

California Single Winners For Four Decades and Multiple Winners For Three Decades (1980 - 2019) By Don Bergamini

I have compiled these winners in California from 1980 to 2019. These cultivars have won best or runner-up in their respective categories to make the list. The first column lists the year of introduction. The second column lists the name of the cultivar. The third, fifth, seventh and ninth columns list the rank in each decade. The fourth, sixth, eighth and tenth columns list the number of wins in each decade. The eleventh column lists the total number of wins over the forty years of being shown. You will notice that some columns have a dash. If the column has a dash then either the cultivar had not been introduced yet or the cultivar did not get two or more wins in that decade.

These statistics show what cultivars, as they were introduced, became competitors at the trophy table very quickly. In the single entry classes Julius Nuccio, Ferris Wheel, Red Devil Var, Linda Lee Ehrhart, Barbara Goff and Showboat were the big winners in the decade from 2010 to present. Cultivars that were introduced from 2000 to 2009 and have been successful for twenty years are Nuccio's Bella Rossa Var, Happy Harlequin, Toichi Domoto, Tama Peacock, Red Devil, Cabernet, Chris Bergamini, Moonrise, Senritsu Ko, and Autumn Jewel.

Cultivars that have remained as the top twelve trophy winners for forty years are as follows: Lady Laura, Carter's Sunburst, Royal Velvet, Elegans Splendor, Miss Charleston Var, Katie Var, Elegans Champagne, Margaret Davis, Betty Foy Sanders, Nuccio's Jewel, Cherries Jubilee, Nuccio's Gem, Demi-Tasse, Ave Maria, Little Babe Var, Maroon and Gold, Man Size, Grace Albritton, Little Michael, Lemon Drop, Kewpie Doll, Little Slam Var, Valentine Day, Harold Paige, Miss Tulare, Waltz Time Var, Julie Var, Pink Dahlia, and Angel Wings.

I would be remiss to not mention some very good cultivars that have remained in the winners circle for thirty years after being introduced. They are Junior Prom, Royal Velvet Var, Dusty, Nuccio's Carousel, Elaine's Betty, Fire Dance Var, Spring Daze, Red Hots, Something Beautiful, Frank Houser, Frank Houser Var, Ruta Hagmann, John Hunt, Larry Piet, Crinoline, Linda Carol, and Lucky Star.

The multiple categories have only three decades of statistics, because I was not keeping track of them in the eighties.

In the multiple classes, those cultivars that have consistently been in the top twelve for thirty years are Nuccio's Carousel, Royal Velvet, Magnoliaeflora, Wildfire, Red Hots, Freedom Bell, Man Size, Pink Perfection, Hishi-Karaito,

Maroon and Gold, Night Rider, Spring Daze, Valley Knudsen, Dr. Clifford Parks, Miss Tulare, Emma Gaeta Var, Valentine Day, Waltz Time Var, Lucky Star, Nicky Crisp, and Buttons N' Bows.

The cultivars with 100 or more wins over this period of forty years regardless of when they were introduced are:

In the single entry classes they are Royal Velvet (163), Frank Houser (148), Miss Charleston Var. (143), Pink Dahlia (141), Grace Albritton (140), Egao (139), Waltz Time Var (129), Spring Daze (126), Harold Paige (126), Nuccio's Jewel (125), Elsie Jury (124), Margaret Davis (121), Man Size (121), Emma Gaeta Var (121), Red Hots (118), Frank Houser Var (115), Lady Laura (115), Shibori Egao (114), Dr. Clifford Parks (109), Julie Var (109), and Elegans Champagne (104).

In the multiple entry classes they are Royal Velvet (199), Nuccio's Carousel (179), Frank Houser (157), Man Size (140), Red Hots (137), Pink Perfection (132), and Freedom Bell (107).

My suggestions for a small space and a chance of winning at the shows are 1) Royal Velvet, 2) Frank Houser, 3) Nuccio's Carousel, 4) Man Size, 5) Red Hots, 6) Waltz Time Var, 7) Nuccio's Carousel, 8) Margaret Davis, 9) Emma Gaeta Var, and 10) Pink Dahlia.

I hope you find these statistics interesting as well as enlightening as to how the judging has been consistent or inconsistent in what is being put up as winners, Those of you who are just starting out in camellias or have been involved a short time should look at what are the most consistent winners. If you are limited in space in your gardens, then this will help you pick those cultivars that seem to have a better chance of taking home trophies, I hope you enjoy this article as much as I did compiling it.