

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Retailers' Choice Awards™ at Cultivate'25**

**Columbus, OH, July 14, 2025** – Retailers' Choice Awards™ were presented to 14 exhibiting firms for 15 products at Cultivate'25 in Columbus, OH on July 14, 2025. The Garden Center Group's Danny Summers and Tim Quebedeaux led the search as Garden Retailers selected the best new products to bring excitement and noteworthy interest to their stores in the coming season. Following is a list of firms (presented A-Z) and the products receiving recognition:

***Hydrangea m. Haba Soft Pink (hanging basket)***  
**Ball Seed**

622 Town Rd  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
Tel: 800-879-2255  
<https://ballseed.com/>

*Have you ever seen a Hydrangea macrophylla that was perfect for a hanging basket??? This new, floriferous Hydrangea is a well-branched variety with many double flowers that cascade to create a phenomenal hanging basket. The Retailers quickly knew this is a totally new option for blooms they never see in hanging baskets. With normal PH adjustments, Soft Pink can transform to Soft Blue.*

***Dahlia Dalyla Lace and Venti Bi-Color Series*****Ball Selecta One**

622 Town Rd  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
Tel: 800-879-2255  
<https://ballseed.com/>

*Our Retailers were drawn to these two series of Dahlias, both with multiple color options and totally different look between Dalaya and Venti. The new **Dalaya Lace** additions features big blooms and exotic bicolors that charm with awesome retail appeal. An example is Pink Lace, with bold, pink flowers with white petal tips bloom all season and are a magnet for butterflies and birds The new **Venti** additions are uniform, vigorous series of **double-flowered dahlias** that brings a broad range of core colors and exciting **bicolors** to the market.*





*Rudbeckia h. 'Solar Sisters'*

**Bloomin' Easy**

34825 Hallert Road  
Abbotsford, BC V3G 1R3. Canada  
Tel: 604-996-1909  
<https://bloomineasyplants.com>

*This unique Rudbeckia is a magnet for human eyes as well as pollinators and is hardy in zones 7-9 and features large double blooms that open in a bright, sunny yellow with touches of orange, then gradually deepen to a rich copper as cooler nights set in. Expect nonstop flower power from June straight through to the first frost.*

*Brunnera m. 'Frost King'*

**Darwin Perennials**

622 Town Rd  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
Tel: 630-231-3600  
<https://www.darwinperennials.com>

***King** is certainly the perfect word to be describing this new Brunnera... It's **King-Size** leaves are amazing. Frost King features extra-large leaves with a strong pattern of silver with dark green veins and it also has Bright blue flowers as a bonus in Spring! Darwin was also promoting that deer don't like it!*





*Cortaderia selloana 'Day1' Tiny Pampa*

**Dig Plant Company**

911 Macmillan Rd  
Greeleyville, SC 29056

Tel: 843-735-2661

<https://digplantco.com>

*Have you ever seen a Pampas Grass that is only 2 feet tall - in flower? This is it... a true dwarf... Tiny Pampa. Tiny Pampa is absolutely the smallest Cortaderia on the market today; only about 2 feet tall, in flower. It also does not have the sharp texture as its large family members. Tiny Pampa flowers abundantly, even as a 1 or 2 year-old plant. Ideal for small spaces, patio gardens, and even large containers.*

*Begonia Hybrid I'CONIA Bacio Lemon*

**Dummen Orange**

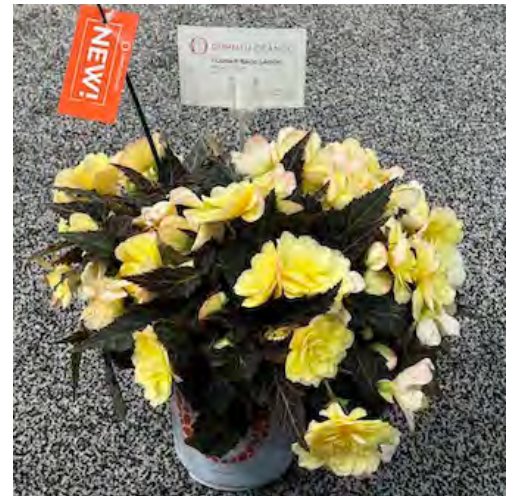
250 S High St Ste 650

Columbus, OH 43215

Tel: 614-850-9551

<https://na.dummenorange.com/>

*It's easy to see why our Retailers would be drawn to this new Lemon color hybrid in the I'CONIA Bacio series. Brilliant colors pop against deep green foliage in this uniform, and features lots of medium-to-large blooms. Soft yellow, double flower on dark green foliage. It is a beautiful upright variety with a slight cascade, ideal for patio containers, hanging baskets, borders and landscapes. Features large blooms on top of dark green leaves. Heat and stress tolerant.*





*Lilium - Asiatic Lily Looks 'Tiny Massive'*

**Growing Colors**

PO Box 238

Powell, Ohio 43065-0238

Tel: 800-238-0540

<https://www.growingcolors.com>

This is not AI at work...It is real. Tiny Massive is an amazing color combination of stunning bicolor of black-yellow flowers with a large bud presentation, actually 3-6 large flowers per stem. Our Retailers were WOWED by its big character and they discussed how it would be a fantastic fall sales item.

*Hydrangea m. 'Centennial Ruby'*

**Monrovia Nursery Company**

13455 SE Lafayette Hwy

Dayton, OR 97114

Tel: 800-666-0111

<https://www.monrovia.com>

Our Retailers were drawn to this special release to celebrate Monrovia's 100th anniversary, the flowers of this hydrangea are simply stunning. The **rich ruby-red** mophead blooms deepen in color as the long-lasting flowers age, sometimes taking on almost black hues. This rebloomer has exceptionally sturdy strong stems and thick green leaves in a compact character.





*Ajuga reptans 'Princess Leia'*

**North Carolina Farms/Concept Plants**

4205 Forest Dr  
Indian Trail, NC 28079-6707  
Tel: 704-283-1800  
<https://www.ncfarmsinc.com>

*This Ajuga has a dramatic contrast on uniquely patterned leaves with green and white variegated foliage that is crowned with deep purple flowers in spring.*

*North Carolina Farms is a Liner producer and wanted to give credit to Concept Plants who introduced 'Princess Leia'*

*Azalea Encore 'Autumn Kiss'*

**Plant Development Services Inc. (PDSI)**

17325 County Rd 68  
Loxley, AL 36551-3201  
Tel: 251-964-6778  
<https://plantdevelopment.com>

This new addition to the Encore Azalea Series has been described as possibly the very best – EVER! Autumn Kiss wows with truly unique bicolor blooms with a deep color center and outside edge, and of course it flowers heavily and reblooms season after season. The gorgeous semi-double blooms glow on a compact, rounded habit with Autumn Kiss maturing to 3–4' tall and wide.





*Caladium Heart to Heart 'Midnight Oil'*

**Proven Winners**

426 W 2nd St  
Rochester, MI 48307  
Tel: 248-705-3288  
<http://www.provenwinners.com/>

Have you ever seen an Oil SLICK in a plant leaf? That maybe an exaggeration but the name Midnight Oil tells the story for this totally unique new caladium. This near-black, strap style Heart to Heart® caladium blends deep green and red tones on arrow-shaped leaves with undulating margins. Though it grows in part shade, you'll find the coloration is darkest when exposed to direct sunlight, appearing dramatic charcoal black from a distance.

*Climb-itt Climbing Poles, Stakes, Wire and Clips*

**Proven Winners – Leaf Joy**

426 W 2nd St  
Rochester, MI 48307  
Tel: 248-705-3288  
<https://www.provenwinners.com/Climb-itt>

*This is a totally new approach for plant supports... **made from elephant grass and potato skins** to create a sustainable choice in climbing and vining houseplant poles. These 100% plastic- and chemical-free supports are designed with climbing plants' natural habitat in mind. By offering the natural, bark-like texture plants would find in the wild, Climb-itt poles attract aerial roots, creating a plant-to-plant relationship that helps them thrive. While Climb-itt poles will last for years indoors, they are completely biodegradable and will break down in the landfill. They're truly an eco-friendly alternative to traditional supports!*





*Catharanthus hybrid Soiree Flamenco  
 Electric Salmon Eye & Plum Velvet*

**Suntory/Sun-Fire Nurseries**  
 4-17-5 Shiba  
 Minato-ku Tokyo 108-0014 Japan  
 Tel: 440-522-1447  
<http://www.suntoryflowers.com/>

These two new colors in the Soiree series are stunning. Soiree Flamenco aren't like any other **vinca**. They put on a fashion show in landscape beds, baskets, and containers with fringed, ruffled petals and striking bi-colors. The Plum Velvet actually has the look and shimmer of real velvet fabric. And Electric Salmon Eye has a dark flower center, gradually transitioning to softer salmon toward the edges. Both are dramatic color for a totally different twist for Vincas.

*Tomato 'Partyball' and 'Akoya'*

**Syngenta Flowers, LLC**  
 2280 Hecker Pass Hwy  
 Gilroy, CA 95020  
 Tel: 408-310-1257  
<http://www.syngentaflowers-us.com/>



*It takes a lot for a tomato to grab the attention of our Retailers and here's 2 that really did!*

*Partyball is a heavy-cropping variety with sweet, cherry-sized fruits and determinate growth habit. It is proven resistance to Tomato Mosaic Virus (ToMV) strains 1 and 2 and features built-in tolerance to Late Blight. It also maintains plant health and productivity throughout the growing season. And Akoya features a glossy black color which matures to red with black shoulders. One exceptional trait of 'Akoya' is its 'stay green' characteristic. Unlike many other tomato varieties that gradually yellow with age, the leaves of 'Akoya' will remain a vibrant green throughout the plant's life.*

*Petunia Fun House 'Black Widow'*

**Syngenta Flowers, LLC**

2280 Hecker Pass Hwy

Gilroy, CA 95020

Tel: 408-310-1257

<http://www.syngentaflowers-us.com/>

*The idea of designing around specific colors for spotlighting during particular seasons is gaining traction and Fall and Halloween and here's a Petunia that fits right in.*

*Fun House Black Widow is right at home with its spooky, slick and alluring color. This new color in the Fun House series is*

*versatile, like the basic black dress, which looks good paired with just about any color.*



So, that's it for the 15 Retailers' Choice Awards for Cultivate'25. We hope this is good for you. Remember, as you work upcoming Trade Shows or Plant Trials... there are so many new plants that can create excitement in your Garden Center!

A special **thank you** to all Retailers participating in the Retailers' Choice Awards™ selection process. The awards at Cultivate'25 was a joint presentation by AmericanHort/Cultivate'25 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 [www.thegardencentergroup.com](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'23 visit [www.americanhort.org](http://www.americanhort.org) or call AmericanHort at 614.487.1117

[END]



Danny Summers, Managing Director  
PO Box 801494, Acworth, GA 30101  
Tel: 678-909-7770 | Fax: 678-909-7771  
danny@thegardencentergroup.com

---

*Photos available upon request*