

BABYCAKES™ BLACKBERRY WINS TOP JUDGES' HONORS AT FARWEST NEW VARIETIES SHOWCASE

Lavalamp Sublime Hydrangea is the favorite of show attendees

Portland, Oregon — There were 55 outstanding new trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and vines on display at the 2016 New Varieties Showcase at the Farwest Show in Portland.

But **BabyCakes™ Blackberry** (*Rubus* x 'APF-236T') and **Lavalamp™ Sublime™ Hydrangea** (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Kolmakilma' PPAF, CBRAF) stood out from the crowd.

The Farwest Show judging panel, made up of industry experts, selected BabyCakes™ Blackberry for Best in Show honors. Meanwhile, show attendees chose Lavalamp™ Sublime™ Hydrangea for the People's Choice Award.

The 2016 showcase featured plants with interesting shapes, colors, growth habits and other characteristics, all displayed in an attractive format. The Farwest Show is produced by the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN).

“Every year, the New Varieties Showcase offers nursery professionals a chance to see the best in new plants, and this year was no exception,” OAN Director of Events Allan Niemi said. “We had one of our largest assortments of new plants, with 55 in the lineup.”

BabyCakes™ Blackberry is a dwarf thornless blackberry bush bred by the University of Arkansas and jointly selected by Fall Creek Farm & Nursery Inc. and the University of Arkansas. It was introduced by Fall Creek and is available from Farwest exhibitors Alpha Nursery, Bailey Nurseries Inc., Fisher Farms LLC and Monrovia.

Lavalamp™ Sublime™ Hydrangea was hybridized by Kolster BV in The Netherlands, and is available from Farwest Show exhibitor Van Belle Nursery Inc.

In addition to the Best in Show award winner, the judges chose three other plants for honorable mention status.

- **Purple Pillar™ Rose of Sharon** (*Hibiscus syriacus* 'Purple Pillar') was discovered by Marinus Adrianus Cornelis van Aart and introduced by Proven Winners® Color Choice® Flowering Shrubs. It is available from Farwest Show exhibitors Van Essen Nursery Co. and Fisher Farms.
- **First Editions® Sunset Magic™ Crape Myrtle** (*Lagerstroemia* 'PIILAG-IX' PPAF) was hybridized by Jeff Beasley, Michael A. Dirr, Mark Griffith, Rhonda Helvick and Oren McBee in Watkinsville, Georgia, and introduced by Bailey Nurseries Inc. It is available from Farwest exhibitor Bailey Nursery.
- **Cherry Berries Wintergreen** (*Gaultheria procumbens* 'GaulSid5') was hybridized by Gurjit Sidhu, Sidhu & Sons Nursery, and introduced by Briggs Nursery. It is available from Farwest exhibitor Briggs Nursery.

There were three runners-up in the balloting for the People's Choice Award. They were:

- **Cherry Berries Wintergreen** (*Gaultheria procumbens* 'GaulSid5'), described above.
- **First Editions® Sunset Magic™ Crape Myrtle** (*Lagerstroemia* 'PIILAG-IX' PPAF), described above.
- **Hollywood™ Hibiscus Hot Shot™** (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* '8117-8' PPAF), which was bred by Lannes Nursery in Toulouse, France and introduced by J. Berry Nursery. It is represented by UpShoot LLC and is available from Farwest exhibitor Fessler Nursery Company.

For more information on these plants — and all 55 of the plants that were featured in this year's Farwest New Varieties Showcase — log on to www.farwestshow.com/nvs.shtml.

The Farwest Show serves professionals engaged in the nursery industry and related trades, including retail nurseries, wholesale growers, landscapers, landscape designers, and others involved in the green industry.

Farwest is produced by the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN), a trade organization that represents and serves the interests of the ornamental horticulture industry. The OAN, based in Wilsonville, represents more than 800 wholesale growers, retailers, landscapers and suppliers. Any revenue realized from the Farwest Show is reinvested into the industry through education, research, marketing support and government relations.

Oregon's ornamental horticulture industry is among the state's largest agricultural commodities, with annual sales of \$894 million. Oregon's nursery industry is a traded sector; more than 75 percent of the nursery plants grown in Oregon are shipped out of state. For information, visit www.oan.org or call 503-682-5089.

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