

# Nine gold Fleuroselect medals

A number of nine flowers have been awarded a 2007 golden medal by Fleuroselect, the international organisation for the ornamental plants industry. Each year these prizes are awarded to 'varieties that surpass the limits of breeding and beauty'. The jury, consisting of flower experts, evaluated each entry and provided objective judgements. Usually the winning varieties find their ways rapidly around the world through distributors and are shown at shows and gardens.

■ Presto (*Coreopsis grandiflora*). This yellow variety produces more double flowers than any other and continues to flower over a longer period. It can be used as a bedding plant and as a pot plant.

■ Sydney Blue Picotee (*Delphinium consolida*). A sky-blue flower, offering vertical branching, earliness and uniformity. Perfect to be kept for greenhouse cultivation.

■ Noverna Clown (*Dianthus barbatus F1*). These flowers, turning from white to salmon, red or violet, can be seen from spring until



Noverna Clown



Blue Glitter



Avant-garde Pink



Aztec Sunset

autumn. They are fairly frost tolerant, making it both a pot and garden plant.

■ Prairie Splendor (*Echinacea purpurea*). Flowering one hundred percent in the first year, this rose red flower is a very distinctive pot plant. It starts flowering in June and continues until the first frost.

■ Blue Glitter (*Eryngium planum*). An intense deep blue flower of 80 cm height that needs no vernalisation and can be used in both fresh and dried cut flower production.

■ Avant-garde 'Blue' and 'Pink' (*Laurentia hybrida F1*). Both varieties impressed by their earliness and vigorous flowering, forming a nice bushy plant of approximately 30 cm in height and width.

■ Infiniti Scarlet (*Pelargonium hortorum*). This red garden plant is early-flowering, having large blooms, quite unusual for seed-raised *Pelargonium*. The cultivation period is only 95 days.

■ Aztec Sunset (*Zinnia Haageana*). Appearing in mixed colours and many double flowers, these plants only measure 15 cm and have a spread of 25 cm.