



## **PHS Names 2019 Gold Medal Plant Winners**

*Trees and perennials selected for their beauty and ease of care*

**PHILADELPHIA (September 2018)** – The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has selected the 2019 winners of the PHS Gold Medal Plant awards, recognizing exceptional plants for the home gardener and professional landscaper. For a fourth year, PHS and its Gold Medal committee also chose hardy favorites in the perennial category.

The Gold Medal Plant program evaluates and spotlights outstanding trees, shrubs, vines, and perennials for the home gardener. These plants are chosen for their performance and hardiness in the growing region of Zones 5 to 7. Many winners are hardy in a much broader geographic range, and beauty, whether it be foliage, flower, form or bark, is also considered during the selection process.

“The Gold Medal Awards help gardeners and landscapers engage even more deeply with their gardens by spotlighting the trees and plants that will thrive in our region,” said Matt Rader, PHS President. “PHS encourages the use of these plants to enrich our environment and create a legacy of beauty. Over the years, Gold Medal winners have been grown in our public landscapes, and at PHS Meadowbrook Farm and used in exhibits at the Philadelphia Flower Show. ‘Standing Ovation’, one of this year’s winners, is currently used in a number of plantings at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.”

Since 1979, the Gold Medal program has honored and promoted woody plants of outstanding merit. The program was originally conceived by noted nurseryman Dr. J. Franklin Styer, who realized homeowners and gardeners needed to learn about superior woody plants for their landscapes. Plants are nominated from submissions by home gardeners, garden designers, horticulturists, landscape architects, nursery owners and propagators.



Once nominated, plants are reviewed by a committee of expert horticulturists led by Chairman Steve Mostardi. Through in-person discussions and an online rating system, the Gold Medal Plant Committee honors plants, on a yearly basis, who meet the rigorous criteria for excellence set forth by PHS. Gardeners who acquire a Gold Medal-designated plant can be assured the plant will exhibit standards of excellence for pest and disease resistance, as well as ease of growing when planted and maintained appropriately.

To view a searchable database of all past and present winners, please visit [phsonline.org/programs/gold-medal-plants/](http://phsonline.org/programs/gold-medal-plants/).

## Woody Plant Winners

***Cornus kousa* 'Wolf Eyes' | Wolf Eyes Kousa Dogwood** is an eye-catching, small specimen tree with white to ivory-edged variegated leaves that turn pinky-red in the fall. Additional decorative features for this tree are the white bracts in June that are followed by red berries in September. The cultivar 'Wolf Eyes' is perfect for smaller gardens with slow growth between six and ten feet. It grows best in partial sun and moist, well-drained soil. **Zones 5-8**

***Cotinus* 'Grace' | Purple Smokebush** is a large, colorful deciduous shrub that can reach twenty feet tall and wide but that can be kept smaller by cutting it back every few years. If not pruned back, it produces large pink flowers in May and June that look like smoke – giving rise to the common name of smokebush. *Cotinus* 'Grace' is popular because it has several seasons of interest. In spring, the rounded leaves emerge light red and then become larger and darker red-purple in the summer with a wide range of autumnal colors. The Purple Smokebush is a deer-resistant plant, which grows at a medium rate in partial sun and moist environments. **Zones 5-9**



***Juniperus chinensis* 'Robusta Green' | Chinese Juniper 'Robusta Green'** is a versatile evergreen, native to Asia, and used in gardens for its attractive blue-green foliage and narrow habit. This conifer grows well in full sun and medium moisture and is easy to care for. It is tolerant of a windy site and deer-resistant. 'Robusta Green' juniper is an excellent accent when planted singly or can be used as a screen for narrow spaces when planted in a group. Ultimate height is about ten to fifteen feet and width five to seven feet, but it can be pruned to fit the available space. **Zones 4-9**

### **Perennial Winners**

***Chrysanthemum* 'Hillside Sheffield Pink' | Hillside Sheffield Pink Chrysanthemum** is a very hardy, herbaceous perennial, which can grow up to three feet tall and wide in full sun and well-drained soil. With soft pink flowers that fade to ivory-pink, this old-fashioned chrysanthemum has a long bloom season from late summer into fall. Pinching back the growing tips in June produces a more compact plant. Both deer-resistant and salt-tolerant, these plants are great at suppressing weeds and providing beautiful, fragrant accents to fall gardens. **Zones 5-9**

***Schizachyrium scoparium* | 'Standing Ovation' Little Bluestem** is a cultivar of this North American native grass. The cultivar 'Standing Ovation' is exceptionally sturdy and stands up in high winds and heavy rain. It is a moderate-growing, warm-season grass that can reach three feet or more and is both deer- and drought-resistant. 'Standing Ovation' has striking upright blue-green stems that turn to red, purple, and orange in the fall. This ornamental grass prefers plenty of sun and not too much fertility in the soil. **Zones 3-8**

***Stachys officinalis (monieri)* 'Hummelo' | Hummelo Betony** is a low-growing perennial that thrives in sun to part-shade and moist, well-drained soil. Betony is a relative of the silver-leaved Lamb's Ears, but these leaves are green and low-growing, so it is perfect for the front of the border. One and a half to two-foot spikes of purple-



lavender flowers rise from the foliage in late spring and early summer and attract butterflies and other pollinators. Native to Europe and Asia, Hummelo Betony is a reliable, deer-resistant and pest-free garden plant. **Zones 4-8**

### **ABOUT PHS**

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 1827, that connects people with horticulture and collaboratively creates beautiful, healthy, and sustainable communities. PHS's best known activities include the Philadelphia Flower Show, tree planting and tree care, community gardening, greening vacant land, public beautification, and the PHS Pop Up Gardens. PHS is supported by individual members and supporters, foundations, partners, and government grants. PHS programs bring together people from diverse backgrounds to engage in horticultural projects that advance social equity and create a legacy of beauty. For information or to support our work, visit [PHSONline.org](https://www.phsonline.org).

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