

Watch for these in 2010

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Gardeners have an insatiable curiosity when it comes to new introductions and 2010 looks like a worthwhile year to survey some of the All America Selection award winners.

Take the *Echinacea purpurea* "PowWow Wild Berry" for instance. This perennial purple coneflower differs from all others with its flower color, branching and plant size.

Gardeners will love the deep rose-purple 3 to 4 inch flowers because they retain color on the plant longer. The plants, which flower the first year if started in January, were tested across the United States and Canada and are hardy to Zone 3.

Its superior performance includes a basal branching habit that results in more flowers per plant. Reaching a height of 20 to 24-inches in the full sun garden, this beauty blooms continually without deadheading

If you want to fill your vases this summer, grow Snapdragon F1 "Twinny Peach". So called for its double or butterfly flower form, this snapdragon has soft shades of peach, yellow and light orange that are distinct, with no other snapdragon offering this range of colors. Another unique quality is the blend of peach tone colors. Match 'Twinny Peach' with blue tones of *Salvia farinacea* or purple foliage plants and your garden will be a knockout. In the full sun garden, plants will continue to flower all season with little garden care.

Zinnias can't be beat for their bright and bonny colours but "Zahara Starlight Rose" takes the show to a whole new level. A stunning combination of new and old describes this introduction. Zinnias are old-fashioned flowers but these rose and white flowers are a new bicolor for this sun loving class of annuals. Other new traits are the proven resistances to leaf spot and mildew, which can devastate healthy plants and cause an early death.



The "Zahara Starlight Rose" zinnia takes showtime to a whole new level for 2010

These superior qualities resulted in long lasting zinnia plants that provide generous color all season. "Zahara Starlight Rose" is heat and drought tolerant and easy to grow in gardens. It's a perfect plant for the novice or experienced gardener because it is so undemanding and produces a maximum number of blooms. Mature plants are mid-sized, about 12 to 14 inches tall and wide, large enough to make a bold statement in containers or patio urns.

Last but not least is the new vegetable award winner: Watermelon F1 Hybrid "Shiny Boy".

In a taste test against comparisons, "Shiny Boy" won judges over with its sweet tropical flavor and crisp texture. Red-fleshed with dark seeds; this globe-shaped melon weighs in at about 20 pounds.

The hybrid plants are vigorous; vines can grow up to 12 feet. "Shiny Boy" can be grown vertically so that a large yard for a vegetable garden is not needed. Judges noted a high yield and generally healthy plants, tolerant of severe weather. It is an art form to determine when melons are ripe for harvest but plan to check plants in about 75 days from transplanting for mature fruit.