

Medinilla magnifica is named Favourite Office Plant of the Year

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We're thrilled to announce that the showy *Medinilla magnifica* with its large hanging pink flowers (bracts) is the judges' choice for Favourite Office Plant of the Year.



The Philippine orchid to give it its common name fitted the criteria of

- Ease of care in a commercial environment
- Best for relieving stress
- Best for cleaning the air

With its show-stopping good looks, it makes a wonderful alternative to orchids for reception desks in commercial buildings or in hotels.



What the judges thought

It was a unanimous decision by the judges present: Matthew Appleby of Horticulture Week, Rhiannon James of The City Planter and Rona Wheeldon author of the very successful Flowerona blog.



From L -R: Chair of judges Ian Drummond, Rona Wheeldon, Rhiannon James, Matthew Appleby

This year we had three UK judges, Jim and Lisa Wilkinson of Pro Landscaper and Claudia de Yong and two Americans, Joe Zazzera President of Green Plants for Green Buildings and Kathy Fediw editor of i-Plants who couldn't be present but sent in the choices. Several of these votes also went to the Medinilla making it the overall winner.

A show-stopping favourite

Award-winning garden designer Claudia de Yong confirmed, "The Medinilla magnifica would look really eye-catching on a desk or at reception due to its pendulous blooms. It would be a real discussion point as well as serving a purpose and looking good."





"Hands down, my vote goes to *Medinilla magnifica*," was the reaction of American editor of several horticultural magazines, Kathy Fediw.

"I saw this for the first time in a conservatory in New Zealand, and then again at the Tropical Plant Industry Expo in Florida a few years ago. In my opinion, it is a gorgeous plant that is a real show-stopper. It looks spectacular in a vertical, urn-shaped container with those exotic flowers (bracts) draping down over the edges.

"Can you tell this is one of my favourites?"

The runners-up were the *Ficus lyrata* or Fiddle leaf fig and the retro *Monstera* aka Swiss Cheese plant which is making a big come-back.





Top Ficus lyrata - all in a row and below: making a come-back, monstera aka Swiss cheese plant



Good pedigree

Medinilla magnifica follows in the footsteps of some other great plants to achieve the accolade of Office Plant of the Year including:

Beaucarnia Bonsai

Phalaenopsis Orchid

Vanda Orchid

Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum)

Echeveria

Don't forget

- All plants clean the air just that some do it faster!
- All plants relieve stress – it's because we love having a little bit of nature around us, even indoors
- Research from 2014 found that plants help to improve productivity by as much as 15%
- Views of green plants help concentration



Image courtesy of efig member Interior Landscaping products

