
NEWS RELEASE

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New Plants and Garden Products Win 2020 Green Thumb Awards



The best new ornamental plants, garden products and edible plants have won the prestigious 2020 Green Thumb Award presented by the Direct Gardening Association (DirectGardeningAssociation.com). Honored in the Ornamental Seeds, Bulbs and Plants division were European Beech InstantHedge from InstantHedge and Clematis 'Lady Kyoko' from Spring Hill Nurseries.

Honored in the Gardening Tools and Accessories division were Garden Tutor Online Course and Kit from Botaniworld and the Vertex Wall Trellis from Gardener's Supply Company. Honored in the Edible Plants division were KangaRhu Rhubarb from Gurneys Seed and Treasure Island Sweet Potatoes from Concept Plants.

Winners of the 2020 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), a nonprofit association of companies that sell garden products directly to consumers via catalogs and websites.

2020 Green Thumb Award Winners

Ornamental Plants, Bulbs and Seeds



European Beech InstantHedge

InstantHedge

There's no reason to wait four or five years for a finished European Beech hedge when an InstantHedge can be planted in one day. The European Beech InstantHedge (*Fagus sylvatica*) provides beauty and privacy immediately after installation. The hedges are available in two sizes: 3-4 feet tall and 5-6 feet tall. InstantHedge is the only pre-grown, ready to plant hedge that offers the finished look of a mature hedge on the day it is planted.

InstantHedge is shipped in biodegradable cardboard boxes that can be planted right into the ground. There is no packaging waste because the box naturally biodegrades in the soil. In addition to the European Beech hedge, other InstantHedge plant

varieties are also available. European Beech InstantHedge can be found at instanthedge.com and coniferkingdom.com.

Clematis 'Lady Kyoko' (*Clematis* x 'Lady Kyoko')

Spring Hill Nurseries



Clematis 'Lady Kyoko' is coveted by clematis experts and collectors because it has not been available in the United States until now. Bred by the Sugimoto family in Japan in 2009, the stunning 'Lady Kyoko' Clematis has medium-sized, multi-sepaled flowers with delicate light purple veining on a white background blushed with lavender.

More compact than many clematis varieties, 'Lady Kyoko' matures at about 4-5 feet tall, which makes it perfect for growing in containers and in flower borders with support. This variety is hardy in USDA zones 7-9, and it grows best in full sun in moist, well-drained soil. Clematis 'Lady Kyoko' is an easy-to-grow variety

that makes a colorful addition to any garden. Plants are available from springhillnursery.com.

2020 Green Thumb Award Winners

Gardening Tools and Accessories

Garden Tutor Online Course and Kit

Botaniworld



The Garden Tutor Online Course and Kit is a unique, multimedia course that teaches beginning gardeners how to grow a garden like a professional. Unlike conventional ways of learning about gardening, Garden Tutor provides a concise, step-by-step framework of knowledge plus essential tools for hands-on education.

Instead of learning by trial and error, Garden Tutor provides the foundation for a beginning gardener to begin a lifelong hobby of

successfully growing plants of all kinds. In addition to the acclaimed Garden Tutor course, the kit includes essential tools needed to plan and plant a garden including a kit for testing soil pH, a compass, measuring tape, a soil testing jar, a handy reference guide and more. It's the perfect start for anyone who wants to begin to garden. Get the Garden Tutor Online Course and Kit at gardentutor.com.

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Vertex Wall Trellis



Gardener's Supply Company

The Vertex Wall Trellis uses a unique geometric pattern to create stunning visual interest and solid support for all types of vines and vining plants. At 97 inches, this trellis is much taller than most plant supports and other trellises. Made of sturdy rust-proof aluminum, the Vertex Wall Trellis is perfect for training vines up walls and fences. The geometric design, created by Cody McKibben at Gardener's Supply Company, allows for plenty of airflow and reduces the occurrence of siding rot (which is often a problem with traditional wall trellises).

This attractive trellis is modular, so multiple units can be combined to create a custom-fit trellis for larger walls. Perfect for creating a vertical garden almost anywhere. The Vertex Wall Trellis is available at gardeners.com.

2020 Green Thumb Award Winners

Edible Plants

KangaRhu Rhubarb



Gurneys Seed

The result of nearly 10 years of development at Gurneys, KangaRhu Rhubarb offers outstanding quality and superior summer production. But perhaps best of all, this new variety makes it possible to grow delicious garden rhubarb in areas where warm summer nights restrict production of typical rhubarb varieties.

KangaRhu Rhubarb was developed using genetics adapted to Australia, one of the most challenging gardening environments to be found anywhere. The red stalks of KangaRhu are the darkest of any rhubarb. They cook up a brilliant red, and they taste great. The plants grow up to 36 inches tall and thrive throughout USDA zones 4-8. KangaRhu Rhubarb bareroot plants are available at gurneys.com.

Treasure Island Sweet Potatoes

Concept Plants

Treasure Island is a new series of edible sweet potatoes that come with the added benefit of looking great in ornamental gardens and containers. These plants offer gardeners the opportunity to turn balconies,



patios, window boxes and almost any growing container into a tropical garden. The edible tubers come in a wide range of colors from orange to red to purple, and they taste great in all kinds of dishes. Some of the varieties even have edible leaves, which range in color from dark purple to light green. The different varieties of Treasure Island Sweet Potatoes are named for specific islands of French Polynesia in the South Pacific, where sweet potatoes have been grown for centuries.

Treasure Island Sweet Potatoes were developed in a collaborative breeding program at Louisiana State University. Unlike other ornamental *Ipomoea* (sweet potato) varieties, these edible varieties offer yields that are on par with commercial varieties. Treasure Island Sweet Potatoes are available at springhillnursery.com.

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About the Green Thumb Awards

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Need photos? Email your request to schultz@schultzpr.com