

PEAK PERFORMERS

Master Gardeners of Nassau County have rated the following Peak Performers as top picks for our area. These plants have performed best in our Annual Display Gardens and have consistently received high marks for flowering, foliage and overall display.

PLANT HEIGHT	SUN REQUIREMENT
C = compact 12" + under	☉ = sun
M = 12-24"	☐ = partial shade
T = 24"+	

- **AGASTACHE** *Aromatic herb with spikes of purple-blue long lasting flowers.*
- M 'Golden Jubilee' A golden leafed annual aromatic herb. This heat loving plant will produce dense spikes of lavender, blue florets in mid to late summer.

- **AGERATUM** *Mound shaped plants with clusters of small button-like flowers, early flowering, best used in borders and edgings.*
- C 'Royal Purple' Vigorous mounds of purple flowers all season until frost.
- M 'High Tide' This variety is bluish and slightly taller than most ageratums.

- ☐ **BEGONIA** *Varying in size and color, these sturdy, versatile annuals produce a profusion of blooms and can be used in hanging baskets, beds and window boxes.*
- M 'Dragon Wing Pink' Angel winged foliage plant, very heat tolerant and garden friendly; performs in cool conditions.
- C 'Harmony Series' Bronze foliage plant produces early vigorous pink, scarlet or white flowering blooms all season long through rain and heat.
- C 'Prelude Series' A green leafed partner of the Harmony Series, outstanding performance, uniform and also tolerant of rain and heat.

- M **BROWALIA** Sturdy-upright plant, 12-14" tall, bronze foliage, bushy plant, very heat tolerant. No deadheading is required.

- **CELOSIA** *Distinctive feathery plumes up to 10" long make this a unique choice for any planting display.*
- M 'Fresh Look Red' Colorful plumes. Tall and vigorous with excellent compact habit, new leaves cover spent plumes so plants "look fresh" all season.
- M 'Fresh Look Yellow' Colorful bright yellow plumes.
- C 'Carmine Glow' Lovely rich reddish plumes with light green leaves.

- ☐ **COLEUS** *These large leafed plants make quite an impression.*
- M 'Kong Series' Easy to grow, huge leaves, attracts attention in containers or beds. Is best in full shade, 18-22" tall. The Red variety has a red center with a bright green edge. The Rose variety has a rose center with a green edge.

- **DIANTHUS** *Carnation-like single and double flowers in varying color combinations and heights, provide versatility in any garden planting. Often flowering until frost.*
- M 'Amazon Neon' 'Cherry' Iridescent deep cherry blooms.
'Purple' Iridescent purple – white centers.
- M 'Amazon Rose Magic' Blooms start out white, turn pink then rose and finally deep rose.
- M 'Melody Pink' Lace fringed pink blossoms.
- M 'Corona Cherry Magic' Shows beautifully dispersed mosaic patterns of cherry red, lavender and pink.

O **DICHONDRA** *An easy to grow foliage ground-cover.*
C **'Silverfalls'** Silver stems with grayish green kidney-heart shaped leaves, cascades to 3 feet in hanging baskets. Heat and drought tolerant.

C **'Emerald Falls'** Same as above, except all green.

O **GAILLARDIA** *Always showy, this favorite annual blooms throughout the summer with daisy-like flowers and demands attention in any flowerbed.*

C **'Arizona Sun'** A 3" daisy-like mahogany red with bright yellow edges.

C **'Sundance Bicolor'** Unusual bicolor mahogany red and yellow blooms, excellent low maintenance, heat and drought tolerant plant.

O **GERANIUM** *Colorful and dependable, these versatile plants are always a favorite of the summer garden, used in beds and containers or hanging baskets.*

M **'Black Velvet Rose'** This plant has velvety chocolate brown and green edged leaves with bright colored blooms and is very striking.

O **IMPATIENS** *Easy care plants form neat mounds of colorful prolific blooms in an array of colors. A long time staple in the Long Island gardens – deadheading not required.*

Series

'Dazzler'

'Stardust'

'Showstopper'

'Swirl'

Though we have not grown all possible colors of each variety, they have all proven to be good performers.

O **MARIGOLD** *Indispensable favorite, these sturdy annuals vary in plant size and blooms. Colors range from light yellow to deep orange and red and never fail to please.*

Series

M **'Bonanza'** Double crested blooms of colors ranging from yellow, orange and mahogany.

M **'Durango'** Early free flowering plants with slightly larger blooms and similar coloring as bonanza series.

O **ORNAMENTAL MILLET** *Ornamental grass valued for their flower heads and deep purple foliage. Provides contrast and interest in plantings or containers.*

T **'Majesty'** Stems and flower plumes grow to 5 feet tall.

T **'Purple Baron'** Maximum height is 3 feet.

O **ORNAMENTAL PEPPER** *This annual puts on quite a show. Sometimes starts off slow but lasts well into frost.*

C **'Black Pearl'** Black fruited, bushy upright plants with a high tolerance to heat and humidity.

'Chilly-Chili' Unique non-edible plant, blunt nose fruit, maturing from greenish yellow to orange and finally deep red.

O **PANSY** *A reliable plant for early color. They come in a variety of colors combinations, some with painted faces and blooms over a long period of time, often self-seeding.*

C **'Ultima Morpho'** A great reliable variety which does as well in cool temperature as in the hot humid temperature. A great find.

O **PENTAS** *A wonderful versatile annual with colorful, large star-shaped umbels (flower heads) up to 3".*

M **'Butterfly Series'** Does great in containers, attracts hummingbirds, and of course, butterflies.

O **PETUNIA** *A very popular, versatile and dependable annual available in an array of colors and combinations, single and double blooms. Whether upright or trailing, these plants produce masses of blooms all season long.*

C **'Carpet Rose Star'** Early continuous, compact plant, red flowers with distinctive white center star.

C **'Easy Wave Series'** The name tells it all. Spreading, free flowering, good color garden performers.

'Blue'

'Red'

'Salmon'

'White'

'Limbo Violet' Petite beauty, good for beds and containers, very compact.

'Merlin Blue Morn' Large velvety blue blooms have eye catching white centers.

'Tidal Wave Silver Purple' Good vigor with floral profusion.

C **'Wave Series'** This series can tolerate both heat and cooler conditions.

'Blue'

'Lavender'

'Pink'

'Madness'

'Candy Pops'

- **RUDBECKIA** *Outstanding robust plant resembling giant daisies, this tall annual does not need divisions like the perennial versions. Blooms in late summer and is a favorite of butterflies.*
- T **'Cherokee Sunset'** Harvest colored double blooms.
- T **'Prairie Sun'** Has large bicolor 5" blooms of yellow and gold on 3 foot plants.

- **VINCA** *Dependable evergreen foliage plants with striking colorful 5 petal blooms. Sturdy plants that can tolerate heat and drought as well as moist, shady conditions.*
- C **'Cooler Series'** Large flowering upright performers do well in less than perfect soil conditions.
- M **'Jaio Series'** Glossy green foliage and large 2" blooms with white centers make this a garden standout with minimal care.
- M **'Mediterranean Series'** Free flowering trailing plants, outstanding in an array of colors, do well in sunny, hot and dry conditions.
- M **'Titan'** Large blooms, floriferous, vivid colors.

- **ZINNIA** *They are easy to grow annuals in a wide range of heights, colors and bloom sizes. Single and double blooms, they produce spreading masses of color all summer long.*
- M **'Magellan Series'** Large blooms are 3" across, non-stop growers, needs minimal dead-heading.
- M **'Profusion Series'**
'Orange'
'Cherry'
'White'
- M **'Zowie'** 18" to 24" tall, bicolor pattern of scarlet rose center with yellow petal edges, good for cut flowers.

NOTE: MOST ANNUALS DO BEST WITH ROUTINE DEADHEADING.

Many of the above selections will be available for viewing in our Annual Display Gardens toward the end of June 2006.

We invite you to come and see this years' "PEAK PERFORMERS" and sneak a peak at next years' contenders.