

# Dianthus given highest honour

Excellence in British horticulture has just been celebrated at the UK's prestigious 'Grower of the Year' Awards for 2013. The awards recognised those companies who continue to demonstrate innovation and have contributed in an outstanding manner to the industry.

Whetman Pinks, breeders and growers of the world renowned Dianthus 'Scent First' Collection were proud recipients of the Gold Award for Grower of the Year - Ornamentals 2013.

The nursery produces over 5.5 millions cuttings each year and their Dianthus are enjoyed around the world with licences now across Europe, Australia, USA, Japan and South Africa. Whetmans have a global reputation for quality combined with ambition and professional drive. Whetman Pinks is a family owned company, steeped in tradition and have been dedicated to Dianthus breeding for over 75 years.

Traditionally Dianthus have been viewed as cheap and cheerful garden flowers but Whetmans has raised the plants profile and status through outstanding quality control. The range now available in Australia offers long flowering, beautifully scented varieties which are dry tolerant and come in wide range of stunning colours.

Speaking of her achievements, Managing Director Carolyn Bourne (pictured) said:

*"The team at Whetman Pinks is delighted and honoured to have been nominated for the second time as Overall Grower of the Year."*

*The world wide success of the Whetman Dianthus breeding, especially in the Scent First® range, is due to their inherent qualities: hardiness, fragrance, drought tolerance, ease of growth and versatility."*

Further to receiving the Gold Award, Whetman Pinks were also the recipients of the BPOA Protected Ornamental Grower of the Year Award and the Best New Variety in the herbaceous perennial category. They have also been shortlisted for the Queen's Award for Enterprise.

The UK National Farmers' Union will now nominate Whetman Pinks for the acclaimed International Grower of the Year 2013 Award, which will take place in Canada later in the year.



Add one of the 'Scent First' Dianthus to your garden this season and you'll find out why they are one of horticulture's top achievers.

Whetman Pinks' latest Dianthus release in Australia is 'Rebekah', a beautiful dark crimson bloom ideal for adding real impact to gardens.

For further details visit [www.pma.com.au](http://www.pma.com.au) or [www.horticultureweek.co.uk](http://www.horticultureweek.co.uk)

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