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National Arboretum Scientist Wins Award

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium this year presented the Regional Excellence in Technology Transfer Award to Dr. Robert Griesbach of the Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit of the USDA's National Arboretum for his work on "New Star-of-Bethlehem Plants"

The first potted-plant types of Star-of Bethlehem were developed. A series of plants with different colors were created and were given appealing names, including 'Chesapeake Blaze', 'Chesapeake Starlight', 'Chesapeake Sunset', 'Chesapeake Snowflake', and 'Chesapeake Sunburst'. In order to propagate these plants on the large scale required for commercialization, new tissue cultures methods were developed and transferred to commercial laboratories in the United States, Europe and Australia. These hybrids were first sold at the retail level in 2005 within the United States, Europe and Australia and are expected to become a major floral potted plant.

One of the most coveted awards in the field of technology transfer, the FLC awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer recognize laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring Federally-developed technology to the marketplace. The award was made on September 15 at the region's annual meeting.

The Federal Laboratory Consortium is comprised of the technology transfer offices of all of the Federal laboratories throughout the country while its Mid-Atlantic Region focuses on the 70 Federal laboratories in DC, DE, MD, PA, VA and WV.

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