes offers the ultimate way to showcase projects from beginning to completion. The innovative, high-resolution digital camera takes photos at set time intervals, then automatically converts them into timelapse videos that can be shared on YouTube and Facebook. It’s the perfect way to watch your remodeling project or your garden grow in fast forward on your computer! Timelapse ProjectCam is rugged and weatherproof, so it can be left unattended outdoors without worry. Set-up is easy and requires no tools. Timelapse ProjectCam sells for \$79.99 from www.naturehills.com.

Since 1998, the Green Thumb Awards have recognized the best new plants and gardening products available each year from gardening catalogs and websites. The Direct Gardening Association (formerly the Mailorder Gardening Association) sponsors the annual Green Thumb Awards. For more information visit the website at www.directgardeningassociation.com.