

Colorado State University



From the Desk of Dr. Klett



We are still experiencing summer like weather here in Fort Collins and actually breaking some records for warm temperatures in early September. Visitation in the trial garden continues to be very high and the Annual Trials are still looking good. Some varieties are showing some decline but others are liking the little cooler nights here in mid-September. Let's hope we can continue to enjoy the garden without a frost until October.

Our second evaluation day with the Trial Garden Advisory Committee was held on Friday, September 10, 2021 on a beautiful day in Colorado. Many winners from the August 3rd evaluation day held their top position again in the September evaluation. A list of winners is listed below in this newsletter. We will be promoting the winners to all the growers throughout Colorado and the region in the next weeks. The list will also be sent to all national growers and landscape type publications.

During the first part of October, we plan on planting our Cool Season Trials and hope they will get well established before winter arrives. Sheila Prentice, who is the current annual Trial Garden coordinator will be the Cool Season Trial coordinator for the 2021-2022 season.

We are working on our complete evaluation report for the 2021 season and hopefully it will be done by the end of October.

As we start to plan for the 2022 Trials please forward to me any comments you may have to improve the Colorado State University annual or perennial Trial for 2022.





The Industry Evaluation Day was held at the trial gardens on Tuesday, August 3, 2021

2021 "Best Of..." Winners!

The results are in and the 2021 "Best Of" winners have been chosen! The following represents half of the complete list of winners with photos. In order to keep the newsletter a more manageable size the photos and text of the second half of the list will be sent out in the October issue but the names will still be listed at the end of this newsletter for those who can't stand the suspense until next month! The complete list and photos will also be on our website hopefully early next week. Look for the 2021 "Top Performer" perennials in the November newsletter!

Best of Show – Rudbeckia ‘Sunbeckia Ophelia’ from Flamingo Holland/Bull

Gigantic yellow flowers glow in the sun and attracted attention from across the garden. The huge flowers create a near solid canopy of yellow color that creates enormous flower power. Foliage that is visible is very attractive and clean. Plants require no pinching and matures at a nice medium height. The long lasting flowers keep a fresh look and stay low maintenance by “burying its dead”. Performance was excellent both in ground and containers.



Best Novelty – Heliotropium Augusta® Lavender from Proven Winners

Prolific flowering was sustained throughout the entire growing season. The soft lavender flowers were very showy and had a slight fragrance in the heat of the afternoon. Plants had good uniformity and were a favorite of pollinators.



Best New Variety – Bidens ‘Brazen™ Imperial Luck from Syngenta Flowers

The vigorous plants were densely branched and created a solid mound of flowers across the canopy which created an impressive display of color. Blooms maintained a uniform pattern and had a rich saturated red color that paired well with the dark green foliage. This entry was also very popular among the bees.





Angelonia (both container and ground) - Archangel™ Dark Rose from Ball FloraPlant

Noted for excellent performance in both container and ground, it was a standout with a great display of large clusters of flowers and a tall upright growth habit. Plants had good vigor and control for a very uniform appearance which lasted late into the season. The abundant flowers also had a nice dark eye for added interest.



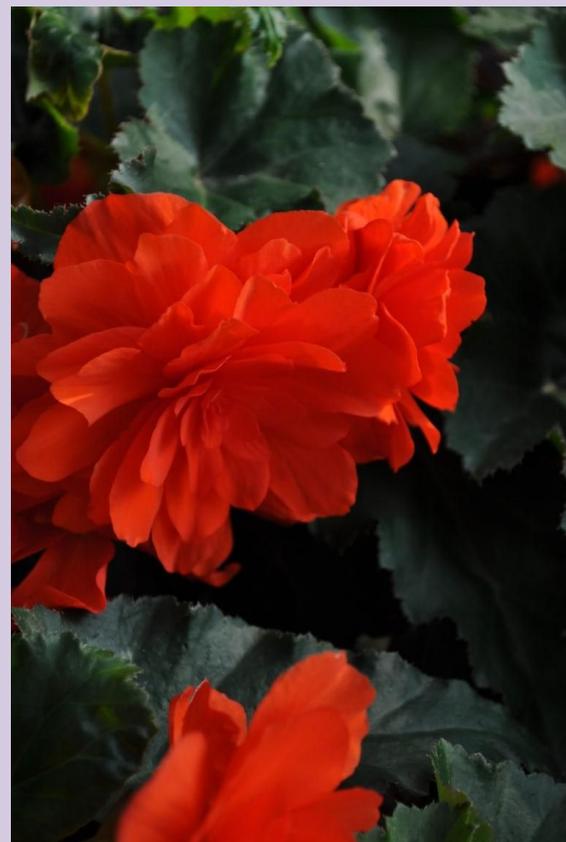
Begonia (container, upright) - BK Collection Vermillion Hot Pink from Beekenkamp

Strong flowering all season and was very showy with vibrant shade of dusty rose. Dark foliage helped make the flower color “pop” but double petals and prolific blooming provided a lot of color to a shady location. Foliage was clean and flowers were self cleaning to keep a fresh appearance with low maintenance.



Begonia (container, seed) - Nonstop® Joy – Orange from Benary

Vibrant orange flowers never faded and created a nonstop display of color all season. Flowers were huge and beautiful with the radiant orange color. Entire series received high marks from the evaluators. Trailing growth habit would work well in containers and it was also reported to grow well in partial sun as well as shade.



Begonia (container, trailing) – Shine Bright White from Westhoff

Vigorous plants cascaded over the sides of the containers with elongated white flowers for a nice

combination of color and unique texture. Growth habit was very uniform.



Begonia (Rex) - Jurassic™ Pink Splash from Ball Ingenuity

Great foliage provided a lot of interest all season even without flowers. Pink shades flow down along the center of the leaf with a very nice silver and green on the outer leaf. The large leaf size and unique colors stands out from many other garden plants. Plants had good vigor and uniformity.



Begonia (wax, ground) - Tophat™ Rose Bicolor from Syngenta Flowers

Considered by some as the “best bicolor wax begonia ever”, the huge flowers were excellent basis for that claim. The white and rose flowers were really quite enormous and prolific. The plants in general also

had great vigor, uniformity and were well branched.



Bidens – Brazen™ Imperial Luck from Syngenta Flowers

The vigorous plants were densely branched and created a solid mound of flowers across the canopy which created an impressive display of color. Blooms maintained a uniform pattern and had a rich saturated red color that paired well with the dark green foliage. This entry was also very popular among the bees.



Calibrachoa - Cabaret® Good Night Kiss from Ball FloraPlant

Flowers were stunning with a bright pink/purple outer flowers with a very dark center and a yellow throat. The intense color is made even more vivid against the dark green foliage. Plants were dense, with a nice uniform, mounding growth habit.



Coleus - Main Street Orchard Road from Dummen Orange

Plants had good vigor and maintained a consistent growth habit all season. Foliage color was an attractive bicolor of different shades of red in the main leaf blade and a nice contrasting pinstripe of bright green along the outer edge. Flowering was nonexistent until a few late in the season but was still very attractive overall.



Combination - Kwik Kombos™ Blue Lightning™ Mix Imp. from Syngenta Flowers

Dark blue scaevola and bright golden lantana were mixed together for a very effective contrast between light and dark. The plants made good combination that had both good heat tolerance and prolific flowers all season.





Dahlia - City Lights™ Purple from Selecta One

This was a favorite plant from the voting on Consumer Day as well as the industry evaluation due to the abundant rich, dark purple flowers and dark foliage. The consistent appearance was a reason for it being a repeat winner from 2020. Plants were uniform in habit and maintained a fresh appearance by burying its dead.



Geranium (container) - Mojo™ White from Syngenta Flowers

Clean, white flowers stood out against dark green foliage for maximum color contrast. Abundant flowers and the large size made a very attractive presentation. Plants were both vigorous and uniform with clean foliage.



Geranium (ground, Interspecific) - Calliope® Large Orange Splash from Syngenta Flowers
Floriferous plants had huge flowers with vibrant color that created an immense amount of flower power. Color was not a true orange but more of a unique watermelon shade with a darker splash of color in the center of the petal. Flowers were noted to be long lasting for a greater period of show.



Geranium (ground, Zonal) - Galaxy™ Violet from Ball FloraPlant

Plants had good uniformity and vigor. Flower power was excellent with abundant blooms that kept a vibrant violet color without any fading. Plants were tall and were true zonal geraniums with distinct markings on the foliage.



Impatiens - Beacon® Rose from PanAmerican Seed

Clear rose colored flowers brighten the shady spots with their abundant blooms. Growth habit was very uniform and plants had excellent vigor. Full plants had the added advantage of being disease resistant to Downy Mildew disease which can be devastating to many impatiens.



Impatiens (vegetative, sun) - SunPatience® Compact Deep Red from Sakata Seed America
Large, rich red flowers sat just above the dark foliage for maximum flower power. Plants had a very nice mounded growth habit and great vigor in full sun. They would also work well in a combination with other plants.





Lantana - Hot Blooded® Red from Syngenta Flowers

Blooms had a good rich saturated red color with a touch of orange. Plants maintained a compact and uniform growth habit compared to many other red lantanas. The vibrant red flowers made a good choice for hot locations with minimal water demands.



Others on the list to be featured in the next newsletter:

Lobelia – Hot Waterblue from Westhoff

Marigold – Panda Yellow from JYK Seed Co.

Marigold – Marvel II™ Gold from Pan American Seed

New Guinea Impatiens (shade) - Sonic® Orange from Syngenta

Osteospermum - Gelato Prune from Westhoff

Petunia (container, vegetative) - Bee's Knees from Ball FloraPlant

Petunia (ground, seed) - E3 Easy Wave™ Blue from PanAmerican Seed

Petunia (ground, vegetative) - Supertunia Vista® Bubblegum® from Proven Winners

Portulaca (container) – Mega Pazzaz™ Purple from Danziger

Portulaca (ground, seed) – Sundial Pink from Benary Plus

Rudbeckia - Sunbeckia Ophelia from Flamingo Holland/Bull

Scaevola - Indigo Touch™ from Danziger

Verbena (container) – Lanai® Upright Twister™ Watercolor from Syngenta Flowers

Verbena (ground) - EnduraScape™ Pink Bicolor from Ball FloraPlant

Vinca - Soiree Kawaii Coral Reef from Suntory Flowers

Zinnia - Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor from Sakata Seed America

Other Outstanding Plants

Jamesbrittenia Safari™ Dawn from Proven Winners

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