

TPIE 2023 Cool Product Awards

It was a **GREAT TPIE 2023!** We had our largest group ever of Garden Retailers as judges for TPIE 2023 this year, all helping to find great products to present the Cool Product Awards. We awarded 14 companies awards for 15 "Cool Products." Even if you were not at TPIE or you were not able to be a part of this process, you can still benefit from the details here. **THANK YOU** Judges for all your efforts! Here's a quick review and links for more details on products awarded: *(Listed by company in alpha order)*



Dieffenbachia 'Crocodile'

Aroid Greenhouses

Paula and Melody Amezquita
Southwest Ranches, FL
Tel: 954-668-5200
www.aroidgreenhouses.com
info@aroidgreenhouses.com

This unique form of Dieffenbachia catches your attention with unique appearance in an upright stature, similar to that of palm. It's has strong variegated color and has wonderful smooth leaves on the front side but it's the backs of the leaves that help name the selection with its "Scales" on the center ridge along the underside of the leaf that are reptilian in texture.

Ceramic Succulents Wall Art **Chive**

Sarah Digout
Toronto, Ontario Canada
Tel: 866-881-1055
www.chivewholesale.com
sarah@chive.com

This collection could easily be called art pieces but at first glance you wonder... are they real with just a super leaf shine on them? But a little closer look reveals it is collections of beautiful ceramic succulents and flowers. Offered in several sizes and sold both individually or in gift sets, it is a very unique gift it for Garden Centers. During our visit, Sarah told us their ceramic floral collection is a top seller at the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum in Seattle. That tells you of the quality of these gift collections.





Vriesea 8322 Bromeliad
Deroose Plants, Inc.

Paul Deroose
Apopka, FL
Tel: 407-889-5228
www.derooseplants.com
info@derooseplantsusa.com

This new selection of Bromeliad has a very unique marbling in its leaves. During the presentation Paul said the color combination is not a form of variegation but is marbling and it very stable. The new plant is not yet named and they have a naming challenge asking for suggestions. The person providing the winning selected name will receive a gift plant! Send suggestions to the email above and be sure to mark the subject line: “Vriesea 8322” naming contest.

Custom Grow tags
Elburg-Smit - Qualitree

Herman Dunnink
BC, Canada
Tel: 778-933-1165
www.greenplugs.ca
hermandunnink@qualitree.com

These unique and creative plant labels are produced in Holland by Elburg-Smit and presented here in North America by Qualitree. Our judges were impressed with the eye-catching messaging and designs of these plant tags, offering a silent sales approach for the plants.





New Organic Liquid Plant Food

Flourish Plant

Lila Sullivan
 Cedar Park, TX
 Tel: 203-505-4763
www.flourishplant.com
 lila@flourishplant.com

This new liquid concentrate plant food is 100% organic and comes in an eye-dropper bottle. They also offer small same packs for first time users and also a limited-time gift pack that has the Flourish

Concentrate along with a glass 8oz Flourish Dilution Vessel.

New Plant Sleeves and Self Marketing with Plants

Hendriks Greenhouses

Andrew Hendriks
 Beamsville, ON Canada
 Tel: 905-980-1324
www.hendriksgreenhouses.com
 andrew.hendriksgreenhouses.com

Hendriks Greenhouses is known for quality tropicals but now, their creative team has produced a number of plant sleeves, wraps and tags to speak to the customer. The messages focus on happiness. One says "This plant will boost your mood" while several others borrow from Bloomingdale's "Little Black Dress" to say "Little Green Plant, or Big Plant Plant." Overall, our judges loved this new addition to Hendricks' plant offerings.



Multi-Color Combo of Bougainvillea in Hanging Baskets

O.F. Nelson & Family Nursery, Inc.

Annee Nelson
 Winter Garden, FL
 Tel: 407-347-7982
www.nelsonsfloridaroses.com
 nelsonsfoliage@gmail.com

It was quite easy to see why our judges were drawn to this bright combination of Bougainvillea in a hanging basket. During the presentation, Annee said they wanted to create something really different and could help brighten any landscape or patio. They sure succeeded.





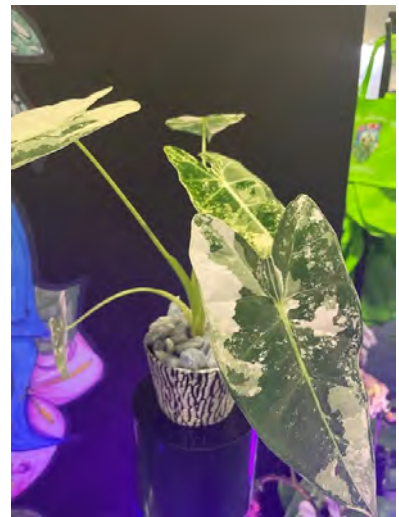
Leafjoy H2O Mini Hydroponic Garden
Proven Winners – The Plant Company

Ben Wright
Stuart's Draft, VA
Tel: 540-926-3929
www.theplantcompany.com
bwright@theplantcompany.com

While The Plant Company has been making waves as being a tropical plant producer in the Mid Atlantic region, they are also doing do with their creative packaging and tags. This new collection has a small rooted tropical plant nettled in a corked glass vase and on the display the tagline... Bring Nature Indoors. Watch for several other new similar offerings coming soon.

Alocasia Frydek Variegata
R & D Nurseries, Inc.
Robert & Natalie Roe
Umatilla, FL
Tel: 561-847-5065
www.rdnurseriesinc.com
orders@rdnurseriesinc.com

This highly variegated form of Alocasia is a show-stopper. While the specimen on display as a juvenile plant details of a fully grown example holds its wonderful color variations throughout its large leaves.





Alocasia Jacklyn
R & D Nurseries, Inc.
Robert & Natalie Roe
Umatilla, FL
Tel: 561-847-5065
www.rdnurseriesinc.com
orders@rdnurseriesinc.com

This form of Alocasia has very unique characteristics. Deep green coloration is in contrast to the blackish veins and overall leaf texture is rough and shinny. Some sources also refer to Alocasia Jacklyn as Alocasia Tandurusa but the Jacklyn name reported comes from the person who first found it in Indonesia.

New Organic Peatless Potting Soil

Rosy Soil

Chad Massura
New York, NY
Tel: 602-785-8378
www.rosysoil.com
chad@rosysoil.com

Our judges were attracted to this new line of Organic Peatless soils. In fact, Rosy Soil says it's the first pitting soils made from captured CO₂ that is peat, coco and synthetic free. Rosy's says it includes 30% Biochar derived from pine wood to reduce soil density and increases soil aeration and features Mycorrhizae.





***New Macramé Hanging Tillandsia
Russell's Bromeliads***

Tricia Hall
Clermont, FL
Tel: 407-656-5541
www.russellsairplants.com
contact@russellsairplants.com

Russell's has long been known for quality Tillandsias and they continue to also provide creative accessories to help display these unique plants. This year they showed their Macramé hangers in a multi-level display. Each are single hangers but when hung together it creates a way for the consumer to have more on display (buy more plants)!

***New Planters for Screen Room Railings
Screenplanter LLC***

Cristina Tortolini
Boca Raton, FL
Tel: 561-213-7073
www.screenplanter.com
screenplanter@gmail.com

There are a lot of screenrooms across much of the country and most have a mid rail construction. Cristina Tortolini wanted to create an easy way to enjoy plants so she designed Screenplanter. It comes in 2, 4 and 6 foot lengths as well as custom. It installs with no tools, features easy clips that help support and hold planter. Planters lift off with Velcro and feature drain holes in the back. There's also a corner unit.





New Potting Soil, Components and Toppers

Sol Soils

John Porter and Travis Theim

Minneapolis, MN

Tel: 615 428 6370

www.solsoils.com

hello@solsoils.com

Sol Soils offers a hand-mixed product with the best ingredients to produce fast draining soils that help protect against root rot, the number one killer of indoor plants. They coined the phrase “Gritty” mix, a coarse growing medium made up largely of inorganic materials that closely mimic the natural environment that many popular plants like aroids, tropicals, cacti, succulents, or bonsai come from.

New EcoPots

United Nursery LLC

Mauro Uriza

Homestead, FL

Tel: 786-243-0905

www.unitednursery.com

mauro@unitednursery.com

United Nursery has a reputation for quality tropicals but now they are also offering EcoPots to match. EcoPots are made in Belgium and are super lightweight but extremely strong. They feature neutral colors and come in a variety of both sizes and shapes. They have a drain hole plug to work inside or out. Ecopots are produced with 80% recycled plastic along with recycled natural stone it gives the pots their unique look.



So, that’s the Cool Product Awards for TPIE 2023. It was 15 awarded products by 14 companies and there were many more deserving products on the show floor, all waiting to be discovered. If you are a retail or interiorscape pro, be sure to watch for the opportunity to be part of this fun and rewarding search next year at TPIE 2024 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL!

Summary:

The 2023 TPIE Cool Product Awards is a collaboration between TPIE 2023, Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) and The Garden Center Group. The Florida



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Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) is a vibrant network of professionals who work in unison to shape the future of Florida's nursery and landscape industry. For more information on TPIE or FNGLA, visit: www.fn gla.org/tpie/

The Garden Center Group is a business group that provides solutions to operational issues facing independent garden retailers. Unlike a buying group that boosts your purchasing power on products that you sell, we focus on business solutions designed to help you increase sales, improve operations and retain more profit. By consolidating garden centers who agree to work together towards a common goal, The Group is able to provide a network of professionals and business services most centers would not be able to afford on their own. For more information visit: www.TheGardenCenterGroup.com

Note from Danny Summers:

A special THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this Cool Products of TPIE selection process. It was a tough job, but it was exciting and a great experience! Thank you so much!