

AIPH INTERNATIONAL GROWER OF THE YEAR 2027

# HOW TO ENTER

## Entries close 27th September 2026

AIPH fci




2026 Gold Rose Winner Hillier Nurseries, UK, with Linda Hoogendoorn-Veelenturf, CEO of Headline Sponsor MPS Group

# SHOWCASE YOUR HORTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE



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

## The AIPH International Grower of the Year (IGOTY) Awards recognise best practice in horticultural production by the top ornamental production nurseries from around the globe, celebrating the expertise and energy they give to horticulture.

The international jury will look for excellence in five key areas:

- Economic performance
- Level of innovation
- Market orientation
- Environmental standards
- Human resource policy

Since the Awards were established, finalists from around the world have been recognised for their achievements, representing some of the most innovative and successful ornamental production businesses in the industry. Previous winners have demonstrated excellence in areas including sustainable production, technological innovation, people development, market leadership, and environmental stewardship.

We encourage any grower that believes in what they are doing and believes that they are the best to enter this global contest.



Leonardo Capitanio
AIPH President



Tim Briercliffe
AIPH Secretary General

# WHY ENTER?

Entering the IGOTY Awards demonstrates your company's commitment to quality, innovation and best practice while raising your company's profile across the international horticultural industry.

By entering, you can:

- Gain international recognition as a leading grower
- Showcase your business and best practices to a global industry audience.
- Enhance your reputation with customers, retailers and supply chain partners.
- Attract new business opportunities and international connections.
- Celebrate and motivate your team by recognising their achievements.
- Demonstrate leadership in quality, innovation and sustainability.
- Create valuable marketing and promotional content for your business.
- Benefit from international media coverage through AIPH and its partners, including FloraCulture International.

An IGOTY Award is more than a trophy - it is an internationally recognised endorsement of your business. Winners join an elite group of growers recognised for excellence, with global trade media coverage helping to raise your profile and reinforce your reputation as one of the world's leading horticultural producers.










"The International Grower of the Year Awards felt like the right platform to pause and reflect on how our business has evolved. While our heritage is an important part of who we are, it allowed us to demonstrate how we are continuing to adapt, combining tradition with innovation, and growth with responsibility."

Adam Dunnett, Production & Amenity Director,
Hillier Nurseries, UK - International Grower of the Year 2026



# CATEGORIES

**Finished Plants and Trees:** Growers of plants and trees that are ready for final sale.

**Young Plants:** Growers of cuttings, plugs, liners, seedlings, etc, which are sold for growing on.

**Cut Flowers and Bulbs:** Producers of flowers and foliage which are cut for indoor decorative use and bulbs.

**Sustainability:** All award entrants will be invited to put their business forward for the AIPH Sustainability Award. The award will recognise best practice and innovation in improving sustainability in areas including water use, chemical use, climate change, energy use, transportation, labour management and social standards.

**Gold Rose:** From among 'Finished Plants & Trees', 'Young Plants', and 'Cut Flowers & Bulbs' categories, only one winner will be crowned the 'AIPH International Grower of the Year 2027' and receive the 'Gold Rose' – the industry's most coveted prize.

# KEY DATES

1. **27th Sep 2026** — Deadline to submit an entry
2. **Oct/Nov 2026** — Judging by the international Jury
3. **November 2026** — Announcement of date and location of Awards Ceremony
4. **December 2026** — Announcement of Finalists
5. **2027** — Awards Ceremony

# ROUTES TO ENTRY

There are three routes for entering the AIPH International Grower of the Year Awards.

## Nomination by an AIPH member

AIPH members are organisations that represent the interests of ornamentals growers in their countries and regions. AIPH members are entitled to nominate entrants; visit www.aiph.org to view the current AIPH member list. Each AIPH member can nominate a maximum of three entrants per category, either from the results of a national competition or by acting as a trade reference where there is no national competition.

## National Trade Organisations

Where there is no AIPH member in their home country, entrants should be nominated by a national trade organisation based in their home country. National trade organisations can nominate a maximum of three entrants per category eitherthrough a national competition or by acting as a trade reference. View the 'Rules and Procedures' document for restrictions on who can act as a trade reference.

## Direct Application

Where there is no national trade organisation, or if a grower has no links to a national trade organisation in their home country, they can nominate themselves, but will be expected to provide a minimum of two trade references. View the 'Rules and Procedures' document for restrictions on who can act as a trade reference.

AIPH may contact the organisation(s) that have nominated or acted as trade references for each entrant to verify the information given.



"We were absolutely delighted to have won these awards and receive recognition on this international platform. The experience was wonderful, from the excellent awards ceremony to the communications we received for weeks afterwards."

Melanie Asker,
Former Managing Director,
Greenwood Plants, UK
International Grower of the Year 2024



## PREVIOUS GOLD ROSE WINNERS

**2026:** Hillier Nurseries, UK

**2025:** La Gaitana Farms, Colombia

**2024:** Greenwood Plants, UK

**2023:** Brookdale Treeland Nurseries Ltd, Canada

**2022:** Metrolina Greenhouses, USA

**2020:** Anthura BV, Netherlands

**2019:** Gediflora, Belgium

**2018:** Ter Laak Orchids, Netherlands

**2017:** Flores El Capiro S.A., Colombia

**2016:** Costa Farms, USA

**2014:** Schoneveld Nurseries, Netherlands

**2013:** Sheridan Nurseries, Canada

**2012:** Sheridan Nurseries, Canada

**2011:** Bylands, Canada

**2010:** Hillier Nurseries, UK

**2009:** Sylva van Hulle, Belgium




# HOW TO ENTER

The procedure to enter the AIPH International Grower of the Year is designed to be simple and not time-consuming. All you need to do is fill in the online submission form.

## 1) Select your category

- Finished Plants & Trees
- Young Plants
- Cut Flowers & Bulbs

You can enter more than one category. In order to be considered for the Sustainability Award, you will need to have entered one of the other categories.

## 2) Complete your entry

Answer every question on entry form. Supply as much information as possible and supply supporting documentation if necessary.

## 3) Secure your nomination or reference

Complete the trade reference form.

Are you being nominated by an AIPH member or a national trade body, or do you need to collect trade references? Contact the AIPH member, national trade body or trade references now to ensure they are happy to nominate you/ act as a trade reference. Sign off your entry and send your completed entry to your nominator or trade references for their review and sign off.

## 4) Submit your entry

We look forward to receiving your entry!

**START YOUR ENTRY**

# LAST YEAR'S WINNERS

## Finished Plants and Trees

WINNER — Hillier Established 1864

FINALIST — Fitoralia

FINALIST — KWEKERIJ Dirk Mermans

## Young Plants

WINNER — 龙沙特科 LONGCHI PHINY

FINALIST — 逸美园艺 COMFORTABLE & BEAUTIFUL HORTICULTURE

FINALIST — 蓝翔园艺 Smile Seeds

## Cut Flowers and Bulbs

WINNER

FINALIST — capiro

FINALIST — Herburg ROSES

## Sustainability

WINNER — Hillier Established 1864

FINALIST — capiro

FINALIST — Herburg ROSES

FINALIST — KASIMA

FINALIST






2026 Cut Flowrs & Bulbs Winner Holyflora, China, with AIPH Secretary General Tim Briercliffe and AIPH President Leonardo Capitanio

AIPH

For more information, visit www.aiph.org/events/igoty or contact AIPH at events@aiph.org.

We look forward to receiving your entry!




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