

January 2014
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The Green Scene

Save a tree! Send your email address to kackley@iastate.edu to receive this publication via e-mail.

What's Trending in 2014?

AAS Winners! All-America Selections has released their new winners for 2014. Following a trial period where these new, never-before-sold varieties are "Tested Nationally and Proven Locally®" the AAS judges have submitted their evaluations and selected only the best performers as AAS Winners. These varieties are available for immediate sale and distribution.



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.



Petunia 'African Sunset'

'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. Mounded spreading plants are 12 inches tall spread up to 20 inches.

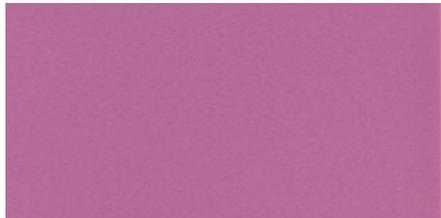
Bean 'Mascotte'

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.

Color of the Year for 2014 is Radiant Orchid, which reaches across the color wheel to intrigue the eye and spark the imagination," said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute®. "An invitation to innovation, Radiant Orchid encourages expanded creativity and originality, which is increasingly valued in today's society."



Save these 2014 dates:

January 14 – *Emerald Ash Borer—Now What?* Mahaska County Extension Office; meetings are FREE and no registration is required. A Green Industry Meeting will be held 1- 4 pm and is directed towards professionals in the tree service and landscaping industry. A Public Meeting will be held 6:30 - 8 pm and is directed towards homeowners and other concerned citizens. For questions, call Mahaska County Extension at 641- 673 – 584, visit the website www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska or email striegel@iastate.edu.

January 16 – Master Gardener Classes Begin in Mahaska County. Go to <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/news/master-gardener-training-enrolling-now> for more information.

January 21 – Beekeeping Classes begin. Seven classes will be held on Tuesday evenings at the Marion County Extension Office (210 N Iowa Street, Knoxville), 6:30. No pre-registration is required. For more information contact Craig Greene at 641-842-2112 or cgreene@iowatelecom.net.

January 28-30 – 80th Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, downtown Des Moines Marriott Hotel, Des Moines, IA. For more information call 515-635-0306 or go to <http://www.Iowaturfgrass.org>.

February 15– ISU Extension and Linn County Master Gardeners annual *Winter Gardening Fair*, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, IA. For more information, or to register, go www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/winter-gardening-fair-2014.

February 22– Warren County Master Gardeners and Indianola Parks & Recreation’s annual *Think Spring Garden Seminar*, Kent Center on Simpson College Campus, Indianola, IA. Master Gardeners will earn 4 CE credits for attending this event. \$40, includes lunch.

March 4 – Mahaska County Master Gardeners’ Speaker Series; Mahaska County Extension Office, *Why Native Plants Matter* with Jim Kessler, 7 PM; no charge and open to the public.

March 11 – Mahaska County Master Gardeners’ Speaker Series; Mahaska County Extension Office, 7 PM; no charge and open to the public. *Invasive Plants* with David Pealer, Marion County Master Gardener.

March 18 – Mahaska County Master Gardeners’ Speaker Series; Mahaska County Extension Office, 6:30 PM; no charge and open to the public. *Thirteen Things Every Lily Garden Needs* with Sue Williams, Iowa Regional Lily Society.

March 25 – Mahaska County Master Gardeners’ Speaker Series; Mahaska County Extension Office, 7 PM; no charge and open to the public. *Basics of Growing Fruit Trees* with Patrick O’Malley, ISUEO Commercial Horticulturist.



Happy New Year!!



“The Green Scene” is a tip sheet developed by the Marion County Extension Office to inform people of horticulture events, problems, and interesting ideas. Let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list. Recent issues are also available at www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/.

This material has been prepared by Karen Ackley, Agriculture Program Assistant.

If you have questions, please contact the office at (641) 842-2014. Sincerely, **Dale R. Miller**, County Extension Program Director