

Colorado State University



FLOWER TRIAL GARDEN

From the Desk of Dr. Klett



Summer of 2021 is starting to come to an end with in person classes starting the week of August 23, 2021 at Colorado State University. However, the annual and perennial trial gardens continue to be in full bloom and attracting large numbers of visitors daily. We have had two very successful events earlier this month and late last month. On Saturday morning, July 31, 2021 from nine to noon we had over 400 visitors attend our Consumer Day. Each visitor placed a flag in front of their three most favorites and the top vote getters are reported in this newsletter. In the September newsletter we will report on the professionals top choices.

We were very pleased with the turnout for our Professional Evaluation Day with over 200 in attendance and we served over 160 for lunch. Photos of all the plants taken in early August are all on our website for all of our cooperators and supporters to review.

On September 10, 2021 at 9:00 am the Advisory Committee will meet to do our second evaluation at 9:00 am to make our final selections of the 2021 "Best Of" winners. We will release the names of those winners to growers shortly thereafter.

I want to especially thank the hard work of our undergraduate student workers this summer who did an excellent job of maintaining the garden with a high level of excellence. These students will continue to work part time into the fall after school starts. We will try to maintain our excellent garden until our first hard freeze.

If you have not visited the trials yet this year, please try to visit and if you need an evaluation booklet email me at jim.klett@colostate.edu and I will be sure to get you one.

Thanks again to all of our cooperators for helping to make our 2021 trials the success they are.



The Consumer Evaluation Day was held at the trial gardens on Saturday July 31, 2021



Dr. Jim Klett (top) and Sheila Prentice, Student Flower Trial Coordinator (bottom)
led free tours through the trial.



Tagawa Greenhouse provided an area for kids and "kids at heart" to experience planting flowers and taking something home to grow.

Consumer Day Favorites



Rudbeckia hirta 'Sunbeckia Luna' from Flamingo Holland/Ball

This Rudbeckia was a standout and could be noticed from quite a distance in the trials. The flowers were very large and a yellow/red bicolor. The stems were strong and plant did not lodge with overhead irrigation. Growth habit was uniform and mounding.

Dahlia x hortensis 'Lubega Dark Red Glow' from Benary Plus

This dahlia had single red flowers that contrasted nice next to the dark colored foliage on the plant. This variety really attracted many different type of pollinators.



Portulaca grandiflora 'Sundial Mix' from Benary Plus

This portulaca was a mass of multi double colored flowers which was a magnet for many pollinators. Pollinator plants really seemed to be favorites this season with consumers.



Coleus 'Stained Glassworks Royalty' from Dummen Orange

This coleus had a more compact growth habit with vibrant pink/maroon bicolor foliage with nice serrated edges to the leaves. Again, little to no flowering was observed on this variety.



Dahlia City Lights™ Purple from Selecta One
The dark foliage complements the nice purple bicolor flowers. Plant attracts many pollinators and spent flowers are hidden well with little deadheading. This plant was the top vote getter in the garden. It was also our "Best of Show" plant in 2019.

Dahlia DARLIN' Burgundy Lace from Danziger

This dahlia had large double burgundy blooms with white tips at edges on the flower petals. The deep burgundy flowers were a good contrast to the deep green foliage.



Celosia Bright Sparks™ Burgundy from Syngenta Flowers
The bright red flowers on this Celosia are large which complements well with the darker burgundy foliage. The plants were very uniform in growth habit and plants prefer sun and less moisture.



Coleus Color Blaze® Torchlight from Proven Winners

This coleus had a very vigorous growth habit with attractive purple, green and red tricolor foliage. No flowering was also observe which is a plus for Coleus.



Begonia 'Rex Jurassic™ Pink Splash' from Ball Ingenuity

The large showy pink to purple and silver foliage was outstanding along with some small pale pink flowers. The plants had a more upright uniform growth habit.

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