

## What is GGMP?

The Gold Medal Plant Program promotes the use of superior ornamental plants in Georgia. It represents the combined effort of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia; the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension; University faculty members; and nurserymen, flower growers, garden retailers and landscape professionals across the state. Winners are chosen from five categories: Natives, Annuals, Perennials, Trees, Shrubs and Vines and Groundcovers.

## Winners for 2016



### *Persian Shield*

*STROBILANTHES DYERIANUS*

Category: Annual

Hardiness:

Conditions: Full Sun to Part Shade

Vibrant variegated bright and dark purple foliage on this plant are highlighted with a metallic sheen and green rib. Persian Shield makes a stunning 18"-36" mass planting and glows next to silver or chartreuse foliage. It fills a container well, handling heat, humidity and drought better than most annuals.

Wait until the soil is warm enough for tomatoes to plant Persian shield, unless you are in South or Coastal Georgia, where this plant can be a perennial. Pinch this plant back to get thicker, sturdier growth.



### *Native Azaleas*

*RHODODENDRON SSP*

Category: Native

Hardiness:

Conditions: Part Shade

There are 12 species of azaleas that can be found in Georgia, varying from three to fifteen feet. Many of them are white but they also come in shades of pink, yellow, orange and red. When different species are near each other, they can hybridize naturally and create new colors. All of our native azaleas are deciduous. The earliest

native azaleas bloom before leaves emerge, making a beautiful display in the woodland Garden, or against evergreens, a fence or a wall. Later blooming native azaleas bring color into the summer and fall Garden. Native azaleas attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.



## *Pineapple Lily*

*EUCOMIS SSP.*

Category: Perennial

Hardiness:

Conditions: Full Sun to Part Shade

Need a conversation maker? Pineapple lily got its name because the flower spikes on this South African native actually do look like a pineapple. Bold, strap leaves are a great contrast in a planting, especially if the leaves are a burgundy variety, like "Sparkling Burgundy". This plant is deer resistant and can be clustered into a groundcover or planted into a container plant. Most species are perennial

to Zone 8, and will have to be overwintered or treated as an annual in cooler North Georgia.



## *. Distylium*

*DISTYLIUM*

Category: Shrub

Hardiness:

Conditions: Full Sun to Part Shade

Distylium can take drought, heat and wet feet. Deer don't prefer it, but may munch. After hearing those facts, this plant's glossy evergreen foliage in varieties with upright to spreading forms that range from three to ten feet tall, is almost icing on the cake! Distylium is considered a tougher, disease-resistant alternative to cherry laurels, junipers, hollies, Indian hawthorn, and boxwood.



## *. Blackgum*

*NYSSA SYLVATICA*

Category: Tree

Hardiness:

Conditions: Full Sun to Part Shade

This is a mid-size (60-80' tall), native tree that can add shade and fall color to a landscape. Black gum can live over 600 years. Flowers are important for bees, and the fruit is attractive to birds. Deer love the foliage, so protect young trees. Green leaves turn mainly reds to purples in fall, making a dramatic display. Although this plant is comfortable in wetlands, it also grows in upland

habitats and has a high drought tolerance.