

Plantpeddler Poinsettia Variety Day 2018 Results

Plantpeddler, located in Cresco, Iowa, conducted a trial of over 125 commercial and pre-release Poinsettia varieties. Variety Day was hosted on Thursday, December 6, with representatives of all major breeders, broker representatives, and growers in attendance. The trial was produced under natural season commercial production protocol. Mike Gooder, president of Plantpeddler said “We are proud to showcase genetics under northern USA growing conditions. It is important to do a Poinsettia production trial as a way for the industry and our growers to see how varieties perform in real world greenhouse conditions where low temperatures and light levels are common during production.”

Genetics represented were submitted by Beekenkamp, Dummen Orange - Ecke and Red Fox, Rinehart Poinsettias, Selecta, Suntory, and Syngenta. Plantpeddler is licensed by all the represented breeders and prides itself on being a one-stop shop for premier Poinsettia liners. “We have a real commitment to trialing as part of our leadership position in Poinsettias.” said Mike as to why Plantpeddler conducts their Poinsettia trial.

As a true production trial, the tested varieties were grown within a block of benchmark commercial varieties with the same treatments and environmental conditions. Northern Midwest weather played its role in this year’s trial results. Plants experienced average temperatures and light from plant date to flower initiation, with below average temperatures and low light levels during the finishing period. Only 6 days from October 20 to the trial reached 200+ mmol of light, with no days of 125+ mmol since November 6. Environmental varietal differences in plant response and timing varied, notable in some, with top performing varieties showing little effect.

Trial attendees voted using a three flag system for “Best Red Variety” and “Best Non-Red Variety” with a 3, 2, 1 point scoring. The results are as follows:

Red Variety Top 10

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Variety</i>	<i>Breeder</i>	<i>Color</i>
1	Mirage Red - PO174	Syngenta	Red
2	Lyra Red - PO182	Syngenta	Red
3	Astro Red	Beekenkamp	Red
4	Christmas Magic	Selecta	Red
5	Ferrara	Dummen Orange	Red
6	Holly	Dummen Orange	Red
7	Christmas Wish Red	Selecta	Red
8	Noel Red	Selecta	Red
9	Robyn Red	Beekenkamp	Red
10	Aries Red	Beekenkamp	Red

Non-Red Variety Top 10

Rank	Variety	Breeder	Color
1	Christmas Beauty Princess	Selecta	Specialty
2	Candy Wintergreen	Syngenta	Specialty
3	16-1384	Rinehart Poinsettias	White
4	RF535JIN	Dummen Orange	Specialty
5	Christmas Beauty Marble	Selecta	Marble
6	Candy Cinnamon	Syngenta	Specialty
7	619 - Pure White	Rinehart Poinsettias	White
8	Whitestar™	Syngenta	White
9	SK 154 - Snowy White	Selecta	White
10	Princettia Pure White	Suntory	White

Plantpeddler extends a sincere thank-you to all the breeders for help making this trial possible. Mark your calendars now for next year's Plantpeddler Poinsettia Variety Day trial event on Thursday, December 5, 2019. Plantpeddler's Variety Day trial event showcasing Annuals is August 2, 2019. Please make plans to attend both events. For more information contact Plantpeddler at (800) 827-1654 and info@plantpeddler.com.