

Fleuroselect Gold Medal winners



This year Fleuroselect has awarded nine new flower varieties with the Gold Medal for innovative breeding and exceptional beauty.

'SYDNEY BLUE PICOTEE' (Kieft Seeds Holland) adds a unique colour combination to the Sydney series: white with an attractive sky-blue edge. In addition, like the other Sydney's, it offers vertical branching, earliness and uniformity. (1)

'PRESTO' (Clause Tézier) is a so called semi-double, but produces more double flowers than any other and continues to flower over a significantly longer period. (2)

When the flowers of 'NOVERNA CLOWN' (Kieft Seeds Holland) open, they are white, but growing on they change to pink, salmon or violet. Flowering starts in the spring and continues well into the autumn. (3)

'PRAIRIE SPLENDOR' (Syngenta Seeds GmbH) is the first perennial Echinacea that flowers one hundred percent within the first year. Moreover, this variety is significantly earlier than any other Echinacea. (4)

The world's first 'Fastrax' Eryngium 'BLUE GLITTER' (Ernst Benary Samenzucht GmbH) has high yields for fresh and dried cut flower production and adds interesting texture and colour as solitary planting in the garden and for the cut flower trade. (5)

Laurentia 'AVANT-GARDE BLUE' and 'AVANT-GARDE PINK' (Thompson & Morgan UK Ltd) impressed the Fleuroselect judges by their earliness and their vigorous flowering. (6)

'INFINITI SCARLET' (Floranova Ltd) is exceptionally early flowering, with large blooms and an excellent garden performance. Until now, this combination of qualities has rarely been seen in seed-raised Pelargonium. (7)

The Fleuroselect judges' were charmed in their appraisal of Zinnia haageana 'AZTEC SUNSET' (Thompson & Morgan UK Ltd) by the remarkable bicolor mix and the amount of double flowers in comparison to existing cultivars. (8)

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Austria bans transgenic rapeseed

The Austrian Minister of Health, Maria Rauch-Kallat has announced regulations to prevent the import of rapeseed variety GT73, bred by Monsanto. This variety has been allowed in the European Union since August last year. GT73 has been made resistant against glyphosates. The Austrian Ministry claimed that it was concerned about the allergic and toxic side effects the rapeseed might cause. Furthermore it said that the rapeseed might spread to non-GMO rapeseed. The ban extends through to the end of 2008, when the Minister will re-evaluate the scientific data. Earlier Austria banned three GMO maize varieties: BT-176 from Syngenta, MON-810 from Monsanto and T-25 from Bayer.