

# All-America Selections winners for 2016: ornamentals and edibles with proven performance for North American gardens<sup>©</sup>

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## **Abstract**

**Twelve cultivars, including two ornamental crops and ten edible crops, became All-America Selections (AAS) National Award Winners for 2016. In addition, six cultivars, including two ornamental crops and four edible crops, became AAS Regional Award winners for 2016. AAS awards are based on impartial trials at over 80 trial ground across North America.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Twelve cultivars became All-America Selections (AAS) National Award Winners for 2016. AAS includes a network of over 80 trial grounds all over North America where new, never-before-sold cultivars are “Tested Nationally and Proven Locally<sup>®</sup>” by skilled, impartial AAS Judges. Only the best performers are declared AAS Winners. Once these new cultivars are announced as AAS Winners, they are available for immediate sale and distribution.

An additional six cultivars were selected as AAS Regional Award Winners for 2016. Regional winners undergo the same trialing process as national winners, but are recognized as cultivars that exhibit outstanding performance in specific regional climates.

During 2016, AAS added herbaceous perennials to the AAS trialing program. AAS worked with the Perennial Plant Association (PPA) to develop a thorough and horticulturally sound perennial trial, and PPA actively endorses this new AAS trial. Unlike the AAS single growing season trials with annuals and edibles, the perennial trials will be three-winter trials. The first AAS winners from the perennial trials will be announced in 2019.

## **AAS NATIONAL WINNERS FOR 2016**

### ***Brassica juncea* ‘Red Kingdom’ (F<sub>1</sub> mizuna or Japanese mustard)**

Foliage color of this high-yielding mizuna was a vibrant reddish-purple throughout the trial season and slower to bolt than other cultivars. This flavorful, mild-tasting green may be used as a vegetable or as an ornamental in containers and in the landscape. Bred by Asia Seed Co. Ltd.

### ***Brassica oleracea* ‘Katarina’ (F<sub>1</sub> cabbage)**

This new cabbage has a perfect, smaller head size (4 in.) and shape for growing successfully in containers on patios or decks, or in the ground, and matured as much as 1 to 3 weeks earlier than cultivars used for comparison in the AAS trial. Bred by Bejo Seeds.

### ***Brassica oleracea* ‘Konan’ (F<sub>1</sub> kohlrabi)**

This new cultivar was selected for its smooth, globe-shaped bulbs that can grow up to 6 in. in diameter. The sweet, flavorful bulb has an excellent texture, making it easy to slice and dice. Bred by Bejo Seeds.

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***Brassica oleracea* ‘Prizm’ (F<sub>1</sub> kale)**

Plants produce attractive, short, tight, ruffle-edged leaves and may be grown in containers as well as in-ground beds. The excellent tasting, almost nutty-flavored leaves are tender enough to enjoy in fresh salads, but also hold up well when cooked. Bred by Syngenta Vegetable Seeds.

***Capsicum annuum* ‘Cornito Giallo’ (F<sub>1</sub> pepper)**

Starting as small green fruits, the peppers develop into bright yellow jewels with a delicious sweet and fruity flavor. The peppers themselves are plentiful and durable, yet good for eating fresh. Bred by Johnny’s Selected Seeds.

***Capsicum annuum* ‘Escamillo’ (F<sub>1</sub> pepper)**

These attractive, golden-yellow peppers have a wonderful sweet taste. The early bearing, high yielding plants hold their fruit off the ground for easy picking and less rotting. Bred by Johnny’s Selected Seeds.

***Cucurbita pepo* ‘Pepitas’ (F<sub>1</sub> pumpkin)**

This new cultivar is named for its hullless seeds (pepitas) that lack the tough outer hull, making them easy to eat after slow roasting. Plants produce numerous, uniform, medium-sized pumpkins on healthy, disease-resistant vines. Bred by Seeds by Design and W. A. Burpee.

***Fragaria ×ananassa* Delizz® (F<sub>1</sub> strawberry)**

These vigorous strawberry plants are easy to grow from seed or transplant, and produce an abundant harvest throughout the growing season. The plants are a nice uniform and compact size, making them suitable for containers, hanging baskets, or garden plots. Bred by ABZ Seeds.

***Pelargonium ×hortorum* ‘Brocade Cherry Night’ (geranium)**

This heat-tolerant geranium features bronze leaves with green margins, along with large, semi-double blooms of cherry pink. Gardeners will find this new cultivar useful for mixed planters, containers, or garden beds. Bred by Dümmer Orange.

***Pelargonium ×hortorum* ‘Brocade Fire’ (geranium)**

This new geranium has unique bicolored foliage with a colorful display of semi-double, bright orange flowers. Plants keep their foliage color and flowers throughout the warm summer, then becomes an attractive transitional flower going into fall. Bred by Dümmer Orange.

***Solanum lycopersicum* ‘Candyland Red’ (currant tomato)**

This is the only AAS award-winning currant-type tomato. The plants have a tidier habit than other currant-type tomatoes, with the fruit tending to form on the outside of the plant, making them easier to harvest. Bred by PanAmerican Seed Company.

***Solanum lycopersicum* ‘Chef’s Choice Green’ (F<sub>1</sub> tomato)**

This disease-resistant tomato produces beautiful green-colored fruits with subtle yellow stripes. The ripe tomatoes have a citrus-like flavor and perfect tomato texture. Bred by Seeds by Design.

**AAS REGIONAL WINNERS FOR 2016**

***Allium fistulosum* ‘Warrior’ (bunching onion or green onion) (Regions: Southeast, Mountain/Southwest)**

This bunching onion grows quickly and matures early, producing a very uniform crop of slender, crisp onion stalks that are easy to harvest and clean. Bred by Seeds by Design.

***Capsicum annuum* ‘Black Hawk’ (F<sub>1</sub> ornamental pepper) (Regions: Southeast, Heartland)**

Plants start flowering and forming fruit very early and keep producing through fall. Fruit turn from dark purple to red and are spicy if eaten. Bred by Seeds by Design.

***Capsicum annuum* ‘Flaming Jade’ (F<sub>1</sub> pepper) (Regions: Heartland, Great Lakes)**

Plants produce a heavy set of large, long, firm, Serrano peppers throughout the growing season, especially in cooler areas. Bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

***Cucurbita pepo* ‘Super Moon’ (F<sub>1</sub> pumpkin) (Regions: Southeast, Great Lakes)**

Grown for their fruit size (up to 50 pounds) and their clean white color, these hardy plants are known for their early fruit development and vigorous growth. The yellow flesh is good for roasting or in fall harvest soups. Bred by Seeds by Design.

***Raphanus raphanistrum* subsp. *sativus* ‘Sweet Baby’ (syn. *Raphanus sativus* ‘Sweet Baby’) (F<sub>1</sub> radish) (Regions: Southeast, Great Lakes)**

This purple, white, and rose-colored radish produces crops of uniform size with a crispy, crunchy, and slightly spicy taste. Bred by Asia Seed Co., Ltd.

***Salvia coccinea* Summer Jewel™ Lavender (Texas sage) (Regions: Southeast, Heartland, Great Lakes)**

This is the fourth AAS Winner in the Summer Jewel™ series of Texas sage. The unique, dusty lavender-purple flower color is a delight in the garden and flower containers, and serves as a major attractor of pollinators. Bred by Takii & Co. Ltd.

In summer 2016, the first five AAS National and Regional Winners for 2017 were announced:

***Abelmoschus esculentus* ‘Candle Fire’ (F<sub>1</sub> okra) (National Winner)**

This unique red okra produces pods that are round, not ribbed, and a brighter red color than other reddish-burgundy okras. Bred by Known-You Seed.

***Celosia argentea* ‘Asian Garden’ (celosia) (National Winner)**

Plants of this new celosia show good branching with a semi-bushy habit and flower early with flower spikes that attract pollinators. Bred by Murakami Seed Co., Ltd.

***Citrullus lanatus* ‘Mini Love’ (F<sub>1</sub> watermelon) (National Winner)**

Shorter vines (3 to 4 ft) produce up to six fruits per plant and can be grown in smaller spaces. Bred by HM-Clause.

***Cucurbita moschata* ‘Honeybaby’ (F<sub>1</sub> winter squash) (Regional Winner: Heartland)**

Shorter vines grow 2 to 3 ft with a semi-bushy habit. Short, wide fruits are large, sweet, nutty, and meatier than similar cultivars. Bred by Seeds by Design.

***Pisum sativum* ‘Patio Pride’ (pea) (Regional Winner: Southeast)**

The compact plants of this pea produce sweet, uniform pods that are very tender when harvested early. Bred by Terra Organics.

More information on AAS and AAS winners is available at: [www.all-americanselections.org](http://www.all-americanselections.org)

