



All America Selections Winners, 2001

Four new flower cultivars received All America Selections honors for 2001 and were tested in the Garden last season. *Nicotiana* 'Avalon Bright Pink' is a free flowering, low maintenance annual that grew well in the garden. It produced soft unusual pink blooms, a new color for *Nicotianas*, and bloomed from mid June through frost. The 16-inch (40 cm) plants were covered with blooms and showed no signs of disease, even in the cold, cloudy days of August. It is a worthy addition to beds and borders.



Portulaca 'Margarita Rosita'
Photo courtesy of
<http://cdn.hgtvgardens.com>

Portulaca 'Margarita Rosita' is easy to grow from seed and has electric pink, semi-double flowers on 5-inch (12 cm) plants. We planted this cultivar at the traditional 8-inch (20 cm) spacing for portulacas (moss roses), and were disappointed they did not fill in the beds like other cultivars. Only this spring did we learn one of the unique characteristics of this cultivar is its mounding, not spreading habit when young which makes plants easier to transplant. Unfortunately, in our cold soils, they never did spread, and the plants looked pitiful and quite sparse in our planting. They also did not grow well in our cold August weather.

Plants began to bloom the first week of July but had only one or two flowers per plant through August. This season, we will try this plant with closer spacing and hope for hot weather.

Sunflower 'Ring of Fire' is one of a recent explosion of cultivars released to satisfy the public's insatiable desire for colorful, freeblooming, and branching sunflowers. This cultivar reaches only 4-1/2 feet (139cm) tall and is recommended for containers as well as gardens. The flowers are great for cutting, and each 2-1/2 to 5-inch head (6-12cm) is an unusual color—chocolate brown centers surrounded by a ring of mahogany. The tips of the petals are brilliant gold.



Sunflower 'Ring of Fire'
Photo courtesy of
<http://www.harrisseeds.com>

Zinnia 'Profusion White' not only took top honors as an All America Selection winner, but was awarded a Gold Medal. This cultivar joins a series of short, mounding winners, 'Profusion Cheery' and 'Profusion Orange'. The 2-inch (5 cm) flowers have creamy white petals and dark centers. Their greatest attribute is blooms, blooms and more blooms all summer. And get this! No deadheading, staking, pinching or pruning required! Like the entire Profusion series, this cultivar is definitely a great flower for the front of beds and borders.

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