

June 2019

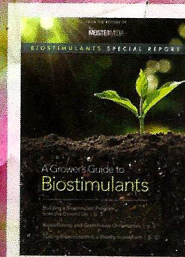
GREENHOUSE GROWER®

VARIETIES | PRODUCTION | MANAGEMENT | TECHNOLOGY

THE 2019 California Spring Trials REPORT



Nominees page 14



Biostimulants
Report
after page 32

Lewisia 'Elise Ruby Red'
(Benary)

CAST QUOTE:

"Flowers are like ice cream. They're a 100% positive product that makes people happy."

— Matthias Redlefsen of Ernst Benary of America

Did You Know?

Twenty years ago *Greenhouse Grower's* Group Editor Delilah Onofrey, now with Suntory Flowers, reported that breeding companies participating in California Spring Trials were beginning to phase out the traditional comparison trials to accommodate more product lines in limited space. They were also starting to focus more on showcasing their new products and programs because they realized pack trial visitors couldn't spend so much time at each stop.

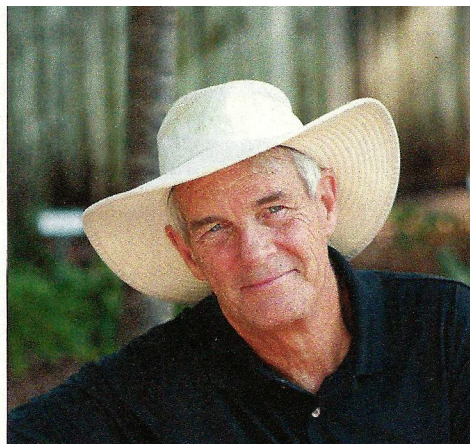
New Breeding in SunPatiens (Sakata Ornamentals)

Sakata Ornamentals continues to build out its SunPatiens line, with four new vigorous varieties this year and one add-on to its compact line. 'Compact Orchid Blush' is a new genetic with a drought-tolerant trait discovered growing in arid conditions in Indonesia. It uses less water and is less prone to wilt. Sakata will eventually incorporate this genetic into its entire SunPatiens line. Like all SunPatiens, Orchid Blush thrives in sun or shade.



New Crown Jewel Begonia Leaf Patterns (J. Berry Nursery)

J. Berry showed off some new begonias planned for its Crown Jewel line. The company plans to conduct a survey of the new intros to see which leaf patterns and color palettes its customers like best before deciding which ones will join the regal collection. These surveys will be in a digital form with a specific audience of industry professionals, including live good merchants, garden communicators, educators, and industry outsiders. At Cultivate'18, J. Berry announced the launch of its own young plants division for production of Black Diamond Crape Myrtles, Emerald Empire Crape Myrtles, Summer Spice Hardy Hibiscus, Hollywood Hibiscus, and Déjà Bloom Azaleas. Growers can prebook for spring 2020 through one of J. Berry Nursery's associated brokers. Of note is the divisions new 15-count, fast-finish liner, named the MoneyMaker. The MoneyMaker liner supports an additional turn of production space for late spring to summer sales opportunities.



Dr. A's Dozen: Notable Introductions From CAST 2019

Here's *Greenhouse Grower* Contributing Editor Allan Armitage's top 12 picks from California Spring Trials 2019 based on salability and possible landscape use.

- ***Athyrium* 'Crested Surf'**
(Proven Winners Perennials/Walters Gardens)
- **Beacon Impatiens**
(PanAmerican Seed)
- ***Bidens* 'Blazing Embers'**
(Danziger)
- ***Buddleia* 'Pugster Purple'**
(Proven Winners ColorChoice Shrubs/Spring Meadow Nursery)
- ***Dahlia* 'Happy Days Purple'**
(Syngenta Flowers)
- ***Echeveria* 'Coral Reef'**
(Green Fuse Botanicals)
- ***Heucherella* 'Firecracker'**
(Terra Nova Nurseries)
- ***Kalanchoe* 'Diamond Sultan Pink'**
(Beekenkamp)
- ***Lavandula* 'Ghostly Princess'**
(Pacific Plug & Liner/Monrovia)
- ***Lavandula stoechas* 'Madrid Lavish Pink'**
(Green Fuse Botanicals)
- **New Guinea *Impatiens* 'Roller Coaster Hot Pink'**
(Dümmen Orange)
- ***Salvia* 'Roman Red'**
(Ball FloraPlant)

Learn more about these varieties on GreenhouseGrower.com.

Acquisitions Partnerships

Hosta 'Shadowland Autumn Frost'
(Proven Winners' Hosta of the Year)

TERRA NOVA NURSERIES JOINS THINKPLANTS

Perennial breeder Terra Nova Nurseries announced its plans to join the breeder, grower, and supplier network of ThinkPlants, a cooperative marketing initiative founded by Syngenta Flowers and Danziger to supply innovative genetics to the North American market. Danziger's cutting farm in Guatemala will supply Terra Nova Nurseries' perennials, which include items such as Agastache, Coreopsis, Gaillardia, Leucanthemum, Sedum, and more.

The ThinkPlants alliance comes not long after Terra Nova Nurseries and Danziger signed a licensing agreement granting Danziger rights to produce and sell cuttings from Terra Nova Nurseries elite stock. Danziger became the dedicated licensee and supplier of unrooted cuttings taken from Terra Nova Nurseries' stock in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

In other news, Terra Nova Nurseries announced it will exhibit at the 2019 International Horticultural Exhibition, held April 29 to October 7, in Beijing, China. It is the only American breeding company to exhibit at China's largest horticultural expo in nearly a decade.

LOOK WHO HAS CALADIUMS

Proven Winners has partnered with Classic Caladiums to bring its customers 20 exclusive varieties of fancy-leaf and strap-leaf caladiums. New varieties will join the collection each year. Starting in July for the 2019-2020 season, the 20 caladiums will be sold in Proven Winners' branded pots and supplied through U.S. propagators Four Star Greenhouse and Pleasant View Gardens and Canadian propagators Nordic Nurseries and Sobkowich Greenhouse. Classic Caladiums will ship bulbs direct.

BEEKENKAMP ADDS KALANCHOE TO ITS PORTFOLIO

Beekenkamp has appointed Marc Driessen as the new Director of its Ornamental Plants Division. Driessen says the company intends to change its direction from a young plant company with little focus on breeding, to one with a stronger emphasis on breeding and the supply chain.

Beekenkamp has also partnered with SlijkermanKalanchoë, a Netherlands company that specializes in the breeding and production of single- and double-flowered kalanchoe, to provide kalanchoe to the North American market.

Beekenkamp will exclusively offer the full line of potted SlijkermanKalanchoë, which includes the Diamond Series of double and single kalanchoe, and the Serenity series of doubles. For the 2019-2020 season, supply will be available out of SlijkermanKalanchoë's Kenya farm, with production eventually moving to Beekenkamp's Uganda location. Additionally, Beekenkamp now has permission to sell six colors of Suntory Flowers' Senetti Pericallis to the North American market.

PANAMERICAN SEED OFFERS VEGETABLES FOR URBAN AND SMALL-SPACE MARKETS

With its purchase of the Kitchen Minis program from Dalina Genetics, a Danish breeder of ornamental and edible plants, PanAmerican Seed plans to home in on the urban and small-space vegetable gardening markets. The purchase includes breeding lines, as well as commercial products of compact tomatoes and cucumbers that don't require the use of plant growth regulators.

Ongoing development of the Kitchen Minis line will remain in Denmark where it will be incorporated into PanAmerican Seed-DK (formerly Ex-Plant A/S). Dalina breeder Hans Henrik Kampmann will continue to lead the program through the merger. **GG**

Shop GREENHOUSE GROWER Talk

Greenhouse Grower Editor Janeen Wright and Contributing Editor Allan Armitage shared some of the new plant introductions from California Spring Trials 2019 they were excited about in a series of ShopTalk videos posted on GreenhouseGrower.com. Watch for more ShopTalk videos each month featuring Dr. A and other guests.





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ruffled edges. With its vigorous habit, 'Roller Coaster Hot Pink' is a good choice for late spring to early summer sales.

7. Lavandula 'Madrid Lavish Pink'

(Green Fuse Botanicals)
The Madrid series is selected for earliness to flower and plant uniformity. Plants have large flowers and multiple bracts and thrive in hot, dry climates. The series includes Rose, Purple, and Blue colors, in addition to Pink, and a White is in the works.



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8. Pentas Sunstar Series

(Proven Winners)
A breakthrough in breeding allows for production of Sunstar Pentas by Northern and Southern growers without the need for supplemental lighting.



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These pentas are heat and humidity tolerant and more accepting of cooler temperatures.

9. Heuchera 'Northern Exposure Sienna'

(Terra Nova Nurseries)
Sienna has hardy *H. Richardsonii* breeding for better cold tolerance and longer-lived plants. Despite that, it shows good heat tolerance and is rust resistant. Plants are hardy in Zones 4 to 9.

10. Kanmara Hydrangeas (Ball Ingenuity)

Kanmara is a new generation of *Hydrangea macrophylla* with huge blooms and elegant foliage that holds up well in the rain. It's an outdoor decorator hydrangea for shade to deep shade. The series includes five colors. Pictured: *H. macrophylla* 'Kanmara Tivoli Blue' **GG**



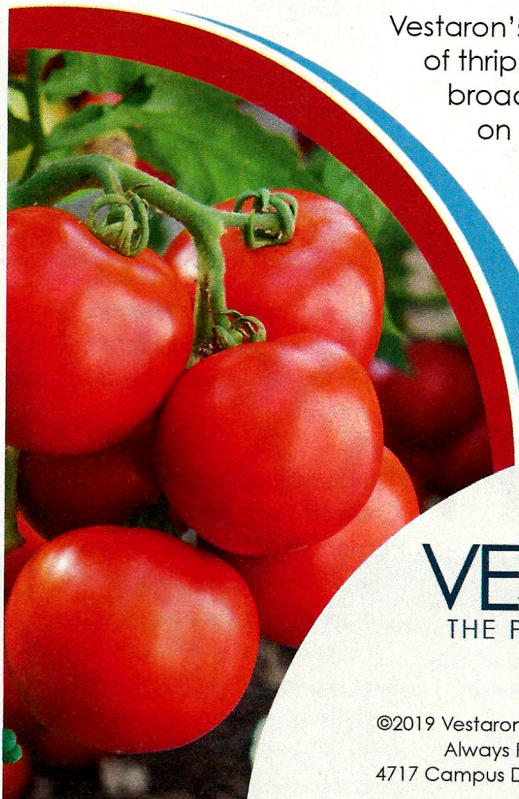
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Vestaron's biopesticide for control of thrips, whiteflies, spider mites, broad mites, aphids and SWD on greenhouse plants. Field trials demonstrate results equivalent or superior to conventional control chemicals.

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