

Garden bureau picks '93 winners



Time again to report the All-American Selections winners for this year and the National Garden Bureau's 1993 selections.

The AAS winner in the vegetable category is Pumpkin Baby Bear, a child-sized pumpkin that can be easily carried by a youngster, although adults can enjoy the unusual size also.

The breeding for Baby Bear was begun in 1981 and it has taken all these years for it to be ready for the home grower. The bright orange color appeals to all and the long stem makes a handy handle for carrying.

This pumpkin was developed by Johnny's Selected Seeds, Ross Hill Road, Albion, Minn. 04910-9731. Write if you want a catalog. They offer a variety of seeds for the garden by the packet, ounce or pound.

The second winner is a Tomato Fl hybrid, Husky Gold. The flavor is mild and the color is attractive. The plant has a dwarf growing habit and will grow easily in a cage. It can be grown in a container or provided some pruning is done to keep it to size. A stake will be needed to support the compact growth.

Blooming success

Two flowers made the selection. *Nieurembergia Mont Blanc* (candy flower) is a low-growing annual with white blooms, similar to alyssum. It needs sun and is suitable for containers.

Verbena Imagination, another annual, will perk up the garden with violet-blue flowers. It also prefers a sunny spot and is drought tolerant. It can be grown in the garden or in containers.

Peppers and pansies

The National Garden Bureau has announced 1993 as the Year of the Pepper and the Pansy. It tells us the pepper, native of the tropics of Central and South America, was taken back to Spain by Columbus, where the plants were cultivated throughout the conti-

nent and England. It is still a mystery how the plants reached this country.

There are more than 20 species of pepper, but Capsicum annuum is the one most often grown here, either the sweet or hot ones. When harvesting the crop, be aware that "sweet peppers become sweeter as they mature and hot peppers become hotter." Peppers turn red as they mature on the vine.

The pansy owes its origin to the viola, which grew in Greece in the 4th century B.C., and a plant called the wild pansy, possibly found in France (the French word for pansy is "pensee"). The origin of the pansy as we know it began in England in the 1800s.

Much cultivation and cross-breeding has been done and there are numerous "combinations" of pansy color and sizes. Pansies brighten the garden and many hybrids can tolerate cold weather. I have seen them used in bedding plants in Georgia in January.

For more information about peppers and pansies, 16-piece detail sets, with scripts, are available for \$12 each (check or money order) from National Garden Bureau, 1311 Butterfield Road, Suite 310, Downers Grove, Ill. 60515.

All of the above can be grown from seeds or plants. Many local nurseries and garden centers will be carrying them this year.

Catalog information

The W. Atlee Burpee Co. (for a free catalog, call 1-800-283-5159)

Talk explores African art

Warren Robbins, founder and director emeritus of the National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C., will give a presentation, "Unmasking Picasso: How the Traditional Art of Africa Fueled the 20th Century Revolution in Art," Monday, Feb. 15, in DeSalle Auditorium at the Cranbrook Art Museum, 600 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

The 1:30 p.m. lecture will explore the role of African sculpture in 20th Century art movements such as cubism, fauvism, German expressionism and surrealism. In a fast-paced, triple-slide presentation, Robbins will show how the pioneer artists of the 20th Century — Picasso, Matisse, Brancusi, Klee and others — drew directly from the forms and ideas of traditional African sculpture.

The lecture at Cranbrook is included in the museum admission: \$3 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens and full-time students, free for museum members and children younger than 7. Normally closed on Monday, the museum will open at 1 p.m. and close one hour after the lecture ends. For more information, call 646-3312.

Robbins, a former teacher, writer and editor, established the first museum in the United States devoted exclusively to the rich, creative heritage of Africa. In 1979, Congress voted by unanimous consent to make this museum the National Museum of African Art, on the Federal Mall in Washington, D.C., a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution.

Robbins has lectured at hundreds of universities and museums throughout the United States, Europe and Africa. He is the author of many articles on art, science and culture, as well as the two-volume "African Art in American Collections" (1966, 1989). Robbins received a master of arts degree in history from the University of Michigan.

The Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum is open to the public for general viewing 1-6 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. The museum bookstore offers an outstanding selection of books on art, architecture and design, plus children's books, cards, posters and exhibition catalogs.

Orchid sale set

The Detroit Garden Center will present its eighth annual Orchid Display, Program and Sale Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 13-14.

Admission is \$1. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 13, with a slide lecture at noon and 2 p.m.; and 12:30-4 p.m. Feb. 14, with a slide show at 1 and 3 p.m. The center is at 1460 E. Jefferson, one-half mile east of the Renaissance Center. Call 259-6363 for more information.

Ron Ciesinski of Taylor Orchids will demonstrate how easily orchids may be grown in the home. Healthy blooming plants will be for sale, and rare and unusual specimens will be on display.

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