

Farwest marks a gathering of new, returning faces



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manufactures tools for the garden, vineyard and horticulture industries. Owner Joe Acton created Gard-N-Hook, a multipurpose tool specifically designed to lift and retrieve flower baskets and bird feeders, drag heavy or cumbersome nursery pots for easy placement, and wrangle thorny bushes and tree branches for pruning without touching them. Info: www.gard-n-hook.com.

• **Kent's Big Dig shovel** — created by **Gerard's Nursery** — Nursery owner

Kent Gerard got tired of shovels that break, so he developed a strong, durable, all-metal digging shovel with a 15-inch uncoated blade and a hollow steel handle for strength and durability. The shovel was field-tested by a digger with 30 years of experience and is American-made. It weighs just eight pounds and has steps on both sides of the handle. "You can step on both sides and you don't bust your boot," company representative Allison Hawley said. Info: www.kentsbigdig.com.

• **Protective Sleeves** — available from **Farmers Defense** — The company makes moisture-wicking, lightweight protective sleeves with a polyester blend fabric, to protect farmers and gardeners from the elements. It's available in all sorts of colorful, artistic designs, or can be custom-made with company logo for the buyer. "We make stuff that keeps the farmers comfortable and protected," company representative Kaz Kosciolk said. Information: www.farmersdefense.com. ©

Little Prince repeats as Best in Show booth winner



Farwest Show exhibitors are known for their creativity, and for the 2021 edition of the show, that didn't change. The show's judging panel of green industry professionals walked the floor to find the best of the best, recognizing several winners with the Ted Van Veen Best in Show booth awards.

"Our Farwest exhibitors always take pride in showing off the best that the nursery industry has to offer, even with the circumstances of the past year," Show Director Allan Niemi said. "Their creative booths only served to highlight what they do best, which would be their plants and products."

Winning the overall Best in Show booth award was Little Prince of Oregon Nursery, based in Aurora, Oregon. The wholesale grower of annuals and perennials is a frequent contender for the top prize, also winning it in 2019 and 2016, and bringing something new to the game each time. This year they didn't disappoint, with a tiki-

inspired tropical booth design.

In addition to Best in Show, Little Prince also collected an award for Best 10x10 Booth, Grower Division. The Best in Show booth award comes with a free 10x10 booth space for the 2022 Farwest Show, scheduled for next August 24–26 in Portland.

Other Best of Division award winners included the following:

- **Grower**
 - Best 10x20 or Larger Row Booth — **Cascade Tropicals** (Snohomish, Washington)
 - Best Island Booth — **Bountiful Farms** (Woodburn, Oregon)
 - **Service/Supply**
 - Best 10x10 Booth — **SeaCoast Compost**

(Charleston, Oregon)

- Best 10x20 or Larger Row Booth — **Phillips Soil Products** (Canby, Oregon)
- Best Island Booth — **Bellpark Horticulture** (Surrey, British Columbia)

The show also recognized exhibitors who put extra creativity into their booths with three Far From Ordinary booth awards. Winning that award this year were **Brooks Tree Farm** (Salem, Oregon), **Farmers Defense** (Watsonville, California) and **Means Nursery** (Scappoose, Oregon). ©

