

# "Just Add Water"

Articles and Photos by Soni Forsman

## Hardy Waterlily is Best in 2018

Story by Soni Forsman

Photos from the IWGS website

Taken by Jolisa Copeman, intern at Longwood Gardens

For the second consecutive year, a hardy waterlily captured the Best New Waterlily of the Year title in the annual competition sponsored by the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS). It beat out 15 other entrants. This is only the third time in the history of the competition that a hardy hybrid has captured the top honor. All winning waterlilies were from hybridizers in Thailand except for one entry from Florida Aquatics. The waterlilies were categorized hardy, intersubgeneric (ISG) or tropical day-blooming waterlilies.

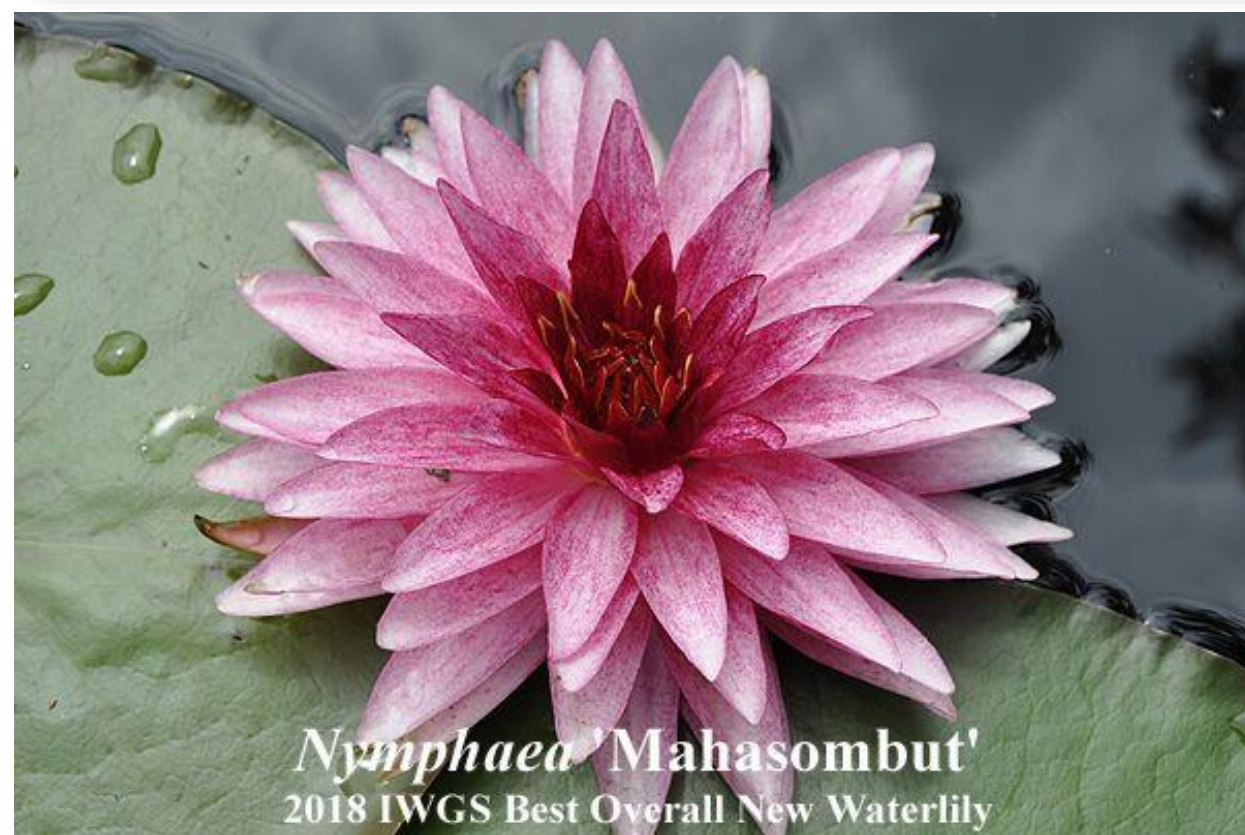
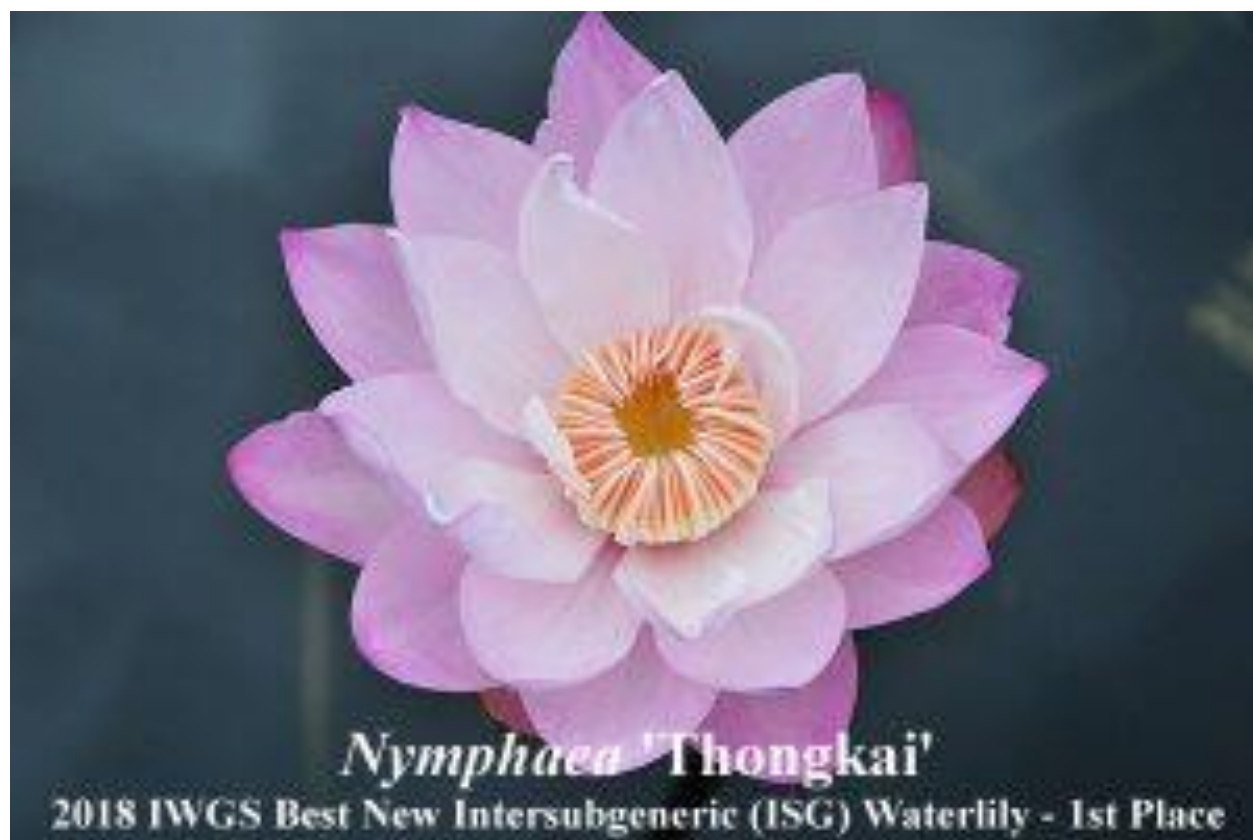
*Nymphaea* 'Mahasombut' by Nattawut Rodboot won the overall competition and Best Hardy of 2018. *N.* 'Paranee' from Miss Paranee Ampornsiri was second in the category and *N.* 'Nattamon' by Mr. Pornchai third.

Winners in the ISG group are *N.* 'Thongkai' by Nopchai Chansilpa, *N.* 'Bangkok Pink Panter' from Jakkaphong Sanggam, second and *N.* 'R. Moerings' from Florida Aquatics, USA, third.

Taking top honor in the tropical day-blooming category is *N.* 'Rassamee Jan' by Mrs. Pojjanee Thongbai, *N.* 'Corona Red' by Sanggam, second, and a hybrid from Chansilpa, *N.* 'Fahtawan,' third.

The winners were determined by a panel of 19 judges from around the world. They represent nursery and botanic waterlily growers, hybridizers and enthusiasts. Among the criteria the judges considered were flower colors not already in the marketplace, strong foliage that stays close to the tuber, unique foliage colors and distinct or unusual characteristics.

After three years at Longwood Gardens under the supervision of Tim Jennings, senior gardener, the competition will move to Naples Botanical Gardens, Florida, in 2019. Danny Cox, aquatic area specialist, will supervise the competition.





*Nymphaea* 'Rassamee jan'

2018 IWGS Best New Tropical Waterlily - 1st Place