



# Plant of the Year

# 2021

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

### *Cornus racemosa* x *amomum* 'J.N. Red Stem

(Irish Setter Gray Dogwood)

**Zone: 3    Height: 8.00-12.00 Feet    Spread: 12.00 Feet    Sun: Sun to Partial Shade**

*Cornus racemosa* x *amomum* 'J.N. Red Stem' a showy shrub for general garden or massing use; white flower clusters in spring; deep maroon fall color; very adaptable and highly resistant to septoria leaf spot which is common in this species. Irish Setter Gray Dogwood has clusters of creamy white flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. It has grayish green foliage throughout the season. The pointy leaves turn an outstanding burgundy in the fall. The fruit is not ornamentally significant. The smooth bark and brick red branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest. Irish Setter Gray Dogwood is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage. This is a high maintenance shrub that will require regular care and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration; Suckering. Irish Setter Gray Dogwood is recommended for the following landscape applications; Mass Planting, General Garden Use, Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens.



## HERBACEOUS (GRASS CATAGORY) Plant of the Year

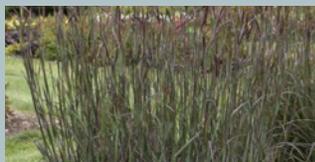
### *Andropogon gerardii* 'Blackhawks'

(Backhawks Big Bluestem)

**Zone: 3 to 9    Height: 5.0 Feet    Spread: 2.0 Feet    Sun: Full Sun (> 6 hrs. Direct Sun)**

*Andropogon gerardii* 'Blackhawks' Big Bluestem are perfect for providing height and color to the garden, coming into prime a little earlier than other ornamental grasses. The foliage of 'Blackhawks' emerges deep green to dark purple in spring and deepens to near black by fall here in Michigan. This grass matures a little more than a foot shorter than 'Indian Warrior'. One of the very best Big Bluestem from hybridizer Brent Horvath.

Dubbed the "monarch of the prairie", this native grass was once the dominant component of the American tallgrass prairie. It adapts easily to a wide range of soil and moisture conditions as long as full sun is provided. This long-lived grass has a variety of uses including screening, naturalizing, restoring prairies, and nesting materials for birds and mammals.



## ANNUALS Plant of the Year

### *Lantana camara* 'Hot Blooded Red'

(Hot Blooded™ Lantana)

**Zone: 10 & 11    Height: 15.00-18.00 Feet    Spread: 24.00-30.00 Feet    Sun: Full sun**

*Lantana camara* 'Hot Blooded Red' A compact shrub with a dense mound of green foliage that produces a non-stop show of red hot flower clusters throughout the heat of summer. The sterile blooms allow it to focus its energy on prolific blooming, making it a superb choice for containers, mass plantings, and borders. Evergreen in warm, frost-free climates; treat as a summer annual elsewhere.



## 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)

### 2020

Woody: *Acer saccharum* 'Balista'  
Herbaceous (Sun Perennial): *Geum triflorum*

Annual: *Hot Lips Salvia* - *Salvia mictophylla* 'Hot Lips'