



# Plant of the Year

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The Plant of the Year Program was initiated by the Wisconsin Nursery and Landscape Association to promote quality and underused plants to the public. The following categories were created to consider all plants:

- Woody Ornamental Plant of the Year, including deciduous trees, evergreens, vines, deciduous shrubs and shade trees
- Perennial of the Year, including herbaceous perennials, subshrubs, grasses, and ferns
- Annuals Plant of the Year

## WOODIES (TREES) Plant of the Year

### Acer saccharum 'Bailsta'

(Fall Fiesta® Sugar Maple)

**Zone:** 3 to 8 **Height:** 60.00 to 75.00 feet **Spread:** 30.00 to 45.00 feet

*Acer saccharum* commonly known as sugar maple is a deciduous, Missouri native tree which will typically grow 40' to 80' tall (sometimes to 100') with a dense, rounded crown. This tree is a main component of the Eastern U.S. hardwood forest and is one of the trees which is most responsible for giving New England its reputation for spectacular fall color. Medium green leaves (3-6" wide with 3-5 lobes) turn yellow-orange in autumn, sometimes with considerable color variations. Fruit is the familiar two-winged samara. Sugar maples are long-lived trees which grow relatively slowly (somewhat faster in the first 35 years). Native Americans taught the early colonists how to tap these trees to make maple syrup which has now become a multi-billion dollar industry in the U.S. and Canada. Excellent shade tree. The sugar maple leaf is the national symbol of Canada.



## HERBACEOUS (SUN PERENNIALS) Plant of the Year

### Geum triflorum

(Prairie Smoke)

**Zone:** 3 to 7 **Height:** 0.50 to 1.50 feet **Spread:** 0.50 to 1.00 feet **Sun:** Full sun

*Geum triflorum* is a North American native prairie plant. Perhaps its most distinguishing feature is not the reddish pink to purplish, nodding, globular flowers that bloom in late spring, but the fruiting heads which follow. As the flower fades and the seeds begin to form, the styles elongate (to 2" long) to form upright, feathery gray tails which collectively resemble a plume or feather duster, all of which has given rise to a large number of regional descriptive common names for this plant such as torch flower, long-plumed purple avens, prairie smoke, lion's beard and old man's whiskers. The feathery seed tails act as sails in aiding dispersal of the seeds. A soft, hairy plant growing typically to 16" tall with fern-like, pinnately divided, green leaves (7-19 leaflets). Spreads by rhizomes and can be naturalized to form an interesting ground cover. Native Americans once boiled the roots to produce a root tea that was used medicinally for a variety of purposes such as wound applications and sore throat treatments.



## ANNUALS Plant of the Year

### Hot Lips Salvia - Salvia microphylla 'Hot Lips'

**Zone:** 7 to 10 **Height:** 36.00-48.00 inches **Spread:** 24.00-36.00 inches **Sun:** Full sun

*Hot Lips Littleleaf Sage (Salvia microphylla 'Hot Lips')* has distinctive, brilliantly colored flowers that make 'Hot Lips' Salvia a special selection. Blooming from spring until hard frost in fall, the flower color will vary seasonally. In the cooler times of spring and fall, the flowers are strongly bi-colored red and white. When it's hot, the flowers go solid red. Regardless of the time of the growing season, this ever-blooming selection is a beauty. The plant makes a small shrub with age and thrives in poor soils with plenty of heat and sun. Plant with Lavender (Lavandula) and white Appleblossom Grass (Gaura). Javelina resistant.



## PREVIOUS Plant of the Year SELECTIONS

### 2002

Woody: *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Unique'

Perennial: *Phlox paniculata* 'David'

### 2003

Woody: *Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk'

Perennial: *Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks'

### 2004

Woody: *Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Princess Diana'

Perennial: *Polygonatum falcatum* 'Variegatum'

### 2005

Woody: *Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite'

Perennial: *Hosta* 'Patriot'

### 2006

Woody: *Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King'

Perennial: *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwinds'

### 2007

Woody: *Malus* 'Louisa'

Perennial: *Pulmonaria longifolia* subsp. *cevenensis*

### 2008

Woody: *Cornus mas* 'Golden Glory'

Perennial: *Amsonia* 'Blue Ice'

### 2009

Woody: *Chionanthus virginicus* 'White Fringetree'

Perennial: *Baptista australis* 'False Indigo'

### 2010

Woody: *Quercus muehlenbergii* 'Chinkapin Oak'

Perennial: *Calamintha nepeta* var. *nepeta* 'Montrose White'

### 2011

Woody: *Acer miyabei* 'Morton'

Perennial: *Stachys monnieri* 'Hummelo'

### 2012

Woody: *Malus sargentii* 'Select A' Firebird® Crabapple

Perennial: *Allium angulosum* 'Summer Beauty' Ornamental Onion

### 2013

Woody: *Pinus cembra* cultivars - Swiss Stone Pine

Perennial: *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* 'Lucerne'

### 2014

Woody: *Spiraea betulifolia* 'Tor'

Perennial: *Echinacea* 'CBG Cone 2'

### 2015

Woody: *Carpinus caroliniana*

Perennial: *Penstemon* 'Dark Towers' PP20013

### 2016

Woody: *Picea omorika* (Serbian Spruce)

Perennial: *Chelone lyonii* 'Hot Lips'

### 2017

Woody: *Gymnocladus dioica* 'Espresso'

Perennial: *Intersectional* (Itoh) hybrid Peonies

### 2018

Woody: *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Donna May' PP 22,634

Perennial: *Sporobolus heterolepis* (Prairie Dropseed)

### 2019

Woody: *Larix laricina* (Tamarack)

Perennial: *Polygonatum biflorum nanum* 'Prince Charming' (Prince Charming Solomon's Seal)