AIPH INTERNATIONAL GROWER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2022

The Winners

AIPH INTERNATIONAL GROWER OF THE YEAR
The AIPH International Grower of the Year Awards were established in 2009 to recognise best practice in horticultural production by the top ornamentals nurseries around the world and celebrate the energy and expertise they give to horticulture. These awards are brought to you by the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) supported by Founding Partner FloraCulture International (FCI) and Headline Sponsor Royal FloraHolland.

Celebrating the World’s Best Ornamentals Growers

Welcome to the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) International Grower of the Year (IGOTY) Awards 2022.

As an international organisation, with members around the globe, AIPH plays a pivotal role in leading best practice in ornamentals production. This purpose sits at the heart of the AIPH International Grower of the Year Awards. These awards invite and encourage growers everywhere to gain recognition and reward for their excellence thereby fostering best practice in our industry to create a greener future.

As we cast the limelight on the IGOTY 2022 winners, we also thank them for their dedication, commitment and energy to advancing the production of ornamentals. We also thank all our guests and sponsors for their shining role in supporting this celebration of outstanding achievement in our industry.
Thanks to Our Sponsors

The International Jury

Chair - Mr. Tim Edwards
Chairman, Boningale Nurseries
UK

Mr. Jan-Dieter Bruns
Bruns-Pflanzen-Export GmbH & Co.
KG., Germany

Mr. André van Kruijssen
CEO, Plantion
Netherlands

Mr. Poul Graff
CEO, Graff Breeding A/S
Denmark

Mr. Augusto Solano
President, Ascolflores
Colombia

Mr. Hiroshi Sakata
President, Japan Home Garden
Association, Japan
AIPH International Grower of the Year 2022

GOLD ROSE Winner
FINISHED PLANTS & TREES Gold Winner

Metrolina Greenhouses, USA

Metrolina Greenhouses, established in 1972 by Tom and Vickie VanWingerden, is one of the world’s leaders in horticulture, innovation, and sustainability. With over 1,500 employees, they have 20,000 square feet of growing space at two locations in the United States.

While still a family business today, Metrolina grows and delivers live plants to over 1,400 retail outlets throughout fourteen states on the east coast of the United States. Metrolina focuses on quality products driven by innovation in robotics, machinery, and greenhouse structure that drives labor and space utilization efficiencies. Innovation also drives an ever-changing product mix with hundreds of new items each year to meet the changing needs of consumers, and new business developments.

Another pillar in the overall business plan is sustainability, where Metrolina focuses on four core areas to assure they are good stewards of the business.
1) a 100% Water recycle/recapture system,
2) a biomass driven heating system to reduce oil/natural gas usage,
3) a plastic recycling program both internally and with a unique return/reuse program at their retail outlet partners which recycles/reuses over 4 million pounds of plastic a year, and
4) a biological/beneficials program that has reduced chemical usage over 20% in the last five years even while the business has doubled.

With over 75 million plants sold each year, the focus at Metrolina remains on growing quality products, innovation, a world-class employee experience, and a fully sustainable business model.

THE JURY SAYS:
"The judges were enormously impressed by Metrolina Greenhouses. While still boasting the credentials of a Family Business, this highly efficient horticultural operation is clearly driven by a need to innovate and improve at every level."

"The Judges were enormously impressed by Metrolina Greenhouses. While still boasting the credentials of a Family Business, this highly efficient horticultural operation is clearly driven by a need to innovate and improve at every level."
FINISHED PLANTS & TREES

Silver Winner

Bunnik Group Bv., Netherlands

Bunnik Plants is an innovative plant nursery that has over 75+ years of (Floriculture) experience. It all started in 1945. Since then it has grown to a 25+ hectare company with 40-50 types of greenhouse plants.

Bunnik Plants know that plants make people happy; they help to create a cozy atmosphere and are healthy. They turn your house into a home. That’s why their goal is as follows: A Bunnik Plant in every home. Because Bunnik Plants are cultivated in a truly sustainable way, with genuine consideration and respect for employees. To them, the plant is not the end of the story. That is why they supply products that are ready for the windowsill. Tailored to tomorrow’s trends. To make our living environment - and the world - a little more beautiful.

Each week 1,000,000 house plants leave the company. This is done in a clean and ecological way. For their added value, they are always looking for the latest trends and never hesitate to be a trendsetter. In this way, they offer complete concepts for stores.

www.bunnikplants.nl

SUSTAINABILITY

Gold Winner

FINISHED PLANTS & TREES

Bronze Winner

Brookdale Treeland Nurseries Limited, Canada

Brookdale Treeland Nurseries is one of the largest and most respected growers of garden plants in Canada specializing in trees, flowering shrubs, evergreens, perennials and tropics. They are also the largest provider of holiday greenery in Canada and one of the top 5 in North America.

Established in 1983 as a combined entity, Brookdale Kingsway dates back to the 1920’s while Treeland Nurseries was founded by Paul Olsen in 1977. The newly formed company grew by leaps and bounds throughout the 1980’s and 1990’s focused on Landscape Supply eventually turning focus to Retailers in the mid 90’s.

Today they operate from 5 locations in Canada with over 500 acres in production. they service over 2,400 retail stores throughout Canada and the US and peak at nearly 600 employees. They have a loyal, long serving team of professionals along with many new, young people learning the trade in our wonderful industry.
Wagagai Limited, Uganda

Wagagai Ltd is one of the world’s largest flower propagation companies of cuttings. They mainly produce begonias, chrysanthemums and poinsettias, but also many pot plant cuttings more. Based in the south of Uganda, they supply several prominent European breeders and growers. Yet, they are far more than just a propagation company. Thanks to an extensive social programme, they have become the beating heart of the region.

Their business is completely based on balancing the three Ps: People, Planet and Profit. They believe that the three pillars are completely dependent on each other, especially in developing economies such as Uganda’s. That is why they view their responsibility in all three areas as a priority.

www.wagagai.com

Jens Meyer Jungpflanzen, Germany

Founded in 2003, Jens Meyer Jungpflanzen is the largest European producer in the segment of conifers plant propagation. The production is 100 percent in Germany. The customer base is mainly located in Europe, with some customers worldwide.

In addition to a total of 500,000 conifer and deciduous graftings, 2.5 million cuttings are propagated annually. At the same time, the range is extremely diverse: for example, the assortment of pines alone comprises around 80 varieties. What distinguishes the products is the homogeneous quality of the young plants, which are grown in large numbers of varieties according to the most modern ornamental plant cultivation methods.

In order to produce economically in Germany and to be able to permanently counter competition from low-wage countries, a high degree of mechanization is required. However, since the plant genera and species are very different, manual labour is always an important part of the production process. Thus, the actual finishing process still takes place by hand. This effective combination of technology and craftsmanship is one of the many points that Jens Meyer Jungpflanzen so successful.

www.jens-meyer-jungpflanzen.de
**SUSTAINABILITY**

**Bronze Winner**

**Sitio Kolibri, Brazil**

Sitio Kolibri is a family company, founded in 1989. Since 1994, they have produced Phalaenopsis Orchids. They specialize in producing in the most sustainable way, focusing on good labor relations, and delivering healthy and beautiful plants to our customers.

Sitio Kolibri has been very innovative since the beginning as they built their first greenhouse with a rainwater collecting tank, being one of the first growers in the area to do so.

Sitio Kolibri is divided into two properties, both located in Holambra. In the oldest property, called Sitio Kolibri, they cultivate the plants in the vegetative stage and in the new location, called Garça Mirim, they have the plants in spiking and flowering stage. At Sitio Kolibri they have 26,000 m² of greenhouse and at Sitio Garça Mirim 21,000 m².

The employees are a key part to their production process. They are seen and treated as such, receiving training and follow-up to exercise their jobs properly. For Sitio Kolibri, respecting their employees every day and delivering a beautiful, healthy products with minimal chemical products used in the production process is intrinsic to demonstrate their respect to the customer.

**www.sitiokolibri.com.br**

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**CUT FLOWERS & BULBS**

**Gold Winner**

**Matina Flowers S.A.S, Colombia**

MATINA FLOWERS is a Colombian family-owned business, founded in 2004. They grow 47 rose cultivars and enjoy world-class recognition as Colombian flower exporters. MATINA operates within a novel business model comprising four associate companies bringing together 500 ha in production and 30 years’ experience. Companies operate independently but draw benefit by jointly addressing critical areas: financial management, purchases, production and postharvest technology, worker welfare and logistics. This permits benchmarking and performance evaluation and has allowed us to avoid being “swallowed” by the wave of mergers and acquisitions characterizing the industry today.

MATINA FLOWERS focuses on long-stemmed, large-headed roses and are strongly capable of adapting to change and addressing demands of individual customers in a diversity of markets.

They first established presence in the Netherlands and other European countries, then pioneered access to non-traditional markets like China, Eastern Europe and Australia. The principles of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) consigned in the Floriculture Sustainable Initiative basket of standards.
The production of carnations consumes a lot of water. Aware of the ecological impact on the environment, Prim’rose chose to invest in a 35km pipe to pump their water from the Oum Erbia Estuary, utilising water that would have otherwise been wasted into the ocean.

The Group launched Sanady Foundation for its workers’ children to help them succeed thanks to free after school tutoring classes. 12,000 children were coached in 2020.

CUT FLOWERS & BULBS
Silver Winner

Prim’rose (SCA Clementine), Morocco

Prim’rose is the floral branch of the Delassus Group and has been producing and exporting flowers since 1984. Today, it is one of the leaders in mini carnations, delivering nearly 60 million stems into the English market.

Quality and sustainability are high on Prim’rose’s agenda. The company is involved in several certification programs such as GlobalGap, MPS-ABC and ETI. It also encourages an environmentally conscious workplace. For the top management, growing responsibly creates access to European markets and to long term viability.

Luxaflor, in Zimbabwe, is Southern Africa’s leading producer and exporter of premium cut roses. An important and consistent earner of foreign currency since 1994, it boasts world-class facilities on its farm in Concession, including 22 ha of imported, environmentally controlled, plastic-clad steel greenhouses; a state-of-the-art, computer-controlled propagation facility; as well as a packhouse and cold storage powered by a 100 kVa on-site solar power plant.

Luxaflor currently produces and exports 25 varieties of Hybrid-T and 15 varieties of Intermediate roses. Flowers are exported to Europe and South Africa, and exports to other SADC markets began in 2021. Luxaflor represents the first link in the supply chain for roses sold to a number of leading wholesalers and retailers in Europe, including Edeka of Germany, one of that country’s largest supermarket chains.

Secure employment contracts, a minimum Fairtrade price and the Fairtrade premium have resulted in visibly improved living conditions for the company’s 750 employees, all of whom reside on the farm with their families.

CUT FLOWERS & BULBS
Bronze Winner

Luxaflor Roses, Zimbabwe

Luxaflor Roses, Zimbabwe
Past AIPH IGOTY Gold Rose Winners

“Winning the Gold Rose Award and the Sustainability Award was a significant recognition for Anthura as well as for the entire horticultural sector. Especially the international confirmation that we are on the right track as a company is very valuable to us.

“We are very proud and that feeling can still be felt throughout the organisation after more than a year. This prestigious prize stimulates us to continue to make the world more beautiful and sustainable together with our partners.”

Iwan van der Knaap, Anthura, Gold Rose Winner 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS OF THE IGOTY AWARDS!

Enhance your competitive edge

Adopt the GGN label today!

For more information contact the team at info@ggn.org or visit ggn.org
We are Royal FloraHolland

Royal FloraHolland is a cooperative of growers. For more than 100 years we have been bringing growers and buyers together. We strive for sustainable success for our members and work together with all parties in the floriculture industry so that the industry continues to grow.

www.royalfloraholland.com