

Colorado State University



From the Desk of Dr. Klett



Welcome to the first issue of the 2022 monthly electronic newsletter to keep you informed of the happenings in the flower trials at Colorado State University. We are excited about the 2022 Trials and we will hopefully be back to normal in 2022. We have Colorado Master Gardener volunteers lined up to help with the potting of our plugs for the three Fridays in April and they will also be able to help with the planting of the garden in late May and early June. We will again have a Consumer Day on Saturday, August 6, 2022. Colorado Destination Week will begin with the CSU Evaluation Day on Tuesday, August 9th and then continuing in the Denver Area on Wednesday, August 10th at Denver Botanic Gardens, Brown's Greenhouse and Welby

Gardens.

Currently, we are potting up plugs of close to 758 different varieties from 20 different companies. All of our seed entries have been distributed to our three cooperating greenhouses, germinating and growing a flat of each of those varieties.

Our three year perennial trial continues to grow and in 2022 we have 116 new entries to plant with most gaining size in our greenhouse presently. We have taken some winter survival data from the 2019, 2020 and 2021 plantings and will be removing the 2019 entries to have room for the 2022 entries.

Our cool season trials are growing and the pansy and violas have come through the winter quite well. However, most of our ornamental kale and cabbage have not survived the winter. The committee will meet on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 10:00 am at the Trial Gardens to do our evaluation and determine our Top Picks. All members of the Trial Garden Committee are welcome to attend and special invites are being sent. We will go to lunch after the evaluation.

In this issue I would especially like to thank in more detail all of the companies' for our in-kind donations to the trials. The CSU Trial is unique in that we are not a commercial trial but a non-profit, unbiased University Trial and without these donations, we could not conduct these trials without going into the red financially. The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture and the Annual and Perennial Trial Garden Advisory Committee greatly appreciate their generosity. We want to recognize the following companies for their generous donations in the past years and again for our 2022 trials: ICL Specialty Fertilizer for donation of Osmocote® Slow Release fertilizer in beds and containers; Tagawa Greenhouses for donation of potting media for growing for all of the vegetative plugs; Harrell's for donating water soluble and slow release fertilizer for growing the plants in the greenhouse and outdoors in the ground beds; Welby Gardens for growing all of the seed propagated All American Selections varieties, Brown Greenhouses and Kiyota's Greenhouse for propagating all other seed varieties at a substantially reduced cost for our trials, and Organix who has been donating their "Grower's Mix" to amend the beds for over 20 years to distribute over beds and fill the new containers for the 2022 season.

In with the new for Spring 2022! by Tate Erickson, Annual Trial Student Coordinator

In the past few weeks you might have been walking outside or driving with the windows down feeling like it's about time to see beds full of plants. Even though it is too soon to plant outside with the unpredictable wind, snow, and temperature extremes of the Front Range, it's been perfect timing for preparing the gardens for this upcoming season.

Along with preparing to receive plants for the season, our student workers have been taking advantage of these beautiful days and removing the containers from the garden to install new, nearly identical

containers. The majority of these containers have been in place for up to 22 years – since the garden was moved to its current location off Remington Street in the year 2000! These original containers have outlasted their 10-year warranty and have been growing entries in the Colorado State University Annual Trials for 22 years; it's about time for an update! Our crew started drilling holes in our new containers in January to install an eyebolt to tether to the ground, space for drip lines, and adequate drainage. This process has been done in stages with weather, class schedules, and the supply chain delivering the large quantities of parts that are needed for 700 containers.

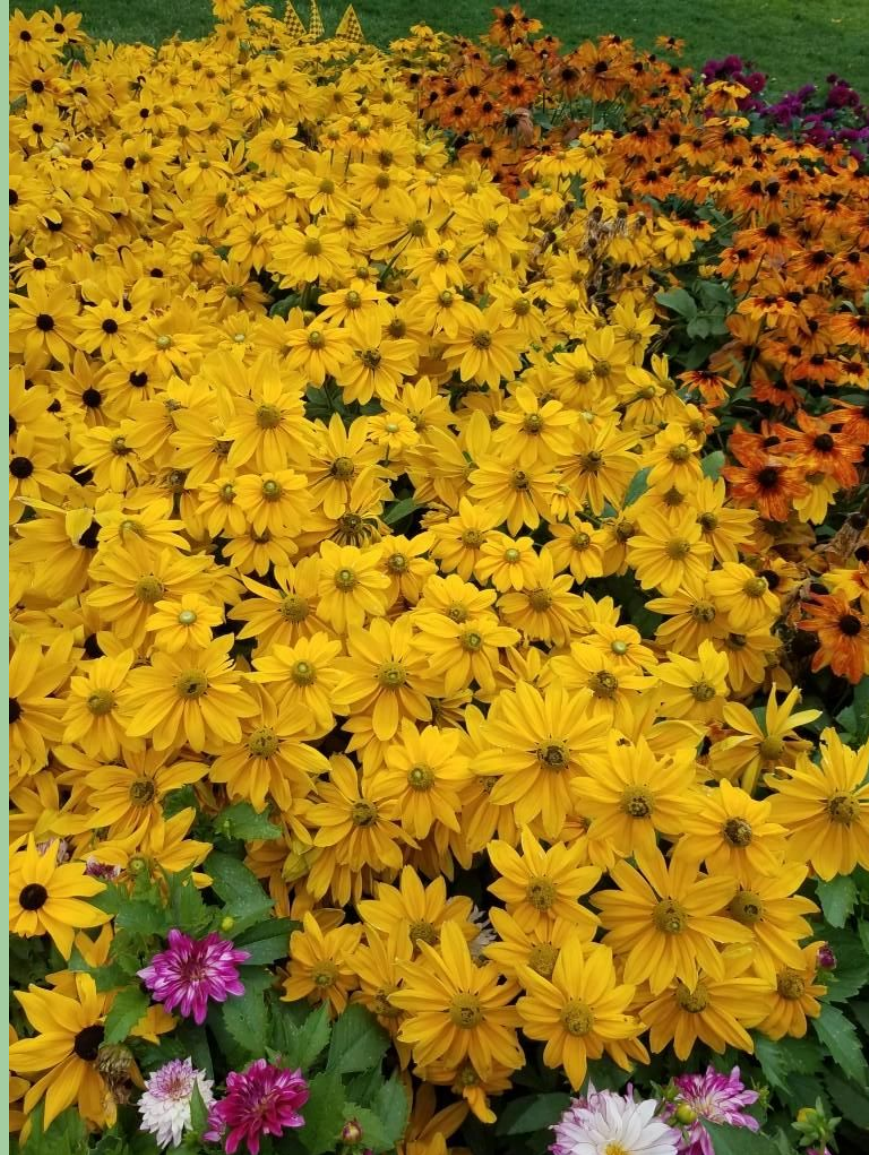
We are all looking forward to the nearly identical, bright, vibrant, new containers that will be holding this season's container trial entries. The crew has been hard working with over half the new containers out and are in the process of installing new drip lines before we fill with media! Keep on the lookout and see if you can notice the difference!





"Best Of" Winner *Spotlight* - Rudbeckia Sunbeckia Ophelia
from Bull Plant Genetics





2021 Best of Show – Rudbeckia Sunbeckia Ophelia from Bull Plant Genetics

During the 2021 trial at CSU, 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 mature 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.

Bull Plant Genetics says that the Rudbeckia Sunbeckia series is a *hirta* hybrid that was bred in Germany and is known for its large flower size and long-lasting blooms. The plants are well branched with strong stems and it is also bee-friendly. It is available as tissue culture via Express Seed Company and is recommended to be produced in a 72 or 105 cell tray (app 5-6 week propagation time). It is also available as a liner.

Due to its strong vigor it has a short crop time of 8-10 weeks after transplanting. The Sunbeckia series Rudbeckia requires long day treatment. Without this period it is not advised to start transplanting prior to week 12. In addition to being a spring crop, it is recommended to continue transplanting in a 3 weeks rhythm. The start in week 18 till 26 results in perfect summer and fall production. A flowering ‘Sunbeckia’ has outstanding garden performance as well as great in a patio container.

Plant Height: 14-16"
Zone: 7-10

Container Sizes and Crop Times

- Gallon/6” 1ppp. 8-10 weeks from transplant.
- 8”: 1ppp. 10-11 weeks from transplant.

Growing Media

Plant into a well-drained soil mix with a pH range of 5.5-6.0. Soil moisture should contain coarse components for good drainage.

Temperature

Day temperature: 60-64°F (15-18°C)
Night Temperature: 50-55°F (10-13°C)
Vernalization is not require for flowering

Light

Long days (12 hours+) are required for flowering for Sunbeckia.

Water and Feed

Rudbeckia Sunbeckia should be grown using a well-balanced fertilizer (15-15-15 or similar) approximately once a week. Calcium nitrate can help with growth if plants are too small. 200-250 ppm N is recommended. It is important to maintain consistent moisture in the soil. Overhead irrigation or drip irrigation is best.

Growth Regulators

PGR can be applied when the bottom shoots start to stretch. Also, later when the flower buds are visible and stems start to stretch. B-Nine is beneficial and can be applied approximately 3-4 weeks after transplant. If needed, Bonzi can be applied.

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