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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Title: Retailers' Choice Awards™ at Cultivate'21**

**Columbus, OH, July 14, 2021** – Retailers' Choice Awards™ were presented to 12 exhibiting firms for 15 products at Cultivate'21 in Columbus, OH on July 12, 2021. The Garden Center Group's Danny Summers and Sid Raisch lead the search as garden retailers selected the best new products to bring excitement and high level of interest for their stores in the coming season. Following is a list of firms (presented A-Z) and the products receiving recognition:

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*Hydrangea paniculata 'Little Hottie'*  
**Bailey Nurseries – First Editions®**

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St. Paul MN 55119 USA  
Tel: 800-829-8898, Fax: 800-829-8894  
<http://www.baileynurseries.com>  
[alec.charais@baileynursery.com](mailto:alec.charais@baileynursery.com)

This new *Hydrangea paniculata* from First Editions was a show-stopper for our judges and very well be the next big hit for the landscape. It is loaded with blooms on strong stems on a well-branched compact plant. Little Hottie was bred for southern heat but performs equally well in Minnesota. Blooms begin as green and turns sparkling white.



*Coleus 'Copperhead'*

**Ball FloraPlant**

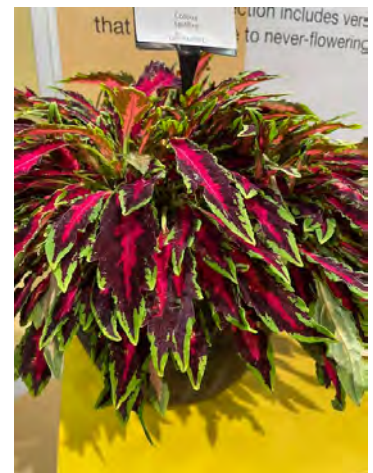
622 Town Rd  
West Chicago, IL 60185 USA  
Tel: 630-231-3600, Fax: 630-562-7790  
[www.ballfloraplant.com](http://www.ballfloraplant.com)  
[jgibson@ballhort.com](mailto:jgibson@ballhort.com)

This new introduction is a compact coleus featuring striking red/orange foliage with ruffled leaves edged in lime. Specifications are **Height:** 14-26", **Spread:** 14-16" and **Exposure:** Shade, Sun.

*Coleus 'Spitfire'*  
**Ball FloraPlant**

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This compact, micro Coleus is the first of its kind in the Ball FloraPlant offerings and was a show-stopper for our Retailers! Spitfire holds its color very well in full sun or shade and is very late to flower. Its versatility will be just right for use in combos, containers and landscape borders, and great for urban gardeners' balconies or small patios. No other micro coleus has such vibrant pink and lime green coloring with this unique leaf shape.





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### *Mini Cucumber – Mexican Sour Gherkin*

#### **Ball Horticulture/Burpee**

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Our judges were on the lookout for smaller options for containers and the patio applications. And here the perfect cucumber for containers and even hanging baskets. This tiny cuke has sweet cucumber flavor combined with a tangy sourness. Prolific heirloom unleashes a plethora of mini sweet treats. Fruit's sweet flavor is counterpointed by a pleasing tangy note, as if pickled already. Yields a bonanza of tiny cukes about the size of a table grape for salads, snacks, and pickling. A fine spectacle cascading from a hanging basket or climbing on a trellis.



### *Dwarf Fig –Ficus carica 'Fignomenal'*

#### **Concept Plants**

Brunel 21  
LJ IJsselstein 3401 Netherlands  
Tel: 828-308-6807  
[www.conceptplants.com](http://www.conceptplants.com)  
[brian@conceptplants.com](mailto:brian@conceptplants.com)

Ficus 'Fignomenal' has an extremely dwarf and low-mounding habit which is perfect for urban gardening, indoors as well as outdoors. Fignomenal gives lots of fruit. The sweet, medium-sized figs are deep brown on the outside and pink-red on the inside. This phenomenal fig gives fruit throughout the year and requires little

maintenance. In addition to that, it has low insect pressure. Fignomenal grows up to 28" high and wide. This plant is introduced by Lloyd Travel (developer of the Phenomenal Lavender) and is now in tissue culture production.

### *Echibeckia™ Summerina® Series*

#### **Pacific Plug & Liner**

750 Casserly Rd  
Watsonville, CA 95076 USA  
Tel: 828-308-6807, Fax: 831-722-1306  
[www.ppandl.com](http://www.ppandl.com)  
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This amazing breakthrough in breeding brings the long-flowering benefits of both Echinacea and Rudbeckia to offer continually blooming through to the first frosts. This breakthrough in breeding crosses the two to stunning effect with the best qualities of each. The series features 10 color options that show off bursts of rich browns, oranges and yellows, these hearty hybrids boast great flower size, fast growing speed, longevity during the flowering period, smaller, stronger leaves and, most importantly, disease resistance. The one show here is Echibeckia Summerina Blazing Fire which was showing blooms 4 to 5 inches across and numerous buds.







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*Tuscan Hand Thrown Pottery Series*

**Pacific Home and Garden**

705 Carlton Ave.  
Stockton, CA 95203 USA  
Tel: 510-259-0199, Fax: 510-259-1183  
[www.pacifichomeandgarden.com](http://www.pacifichomeandgarden.com)  
[kevin@pacifichomeandgarden.com](mailto:kevin@pacifichomeandgarden.com)

This new series features a warm old-world look in various shapes and sizes to compliment all types of plants. Judges commented on how well this will sell in their Centers and they are anxious to get supplies into their stores. Kevin Xu said they have warehouses on both in California and Georgia for easy shipping.



*New Kitchen Minis™ Series – Tomatoes and Peppers*

**PanAmerican Seed**

622 Town Rd  
West Chicago, IL 60185 USA  
Tel: 630-1400, Fax: 630-562-7990  
[www.panamseed.com](http://www.panamseed.com)  
[jkirchenbaum@panamseed.com](mailto:jkirchenbaum@panamseed.com)

Our judges were drawn to this new series and both mini tomatoes and peppers. The series features 12 pepper selections of various shapes and colors and 4 different tomatoes. The NEW Kitchen Minis™ collection includes ready-grown fruiting compact potted vegetable plants consumers can place inside on a sunny windowsill or counter without a garden! They can also be placed outside as tabletop patio varieties.

Kitchen Minis make it possible for consumers to harvest their

own homegrown vegetables regularly. Each plant's harvest lasts about a month.

*Salvia x 'Unplugged Pink'*

**Proven Winners®**

426 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Rochester, MI 48307 USA  
Tel: 248-705-3288  
[www.provenwinners.com](http://www.provenwinners.com)  
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The newest addition to Proven Winners' Unplugged Series is PINK and it is an amazing new annual Salvia. At Cultivate'21 it was featured on a pedestal (just where it should be). It's height and width is 12-20" and loaded with blooms so it is perfect for containers or the mid-landscape setting. It thrives on both full sun and partial shade. Availability for Retail is 2022 so be sure to add it to your spring orders!





*Verbena Beats™ Series 'Purple+White'*

**SelectaOne**

622 Town Rd  
 West Chicago, IL 60185 USA  
 Tel: 630-231-3600, Fax: 630-580-8290  
[www.selectanorthamerica.com](http://www.selectanorthamerica.com)  
[jgibson@ballhort.com](mailto:jgibson@ballhort.com)

This new series features 4 colors and 2 bi-colors such as 'Purple+White'. These amazing compact mounding/spreading Verbenas give a constant color show in trials without cycling and are tough choices in times of drought and heat. The 'Purple+White' shown here is joined by 'Red+White' for great choices for designs.

*Petunia Starlet™ ColorRush™ 'Merlot Star'*

**SelectaOne**

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 West Chicago, IL 60185 USA  
 Tel: 630-231-3600, Fax: 630-580-8290  
[www.selectanorthamerica.com](http://www.selectanorthamerica.com)  
[jgibson@ballhort.com](mailto:jgibson@ballhort.com)

This is a WOW combination with deep purple and white dapples... the first Sky pattern to join the Starlet™ series! Dark night skies features many stars showing off for you. Dark and moody, deep purple blooms is just the right setting for the bright white stars!



*Peperomia caperrata 'Brasillia'*

**Succulents Unlimited BV**

Simon Vestdijkstraat 17  
 Wageningen, Gelderland 6708NW Netherlands  
 Tel: 407-920-9855  
[www.succulentsunlimited.com](http://www.succulentsunlimited.com)  
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A new cultivar of *Peperomia* plant named 'Brasillia' that is characterized by leaves that are grey-purple on the upper surface and red on the lower surface, a large number of leaves, yellow-white flower spikes and a compact habit. This was the first time this new *Peperomia* has been in the USA. Availability in the USA is expected in later 2022.





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*Mangave 'Praying Hands'*

**Walters Gardens**

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Mangave is a relatively new phenomenon, an intergeneric cross of *Manfreda* x *Agave*. Praying Hands is a brand new and totally different look than what you've seen in Mangave so far. Dark green leaves stay curled upward like a teardrop or an artichoke, where the cinnamon brown terminal spines nearly touch each other. 'Praying Hands' gets its unique habit from one its parents, *Agave ocahui*. Reported height and spread is 8-10".



*Thuja x 'Junior Giant'*

**Willoway Nurseries**

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Tel: 866-934-4435, Fax: 440-934-5826  
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WOW... The famous 'Green Giant' now has an offspring! Instead of a 30-40' tall specimen, Junior Giant will mature at 15-20', making it a much better fit for sites where space is limited. Just as long-lived as its predecessor, plant Junior Giant on 5' spacings and expect to enjoy your own privacy for up to 40 years. Junior Giant is part of the Syn-RG Hand-Picked For You program. Availability for retail is expected for spring 2022.

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A special thank you to all retailers participating in the Retailers' Choice Awards™ selection process. The awards at Cultivate'21 was a joint presentation by AmericanHort/Cultivate'21 and The Garden Center Group.

The Garden Center Group focuses on business solutions designed to help garden centers increase sales, improve operations and retain more profit. With a support team of leading industry professionals offering business management, financial, marketing, HR services and more. The Group offers retailers innovative resources to maximize their potential to succeed. For information about The Garden Center Group and the services it provides visit: <http://www.thegardencentergroup.com> or call Danny Summers at 678.909.7770.

American Horticulture Association (AmericanHort) is the national association for the green industry. Its mission is to "unite, promote, and advance the industry through advocacy, collaboration, connectivity, education, market development, and research." For more information about AmericanHort or Cultivate'21 visit: <http://americanhort.org> or call AmericanHort at 614.487.1117

[END]. Photos available upon request.