

2004 Plants of the Year

In an on-going effort to promote the production, sale and use of superior Florida-grown plants, the Florida Nurserymen & Growers Association is pleased to announce the 2004 selections of the Florida Plants of the Year. This program was launched to promote under-utilized, but proven Florida plant material. These proven ornamentals are selected on an annual basis by a group of growers, horticulturists, retailers, landscape professionals and University of Florida faculty.

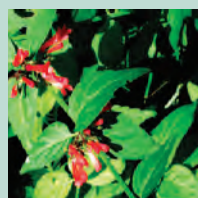
For a plant to be considered a Plant of the Year, set criteria must be met. Selected plants have good pest resistance, require reasonable care and are fairly easy to propagate and grow. The award winning plants must also exhibit some superior quality, improved performance or unique characteristic that sets it apart from others in its class. Here are two 2004 selections for your consideration:



Needle Palm. Photo:
Leu Gardens, Orlando

Common Name: Needle Palm
Botanical Name: *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*
Hardiness: Zones 7-11
Mature Height and Spread: 5' - 8' Tall x 6' wide
Classification: Native Palm

Landscape Use: Understory, specimen, border, erosion control, foundation or massing
Characteristics: Slow-growing cluster palm makes a dark green mound of palmate leaves growing in sun or shade. Long dark needle-like spines develop at base and cover trunk.



Red Russelia. Photo:
Leu Gardens, Orlando

Common Name: Red Russelia
Botanical Name: *Russelia sarmentosa*
Hardiness: Zones 8b-11
Mature Height and Spread: 5' Tall x 5' Wide
Classification:

Flowering shrub/Perennial
Landscape Use: Specimen plant or border
Characteristics: Covered with bright red tubular flowers for all the warm months and is a butterfly attractant. Masses of splendor arching stems create a mounding appearance

'DEALING WITH JERKS AND KNEE-JERK REACTIONS'

by Dr. Patt Schwab

Thursday, May 13, 2004

8:00 a.m. to noon

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