

Vanda Orchid gets Gold

Typically as the Olympics 2012 started, the Vanda orchid struck out and grabbed gold.

What's it all about?

The amazing Vanda orchid, pipped Ficus Panda and Sansevieria Mikado to the post, to take the gold and the title of eFIG's Office Plant of the Year 2012. An accolade just as good as an Olympic gold in the world of office plants. Ficus Panda and Sansevieria Mikado tied for the silver award.



The judges from L – R: Rhiannon James, The City Planter, eFIG Vice-Chairman Ian Drummond, IGD, Claudia de Yong, Phil Evans Planteria News, Matthew Appleby, Horticulture Week

Plants have been competing for this position since March this year. After voting by eFIG members and visitors to The Landscape Show, it was down to just three competitors.



Vanda orchids at the Kinder Aggugini Catwalk Show





Ficus Panda at The Ivy



Sansevieria at The Ivy

Why is it important?

Plants certainly help relax us. In the Australian study carried out two years ago, Margaret Burchett found that even having [one plant](#) on or by workers' desks, reduced anxiety and stress levels considerably.

Research has also shown that workers are more productive particularly if they have some say in which plants to have in the office. Who wouldn't want to choose the incredible Vanda orchid?

As specialists and scientists continue to acknowledge our need to reconnect with nature despite more time spent in the office, bringing plants in is the best option. They help to improve moods, well-being and productivity.

When did the event take place?

Team Office Plant stood proudly before an independent panel of judges as the Olympic Women's Football kicked off in Cardiff. The panel was made up of some big names in the world of horticulture, Matthew Appleby of Horticulture Week, Phil Evans



of Planteria News, Rhiannon James of The City Planter and garden designer Claudia de Yong also an RHS Award winner.

Team Office Plant, the Vanda, Mikado and Panda were all considered by the panel with due consideration given to whether they have that feel good factor and a calming effect.

Rhiannon James of The City Planter commented, "It was a tricky choice to make because all three plants have something quite different to offer but in the end, the Vanda orchid won out thanks to its unusual beauty, its versatility and its potential to make a real statement when used en masse. There was no deciding between the Sansevieria and the Ficus though!"

"The Vanda Orchid was hanging down with its wonderful root system on full display and vivid purple blooms adorning its head, " commented Claudia de Yong. "Whilst plants are for more than aesthetics, the Vanda orchid won on all sides."

Where did it happen?

The judging took place at Indoor Garden Design, 'home' of eFIG's Vice chairman Ian Drummond who is creative director at IGD. Ian commented, "Every year we honour a plant with this Award. It is always interesting to see which plants make the short list and eventually make the grade.

"Personally I love using all three plants but the Vanda orchid not only has all the required attributes but has that extra something when you want to make a real statement."

Shortlisted plants, Vanda Orchid, Sansevieria Mikado and Ficus Panda, collected the most votes from the original list of

- Anthurium
- Asplenium
- Croton (Codiaeum variegatum Ann Rutherford)
- Dracaena 'Janet Craig'
- Kentia palm
- Orchid Vanda
- Sansevieria Mikado
- Spathiphyllum (Peace Lily)
- Ficus Panda
- Pleomele Song of India
- Beaucarnia recurvata

