



## FLOWER TRIAL GARDEN

### From the Desk of Dr. Klett



Summer of 2022 is starting to come to an end with in person classes starting the week of August 22, 2022 at Colorado State University. However, the annual and perennial trial gardens continue to be in full bloom and attracting large number of visitors. We have had two very successful events earlier in August. On Saturday morning August 6, 2022 from nine to noon we had about 350 visitors attend our Public Evaluation Day. Each visitor placed a flag in front of their three most favorites and the top vote getters are reported below in this newsletter. In the September newsletter we will report on the professional top choices.

We were very pleased with the turnout for our Professional Evaluation Day with over 230 in attendance and we served over 185 for lunch. Photos of all the plants have been taken early to mid-August and will be labeled and on our website by tomorrow, Saturday, August 20th for all our cooperators and supporters to review.

On September 8, 2022 at 9:00 AM, the Advisory Committee will meet to do our second evaluation to make our final selections of the 2022 "Best Of" winners. We will release the names of those winners to growers shortly there after.

I want to especially thank the hard work of our undergraduate students especially Trial Garden Coordinator Tate Erickson and our other undergraduate 2022 summer workers 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 fall semester 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](mailto: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 2022 trials the success they are.



The Consumer Evaluation Day was held at the trial gardens on Saturday, August 6, 2022



Dr. Jim Klett and CSU staff 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.

## 2022 Consumer Favorites



**Senecio 'Angel Wings'**  
from Concept Plant

A striking plant in the landscape with its large, broad, silvery white, velvety leaves. This unique plant was easy to spot in the trial and was the top favorite of the public. It will make an excellent backdrop to green-leaved plants and colorful flowering perennials in sunny, drought tolerant borders, rock gardens, succulent gardens, and containers.

**Dahlia City Lights™ Purple**  
from Selecta One

The dark foliage complements the nice purple bicolor flowers. Growth habit was very uniform and vigor was excellent. Flowering was prolific. Plant attracts many pollinators and spent flowers are hidden well with little deadheading. This plant was a winner of Consumer Day in 2021 as well as also our "Best of Show" plant in 2019.



**Dahlia Dahlinova XXL Acapulco**  
from Dümmer Orange

Plants have great vigor with impressive bright flowers. Flowering was solid all summer and created a lot of flower power. Plants were healthy and foliage stayed clean all summer. A great garden performer as well as making a super cut flower.



**Rudbeckia Sunbeckia Maya**  
from Bull Plant Genetics

This favorite of the public is part of a series of Rudbeckia that were bred for its large and long-lasting blooms. It is relatively easy to grow and proved to be a standout. Plants were well-branched with strong, sturdy stems. It required no pinching and flowered strong all summer



#### **Coleus ColorBlaze® Torchlight from Proven Winners**

Foliage is striking with great contrast of fuchsia, maroon and green. Well-branched plants have a great growth habit that was very uniform. This plant is bred to be both sun to shade tolerant and great in both landscapes and containers.

#### **Petunia Crazytunia Black Mamba from Westoff**

Flower color is a show stopper in the garden as it stand outs with an exceptional velvety black bloom. The public appreciated the unique appearance plus prolific blooming. Mounding growth habit did very well in containers at the 2022 trial.



#### **Celosia Candela Pink from Beekenkamp Plants**

Bright pink blooms rose above the foliage, similar to a tall, tapered candle. Unique, showy plumes of pink flowers kept their color all season long. In a container it would make a perfect filler plant to add height and interest to a combination container planting. At the CSU trial it was grown in both a container and in the ground so it could also be useful in mass plantings, borders, and general garden use. It can also be used as a dried flower as well.



#### **Dahlia Dahlegria™ Magenta Bicolor from Syngenta Flowers**

Large, colorful, single flowers stand out on the almost-black foliage. Foliage would be beautiful even without the flowers but it really makes the flower color "pop". Bred to have great mildew tolerance and proved that all summer at CSU. The single flowers are also a favorite of bees.



**Canna Cannova Bronze Scarlet  
from Ball Ingenuity**

Dark foliage made a striking contrast with the bright scarlet flowers, that makes a dramatic statement as either mixed combination container or in-ground plantings.

[Visit our website](#)

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