

Colorado State University

Annual Flower Trial Garden

2007

Perennial Trials

***** First year for the new program! *****

This is the inaugural year for the new perennial trial program at Colorado State University. The perennial trials were created in response to increased consumer interest and a demand from within the industry for more research. The program is designed to trial and research newer perennial varieties that have been introduced in the past three years or less. Each perennial trial entry will be grown and have data collected for it for a period of two growing seasons so that overwintering performance can be evaluated.

Three new ground beds were created for the perennial trials in 2006 on the east side of Remington Street in front of the university's Center for the Arts, just across from the Annual Flower Trial Garden.

This year 4 companies have varieties in the trial for a total of 43 perennial trial entries in the ground. Some of these were received last year and were planted in August of 2006. Additional entries were received in April and early June of 2007, which were then planted in the middle of June. This will be considered to be the first season for all 43 initial varieties in the trial.

The perennials were evaluated on the main trial evaluation day, which was August 7th. Varieties were rated on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = very poor performance; 10 = excellent performance). These numerical evaluations were used to calculate the average ratings for each variety in the trials.