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A Winning New Gaillardia for 2010

Posted By [Bill Cary](#) On December 28, 2009 @ 9:56 am In [Uncategorized](#) | [No Comments](#)

For more than 75 years, a prestigious gardening group known as the All-America Selections committee has conducted nationwide trials each year to pick the best new plants for home gardeners.

Some years, like 1954 and 1976, the committee named just a single winner. Other years (like 1934), brought as many as 32 great new flowers and vegetables.

For 2010, the AAS committee has chosen four winners, all flowers: Gaillardia 'Mesa Yellow,' Viola 'Endurio Sky Blue Martien,' Snapdragon 'Twinny Peach' and Zinnia 'Zahara Starlight Rose.' It's the first time in many years that not a single vegetable was honored. Over the next four weeks, we'll look at each of the 2010 winners, starting with this lovely new gaillardia with a bright and sunny face.



Gaillardias, which are commonly called blanket flowers, are short-lived perennials or annuals with colorful daisylike blooms. The name comes from their resemblance to brightly patterned blankets made by native Americans. Native to the dry grasslands that stretch across much of the West, they like full sun and will tolerate a wide range of climate conditions, including drought, heavy rain and high humidity.

'Mesa Yellow' offers bright yellow 3-inch-wide blooms and a particularly neat, well-behaved growing habit. Unlike other blanket flowers, it does not get floppy and messy looking in the heat of summer. Its vigorous flowers reach a consistent height of 16 to 18 inches, making it a particularly good addition to a cutting garden.



Known botanically as *Gaillardia x grandiflora* 'Mesa Yellow,' this winning flower does very well in containers, too. And it blooms 2 to 3 weeks earlier than other blanket flowers.



Look for 'Mesa Yellow' at the better garden centers in spring or try growing it from seed from mail-order sources such as Harris Seeds, J.W. Jung Seed Co., Park Seed or Stokes Seeds Ltd. For a look at other All-America Selections winners, visit www.all-americaselections.org. You'll probably find former newbies that are now favorites in your garden.

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