

Top Performers for 2008

NORTHEAST | Tried and recommended by Cornell University

Although a fairly young trial garden (established in 2000), the Cornell trial garden reviews roughly 1,100 species and cultivars each year (www.hort.cornell.edu/departments/faculty/wmiller/bglannuals and aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/Cornell_herbaceous). The garden's director, Bill Miller, and his assistant, Melissa Kitchen, look closely at each plant's flower and foliage impact, vigor, uniformity, and landscape value. The following are what they've found to be some strong garden players.

Calibrachoa Superbells® Dreamsicle This calibrachoa produces a reliable carpet of color

- **USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 10 to 11, usually grown as an annual¹
- **SIZE:** 7 to 10 inches tall and wide
- **CONDITIONS:** Full sun; well-drained, moderately moist soil

It's no secret that calibrachoa are a great alternative to petunias. Each year, breeders keep bringing us new and exciting varieties, just like Superbells® Dreamsicle from Proven Winners (www.provenwinners.com). Part of the Superbells® series, this calibrachoa is cloaked with larger than usual, yellow-throated apricot-orange flowers. Its prostrate form creates a full carpet of color along bed edges and cascades beautifully from containers. As with its predecessors, no deadheading is required.



Impatiens Super Sonic® Pastel Pink Extralarge blooms set this New Guinea impatiens apart from the rest

- **ZONES:** 9 to 11, usually grown as an annual¹
- **SIZE:** 14 to 16 inches tall and wide
- **CONDITIONS:** Full sun to partial shade; rich, well-drained soil

Super Sonic® Pastel Pink is a vigorous New Guinea impatiens with extralarge (up to 3-inch-wide) pink blooms. It is a commendable performer, even in sun. Its full, mounding habit fits well anywhere. This gem, bred by Fischer USA (www.fischerusa.com), is a member of the Super Sonic® series, which offers 14 other New Guinea impatiens in shades of white, purple, salmon, and red.



Rudbeckia hirta 'Radiance' A black-eyed Susan with a bold, new flower form

- **ZONE:** Grown as an annual¹
- **SIZE:** 18 to 24 inches tall and 12 to 18 inches wide
- **CONDITIONS:** Full sun to partial shade; fertile, moist, well-drained soil

This unusual black-eyed Susan from Ball Horticultural Company will make you do a double take. The thin, quilled petals of the long-lasting, prolific blooms are perfect for the summer garden and vase. 'Radiance' keeps going without deadheading, but clipping the spent flowers will extend the bloom into late summer.



¹Zone recommendations may change over time as introductions are further trialed.

The Brigham Young University-Idaho trial garden, Thomas E. Ricks Gardens (www.byui.edu/horticulture/norman%20work/gardens.htm), is among the few trial gardens in the Northwest. It began in 1977 and currently has 10 acres to sprawl and test approximately 250 new varieties each year. With the help of faculty member Jerry Toll, the garden serves as an outdoor laboratory and demonstration garden. These are among the gardenworthy plants that have ranked high in its trials.

Cuphea llavea Totally Tempted™

A compact cuphea that delivers a long season of bloom

- **USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 9 to 11, usually grown as an annual†
- **SIZE:** 10 to 12 inches tall and 12 to 18 inches wide
- **CONDITIONS:** Full sun; well-drained soil

Cupheas are emerging as a colorful favorite for beds and containers. This cultivar (also known as 'CUPED') from Proven Winners (www.provenwinners.com) has striking flowers with large red petals and a lavender throat. The blooms go nonstop throughout summer without deadheading. Totally Tempted™ doesn't mind summer heat and has a more compact habit than most cultivars in this species. It's perfect as a vibrant accent plant especially in tight spaces.



Lobelia Techno® Blue

The heat of summer is no match for this lobelia

- **ZONES:** 10 to 11, usually grown as an annual†
- **SIZE:** 6 to 10 inches tall and 18 to 22 inches wide
- **CONDITIONS:** Full sun to partial shade; fertile, moist soil

Unlike most trailing lobelias, this cultivar does not falter in hot temperatures. Whether it's cool or hot, Techno® Blue, bred by Goldsmith Seeds, is covered in intense, cobalt blue flowers. Its semitrailing, mounding habit is a great addition to containers and hanging baskets.



Cyperus papyrus King Tut®

This upright beauty makes an impressive focal point

- **ZONES:** 10 to 11†
- **SIZE:** 4 to 7 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide
- **CONDITIONS:** Full sun to partial shade; moderately moist to wet soil

This exotic-looking beauty, offered by Proven Winners (www.provenwinners.com), has a fantastic bold form and strong appeal. Its pendulous leaves sit on tall, upright stems. King Tut® is a rapid grower that makes an impressive centerpiece in the landscape. It likes wet places and is perfect for containers without drainage holes. King Tut® is easy to grow and untroubled by pests or diseases.



†Zone recommendations may change over time as introductions are further trialed.