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# 2010 All-America Selection winners named

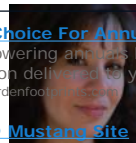
November 11, 2009 By Jessica Damiano [jessica.damiano@newsday.com](mailto:jessica.damiano@newsday.com)

**QUICK SUMMARY** This year's trials garnered four winners, two of them bedding plants, one cool-season selection and a flower winner. None were vegetables.



Photo credit: Handout | Snapdragon 'Twinny Peach'

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Jessica Damiano is a master gardener and journalist with more

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## Already dreaming of next year's garden?

Before you make your wish list, consider the 2010 All-America Selection winners.

To fully appreciate the annual AAS recommendations, you really need to understand how the judging works. Plants aren't selected merely for their good looks, or based on a handful of opinions. No, an entire consortium of seed companies makes individual nominations, and flower and vegetable seeds are sent to test gardens throughout North America, where their performances are monitored and evaluated by impartial observers.

[>>See photos of the 2010 AAS winners](#)

After an entire growing season, observations are submitted, results from all over the United States and Canada are tallied and winners are chosen. It's important to note there isn't a set number of winners each year, so less-than-stellar performers will never be honored just to fill a quota. There have been as many as 30 winners (in 1934) and as few as one (in 1954 and 1976). This year's trials garnered four winners, two of them bedding plants, one cool-season selection and a flower winner. None were vegetables.

Ask Amy  
 Barbara Barker  
 Jim Baumbach  
 James Bernstein  
 Neil Best  
 Erik Boland  
 Rick Brand  
 Joye Brown  
 Sylvia Carter  
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 Ken Davidoff  
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 Steven Marcus  
 Carrie Mason-Draffen  
 Wallace Matthews  
 Marge Perry  
 Anthony Rieber  
 Tom Rock  
 Adam Ronis  
 Gregg Sarno

>>See photos of the 2010 AAS winners

**Gaillardia F1 'Mesa Yellow'**

The first hybrid blanket flower with a controlled plant habit and prolific flowering, 'Mesa Yellow' sports 3-inch, daisylike flowers that bloom two to three weeks earlier than other Gaillardias. The neat, mounded plants reach 20-22 inches tall in full sun, making the relatively maintenance-free plant adaptable to containers and smaller gardens. 'Mesa Yellow' also bounces back quickly after a bout of severe weather. Bred by PanAmerican Seed Co., based in West Chicago, Ill.

>>See photos of the 2010 AAS winners

**Snapdragon F1 'Twinny Peach'**

Called "a snapdragon without the snap," 'Twinny Peach' sports double flowers without the joint you'd expect from a snapdragon. Adding to its uniqueness is the distinct blend of peach, yellow and light orange shades that comprise each bloom. A profuse bloomer, this easy-to-grow plant will provide plenty of flowers for cutting all season long. The trials revealed impressive heat tolerance, too. This new variety was bred by Hem Genetics, headquartered in Hem, The Netherlands.

>>See photos of the 2010 AAS winners

**Viola F1 'Endurio Sky Blue Martien'**

This unique spreading and mounding viola may look delicate, but it's a reliable workhorse, providing two-season color and flowering well after first frost. Plant it in bloom now, and it will return in spring. Plant it in spring, and it will bloom well into summer. Well suited to containers, 'Endurio Sky Blue Martien' grows just 6 inches tall and 10-12 inches wide. Bred by Syngenta Flowers Inc. of Boulder, Colo.

**Zinnia 'Zahara Starlight Rose'**

The rose and white flowers on this 14-inch-tall sun lover offer a bicolor combination never before seen on zinnias. And that's not all: 'Zahara Starlight Rose' is resistant to leaf spot and mildew, which notoriously plague zinnias, and it blooms throughout the spring and summer. It's also heat- and drought-tolerant. Bred by PanAmerican Seed Co.

**galleries**



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Zahara 'Zahara Starlight Rose' Credit: Handout

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Gaillardia 'Mesa Yellow' Credit: Handout

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