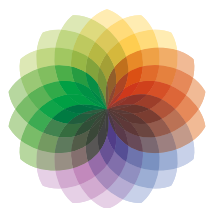




AIPH INTERNATIONAL GROWER
OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2019

The Winners



AIPH

Innovation and entrepreneurship are at the heart of the horticultural sector

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CELEBRATING THE WORLD'S BEST ORNAMENTALS GROWERS




Welcome to the AIPH International Grower of the Year (IGOTY) Awards 2019. This is a very special and unique event in our industry, providing the opportunity to give well-earned recognition to those making a substantial contribution to the global ornamental horticulture industry.

Through the IGOTY Awards, AIPH offers its voice, platform, international reputation and world-wide network to promote the profile of 'the best of the best' in our industry. By doing so, AIPH not only rewards inspiring businesses but also supports the entire industry in taking a big step forward. With the IGOTY Awards, AIPH fosters progress, rewards excellence, inspires innovation and unites the industry to deliver the best in ornamental horticulture to a global market.

It is not only prestigious prize-giving that makes this event so special. As well as presenting the IGOTY Awards, including the most coveted 'Gold Rose' award for overall winner - the International Grower of the Year 2019, these awards provide the perfect occasion for bringing the industry together for a joyful celebration and evening of high-class entertainment.

For supporting our efforts in delivering this wonderful event to you, we are sincerely grateful to our headline sponsor Royal FloraHolland, our founding partner FloraCulture International and to all our sponsors; IPM Essen, Pöppelmann, Kuehne + Nagel, Florensis, GreenTech and Flormart. Together we wish you a very enjoyable and memorable IGOTY Awards 2019.


Bernard Oosterom
AIPH President


Tim Briercliffe
AIPH Secretary General



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 expertise and energy they give to horticulture. These awards are brought to you by the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) supported by Founding Partner FloraCulture International and Headline Sponsor Royal FloraHolland.



www.aiph.org/groweroftheyear

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THE INTERNATIONAL JURY



Chair - **Tim Edwards**
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Mr Mike Rimland
Director of R&D, Indoor Plant
Division, Costa Farms, USA



Prof. Shiwei Zhao
Vice President, World Federation
of Rose Societies, China



Mr. Leo Hoogendoorn
CEO, Florensis, Netherlands



Mr. Jan-Dieter Bruns
Chairman, European Nurserystock
Association, Germany



Mr. André van Kruijssen
General Director, Veiling Holambra
Cooperative, Brazil

“The standard of entrants this year has been exceptionally high and we commend all businesses that entered the 2019 IGOTY Awards. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be involved in the process that identifies the very best ornamentals producers in the industry, gives international recognition to their endeavours and rewards their passion.”

Tim Edwards,
IGOTY Jury Chair



THE JURY SAYS:
“True to its motto: ‘Dream, dare, do and do better’, this company excels in its field. It is a worldwide, leading specialist, demonstrating outstanding innovation and production.”

AIPH INTERNATIONAL GROWER OF THE YEAR 2019

GOLD ROSE WINNER

YOUNG PLANTS GOLD WINNER

Gediflora, Belgium

Grown from three generations of passion and 100% focus on the breeding and propagation of potted Chrysanthemums, Gediflora has a leading position in the worldwide market. The company serves more than 30 countries which represents approximately 80 million cuttings per year. The company has over 50% of the market share in Europe, 30 % in the US and 40% worldwide.

With unique and exclusive genetics, Gediflora strives to secure its position as the specialist in 'mums'. Gediflora's mission is to make growers successful through their assortment of unique and innovative varieties which are easy to grow. Their golden genetics (a complete, innovative and easy to grow assortment) combined with high quality service and enthusiasm enables Gediflora to excel in its field.

Through marketing efforts, Gediflora aims to boost the image of Chrysanthemums and encourage greater creativity. The slogan 'Be Mum Be More' invites customers to step out of their comfort zone and do more with Chrysanthemums. Gediflora is a reliable and inspiring partner with a dedicated and enthusiastic team which enable the company to achieve its best each day. The company is true to its motto: "Dream, dare, do and do better!"



FINISHED PLANTS & TREES

GOLD WINNER

YOUNG PLANTS SILVER WINNER

Clematis The Source of Good Climbers, Poland

This established Clematis nursery has been a source of good climbers for 30 years and excelled in the production, sale and popularisation of Clematis and other climbers, offering a wider range of attractive-looking, top-quality plants. In 2009, the nursery, as the first plant producer in Poland, was awarded the highest Polish promotional emblem - "Teraz Polska" – for their C2 plants' quality.

For 26 years, the nursery has raised and selected new cultivars of Clematis and other climbers; most of them hold PBR for Poland, some for Europe and a few have been granted plant patents in the U.S.A. and Canada. Since its beginning, the nursery has popularised Clematis and other climbers, nationally and globally with an emphasis on the ecological aspects of using climbers in urban environments. The nursery observes prevailing market trends and works to shape them. The nursery participates in international exhibitions yearly (Germany, Russia, China), selling to wholesale only in Poland and exporting plants to 40 countries on 5 continents.

The company's plants bear the recognised trademark 'SOURCE OF GOOD CLIMBERS', guaranteeing high quality and making them a first choice for customers. In the nursery, a high phytosanitary regime and modern working practices are observed. State-of-the-art technical solutions are constantly developed and expanded, to ensure the best possible conditions for growth and storage of plants and to enable high work efficiency. Numerous Polish and international groups visit the nursery which serves to popularise these solutions.



THE JURY SAYS:
“This business is a very strong clematis specialist. It is one of the most innovative Clematis and climbers’ producers in the world, with a long-term vision and commitment to development.”

YOUNG PLANTS BRONZE WINNER

Sichuan Colorlink Co.Ltd. China

Sichuan Colorful Forestry Development Co. Ltd was established in 2011 and mainly focuses on the large scale production of Acer young plants and other colourful trees. The company has developed nurseries of 2,333 ha. in Bazhong and Chengdu, Sichuan province. The company sells mainly to other well-known nurseries and plays an important role in the landscaping of rural and urban developments.

Colorful Forestry has collected and preserved genetic resources of more than 2000 varieties from plants including Acer, Hosta and Iris. The company values innovation and has 31 patents for propagation technology and 3 novelty PBR.

Colorful Forestry has been undertaking the construction of the Sichuan Provincial Engineering Laboratory on Rare Colourful Plants since 2017. The company has established the 'Sichuan Provincial Engineering Research Center on Colorful Plants' and the 'Sichuan Provincial Enterprise Technology Center in Colorful Forestry'. Through a six-year development, Colorful Forestry has built its business around being a "Nursery for Production & Tourists" and a "Colorful Nursery & Parks", in line with the country's "Beautiful China" construction policy and "Rural Vitalisation" strategy.



THE JURY SAYS:
“This business is an impressive, leading producer of maple trees in China. Its operations are highly equipped with modern technology, it invests heavily in R&D for future progress and it also provides very good social support in the local community.”

FINISHED PLANTS & TREES SILVER WINNER

OK Plant, Netherlands

OK Plant grows Phalaenopsis, called Little Kolibri Orchids in 9cm pots, together with various seasonal products such as Primula, Cyclamen, Aster and Campanula Addenda. The open, engaging and pioneering role adopted by Rob and Desiree Olsthoorn of OK Plant has enabled the business to grow and helped to advance the pot plant sector in the Netherlands. OK Plant occupies a special place with its customers because of the customer focus and excellent service that it offers. 'What you see is what you get' is the company's slogan.

OK Plant is an outstanding innovative grower that sets the trend with its range and added-value concepts. With a great passion for plants, the company constantly seeks new and sustainable products, guaranteed to create a unique atmosphere in the home. Alongside excellent cultivation qualities, OK Plant has specific marketing expertise to position the product distinctively with specialist retailers. At OK Plant, the customer enjoys excellent personal treatment, advice and after-care. OK Plant strives for long-term partnerships with its customers, employees and suppliers.

OK Plant employs customer-driven professionals who strive for the best results. The company offers an inspiring working environment where taking the initiative and seeking continuous improvement comes naturally.



THE JURY SAYS:
“This business demonstrates outstanding production of Phalaenopsis. It leads a sub-segment of the pot plant market in the Netherlands and outperforms in its approach to the market. The company has the latest standards of technology and invests heavily in its future.”



FINISHED PLANTS & TREES BRONZE WINNER

Fujian Hongzhan Landscape Engineering Co. Ltd, China

Fujian Hongzhan Landscape Engineering Co. Ltd focuses on high quality Bougainvillea production and promotion. The enterprise has developed different forms of Bougainvillea including flowering trees, geometric and animal shapes as well as customisable shapes for landscape application.

Hongzhan Landscape has a production area of 600 ha, 250 Bougainvillea varieties and a sales network which distributes around China. The company has experienced stable growth year on year. Quality is the top priority and in 2012 Hongzhan Landscape registered the trademark "Hongzhan" and continues to build the brand's reputation and influence. The enterprise has established strong long-term cooperation with many listed enterprises in Beijing, Shanghai, Hainan and Guangxi, as a result of its new, original, high quality products and its solid technology team.

The enterprise seeks to be loved by its employees and have a good reputation with customers, industry and society. The enterprise has established a unique company culture and set of organisational values: "innovation, tenacity, hard work and efficient implementation". Its diversified management system makes 420 staff a united, kind, optimistic and efficient team.



THE JURY SAYS:
"This business plays a leading role in China, growing different styles and varieties of Bougainvilleas. Demonstrating a unique concept with one single species, it is outstanding in its class."

CUT FLOWERS GOLD WINNER

Oserian Development Company Limited, Kenya

Oserian is a leader in cut flower production in Kenya and the first grower of Roses in Africa. Oserian aims to be the leading grower of ethically produced flowers in Africa. The farm holds the highest levels of accreditation to meet the various needs of clients across the globe. The farm has invested heavily in ethical production and in its ethos - 'People, Planet and Profit' which gives consumers a living story of the flowers the farm producers.

Innovation for ensuring sustainability is at the core of the company's lifeline. The company specialises in growing unique varieties through technical exclusivity. This is possible through heating and CO2 injection which improves the quality of sensitive varieties. Oserian flowers have a target to be carbon sub-zero by 2020 which will be a major hallmark at a time when the environment has become a significant global discussion topic. This focus gives confidence to Oserian buyers around the world.

ODCL has a high regard for its employees who are the force that propels the company to higher heights. Employees are encouraged to further their education through a college within the company's premises and career progression within the organisation is fully supported.



THE JURY SAYS:
"This leading rose producer in Kenya is taking strides in important aspects of its business such as aiming to be carbon sub-zero by 2020. It already serves large retail chains and its 'Flori 4 Life' slogan provides big added-value."



CUT FLOWERS SILVER WINNER

Jiangsu Zhonghe Flowers Co. Ltd, China

Jiangsu Zhonghe Flowers Co. Ltd. was founded in 2001 in Lianyungang city, Jiangsu province and occupies a production area of 93.3 hectares. Zhonghe has become one of the largest suppliers of freshly cut Phalaenopsis in China and its products are sold domestically to more than 20 provinces, and internationally to Japan, Australia, America and Europe.

Zhonghe is convinced that 'Quality is Life' and carries out in-depth work in the selection of freshly cut flower varieties, new variety development, quality control and post-harvest preservation, to ensure that customers receive the highest quality flowers. Zhonghe attaches great importance to brand building and actively participates in many Japanese freshly cut flower exhibitions and domestic flower exhibitions. Committed to sustainability, Zhonghe uses a tide style irrigation system. It recycles and reuses wastewater in the production process and uses degradable and recyclable packaging boxes, to prevent pollution to the surrounding environment.

Believing in 'making the best use of talents', Zhonghe gives attention to the material, emotional and spiritual needs of its employees by providing learning opportunities and leisure and entertainment activities which allow employees to live and work with full spirit.



THE JURY SAYS:
“As a leading Phalaenopsis producer in China, this business has a significant domestic market share and occupies a position at the highest level of the market. High quality is the result of the integration of innovation and science and technology into its production.”

SUSTAINABILITY GOLD WINNER

Inner Mongolia M•Grass Ecological Environment (Group) Co. Ltd, China

Inner Mongolia M•Grass Ecological Environment (Group) Co. is an innovative business working throughout the entire chain from plant production to application. This ranges from domesticating wild plants to the propagation of domesticated plants, from seed/bulbs and young plants to finished plants and applying them in ecological restoration and urban greening projects. The company produces over 1 million lily bulbs, 10 million finished plants & trees and 1,000 tons of seeds a year to be used in their projects. The company was listed in 2012.

For over twenty years, the company has been devoted to the collection and domestication of germplasm resources of wild indigenous plants. It has established 13 research institutes, built a "grassland eco-industry big data platform" and has released software to support ecological restoration projects. The company promotes its ecological restoration mode: "indigenous flowers + ecological philosophy + technical wisdom + resource reserve + management standards + ecological products". The company's philosophy and wisdom of ecology restoration are shared around the world.

By the end of 2017, Inner Mongolia M•Grass Ecological Environment (Group) Co. restored 42,000 ha of hills, 31,000 ha of grassland, and improved 12,600 ha of saline-alkali soil. In 2016, The company was nominated for the China Quality Award - the first of its kind in the industry.



THE JURY SAYS:
“This company produces native species of plants to restore the nature of China's countryside. It is making great efforts in the field of new varieties and is working on major national renaturing projects.”

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SUSTAINABILITY SILVER WINNER

Butterfly Garden, Denmark

For many years Gartneriet Tvillingegaarden A/S has specialised in the production of Campanula and Lavandula, in a wide variety of different pot sizes, under the trademark 'Butterfly Garden'. Their focus on targeted breeding of both lines and a commitment to environmentally friendly production, has supplied strong, healthy and beautiful plants for indoor and outdoor to customers around Europe.

Producing and delivering high quality plants, which give the end user the optimal utility, is a high priority for the nursery. Since 2008, Tvillingegaarden has been MPS-GAP certified showing the nursery meets the criteria for safe, sustainable and traceable production of high quality plants as required by the European retailers.

Tvillingegaarden values the environment and is among industry innovators in securing the sustainable production of pot plants. In their breeding department, the nursery develops strong and healthy plants that demand less resources in production, lower energy use and have a longer shelf life for the end-user. Today Tvillingegaarden uses 90-92% recycled materials for production pots and strives for further sustainability gains.



THE JURY SAYS:

“This company plays a leading role in its segment and has a highly successful sustainable marketing concept. The company is focused on the efficient use of resources in breeding and production and uses a high percentage of recycled materials.”

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