



## PRESS RELEASE

24 May 2016

### ***Clematis chiisanensis* 'AMBER' announced as 2016 RHS Chelsea Plant of the Year**

RHS Chelsea Flower Show, sponsored by M&G Investments, 24-28 May



*Clematis chiisanensis* 'AMBER'

*Clematis chiisanensis* 'AMBER', a striking, easy climber exhibited by Taylors Clematis, has today been crowned the 2016 Plant of the Year at the world famous flower show.

The plant shown was an excellent specimen with its delicate, double nodding flowers and unusual soft yellow-cream colouring. The judges were also impressed with its ability to flower twice in a season, in May and again in September and its likely popularity with the gardening public was also a key feature.

Taking second place was *Geum* 'Scarlet Tempest', exhibited by Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, and *Calendula* POWERDAISY SUNNY ('Kercalsun') (PowerDaisy Series), exhibited by Sun Flower Square came in third. The votes were cast by members of the RHS Plant Committees, Trials forums and Curators and voting was chaired by RHS Executive Vice President Jim Gardiner.

The annual RHS Chelsea Plant of the Year competition was created in 2010 to recognise the most inspiring new plant at the show. A shortlist of 20 plants was selected by a panel including Plant Committee Chairs, RHS Garden Curators and the RHS President, Sir Nicholas Bacon, from over 40 plants entered by Great Pavilion exhibitors.

- ***Clematis chiisanensis* AMBER ('Wit141205') - Taylors Clematis**

AMBER is an exciting double formed *Clematis* with nodding heads, nice yellow/cream colouring and flowering from early to mid-summertime and again in September.

- ***Geum* 'Scarlet Tempest' - Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants**  
Elizabeth MacGregor bred this *Geum* in 2012 from parentage of *G.* 'Beech House Apricot' × *G. chilense* 'Red Dragon'.
- ***Calendula* POWERDAISY SUNNY ('Kercalsun') (PowerDaisy Series) - Sun Flower Square**  
A spreading *Calendula* species (*C. suffruticosa*) spotted in the garden of a Dutch seedsman triggered the idea of extending the flowering period of the cheery pot marigold. Together with *C. maritima* it was crossed with annual *Calendula officinalis* in 2005. The resulting hybrids were intercrossed.

All 20 shortlisted plants can be seen on the Plant of the Year stand all week (GPG227).

- Ends -

#### Notes to editors:

For more information, please contact the RHS Press Office on 0203 475 6601 or email [pressoffice@rhs.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@rhs.org.uk).

Images of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show are available to download at [www.photoshelter.com](http://www.photoshelter.com)  
Please email the RHS Press Office at [showspr@rhs.org.uk](mailto:showspr@rhs.org.uk) for instructions on how to create an account.

Full details of all exhibitors are available on the RHS Media Centre. Please visit <http://press.rhs.org.uk/>

#### RHS Chelsea Flower Show (24 – 28 May 2016)

23 May	Press Day
24 – 25 May	RHS members only
26 – 28 May	RHS members and non-members
24 – 27 May	8am – 8pm
28 May	8am – 5.30pm (sell off starts at 4pm)

**Venue:** Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SL

**To book tickets** 0844 338 7546\* or [www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea](http://www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea)  
\* Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Ticket prices range from £23 to £68

#### About the RHS

The Royal Horticultural Society was founded in 1804 by Sir Joseph Banks and John Wedgwood to inspire passion and excellence in the science, art and practice of horticulture. Our vision is to enrich everyone's life through plants, and make the UK a greener, healthier, happier and more beautiful place. We believe everyone in every village, town and city should benefit from growing plants to enhance lives, build stronger, healthier, happier communities and create better places to live.

We held our first flower shows in 1820, were granted a Royal Charter in 1861 and acquired RHS Garden Wisley, our flagship garden, in 1903. From our first meetings in a small room off London's Piccadilly, we have grown to become the world's largest gardening charity. At our gardens and shows and through our scientific research, publications, libraries and our education and community programmes we inspire a passion for gardening and growing plants, promote the value of gardens, demonstrate how gardening is good for us and explain the vital roles that plants undertake.

The RHS is committed to bring the joy of gardening to millions more people, inspire the next generation of gardeners and invest in the future to safeguard a £10.4 billion industry employing more than 300,000 people. We are entirely funded by our members, visitors and supporters. RHS membership is for anyone with an interest in gardening. Support the RHS and help us secure a healthy future for gardening. For more information call: 020 3176 5820, or visit [www.rhs.org.uk/join](http://www.rhs.org.uk/join)

#### **RHS Chelsea Flower Show Plant of the Year 2016: the shortlist**

- ***Calendula* POWERDAISY SUNNY ('Kercalsun') (PowerDaisy Series)**  
**Sun Flower Square**  
A spreading *Calendula* species (*C. suffruticosa*) spotted in the garden of a Dutch seedsman triggered the idea of extending the flowering period of the cheery pot marigold. Together with *C. maritima* it was crossed with annual *Calendula officinalis* in 2005. The resulting hybrids were intercrossed.
- ***Chrysanthemum* 'Rossano Charlotte' (Rossano Series)**  
**National Chrysanthemum Society**  
This plant mutated to a really unusual pink-green colour. The breeder Deliflor decided to name it after Princess Charlotte with permission from Kensington Palace. 50% of the royalties of the sales, worldwide in 2016 will go to the East Anglia Children's Hospice, of which the Duchess of Cambridge is Royal Patron.
- ***Clematis chiisanensis* AMBER ('Wit141205')**  
**Taylors Clematis**  
There are not many 'yellow' clematis in existence in the world from over 2,000 varieties that we know of. Until now! AMBER is an exciting double formed *Clematis* with nodding heads, nice yellow/cream colouring and flowering from early to mid-summertime (and also giving a second flush in September). This one will be a real winner, as it is different from the 'general' *Clematis* in so many ways.
- ***Gerbera* GARVINEA SWEET MEMORIES (Garvinea Sweet Series)**  
**Birmingham City Council**  
By returning to nature and collecting botanical *Gerbera* species from its original habitat in Asia, South-Africa and Tasmania, Florist Holland succeeded to develop the unique GARVINEA range, bringing *Gerbera* back to its outdoor roots. Due to its robust, weather and disease-resistant genetic basis, GARVINEA excels in gardens and parks and on balconies and terraces. The non-stop flowering from early spring until the first frost is a truly unique feature.
- ***Geum* 'Scarlet Tempest'**  
**Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants**  
Elizabeth MacGregor bred this *Geum* in 2012 from parentage of *G. 'Beech House Apricot'* × *G. chilense 'Red Dragon'*.
- ***Iris* 'Terre à Silex'**  
**Cayeux Iris**  
This very new variety is the result of the cross between ('World Premier' × 'Futuriste') × 'Starring') with another amoena seedling, it was done in 2007. The aim was to create black and white irises with red beards, because it is a stunning contrast.
- ***Lilium* 'Perfect Joy'**  
**Sun Flower Square**  
Pinetops Nurseries is a family business in Lymington Hampshire. The nursery started growing Pot Lilies in the 1990s, disappointed by the colour range of Asiatic varieties and in particular of bi-colours to make the product mix more interesting they decided to breed their own. Perfect Joy is the result of 15 years work by Stuart Paton.

- ***Nepeta × faassenii* 'Crystal Cloud'**  
**Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants**  
 Unknown parentage but bred from 2013.
  
- ***Petunia* NIGHTSKY ('Kleph15313')**  
**Sun Flower Square**  
 NIGHTSKY was bred by Antonella Capo, who has been working for Selecta One since 2008. The new colour pattern is the outcome of many years of crossing and selection work. By crossing and backcrossing, NIGHTSKY with its unique colour pattern was developed. The breeding and selection target was to obtain a stable and sound colour pattern so that the night sky effect does not disappear during the season
  
- ***Phalaenopsis* 'Sunny Smell'**  
**Double H Nurseries**  
 'Sunny Smell' is the UK's first widely available scented *Phalaenopsis* orchid hybrid. The variety was bred in 2006 by Christian's grandfather, Johannes Bremkens from *P. Gold Tris* × *P. equestris*.
  
- ***Primula vialii* 'Alison Holland'**  
**Harperley Hall Farm Nurseries**  
 This white flowered selection of *Primula vialii* was found as a seedling in the garden of John Holland in 2011. Sowing of seed from the plant in 2011/12 proved unsuccessful, which would suggest that the plant is sterile. Micropropagation has taken place successfully and plant numbers have been built up.
  
- ***Rhododendron* 'Hachmann's Orakel'**  
**Millais Nurseries**  
 Bred by Holger Hachmann in Germany and named in 2011. Parentage is 'Pfaenaugé' × 'Galaxis'.
  
- ***Rhododendron* 'Huisman's Sun Star'**  
**Millais Nurseries**  
 Bred by Tijs Huisman in Holland. Originally arisen from seeds of Fred Minch from the USA. New crosses were made with the offspring producing this *R. luteum* cross with striking, fragrant double flowers.
  
- ***Rhododendron* 'Prinses Máxima'**  
**Millais Nurseries**  
 Silver medal Rhodo 2010 Westerstede, Germany, bred by Tijs Huisman. The complicated parentage is: (Z. 91 × Z. 94) × 'Whitney's Tigerlily'. Z. 91 is *R. 'Goldkrone'* × *R. yakushmanum*, Z. 94 is *R.*
  
- ***Rosa* ROALD DAHL ('Ausowlish')**  
**David Austin Roses**  
 David Austin has just celebrated his 90th birthday and over 70 years breeding roses, channelling his experience into every new English Rose. The ROALD DAHL rose was created 8 years ago being one of 96,000 seedlings born in that year! Only a small selection is chosen to go to the next stage of trials and one of the chosen varieties was the rose which would later be named ROALD DAHL.
  
- ***Rosa* SANDRINGHAM ('Beamolly')**  
**Peter Beales Roses**  
 This exquisite seedling has come from our 2010 seedling programme, the beautiful medium sized deep blooms are enriched with a strong fragrance and it has performed outstandingly during our field trials. In 2014 the rose was chosen by TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at Sandringham Flower Show and will be officially named for the beautiful royal estate in Norfolk.
  
- ***Solanum tuberosum* + *Solanum melongena* EGG AND CHIPS PLANT**  
**Scotts Miracle-Gro Company**  
 Using our knowledge of *Solanaceae* grafts, we choose to develop one single plant which would support an aubergine crop, as well as a potato harvest below ground. Plants were trialled for many years to find compatibility, and complimentary harvesting periods, not to mention bitter-free aubergines and a versatile variety of potato.
  
- ***Solenostemon scutellarioides* CAMPFIRE ('Uf12823')**  
**Sun Flower Square**

Coleus CAMPFIRE was first trialled as a seedling in 2012 in a collaborative effort between Ball Horticultural Company and the University of Florida. It was selected for its brilliant orange/red foliage colour and excellent long-season performance under the most demanding garden conditions. It was released in late 2014 and licensed to Ball in early 2015 for full commercial release in 2016.

- ***Streptocarpus* 'Amy'**  
**Dibleys Nurseries**

Bred at Dibleys Nurseries, first flowered in 2014.

- ***Zantedeschia* 'Nashville'**  
**Brighter Blooms**

The crossing was made in 2004 where two internal parental lines (only known as numbers) were crossed. These parents were selected to integrate traits from Picasso into a yellow potting calla. This with the aim to create a naturally compact garden calla.