

All American Vegetables

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The All America Selections organization, or simply AAS was busy with evaluations last year and have just announced SIX vegetable winners for 2016. A couple of intriguing selections and new directions for 2016. For the first time ever, a Japanese Mustard, Japanese Red Kingdom F1 was selected. This variety doesn't bolt readily and holds a nice reddish purple color all through the season. If you like mustard greens, give this one a try. Another first is an AAS strawberry winner, Strawberry Delizz F1. The nice vigorous compact plants are perfect for containers but also in beds and is an everbearing variety that holds up well under hot conditions. In recent years AAS seem to have a love affair with tomatoes and peppers and this year is no different. Pepper Cornito Giallo is a sweet yellow frying pepper of the bull's horn type. They are durable, early bearing and great fresh or fried. Pepper Escamillo is also yellow and is an Italian frying pepper type. Tomato Candyland Red is a currant or grape style of tomato. Dark red fruit on a fairly tidy plant will make it attractive. We'll end up with Tomato Chef's Choice Green. This tomato, green when ripe, will have yellow stripes and a wonderful citrus like flavor. A disease free plant with a really different look should be popular with all of the foodies out there! So there you have a quick run down. A plethora of photos of all of these new all America vegetable winners as well as information about where you can get these new varieties can be found on the AAS web site. Simply enter all-americanselections.org in your web browser. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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All American Flowers

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We had three all America selections for flowers this year, two geraniums and one salvia. The two geraniums are in the Brocade series, Brocade Cherry Night and Brocade Fire. Cherry Night is a deep pink with dark leaves and a fairly typical style geranium leaf. It's a medium height rounded form of growth and is being promoted as good for containers, hanging baskets and edging in flower gardens. Both of these geraniums are going to prefer full sun but could take partial sun or partial shade - not sure what the difference is there. Brocade Fire is an interesting one. It's going to be similar size and growth habit as Cherry Night. It has very interesting bicolored leaves - light green edges with a dark purplish center - very striking. The flowers are semi-double orange and on the website the orange is a very definite orange. Maybe not marigold orange, but orange none the less! I'll be the first to admit that I am very fond of salvias maybe because they are attractive to hummingbirds. Salvia Summer Jewel Lavender is the newer style salvia form and flower color is a dusty lavender purple. This is a medium height, compact and upright flower. Once it starts blooming in late spring it'll keep blooming all summer long until frost. This is one later in the season that you may not want to deadhead as apparently the goldfinches really like the seed in this one. A plethora of photos of all three of these new all America winners as well as information about where you can get these new varieties can be found on the AAS web site. Simply enter all-americanselections.org in your web browser. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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Conservation Tree Seedlings

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you want a new shade tree for your yard, then go to a reputable nursery and buy a nice 6 to 8 foot tall tree. However, if you want to plant a windbreak for your rural residence, or you want to plant some wildlife cover, or you want to plant a wood lot, Christmas tree farm or riparian stabilization along a streambank, getting trees that are 6 feet tall from the nursery can get expensive in a hurry. Fortunately, the Kansas Forest Service provides tree and shrub seedlings for these purposes. Note that I seed seedlings; these are 1 to 2 years old, are bare root and vary from 5 to 18 inches tall. There is a really good selection of 11 shrub species, 7 evergreen species, and 21 deciduous species. These trees come in bundles of the 25 of the same species. You can't mix and match to get 5 Bur Oak and 7 Pawpaw in your bundle. However, the price is right - the bundles of 25 cost all of \$20. There are also some wildlife specific bundles. There's the songbird bundle, quail and pheasant bundles. These come with a mix of primarily shrubs that will provide habitat and feed for wildlife, specifically songbirds, quail and pheasant. These work great in a corner of a larger rural lot, against a tree line or an unproductive corner of a field. The plants all ship out of Manhattan with first shipments starting the 2nd week of March clear thru the first week of May. You can pick up an order form at the Extension Office or you can order online. The web address is simple - kansasforests.org and look for the big purple button that says order now at the top of the page. There's also photos of the plants! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420

KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.