

NEWS RELEASE

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New Plants Win 2016 Green Thumb Awards



The five best new plant varieties for 2016 have won 2016 Green Thumb Awards presented by the Direct Gardening Association (formerly called the Mailorder Gardening Association). Honored in the Plants, Bulbs and Seeds division were *Silene* 'Ray's Golden Champion' from Select Seeds Co., *Sorghastrum nutans* 'Thin Man' PPAF from High Country Gardens, *Penstemon pinifolius* 'Luminous' from High Country Gardens, 'Miss Violet' *Buddleia* from Spring Meadow Nursery, and Happy Jack® Purple Clematis from Spring Meadow Nursery.

Winners of the 2016 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.

2016 Green Thumb Award Winners ~ Plants, Bulbs and Seeds ~

Silene 'Ray's Golden Champion' *Select Seeds Co.*

This outstanding open-pollinated perennial features golden yellow to chartreuse foliage and hot fuchsia flowers in mid to late spring. Long-blooming, it features a golden green color that complements the spring palette and brilliant flowers that bring on the wow-factor. 24-30" tall. You can purchase seed packets or plants of *Silene dioica* 'Ray's Golden Champion' starting January of 2016 from Select Seeds Co., 1-800-684-0395 or www.selectseeds.com.





Sorghastrum nutans 'Thin Man' PPAF ***High Country Gardens***



'Thin Man' is a cultivar of *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indiangrass) chosen for its outstanding blue foliage and tight, upright growth habit. The flower spikes are attractive and bright copper-brown in color and change to bronze as the seeds ripen. The plant matures to a flowering height of 6 ft. with a width of 24-28 in. at its base. The one original plant of 'Thin Man' was discovered in a seed field of 'Llano', a selection of Indiangrass originally collected from the eastern plains of New Mexico at an elevation of approximately 4,200 ft. It grows in a wide range of soil types, including clay. 'Thin Man' is xeric (waterwise) as it comes from a region that averages 15 inches of annual precipitation. Cold hardy in USDA zones 4 – 9. In early November 2015, there will be only 300 of the *Sorghastrum nutans* 'Thin Man' PPAF available for spring delivery in 5" pots (3.5" wide x 5" deep) for \$12.99 each from High Country Gardens, tel:1-800-925-9387, 1-800-925-9387, www.highcountrygardens.com

Penstemon pinifolius 'Luminous' ***High Country Gardens***

'Luminous' is a cultivar selection of *Penstemon pinifolius* (Pineleaf Beardtongue) chosen and named for its glowing, light yellow-orange flowers. Blooming for about four weeks in late spring/early summer on short, multi-flowered spikes, the plant has a small, tidy growth habit and evergreen, pine needle-like leaves. The plant matures to a flowering height of 8-10 inches and a width of 14-16 inches. The original plant of 'Luminous' is a garden seedling believed to be a pollinator initiated cross between 'Shades of Mango' and a dwarf, high elevation from the high mountains in south-central New Mexico. The plant is propagated by softwood cuttings. It has the same growing requirements as English lavender, thriving in "lean" (infertile), fast draining soils in full sun. It is xeric (water wise) once established. Cold hardy in USDA Zones 5 – 9. Starting in early November 2015, with 1200 available for sale for spring delivery, *Penstemon pinifolius* 'Luminous' is sold in 5" pots (3.5" wide x 5" deep) for \$10.99 from High Country Gardens, tel:1-800-925-9387, 1-800-925-9387, www.highcountrygardens.com.





'Miss Violet' Buddleia *Spring Meadow Nursery*



An eco-friendly butterfly magnet! The new 'Miss Violet' butterfly bush is the ideal size for residential landscapes – just 4 – 5' tall. And it's a flower powerhouse with hundreds of electric purple blooms appearing all summer and autumn. And because it is seedless, it can be grown even in areas where other buddleia are invasive. The bush is best in USDA Zones 5-9. 'Miss Violet' Buddleia sells for \$16.99 for a one quart pot from Garden Crossings, 616-875-6355 or www.gardencrossings.com

Happy Jack® Purple Clematis *Spring Meadow Nursery*

This super easy to grow clematis keeps the color coming for months each season. Very large purple flowers cover the vine from mid-summer through fall. Pruning is a cinch too – just cut back to 3' above the ground in early spring, that's it! This plant climbs to 6-8' long and is best in USDA Zones 5-9. Happy Jack® Purple Clematis can be purchased for \$17.99 for a one quart pot or for \$39.99 for a one gallon pot from Garden Crossings, (616) 875-6355, www.gardencrossings.com

