

20% more innovations at coming Horti Fair, mostly geared towards Cultivation New Style

10 TECHNICAL AND 3 GREEN NOMINATIONS FOR HORTI FAIR INNOVATION AWARD 2011

Aalsmeer, 3 October 2011 – **Thirteen new products are candidates for this year's Horti Fair Innovation Award: ten technical innovations and three in the 'green' category. They have been nominated by the international jury of experts, which assessed almost one hundred new products and services being launched at the coming Horti Fair. Director Frans-Peter Dechering: „These nominations provide a fantastic impression of the wide and innovative nature of international greenhouse horticulture, in just the same way as the Horti Fair is a reflection of this dynamic sector. “The participants who have won this prestigious annual award for the most promising innovation at the Horti Fair will be announced on Tuesday 1 November, the first day of the trade show in the Amsterdam RAI.**

International jury of experts

“20% more innovations have been registered than last year, most of them technical solutions and simple principles with huge prospects, geared towards Cultivation New Style, energy, quality and savings on costs, and less focused on marketing and sales concepts. There is also an increase in the available range of seaweeds, hormones and preparations like Natugro from Koppert Biological Systems, although it is difficult for the jury to establish its proven effect and actual operation,” says Geert van Oosterhout (director LTO Groeiservice), the chairman of the jury. The other members of the international jury of experts are Jeroen van Buren (marketing group manager Pot Plants at DLV Plant BV), Heinrich Dressler (Gb Das Magazin für Zierpflanzenbau, Germany), Cor van de Kaay (vegetable grower), Linda Kaluzny-Pinon (Culture Legumière, France), Frank Kempkes (technical researcher at University and Research Centre Wageningen UR, Greenhouse Horticulture), Leo Marcelis (Professor in Crop Production in low-energy greenhouses at Wageningen UR), Eric Moor (pot plant grower) and Steven Vale (Commercial Greenhouse Grower Magazine, Great Britain). They decide which two winners in the 'Technique' and 'Green, new plants, cultivars' categories will receive the trophy and the cheque for € 2,500.00 worth of m2 at the next edition of the Horti Fair.

The 10 innovations nominated in the 'Technique' category are:

Boal Systemen B.V. (stand 11.0504) – Lumenex® ISO22

This Venlo-type greenhouse system for double glazing saves energy due to higher light transmission, slower dirt accumulation and discoloration, good insulation value and excellent water tightness combined with high air tightness. It gives a new impulse to energy neutral growing environments and more sustainable greenhouse horticulture.

Jury: The double glazing system combines extremely high light transmission with substantial savings on energy. In combination with elements from Cultivation New Style, this can be an exciting step forward.

Gavita Nederland B.V. (stand 11.0106) – Gavita GAN 300 LEP

This first plasma fixture based on the LUXIM solid state plasma technology with a CRI of 94 is suitable for daylight simulations and additional lighting, due to its completely sealed housing, the absence of moving parts and long emitter lifetime.

Jury: a solution for assimilation lighting at very high light intensities, such as in climate rooms.

Horticoop (stand 11.0506) – Easy Ice Clean

The Easy Ice Clean reduces labour costs. It moves along existing tubular rail systems and cleans reflector caps and light sources quickly, cheaply and effectively, because they do not have to be removed and can be used again immediately after cleaning.

Jury: a practical innovation for maintenance work that is required at an increasing number of companies.

HortiMaX B.V. (stand 11.0108) – HortiMax Irrigation Checker

This Irrigation Checker accurately and efficiently measures the water applied by a reference dripper, enabling growers to monitor the distribution of water in the greenhouse during a single irrigation cycle or an entire irrigation period.

Jury: an innovation that will aid many greenhouse horticulture companies that use substrate cultivation with drippers. Will have to prove its reliability in practice, if it is to turn out to be a true innovation.

Klimrek (stand 09.0407) – Anti-condensation treatment unit for glass

Anti-condensation treatment of the greenhouse roof with this truss carrier fitted with spray heads produces between 6 and 9% light gain and energy savings of 11%.

Jury: Enormous potential savings with a relatively simple invention. Just like other Klimrek inventions, this is based entirely on the use of U-shaped sections for (automated) operations at right angles to the roof bays at the top of the greenhouse.

KUBO Tuinbouwprojecten B.V. (stand 11.0202) –Ultra Clima® double air hose

This double air hose evenly distributes the temperature in the greenhouse both horizontally and vertically, as well as ensuring better air flow and lower power consumption.

Jury: an innovation that uses a proven, simple but effective counterflow system and has the potential to achieve a breakthrough in Cultivation New Style.

Mardenkro B.V. (stand 08-0203) – ReduFuse

This removable coating uses a simple method to convert direct solar radiation into diffuse light that penetrates more deeply into crops and ensures a lower plant temperature. Crops grow more strongly as a result and crop yield and quality increase.

Jury: It works in practice in horticulture, although further fine tuning will be needed in the next growing season.

Maurice Kassenbouw B.V. (stand 11.0412) – Air & Energy Kas™

A greenhouse with a ventilation system for controlling moisture balance by means of separate systems for the supply of fresh dry air and recirculation. The system is equipped with heat recovery air exchangers, so that no heat has to be supplied. This ensures that no loss of energy occurs during ventilation, reducing investment and operating costs as a result.

Jury: The dehumidification of greenhouse air demands the most efficient possible application of energy. The way in which this innovation uses relatively dry outside air contributes to the lowest possible consumption of energy for this process.

Penn-Textile Solutions (stand 08.0429) – OMBRA-DLS

OMBRA Dynamic Light Management Solutions manages dynamic shadow in a range of 8% to 65% light ingress in the greenhouse. The thermal resistance of the cloth enables energy saving and shadow management with a single screen instead of several.

Jury: a stretch screen that regulates light transmission by rolling-up. Innovative, but the long-term effect still has to be demonstrated.

Van der Ende Groep (stand 11.0308) – Precision Spray

Mounted on a sorter, this system applies crop protection substances to flower buds very precisely and efficiently, by spraying a mixture of crop, protector and air from three directions. Only a minimum quantity of the substance is needed, because the dose for each nozzle and batch is easily adjusted.

Jury: enables pinpointed post-harvest treatment of flowers to prevent Botrytis during the sales phase. Could possibly be extended to include the addition of fragrances ...

The 3 nominees in the 'Green, new plants, cultivars' category are:**Hilverda Kooij B.V. (stand 10.0404) – Alstroemeria Indian Summer 'Tesronto'**

The distinguishing features of this perennial border alstroemeria are the colour combination of orange/yellow flowers with dark green/black leaves, the plant habit, and prolonged flowering period from early spring to late autumn.

Jury: an unusual perennial, new for many gardens.

Corn. Bak B.V. (stand 10.0303) – Florinilla® 'Bella'^[P]

The compact habit of this Medinilla, in combination with a waterfall of vivid pink inflorescences makes it a wonderful new asset in the flowering ornamental plants segment.

Jury: new shape and colour, very different to the standard.

Corn. Bak B.V. (stand 10.0303) – Vriesea 'Vision'^[P]

An easily grown plant that is suitable for the 12 cm pot and has a striking appearance, due to its bright yellow inflorescence that contrasts beautifully with the red stem.

Jury: beautiful branching inflorescence, a rich addition to the range.

www.hortifair.nl

The Horti Fair 2011 is in the Amsterdam RAI from 1 to 4 November inclusive and is open from 10.00 to 19.00 hours every day. Trade visitors have free admission if they register online in advance at www.hortifair.nl. All the latest information, including the new products, is available at www.hortifair.nl.