

New Night-Blooming Aquatic Plants

April 22, 2010

Aquatic plant hybridizers have introduced few new night-blooming aquatic plants recently. This year, however, no fewer than four new hybrids are entered in International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society's New Waterlily Competition.

Hibiscus Sunrise (Courtesy of Florida Aquatic Nurseries)The names of the cultivars and the growers will remain a secret until the society announces competition results in August. In the meantime, visitors can see photos of the contenders -- and vote for their favorites -- at Sarah P. Duke Gardens' website.

The IWGS announces the results of the People's Choice Awards in September. Those visiting Durham, N.C., between July and September can visit Duke Gardens' waterlilies.

In addition, Florida Aquatic Nurseries is releasing Hibiscus Sunrise this year. The flower features pale yellow petals and a crimson throat. It blooms in the early morning, closing around 10 a.m., said Brandon McLane, vice president of Florida Aquatic Nurseries. He said owners can use Hibiscus Sunrise in shallow areas of the pond or as a landscape plant.