



CNGA Award Winners

Annually CNGA accepts nominations for consideration for the following awards. Members nominate individuals (more than one per award is allowed) for the award listed below. Here is a compilation of all past winners.

Hall of Fame: Is a prestigious award presented to an individual who, throughout their career, has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the industry resulting in overall improvements to the industry.

2025 - Terry Shaw and Sharon Harding-Shaw, Harding Nursery
2024- Bill Kluth, Tagawa Greenhouse Enterprises
2023 - Harriett McMillan, Echter's Nursery & Garden Center; Mandy Gerace, Syngenta Flowers (posthumously)
2022 - Debi Borden-Miller, Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association; David Salman, High Country Gardens (posthumously)
2021 - Ron Arpin, Little Valley Wholesale Nursery; Dennis Hill, Bookcliff Gardens
2020 - Andrew Lisignoli, NMCNP, Trees of Corrales; Michelle Krumdieck, CCNP, Sunshine Horticulture (posthumously)
2019 - Ray Daugherty, CCNP, Front Range Community College
2018 - None submitted
2017 - Kent Broome, Baxter Nursery
2016 - Kevin Laman, Bath, Inc. & Al Gerace, Welby Gardens
2015 - Steve Echter, Echers Greenhouses & Tom Halverstadt, Arbor Valley Nursery
2014- Les Ratekin, Ratekin Enterprises
2013 - Sharon Harris, CNGA & Don Dykstra - Dalor Enterprises
2012 - John Pinder, Little Valley Wholesale Nursery
2011- Gene Pielin, Gully Greenhouse & Dale De Jacamo, James Nursery
2010 - Frank Yantorno - Center Greenhouse & Mike Jeronimus - Boxelder Creek Nursery
2009 - Mike Gilsdorf, Arapahoe Acres & Thomas Bath, Bath, Inc.
2008 - Dave Edmundson, Arbor Valley Nursery
2007 - Merle Moore & Gary Epstein, Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
2006 - Carl Anderson, Arapahoe Acres Nursery & George Brinkmann
2005 - Panayoti Kelaidis, Denver Botanic Gardens
2004 - Robert Heath, RRH, Inc.
2003 - Jake Spahn, The Tree Farm
2002 - Stan Brown, Jr., Alameda Wholesale Nursery & Mike Paulino, Paulino Gardens
2001 - Ken Jeronimus, Green Acres Nursery
2000 - Daryl Hall
1999 - Rick Schubert, Rick's Nursery & Jim O'Shea
1998 - Don Frazier, Greenside Nursery & Landscaping
1997 - Betty & Glen Bechtholdt
1996 - Billie Harding, Harding's Nursery & Jim Burns
1995 - Cary & Judie Hall
1994 - Harold Ehmann, Deck Brady, Bea Blair & Ed Settle
1993 - John Malik
1992 - Charles Weddle & Leonard Woodman

1991 - Lucille Beilhartz, Marvin Wood & Alvoy Ekblad
1990 - Carlisle Ferguson, Steven H. James & Larry E. Watson, Plants for Today & Tomorrow
1989 - Wayne Nuzum, Ken Wilmore & Kenny Sampley
1988 - Steve Driftmier & Dr. James Klett, Colorado State University
1987 - Art Langman & Clara Wieder
1986 - Robert Woodman & Harry Swift
1984 - Gilbert Hall
1981 - Stan Brown, Sr., Alameda Wholesale Nursery
1980 - Gene Eyerly
1975 - Dr. James Feucht, Pat Gallavan, Herb Gundell, George Kelly, A.R. Langman, Sr., Charles Wilmore & Scott Wilmore
1966 - George Amidon
1960 - Noel Wygant, Virgil Johnson
1955 - D.W. Spangler

CNGA Person on the Year: Recognizes an individual who in the last 12 months has made a positive impact on the regional horticulture industry through their involvement, actions or participation in the promotion of professionalism, creativity and involvement for the betterment of the industry.

2025 - Jeremy Friedman
2024 - None submitted
2023 - None submitted
2022 - Jack Fetig, Fossil Creek Nursery
2021 - None submitted
2020 - Nate Douglas, CCNP, Arbor Valley Nursery; Jeremy Valdez, CCNP, JV Trees; Keith Williamson, CCNP, Little Valley Wholesale Nursery
2019 - Dr. Ajay Menon, Colorado State University
2018 - Bridget Blomquist, Denver Botanic Gardens
2017 - Diana Reavis, Eason Horticultural Resources
2016 & 2015 - None Submitted
2014- Gene Pielin, Gully Greenhouse
2013 - Laura Pottorff, Colorado Department of Agriculture
2012 - Brian Vogt - Denver Botanic Gardens
2011 - Pat Hayward, Plant Select
2010 - Andrew Lisignoli, Trees of Corrales
2009 - No award presented.
2008 - Mike Gilsdorf, Arapahoe Acres Nursery
2007 - Bill Kluth, Tagawa Greenhouses, Inc.
2006 - Marc Johnson, Colorado State University & Mike Skiff, Arapahoe Acres Nursery
2005 - John Pinder, Little Valley Wholesale Nursery
2004 - Harriett McMillan, Echter's Nursery & Garden Center
2003 - Sharon Harris, Former CNA
2002 - Tom Cramer
2001 - Mike Gilsdorf, Arapahoe Acres Nursery
2000 - Dennis Hill, Bookcliff Gardens
1999 - Bob Lefevre, James Nursery Company
1998 - John Pinder, Little Valley Wholesale Nursery
1997 - Dale DeJacamo, James Nursery Company

1996 - Don McGirr
1995 - Keith Williamson, Little Valley Wholesale Nursery
1994 - Mike Gilsdorf, Arapahoe Acres Nursery
1993 - Gary Epstein, Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
1992 - Pat Hayward
1991 & 1989 - Don Dykstra, Dalor Enterprises
1987 - Steve Driftmier
1986 - Robert Woodman
1980 - Don Ida & Don Weaver
1976 - Gilbert Hall
1973 - Herb Gundell

Horizon Award: Acknowledges an individual who has been in the industry less than five years, exhibits the qualities and high standards exemplifying CNGA, and during that time has made a significant contribution to a CNGA firm.

2025 - Griff Wirth, Echter's; Angie Essex, Gulley Greenhouse
2024 - Emily McAuley, CGG, Denver Botanic Gardens; Ben Gregory, Blooma Farms
2023 - Megan Gerrard, James Nursery; Joel Russell, Echter's Nursery & Garden Center; Lauryn Schriener, Gulley Greenhouse; Rachel Ward, Blooma Farms
2022 - Megan Brown, Alameda Wholesale Nursery; Emily Helmus, CCNP, CGG, Arbor Valley Nursery; Emily McAuley, CGG, Denver Botanic Gardens - Chatfield Farms
2021 - Carol Clifford, James Nursery; Gracy Kanan, CCNP, Echter's Nursery & Garden Center; Molly Kincaid, CCNP, Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
2020 - Craig Breuker, Pine Lane Nursery; Pixie Caballero, Echter's Nursery & Garden Center; Jessica McCool, Little Valley Wholesale Nursery; Alex Norell, Gulley Greenhouse
2019 - Corrine Bostrom, Arbor Valley Nursery
2019 - Kathleen McGuar, Plantivity
2018 - Daniel Corse, CCNP, Echter's Nursery & Garden Center
2018 - Julie Echter, Echter's Nursery & Garden Center
2018 - Michael Schleining, Arbor Valley Nursery
2018 - Brian Steele, Britton Nursery
2018 - Melissa Streitmatter, Fort Collins Nursery
2018 - Kevin Williams, Denver Botanic Gardens
2017 - Sarah Wong Cooper, Silver Sage Garden Center
2017 - Shannon Eversley, Fort Collins Nursery
2017 - Alex Tisthammer, Fort Collins Nursery
2016 - Caitlin Bird, Fort Collins Nursery
2015 - Whitney McMillan, Echter's Nursery & Garden Center
2014 - Matthew Cunningham, Britton Nursery
2013 - no recipient
2012 - Angie Hughes, Hughes Nursery & Jeremy Friedman - Brown's Greenhouse
2011 - Michelle Heronema; Nick Gerace, Welby Gardens; & Peter Mendicino, Arbor Valley Nursery
2010 - Quinn Farrington, Echter's Nursery & Garden Center
2009 - Michelle Cadena, Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
2008 - Kerri Griess Dantino, Plants for Today & Tomorrow & Ken Cline, Arapahoe Acres Nursery
2007 - Joe Haskett, James Nursery Company & Devon Hukill, Country Fair at WestWoods
2006 - Celia Tannehill, Fort Collins Nursery & Katrina Leese, Center Greenhouse

2005 - Kelly Foster, Cherry Creek Tree Farms & Mary Jane Sosler, Arapahoe Acres Nursery
2003 - Thomas Gallegos & Antonio Mendez
2001 - William Howell
2000 - Marcy Edwards
1999 - Tanya Bruno
1997 - Nancy Furman
1996 - Debi Shaw
1995 - Betsy Baldwin-Owens, Sun Chaser Natives
1994 - August "Ned" Noack
1992 - Richard Edmundson
1991 - Jan Tunner
1989 - Don Anderson
1988 - Rosalee Janssen

Exemplary Service: Given to an individual who is in the industry and employed by a CNGA Member firm. This individual exhibits the qualities and high standards exemplifying CNGA, has made a significant contribution to a CNGA firm and represents the best of the industry.

2025 – Gail McMahon, Fort Collins Retail Nursery; Betsy Kelson, Jared’s
2024 – Sheila Prentice, CCNP, Extension Specialist – CSU Extension, Boulder County; Kelly Kellow, CGG, Gardens on Spring Creek; Curtis Manning, Blooma Farms & Meadow Pro Landscape
2023 – David Staats, Colorado State University
2022 – Dan Gerace, Welby Gardens/Hardy Boy Plants; Ben Northcutt, Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association; Diana Reavis, Eason Horticultural Resources
2021 – Ezequiel Villanueva, CGG, Global Green Education; Young Hort Professionals Group – Ashley Brinegar, Botany Lane Greenhouse; Nicolette Malfitano, Tagawa Greenhouse Enterprises; Michael Schleining, CCNP, Arbor Valley Nursery; Jason Shimmel, CCNP, Arbor Valley Nursery
2020 – Jim Mueller, CPS Distributors; Ross Shrigley, Plant Select
2019 – Tracey Toning, Alameda Wholesale Nursery
2018 – John Navant, CCNP, Highland Hills Park & Recreation District
2018 – Bobbi Sexton, Harding Nursery