

APS Best In Show – AKA...’Grand Champion’ or ‘Queen of the Show’



Each year, the American Peony Society, sponsors and organizes a peony flower exhibition, in conjunction with the annual convention. Growers, gardeners and peony enthusiast gather to have their best flowers evaluated and viewed by the public during the show. Flowers from a wide range of peony plant groups can typically be seen, as well as, bloom from some of the newest and most unique introductions. Exhibitors bring transport their flowers from many locations originating in North America, allowing visitor to the show the many varied bloom times of peonies all at once.

With great anticipation and excitement, the exhibitors prepare their flowers for judging the evening before judging. Judges evaluate each bloom in various divisions and award worthy flowers that meet definitive criteria. The best flowers from each division are selected and further awarded, and further selections are made to determine a number of other awards.

When all is said and done, the coveted ‘Best in Show’ is awarded to the most outstanding flower. The American Peony Society Best in Show award is the highest honor a peony can receive in our annual flower exhibition. This award is also known as the Grand Champion, and the winning flower is often called Queen of the Show.

Year	Location	Cultivar	Exhibitor
1925	Philadelphia, PA	<i>Therese</i>	Movilla Gardens
1926	Fort Wayne, IN	<i>Le Cygne</i>	Franklin B. Mead - Fort Wayne, Indiana
1927	Peoria, IL	<i>Tourangelle</i>	Mrs. Dean Funk – McLean, Illinois
1931	Fort Wayne, IN	<i>Solange</i>	Tom Knipe - Kokomo, Indiana
1934	St. Paul, MN	<i>Hansina Brand</i>	Mrs. A.S. Gowen - St. Paul, Minnesota
1935	Boston, MA	<i>Avalanche</i>	Cherry Hill Nurseries
1937	Lincoln, NE	<i>Mrs. J.V. Edlund</i>	J.A. Bongers – Ottumwa, Iowa
1938	Lansing, MI	<i>Harry F. Little</i>	Harry F. Little - Defiance, Ohio
1941	Syracuse, NY	<i>Blanche King</i>	Harry F. Little - Defiance, Ohio
1942	Topeka, KS	<i>Mrs. R.M. Bacheller</i>	Judge Vories Peony Farm - St. Joseph, Missouri
1945	Minneapolis, MN	<i>Martha Bullock</i>	R.C. Schneider - St. Paul, Minnesota
		<i>Hansina Brand</i>	A.L. Volz - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1946	Rockford, IL	<i>Hybrid: Illini Belle</i>	M.C. Karrels - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1947	Boston, MA	<i>Blanche King</i>	Myron Bigger - Topeka, Kansas

1951	Cleveland, OH	<i>Red Charm</i>	M.C. Karrels - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1952	Sparta, NJ	<i>Nancy Nicholls</i>	N.R. Van Loon - Newton, New Jersey
1953	Kansas City, MO	<i>May Delight</i>	Elizabeth Falk - Plainfield, Illinois
1954	Minneapolis, MN	<i>Ann Cousins</i>	D.S. Hyde - Chicago, Illinois
1955	Chicago, IL	<i>James Pillow</i>	D.S. Hyde - Chicago, Illinois
1956	Dixon, IL	<i>Le Cygne</i>	Marvin Karrels - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1958	Minneapolis, MN	<i>Doris Cooper</i>	Glenn Greaves - St. Paul, Minnesota
1959	Grand Forks, ND	<i>Hansina Brand</i>	Loyde Thompson - Grand Forks, North Dakota
1960	Van Wert, OH	<i>Le Cygne</i>	D. Sanford Hyde - Chicago, Illinois
1961	Minneapolis, MN	<i>Frances Mains</i>	Walter Mains - Belle Center, Ohio
1962	Minneapolis, MN	<i>Minuet</i>	Loyde Thompson - Grand Forks, North Dakota
		<i>Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt</i>	
1963	Mansfield, OH	<i>Roosevelt</i>	Clarence Lienau - Detroit, Michigan
1964	Grand Forks, ND	<i>Hansina Brand</i>	W.G. Sindt - Minneapolis, Minnesota
1965	Sparta, NJ	<i>Red Charm</i>	Frank L. Howell - Newton, New Jersey
1966	Mansfield, OH	<i>Annisquam</i>	Marvin Karrels, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1967	Detroit, MI	<i>Doris Cooper</i>	Walter Alexander - Bowling Green, Ohio
1968	Milwaukee, WI	<i>Carol</i>	Clarence Lienau - Detroit, Michigan
1969	Mansfield, OH	<i>Nick Shaylor</i>	Clarence Lienau - Detroit, Michigan
1970	Lisle, IL	<i>Cytherea</i>	Marvin Karrels - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1971	Edina, MN	<i>Douglas Brand</i>	Brand Peony Farms - Faribault, Minnesota
1972	Mansfield, OH	<i>Spellbinder</i>	Marvin Karrels - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1973	Milwaukee, WI	<i>Dinner Plate</i>	Roy G. Klehm - Barrington, Illinois
1974	Hamilton, Ontario	<i>Princess Margaret</i>	Frank Howell - Newton, New Jersey
1975	Mansfield, OH	<i>Robert W. Auten</i>	Marvin Karrels - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1976	Minnetonka, MN	<i>Cytherea</i>	Marvin Karrels - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
	Champagne-		
1977	Urbana, IL	<i>James Pillow</i>	Clarence Lienau - Detroit, Michigan
1978	Mansfield, OH	<i>Princess Margaret</i>	W.G. Sindt - Minneapolis, Minnesota
	Champagne-		
1979	Urbana, IL	<i>Yachiyo Tsubaki</i>	Kit Klehm - Arlington Heights, Illinois
1980	Ithaca, NY	<i>Miss America</i>	Frank Howell - Newton, New Jersey
1981	Mansfield, OH	<i>Douglas Brand</i>	W.G. Sindt - Afton, Minnesota
1982	Hamilton, Ontario	<i>Haku Raku Ten</i>	John Simkins - Oakville, Ontario, Canada
1983	Milwaukee, WI	<i>Cytherea</i>	Marvin Karrels - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
		<i>Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt</i>	
1984	Mansfield, OH	<i>Roosevelt</i>	Robert Schmidt - Brecksville, Ohio
1985	Mahomet, IL	<i>Hansina Brand</i>	C.F. Spangler - Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin
1986	St. Anthony, MN	<i>Minnie Shaylor</i>	Carroll Spangler - Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin
1987	Mansfield, OH	<i>High Noon</i>	Carroll Spangler - Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin
1988	Glencoe, IL	<i>Pink Derby</i>	Robert Schmidt - Brecksville, Ohio
1989	Janesville, WI	<i>Robert W. Auten</i>	Robert Schmidt - Brecksville, Ohio
1990	Mansfield, OH	<i>Etched Salmon</i>	Carl Klehm - South Barrington, Illinois
1991	Hamilton, Ontario	<i>Ruffled Sunset</i>	Reath Nursery - Vulcan, Michigan
1992	Des Plaines, IL	<i>Kamada Nishiki</i>	Joe Glocka - West Allis, Wisconsin
1993	Mansfield, OH	<i>Yellow Emperor</i>	Robert Schmidt - Brecksville, Ohio
1994	Glencoe, IL	<i>Bowl Of Cream</i>	Roy Klehm - South Barrington, Illinois

1995	Kalamazoo, MI	<i>Kamada Nishiki</i>	C.F. Spangler - Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin
1996	Mansfield, OH	<i>Nancy Nicholls</i>	Don Hollingsworth - Maryville, Missouri
1997	Hamilton, Ontario	<i>Lois Elaine Laning</i>	Peter (Chris) Laning - Kalamazoo, Michigan
1998	Blaine, MN	<i>Command Performance</i>	Don & Lavon Hollingsworth - Maryville, Missouri
1999	Mansfield, OH	<i>Moonstone</i>	Floyd Kimball - Stillwater, Minnesota
2000	Milwaukee, WI	<i>Lemon Chiffon</i>	Scott Reath - Vulcan, Michigan
2001	Hamilton, Ontario	<i>Garden Treasure</i>	Peter (Chris) Laning - Kalamazoo, Michigan
2002	Madison, WI	<i>Bartzella</i>	Mike Jones - Sioux City, Iowa
2003	Chanhassen, MN	<i>Coral Charm</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2004	Mansfield, OH	<i>Garden Treasure</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2005	Portland, ME	<i>Garden Treasure</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2006	Swarthmore, PA	<i>Coral Charm</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2007	Kansas City, MO	<i>Garden Treasure</i>	Don Hollingsworth - Maryville, Missouri
2008	Bloomington, MN	<i>Brother Chuck</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2009	Mansfield, OH	<i>Stellar Charm</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2010	Janesville, WI	<i>Flying Pink Saucer</i>	Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm - Avalon, Wisconsin
2011	Wilsonville, OR	<i>Bob</i>	Brooks Gardens - Brooks, Oregon
2012	Omaha, NE	<i>Hephestos</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2013	Kennett Square, PA	<i>Boreas</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2014	Mansfield, OH	<i>Illini Belle</i>	Blossom Hill Nursery - Selwyn, Ontario, Canada
2015	Louisville, KY	<i>Salmon Dream</i>	Hollingsworth Peonies - Hockessin, Delaware
2016	Green Bay, WI	<i>Pastelegance</i>	Solaris Farms - Reedsville, Wisconsin
2017	Raleigh, NC	<i>Hephestos</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2018	Portland, OR	<i>Lavon</i>	Brooks Gardens - Brooks, Oregon
2019	Ames, IA	<i>Norma Volz</i>	Mike Miller- Chillicothe, Ohio
2022	Ann Arbor, MI	<i>Pastelegance</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2023	Syracuse, NY	<i>Sonoma YeDo</i>	Adelman Peony Gardens - Salem, Oregon
2024	Bloomington, MN	<i>Romance</i>	David & Linette Sorrentino - Chaska, MN