



24 January 2017

FLORES EL CAPIRO S.A., COLOMBIA, WINS AIPH INTERNATIONAL GROWER OF THE YEAR 2017

Flores El Capiro S.A., Colombia, is the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) International Grower of the Year (IGOTY) 2017.

The coveted Gold Rose winner is one of the largest chrysanthemum growers and container exporters in Colombia and indeed the world. Delivering flowers to customers using pioneering sea freight and innovative packaging, its container packed cut flowers reach the most distant markets, including Australia, with a transit time that exceeds thirty days. Today Capiro's planted area covers 75 hectares, with plans to both reach 100 hectares and increase productivity to meet with customer demand.

The jury praised the company for "not only being a good example for the Colombian ornamental industry, but with its sea freight program, a worldwide example."

Celebrating the world's best in ornamental horticultural production, the awards, sponsored by Headline Partner, Royal Flora Holland, took place on Tuesday 24 January 2017 at the Colosseum Theatre in Essen, Germany; during the week of IPM Essen.

The winners of each category were:

Cut Flowers

GOLD - Flores El Capiro S.A. - Colombia
SILVER - Van den Berg RoseS - The Netherlands
BRONZE - LLC TK-Podosinki – Russia

Young Plants

GOLD - Graff Kristensen A/S – Denmark
SILVER - Beijing Nabobay Horticulture Co. Ltd – China

Finished Plants and Trees

GOLD - Gui Zhou Miaofu Urban Horticulture Co. Ltd - China
SILVER - The Bransford Webbs Plant Co - UK
BRONZE - Boomkwekerij Ebben B.V. - The Netherlands
Honorary Award - Boterdaele Erik bvba – Belgium.

Bernard Oosterom, AIPH President, says: "I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Flores El Capiro and all our winners after what has been a fabulous awards ceremony

and celebration of the very best in our industry. The ornamental horticulture industry can be proud of the many amazing businesses that it contains which are world leaders in innovation, sustainability and technological development.”

Find out more at www.aiph.org/groweroftheyear

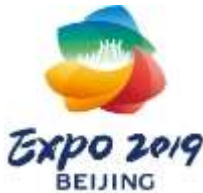
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Notes for Editors:

International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)

Since 1948, AIPH has united horticultural producers in an international community that thrives to this day. Much has changed in that time. Technologies advanced, cities rose from the ground, and we have become more connected than ever. As a result, our essential bond with nature has been weakened. AIPH strives to reignite and uphold an appreciation of plants that we believe is a basic human instinct. We support the work of

grower associations globally and together we champion a prosperous industry, growing plants that enhance lives, advance societies and sustain our planet, for this generation and the next.

For further details visit www.aiph.org

IGOTY Awards

Brought to you by AIPH in partnership with Founding Partner, FloraCulture International (FCI), the IGOTY awards have been championing outstanding achievement in the sector since 2010. They recognise best practice in horticultural production by the top ornamental production nurseries from around the globe, celebrating the expertise and energy they give to horticulture. In 2016 ornamentals growers from Canada, China, Germany, Netherlands, Turkey, UK and USA reached the finals, where Costa Farms, US, became IGOTY winner 2016.