



## All America Selections - Winners, 2002!

The All America Selections Program awarded some great winners for 2002 that will perform well in Alaska's gardens. Our flower favorite was a pansy called 'Ultima Morpho' that was definitely an eye-catcher. It was named after a butterfly called Morpho with similar colors on its wings. Most of the flowers were a beautiful mix of bright blue and yellow, a color combination not seen before in pansies. Some were nearly fully yellow. But the effect was electric. It bloomed all summer long with great 12-inch mounds of flowers. This is definitely worth trying.



*'Ultima Morpho', a stunning possibility for your garden. Photo courtesy of <https://c1.staticflickr.com>*

Another great flower was 'Cherokee Sunset' rudbeckia. Everyone who walked through the garden was stopped in their tracks when they saw these beautiful mahogany and gold, fully double flowers. Individual flowers were shaped more like giant zinnias than the daisy-like black-eyed Susan. They began blooming the first part of July but did not reach peak bloom until August. The beautiful rich colors and double flowers are outstanding.

A plant for the garden and containers is 'Black Magic Rose' geranium. The rich chocolate leaves edged with green were not very striking in the greenhouse, but outdoors, they stood apart from all the rest. The plant grew better than most geraniums in the ground beds and filled in well, reaching a



*'Black Magic Rose' geranium was a winner this year. Photo Courtesy of <http://media-cache-ec0.pinimg.com>*



*'Tidal Wave Silver' bloomed all summer long. Photo courtesy of <http://3.bp.blogspot.com>*

height of 14 inches. The dark foliage was topped with bright pink flowers that made for an outstanding contrast. Even before the blooms appeared in late June, the plant was quite ornamental with just the foliage.

One flower we put in the "so-so" category is 'Sparkler Blush' cleome. This winner was advertised as being more "refined" than regular cleomes with a shorter stature and more uniform height. Personally, I like the tall, lanky, "out of control" cleomes such as 'Queen Mix' and 'Colour Fountain Mix'. We didn't see much to brag about in 'Sparkler Blush' except the uniform light pink flower color is very nice.

Finally, there's a new Tidal Wave petunia called 'Tidal Wave Silver' that has the same great mounding growth habit as the Cherry and Hot Pink cultivars in that series. The color is very unusual consisting of a pale, pale lavender at the edges and a deep purple throat. Like its cousins, the closer you space them, the taller they grow. Ours produced huge mounds of silvery flowers that never quit blooming all summer.

A few plants certainly go a long way in the garden!

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