All-America Selections Winners for 2014

All-America Selections has announced the first winners for 2014 (with more to possibly be announced in late January). Look for the red, white and blue logo of All-America Selections on seed packets in retail stores, plant tags in bedding plants in garden centers or nurseries, or in mail-order catalogs this spring. Success is almost guaranteed with these varieties of reliable new flower and vegetable varieties. For the first time in AAS history, the organization is recognizing regional performance and granting AAS Regional Winner designation. Prior to this year, all Winners were National Winners.

The non-profit All-America Selections (AAS) organization was founded in 1932 to foster the development, production and distribution of new and better horticultural and agricultural varieties, species, strains and kinds in and for North America. AAS winners are superior new annual flower and vegetable plants recognized for significant achievements – a promise of gardening success. Only the very best varieties receive this prestigious award. All AAS winners have been tested for home garden performance in more than 60 independent test sites, each under the responsibility of an AAS judge, all over the United States and Canada. Gardeners can rely on AAS Winners to perform in their garden because of these unbiased, independent tests. Most of the time only one to three flower varieties and the same number of vegetables get this award each year, and sometimes none qualifies. So far there are two bedding plants and four vegetable National award winners, and among the Regional Winners, a flower and two vegetables for the Great Lakes Region. More winners may be announced early in 2014.

The National AAS winners for 2014 are:

**AAS Bedding Plant Award Winner: Petunia ‘African Sunset’ F1**

‘African Sunset’ wowed the judges with an attractive, “designer color” in shades of orange flowers that proved itself against other similarly colored petunias currently available. Gardeners are always looking for a petunia that grows evenly and uniformly in the garden while producing a prolific number of blooms all season-long and this beauty certainly fills that need. Many of our judges want this

---

**Petunia x hybrida**

*Common name:* Petunia  
*Duration type:* Annual  
*Light needs:* Full sun  
*Water needs:* Normal  
*Deadheading:* No  
*Staking:* No  
*Foliage color:* Green  
*Plant habit:* Mounded, spreading  
*Plant height:* 10-24 inches  
*Garden spacing:* 22 inches  
*Bloom time:* Late spring to frost  
*Bloom color:* Orange  
*Bloom size:* 2.5 inches  
*Weather Tolerance:* Heat, rain  
*Hanging Basket:* Yes  
*Closest comparisons on market:* ‘Aladdin Orange’, ‘Madness Simply’
in plantings for their alma mater so if your school colors include orange, this one is for you! Mounded spreading plants are 12 inches tall spread up to 20 inches.

**AAS Bedding Plant Award Winner: Gaura ‘Sparkle White’**

‘Sparkle White’ gaura will bring a touch of airy elegance to the garden with its long slender stems sporting a large number of dainty white flowers tinged with a pink blush. This beauty is perfect mass planted in sun-drenched landscape beds, in groupings with other perennials or in larger containers. Home gardeners will appreciate that this season-long bloomer also has excellent heat tolerance and a more uniform flowering habit than other seed gauras. Commercial growers can utilize ‘Sparkle White’ as a first-year flowering perennial or as an annual, showing its wide range of uses.

**AAS Vegetable Award Winner: Bean ‘Mascotte’**

The first AAS winning bean since 1991, this compact variety is perfect for today’s small-space gardens. ‘Mascotte’ is a bush type bean that produces long, slender pods that stay above the foliage for easy harvest. This bean also has white showy flowers for ornamental value during bloom time. Judges appreciated the crunchiness and taste of this bean as well as the plentiful harvest all season long. The ‘Mascotte’ root system is ideal for patio containers and window boxes, and this versatile variety performs well in garden beds too. That means you can raise delicious beans in any outside space. The French ‘Mascotte’ (like its English translation “mascot”) is a symbol of good luck and was chosen for the variety’s gardener-friendly habit.
**AAS Vegetable Award Winner: Pepper ‘Mama Mia Giallo’ F1**
Very early maturing yellow sweet Italian pepper. Long tapered fruits with easy to remove skin. Nice sweet flavor that is excellent either fresh, grilled or roasted. Bright yellow/gold fruit are pendant on sturdy dark green bushy plants with excellent coverage from sunburn. The somewhat compact 24” plant takes up less space and offers disease tolerance to Tobacco mosaic virus.

![Pepper 'Mama Mia Giallo' F1](image)

**AAS Vegetable Award Winner: Tomato ‘Chef’s Choice Orange’ F1**
‘Chef’s Choice Orange’ F1 is a hybrid derived from the popular heirloom ‘Amana Orange’ which matures late in the season. Now you can experience the wonderful flavor of an orange heirloom tomato in only 75 days from transplant. Its disease resistance is an added bonus. ‘Chef’s Choice Orange’ has a wonderful bright, almost neon, internal color and superior flesh taste and texture for an early maturing orange tomato. Excellent for soups and sauces because the intense color does not fade or discolor when cooked. Home chefs are going to love cooking with this variety as well as eating it fresh.

Average size fruits are 12 ounces but can weigh up to 1 pound. Large 5 foot tall plants are indeterminate and the leaves cover fruit well to protect from sunburn.

![Tomato 'Chef's Choice Orange' F1](image)

---

**Capsicum annuum**
- **Common name:** Pepper
- **Duration type:** Annual
- **Light needs:** Full sun
- **Water needs:** Dry to normal
- **Season Type:** Warm season
- **Staking:** No
- **Foliage color:** Dark green
- **Plant habit:** Bushy
- **Plant height:** 10-24 inches
- **Garden spacing:** 15 inches
- **Days to harvest (seed):** 125
- **Days (transplant):** 85
- **Fruit color (harvest):** Bright yellow/gold
- **Fruit Shape:** Elongated
- **Fruit Size:** 7-9 inches
- **# Fruits/Plant:** 25-30
- **Disease Resistance:** Tobacco mosaic virus
- **Closest comparisons on market:** ‘Marconi Golden’, ‘Giant Marconi’

**Solanum lycopersium**
- **Common name:** Beefsteak tomato
- **Duration type:** Annual
- **Light needs:** Full sun
- **Water needs:** Dry to normal
- **Season Type:** Warm season
- **Staking:** Yes
- **Foliage color:** Dark green
- **Plant habit:** Rambling, vining
- **Plant height:** Over 24 inches
- **Garden spacing:** 15-18 inches
- **Days to harvest (seed):** 120
- **Days (transplant):** 75
- **Fruit color (harvest):** Bright orange
- **Fruit Shape:** Flat boat shaped
- **Fruit Size:** 5-6 inches
- **Fruit Weight:** 9-12 ounce
- **Disease Resistance:** Tobacco mosaic virus, crack, anthracnose
- **# Fruits/Plant:** 20+
- **Closest comparisons on market:** ‘Sunkist’, ‘Orange Wellington’
AAS Vegetable Award Winner: Tomato ‘Fantastico’ F1
‘Fantastico’ is a must for any market grower or home gardener looking for an early-maturing, high-yielding grape tomato with built-in Late Blight Tolerance. Bred for small gardens, determinate ‘Fantastico’ will work great in hanging baskets, container gardens as well as in small gardens. Long clusters of sweet tasty fruits are held toward the outside of the plant, making them very easy to harvest but if you let them go a few days past peak, these little beauties resist cracking better than the comparisons used in the AAS trials.

A unique determinate bush tomato with well flavored half-ounce grape shaped fruit. High yielding plants produce up to 12 pounds of ripe fruit. Best grown in a cage to provide some plant support, but can also be grown in a large patio container or an 18-inch hanging basket.

The Great Lakes Regional winners for 2014 are:

AAS Flower Award Winner: Sunflower ‘Suntastic’ F1
‘Suntastic’ is a new dwarf sunflower perfect as a cheery long-blooming potted plant or window box accent or maybe to add a burst of color to a sunny garden bed. Gardeners will love the number of flowers each plant produces: up to twenty 5-6 inch flowers per plant in three successive blooming periods. ‘Suntastic’ will bloom in less than 65 days after sowing so by starting indoors, sunflower lovers can get their favorite bloom fix early in the summer.

The new reference of dwarf sunflower. The smallest on the market. Plant is very floriferous. Several waves of flowers: after the first flower, up to 3 waves of 5-8 flowers. Up to 20 flowers per plant! Naturally dwarf and compact. Early flowering dwarf sunflower for pot, window boxes, low bedding.
AAS Vegetable Award Winner: Cucumber ‘Pick A Bushel’ F1

Excellent heat tolerant pickling cucumber which can be picked at the gherkin or spear stage and processed. The large yields of cucumbers can also be enjoyed fresh in salads and slaws. Semi-bush plants can be planted in the garden or in patio containers.

AAS Vegetable Award Winner: Pumpkin ‘Cinderella’s Carriage’ F1

‘Cinderella’s Carriage’ is a dream come true for any princess-loving child who wants to grow their own fairy tale type pumpkin. This bright reddish-orange pumpkin is the first hybrid Cinderella-type pumpkin on the market which results in a higher yield as well as Powdery Mildew resistance in the garden. Robust and vigorous vines produce large fruits ranging from 25-35 pounds, creating a whole grouping of carriages for all the princesses in your family.

Magical pink-red colored fruit shaped like the pumpkin carriage from the fairy tale Cinderella. Some lucky gardeners could also experience a pale blue pumpkin. Large trailing vine sets up to 5-7 fruit per plant. Well suited for fall decorations and baking. Flesh is yellow, sweet and has a nutty flavor.

Additional Information:

- All America Selections at www.all-americaselections.org/

---

**Cucurbita maxima**

- **Common name:** Pumpkin
- **Duration type:** Annual
- **Light needs:** Full sun
- **Water needs:** Dry to normal
- **Season Type:** Warm season
- **Staking:** No
- **Foliage color:** Dark green
- **Plant habit:** Trailing, vining
- **Plant height:** 10-24 inches
- **Garden spacing:** 2-3 feet
- **Days to harvest (seed):** 100
- **Fruit color (harvest):** Pink red
- **Fruit Shape:** Flat rounded
- **Fruit Size:** 15-18 inches
- **Fruit Weight:** 18-20 pounds
- **Disease Resistance:** Powdery mildew tolerance
- **# Fruits/Plant:** 5

Closest comparisons on market:

- ‘Rouge Vif D’etamps’, ‘Cinderella’, ‘Shadow Moon’ F1

---

**Cucumis sativus**

- **Common name:** Cucumber, pickling
- **Duration type:** Annual
- **Light needs:** Full sun
- **Water needs:** Dry to normal
- **Season Type:** Warm season
- **Staking:** Yes
- **Foliage color:** Green
- **Plant habit:** Bushy
- **Plant height:** 10-24 inches
- **Garden spacing:** 8-10 inches
- **Days to harvest (seed):** 50
- **Fruit color (harvest):** Medium green
- **Fruit Shape:** Cylindrical
- **Fruit Size:** 3-6 inches
- **Fruit Weight:** 2-4 ounce
- **Disease Resistance:** Cucumber mosaic virus, scab, melon mosaic virus
- **# Fruits/Plant:** 18-20

Closest comparisons on market:

- ‘County Fair’ F1, ‘Regal’, ‘Calypso’