

# Digger

SEPTEMBER 2023

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ASSOCIATION OF  
NURSERIES



Pollinator-friendly, mildew-resistant *Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana' was named Perennial Plant of the Year for 2024.

## 2024 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana' has been named the 2024 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association.

The plant is described as “an exceptional garden phlox reaching five feet tall and four feet wide,” though size may vary. Noted were its “impressive flowers, held on tall and sturdy stems from midsummer to early fall.” It was lauded as a pollinator friendly plant, attracting hummingbirds and butterflies in particular.

PPA members voted *Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana' as the 2024 PPOY and find it makes an excellent bridging plant between early and later flowering perennials. It is also highly resistant to powdery mildew which makes it look great, even without flowers.

The Perennial Plant of the Year® program began in 1990 to showcase a perennial that is a standout among its competitors. Perennials chosen for this honor are suitable for a wide range of growing climates, require low maintenance, have multiple-season interest, and are relatively pest/disease-free.

The Perennial Plant Association Board of Directors reviews the nominated perennials

and selects three or four perennials to be placed on a voting ballot. PPA members vote for the winner and nominate additional plants for the following year's ballot.

## TERRA NOVA WINS TWO TOP PLANT AWARDS IN GEORGIA

On June 10, the University of Georgia hosted open houses for the industry and the public to vote for their favorite plants for 2023. Terra Nova Nurseries, a wholesale grower based in Canby, Oregon, took two of the top three slots, appearing on both the industry and public lists.

Judges described *Crococsmia* NOVA 'Gold Dragon' by Terra Nova as “Dramatic. Thrilling. Elegant. How does the bashful crococosmia win, compared to an overflowing basket of petunias or a bursting bed of sunflowers? If you have a moist sunny location, crococosmia will give you and your neighbors an endless supply of flowers.”

*Echinacea* SUNDIAL 'Pink', also by Terra Nova, was singled out for its size, massive 5-inch blooms; with a short habit, which makes it ideal for containers or in the front of beds and borders; and its color ➤

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**Northwest News**

— emerald green eyes give way to a vibrant pink cone and bubble gum-pink petals.

Rounding out the top 3 was *Rudbeckia* MiniBeckia 'Flame' by GardenChoice. "This superstar has been on trial for a few seasons, and seems to keep getting better every year with perfect symmetry and powerful color!" the judges said. ☺

*Crocsmia* NOVA 'Gold Dragon' and *Echinacea* SUNDIAL 'Pink', both by Terra Nova Nurseries in Canby, Oregon, were singled out for praise at an open house hosted by the University of Georgia.



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