

NEWS RELEASE

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New Plants and Garden Products Win 2012 Green Thumb Awards

Five new plant varieties and five new gardening products have won 2012 Green Thumb Awards presented by the Direct Gardening Association (formerly called the Mailorder Gardening Association). Honored in the Plants, Bulbs and Seeds division were Harvest Booster Perennial Collection from High Country Gardens, *Hesperaloe parviflora* Brakelights® from High Country Gardens, *Delosperma* Fire Spinner® from High Country Gardens, Black Magic™ Blackberry from Henry Field's Seed and Nursery Co., and Texas Early White Onion from Dixondale Farms.



Honored in the Tools, Supplies and Accessories division were Garden Pest Bait from Gardens Alive!, Liquid Fence® Yard Net® Granular from The Liquid Fence® Company, Veg Trug Patio Planter from Gardener's Supply, BioMarker™ Plant Markers from CobraHead and EarthBox® Junior™ from EarthBox®.

Winners of the 2012 Green Thumb Awards were chosen by an independent panel of garden writers and editors. The winning products were selected based on their uniqueness, technological innovation, ability to solve a gardening problem or provide a gardening opportunity, and potential appeal to gardeners.

The Green Thumb Awards recognize outstanding new garden products available by mail or online. The awards are sponsored by the Direct Gardening Association (DGA), the world's largest nonprofit association of companies that sell garden products directly to consumers via catalogs and websites. For more information visit www.directgardeningassociation.com.

2012 Green Thumb Award Winners – Plants, Bulbs and Seeds

Harvest Booster Perennial Collection High Country Gardens

Urban farmers can benefit by understanding and utilizing the essential connection between pollinators (bees) and a bountiful harvest of vegetables and fruits. The Harvest Booster Perennial Collection contains small and medium-sized flowering perennials that, when planted into and around vegetable gardens and potted vegetables, attract bees to pollinate the vegetable plants. The collection includes two plants each of *Monarda didyma* 'Pink Lace' PPAF, *Nepeta faassenii* 'Select Blue,' *Agastache* 'Blue Fortune,' *Echinacea purpurea*, *Solidago* 'Little Lemon' PP#17297 and *Oregano* 'Rotkugel.' These plants are cold hardy in USDA Zones 5-9 and have good heat tolerance. The 12-plant collection sells for \$89.99 from High Country Gardens, (800) 925-9387, www.highcountrygardens.com.



**Harvest Booster Perennial Collection
High Country Gardens**

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Hesperaloe parviflora Brakelights®
High Country Gardens

Brakelights® is the first *Hesperaloe parviflora*, or Texas Red Yucca, to have true bright red flowers. (Typically, the flowers on a Texas Red Yucca are reddish-orange.) This native, evergreen succulent is a semi-dwarf cultivar with 30-inch-tall flower spikes coming from a multi-stemmed crown of dark green strap-like leaves. In full bloom in the late summer, *Hesperaloe parviflora* Brakelights® is a hummingbird magnet. The plant is completely uniform in size and appearance, and will reach a mature width of 24-30 inches. Cold hardy in USDA zones 5-10 and heat tolerant in the hottest parts of the country. A one gallon plant sells for \$24.99 from High Country Gardens, (800) 925-9387, www.highcountrygardens.com.



Hesperaloe Brakelights®
High Country Gardens



Delosperma Fire Spinner®
High Country Gardens

Delosperma Fire Spinner®
High Country Gardens

Fire Spinner® Ice Plant in full flower is truly a plant with the “Wow” factor. This South African’s vibrant tri-colored flowers are an amazing late-spring spectacle and cover the tight evergreen mat of succulent foliage. A heat-loving groundcover, it grows best in full sun and well drained sandy-loam soil (no rich, heavy loams or clay). Fire Spinner® is perfect for use in raised beds and in waterwise landscapes to plant into and cover gravel mulch. This groundcover is just 1” tall, but each plant spreads to about 15-18” wide. Cold hardy in USDA zones 6-10 with moderate heat tolerance. This plant has also been honored as a 2012 Plant Select® winner. Plants in 2.5” pots sell for \$5.99 each from High Country Gardens, (800) 925-9387, www.highcountrygardens.com.

Black Magic™ Blackberry
Henry Field’s Seed & Nursery Co.

Black Magic™ Blackberry enables a home gardener to enjoy big, richly flavored berries not once, but multiple times during the growing season. This double-cropping variety will set a large summer crop and a later fall crop—and may even produce fruit throughout the entire summer depending upon growing conditions. The upright, self-supporting and lightly thorned canes are easy to maintain and have impressive heat tolerance, even in 100+ degree days. Black Magic Blackberry plants yield huge crops of fruit boasting a delectable flavor. A No. 1, one-year-old plant sells for \$19.99 from Henry Field’s Seed & Nursery Co., (513) 354-1495, www.henryfields.com.



Black Magic™ Blackberry
Henry Field’s Seed & Nursery Co.



Texas Early White Onion Plants
Dixondale Farms

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For the very first time, home gardeners can now grow Texas Early White Onion plants—a variety that previously was only available to commercial growers. This open-pollinated variety produces a superior white, globe-shaped, sweet onion that matures early in the season. This short-day variety is ideal for growing in the southern parts of the USA. Texas Early White Onion has been evaluated for uniform maturity, resistance to greening, pink root tolerance, bolting resistance and shelf life—and it passed every test! Plants are sold in bunches of five dozen plants. One bunch is \$11.00, two bunches are \$15.00 and three bunches are \$19.00 from Dixondale Farms, (877) 367-1015, www.dixondalefarms.com.

2012 Green Thumb Award Winners – Tools, Supplies and Accessories

Garden Pest Bait
Gardens Alive!

Garden Pest Bait kills a wide variety of insect pests in vegetable and flower gardens. This easy-to-use bait kills cutworms, earwigs, sowbugs, ants, slugs and even snails. The active ingredient in Garden Pest Bait is a combination of spinosad, derived from a naturally occurring soil-dwelling bacterium, and iron phosphate, a proven natural snail and slug killer. Garden Pest Bait naturally kills insect pests and lures snails and slugs away from plants and efficiently kills them as they move away from the garden to die.



Garden Pest Bait
Gardens Alive!

The combination of these two active ingredients is an effective new weapon for environmentally friendly pest control. A 13-ounce package of Garden Pest Bait sells for \$14.95 and a 2.25 pound package sells for \$24.95 from Gardens Alive!, (513) 354-1482, www.GardensAlive.com.

Liquid Fence® Yard Net® Granular
The Liquid Fence® Company



Liquid Fence® Yard Net® Granular
The Liquid Fence® Company

A time-release lawn and yard insect repellent, Yard Net® Granular significantly controls biting insects such as mosquitoes, fleas, ticks, black flies and gnats for up to a full week. The eco-friendly formula is safe to use around kids and pets, and it won't harm vegetation. Made with botanical oils, Yard Net Granular contains no pyrethrins, no pyrethroids and no d-limonene. The convenient shake-to-apply bottle makes it easy to protect any outdoor activity from pesky biting insects—from backyard barbecues and soccer games to outdoor weddings. A 2-pound shaker bottle, which covers 1,000 square feet, sells for \$24.99 from www.naturehills.com.

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Veg Trug Patio Planter
Gardener's Supply

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Gardener's Supply

The Veg Trug Patio Planter is a raised bed made from sustainable plantation-grown fir. The Veg Trug Patio Planter is designed to be an easy working height, and it is ideal for the elderly and wheelchair users. Because of its height, this growing container keeps slugs and snails away from vegetable plants. The Veg Trug Patio Planter comes with a fitted membrane liner and can be easily netted or covered if necessary. The unique V shape allows a variety of vegetables to be grown within the same container. It holds 380 quarts of compost or soil, and measures 71 inches

long by 31 inches high and 30 inches deep. The Veg Trug Patio Planter sells for \$269 from Gardener's Supply, (800) 955-3370, www.gardeners.com.

BioMarker™ Plant Markers

CobraHead

BioMarker™ Plant Markers are designed for the eco-friendly gardener. Made from a blend of tough recycled plastic and corn cob fiber, each BioMarker will last for many growing seasons. The BioMarker kit also includes weather-proof peel-off labels that can be printed with a laser printer or written on directly with the included grease pencil. Three colors are available—light stone, medium brown and dark green—or choose the variety pack. A set of 15 BioMarkers sells for \$29.95 or a set of 30 sells for \$49.95 from CobraHead, (866) 962-6272, www.cobraheadllc.com.



BioMarker™ Plant Markers
CobraHead



EarthBox® Junior™
EarthBox®

EarthBox® Junior™

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The new EarthBox® Junior™ is a smaller version of the popular EarthBox growing container that takes the hassle and guesswork out of growing healthy vegetables. Because the EarthBox Junior measures a compact 23 inches long by 7.25 inches wide and 9.5 inches tall, it is ideal for a kitchen herb garden, decorative window box or a floral deck planter—even in the smallest of spaces. Like the original EarthBox, the EarthBox Junior has a water reservoir that automatically wicks the proper amount

of moisture to plants, thereby increasing yields. EarthBox Junior sells for \$24.95 from EarthBox, (800) 821-8838, www.earthbox.com.

Now in its 15th year, the Green Thumb Awards recognize the best new plants and gardening products available each year from gardening catalogs and websites. The Direct Gardening Association (formerly the Mailorder Gardening Association) sponsors the annual Green Thumb Awards. For more information visit the website at www.directgardeningassociation.com.