

# Oklahoma Proven 2020 Selections

## What is an Oklahoma Proven Selection?

In 1999, the faculty of Oklahoma State University's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture began the Oklahoma Proven Program - a program designed to evaluate, recommend and market plants best suited for our challenging Oklahoma climate and soil conditions.

Every year since, winning selections are released in the four categories - tree, shrub, perennial and annual - just in time for planting! Read on for descriptions of the 2020 winners...and see the [links at the end of this article](#) for more information on previous years' selections!

## Oklahoma Proven 2020: Tree

*C. caroliniana* (American Hornbeam) and *c. retusus* (European Hornbeam)

*Carpinus* species

While the American Hornbeam is an understory tree growing 20-35', the European varieties grow somewhat taller (40-60') in light shade to sun, but can be pruned heavily if used for hedging. A monoecious species, both male and female catkins are present, with the seeds forming as winged nutlets. The Hornbeam offers smooth, gray bark, dark green textured foliage in spring and summer, turning variants of yellow, orange and red in fall. Globular and upright forms are available; prefers medium moisture and well drained soils.

USDA Hardiness zones 3-9.

## Oklahoma Proven 2020: Shrub

Red Yucca

*Hesperaloe parviflora*

Don't be deceived by its common name, because Red Yucca is actually an agave, a close relative of the yucca. In typical dense-mounding form, the soft, narrow evergreen leaves reaching up to 3' are normally blue-green, giving way to a plum winter color. The flower stalks yield clusters of showy tubular flowers arching up to 5' in coral, yellow, and the new vibrant red 'Perpa', *Brakelights® Red Yucca*. The Red Yucca requires full sun, and although it prefers well-drained soil, it is drought tolerant once established, and it may be planted in a variety of soil conditions.

USDA Hardiness zones 5-10.

## Oklahoma Proven 2020: Perennial

### Golden Variegated Sweet Flag

*Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon'

Named for its light foliar fragrance when crushed, Golden Variegated Sweet Flag 'Ogon' is a dwarf variety, growing to a mature size of 10" tall by 6" wide. Offering distinctive color and textural accents, 'Ogon' delivers a yellowish green grass-like show in borders, containers, native gardens, edges of ponds and water gardens. It performs best in full sun (with relief from hot afternoon exposure) to part shade, in boggy or continually moist soils.

USDA Hardiness zones 5-9.

## Oklahoma Proven 2020: Annual

### Brazilian Verbena

*Verbena bonariensis* 'Little One', 'Lollipop', and Meteor Shower® (improved cultivars)

Looking for a long summer bloomer for cutting, mass plantings, cottage gardens, rock gardens or borders? Brazilian Verbena might be your go-to plant this year! Fast-growing, dense 1' clumping foliage gives way to 3.5' long, slender wiry stems adorned with rose-purple flower clusters from summer until frost. Although grown as an annual in Oklahoma, *Verbena bonariensis* is actually a tender perennial, so it can reseed, and may survive our milder winters in a southern or sheltered exposure. Few pests bother these bloomers, but watch for powdery mildew. They're happy in well-drained soil and full sun - hot Oklahoma conditions - and will produce nectar to keep hummingbirds and butterflies happy, too!

Hardiness: Annual in Oklahoma.

## 20 Years and Counting!

For over 20 years now, the Oklahoma Proven program has been recommending the very best-adapted plants for Oklahoma gardens. From trees to flowering shrubs, to annuals and perennials...consider not only the 2020 selections for your garden, but those winners from previous years...all the way back to 1999!

## Oklahoma Proven Resources

[Oklahoma Proven: Selections for 2020](#)

[OSU Fact Sheet E-1052: Plant Selections For Oklahoma](#)