



From the Desk of Dr. Klett



The 2021 Annual Trials have just about come to an end with some cooler nights and frost warnings predicted. We have had a great fall extending well into the middle of October and great attendance at the garden late into the season. We still have visitors and some of the more hardy annuals still look good. We are working on completing the 2021 Annual Trial Garden Report which we hope to have completed by November 1, 2021.

We plan to plant the Cool Season Trial on October 21, 2021 and hopefully they will get established well before really cold weather arrives. This year we have 57 different varieties of pansies, violas and kale to evaluate.

Over the winter months we hope to start switching out the containers for new ones which should arrive in December. The current containers are 22 years old and had a 10 year warranty so the Advisory Committee felt it was time to start replacing them.

I want to thank all of our cooperators for helping to make the 2021 Colorado State University Annual Trials the success they were this season. We had great attendance on Consumer Day, Evaluation Day and from the general public throughout the growing season. Thanks especially to the Annual Garden Coordinator Sheila Prentice and her three student workers, Tate Erickson, Sam Kelly and Courtney Dunbar for all their hard work to make the garden the success it was in 2021. I welcome comments and improvements which can be emailed to me at jim.klett@colostate.edu.

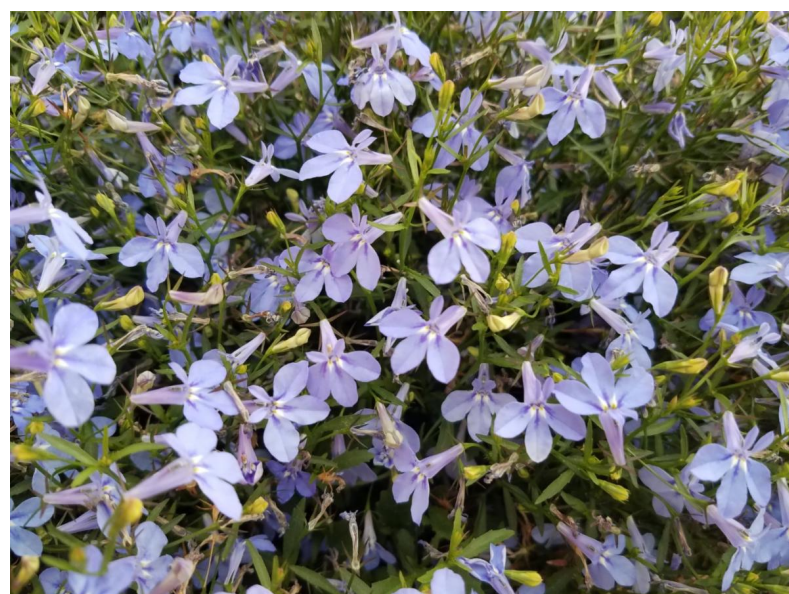
Also thanks to all members of the Advisory Committee who met on October 15, 2021 for their advice and encouragement and comments for the 2021 season.

2021 "Best Of" Winners, Part II of II

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 first half of the list was sent out in the September issue but they are also listed at the end of this section. The complete list and photos is also on our website www.flowertrials.colostate.edu. Look for the 2021 "Top Performer" perennials in the November newsletter!

Lobelia – Hot Waterblue from Westhoff

Plants were noted for incredible vigor and impressive heat tolerance that made it an obvious standout from the other Lobelia even in September. Even late in the season, plants had nice green foliage and an abundance of sky-blue flowers. Growth habit was very uniform as well.



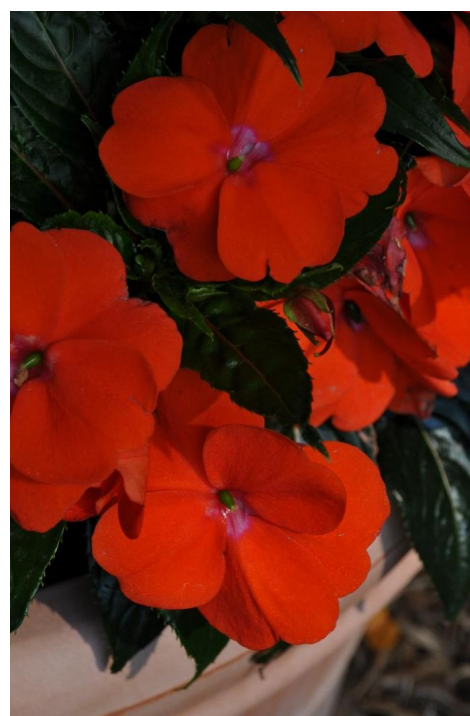
Marigold – Marvel II™ Gold from Pan American Seed

Floriferous plants looked good all summer and even late into the season. The dark green foliage, consistent bloom and uniform growth habit created an excellent overall appearance.



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

Large flowers were very bright for lots of color in the shade but they can also tolerate partial sun as well. Flowers seemed to sparkle on the compact plants which had good vigor and nice uniformity.



Osteospermum - Gelato Prune from Westhoff

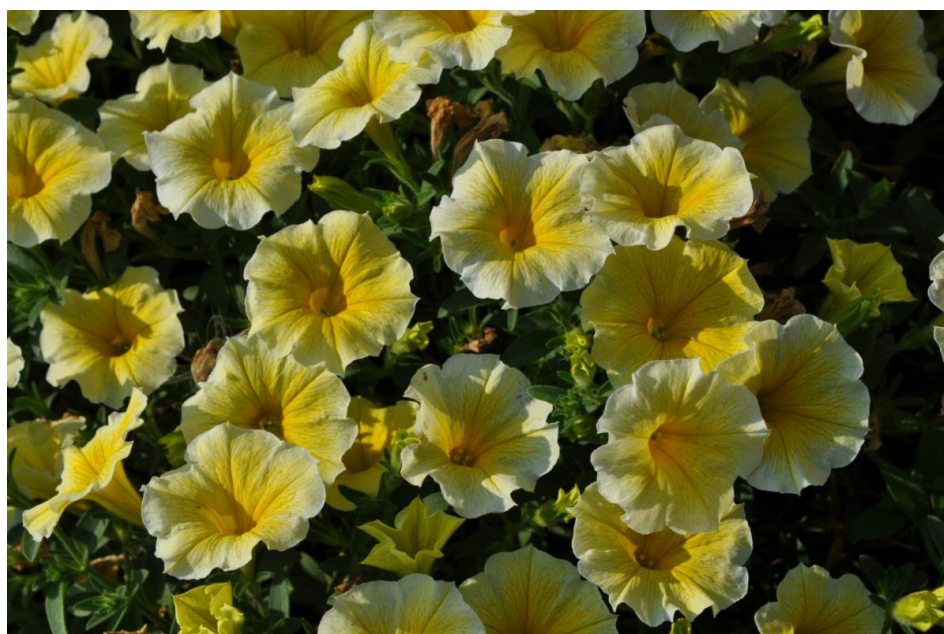
Plants had good flower power even during the heat of the summer. Flowers were very large and a nice shade of dark purple. Overall, the growth habit was uniform and the foliage had a nice green color. The entire "Gelato" series was noted for ranking very high with placing 4 plants in the top 5 rankings





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

Bright yellow flowers covered the plants for impressive flower power in both containers and the ground. Plants had good vigor and maintained a nice growth habit in the ground or trailed over the container without opening up in the middle. The two toned yellow flowers had proven a dependable performer over the past years and are a repeat winner.



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

Vibrant purple/blue flowers provided a blanket of color in the ground with spreading plants and abundant flowering. Besides having good landscape performance, plants were also noted for desirable grower features such as being early to flower and the need for less plant growth regulators.





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

This annual has become a perennial favorite as it has been a winner over several years. It has become the standard that many other varieties have difficulty matching. Plants had incredible vigor and were covered in bright pink blooms that made it easy to spot even from a long distance in the landscape.



Portulaca (container) – Mega Pazzaz™ Purple from Danziger

Intense violet flowers were abundant and held close to foliage to keep a very compact and uniform growth habit. Blooms were single and were very popular with the bees. It was very tolerant of the summer heat and looked great all season.





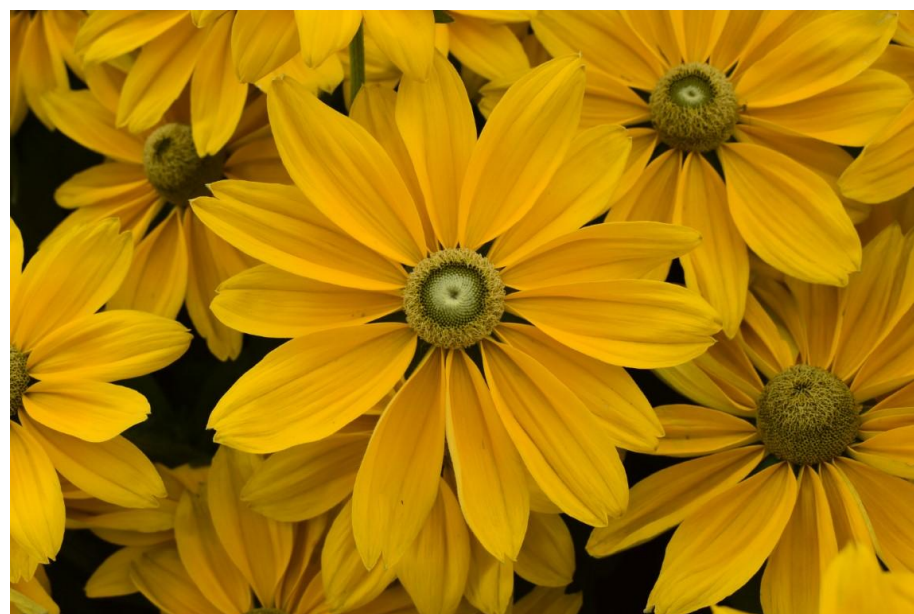
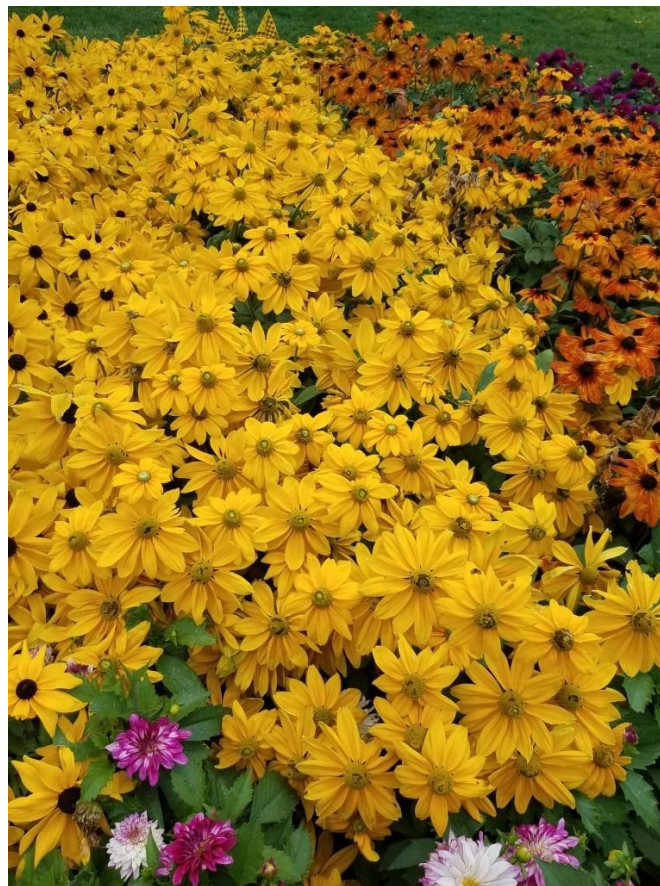
Portulaca (ground, seed) – Sundial Pink from Benary Plus

Vigorous plants did well in the ground and they maintained a consistent growth habit with a uniform appearance. Double flowers made it very showy and it was very popular with the bees.



Rudbeckia - Sunbeckia Ophelia from Flamingo Holland/Bull

This spectacular plant was also selected the “Best of Show” winner for 2021. Gigantic yellow flowers glow in the sun and attracted attention from across the garden. The huge flowers created a near solid canopy of yellow color that created enormous flower power. Foliage that was visible is very attractive and clean. Plants required no pinching and matured at a nice medium height. The long lasting flowers kept a fresh look and stayed low maintenance by “burying its dead”. Performance was excellent both in ground and containers.



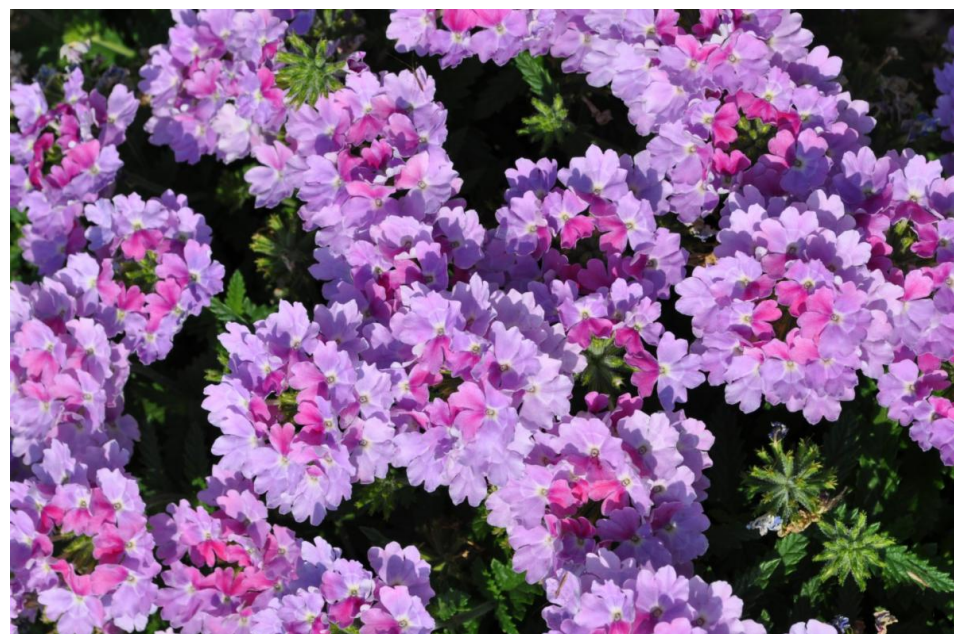
Scaevola - Indigo Touch™ from Danziger

Plants had plenty of “Wow” factor with the large amount of flowers and an amazing, intense blue color.

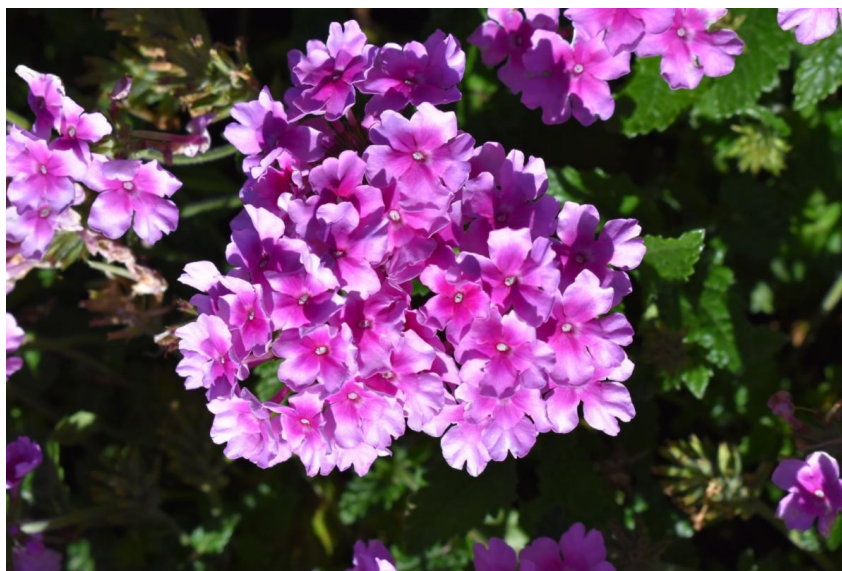
Flowering was prolific and it was maintained all throughout the season. The growth habit was upright, mounding and very uniform.



Verbena (container) – Lanai® Upright Twister™ Watercolor from Syngenta Flowers
Flowers had a unique combination of soft lilac pink with darker shades in the middle. Plants looked good in containers with strong vigor and an upright mounded growth habit that did not open up over the entire season.

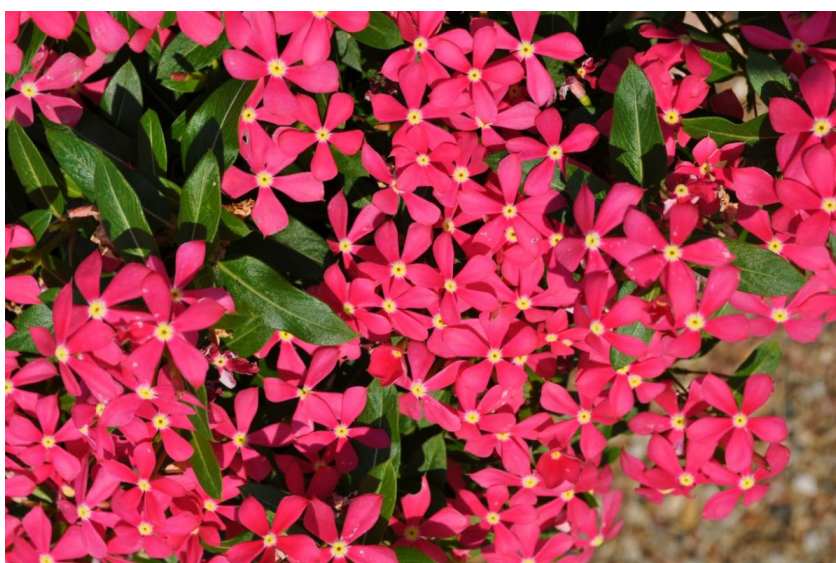
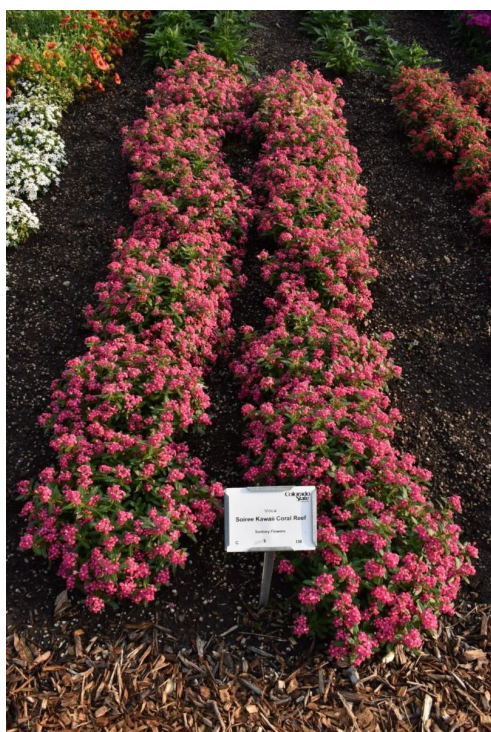


Verbena (ground) - EnduraScape™ Pink Bicolor from Ball FloraPlant
Light and dark shades of pink created a very attractive flower and combined with a large, spreading plant made it a great display of color. The uniform habit and great vigor made a good choice for the landscape. It was a good plant for the variability of the long season with good heat tolerance in the middle of summer and good cold tolerance as fall approaches.



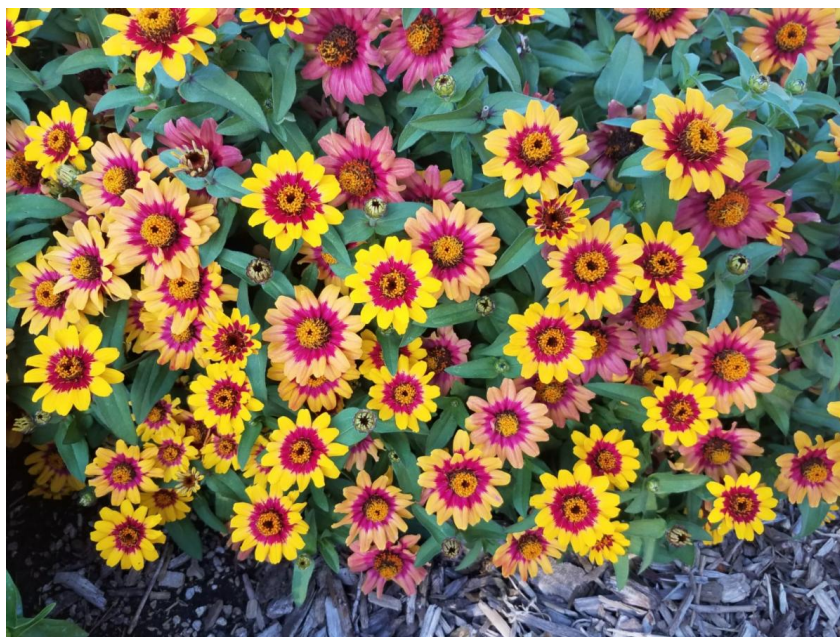
Vinca - Soiree Kawaii Coral Reef from Suntory Flowers

Prolific, small pink flowers created a very delicate appearance but maintained a lot of flower power all season. The small pink flowers also had a white eye for added interest and plant did well in both the ground and containers. Plants had nice vigor and good uniformity.



Zinnia - Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor from Sakata Seed America

Flowers were very unique in that the color starts out as a bright red center with golden yellow on the outer petals orange then fade to shades of beautiful apricot and dusty rose. It was a show stopper and a fun plant to watch as flower color changes. Plants were compact and very floriferous.



Other Outstanding Plants

Jamesbrittenia Safari™ Dawn from Proven Winners

Prolific flowering was one of the traits that made this entry stand out along with the gorgeous flower colors of soft apricot to rose that changed as it matured. Plants were vigorous and almost enveloped the container in flowers by the end of the summer. Growth habit was uniform and the plant was heat tolerant. It was considered a breakthrough in Jamesbrittenia.





Marigold – Panda Yellow from JYK Seed Co.

Full, double flowers topped the sturdy and uniform plants which created a very good display over the entire season. Plants were medium height and had good dark green foliage. There was no lodging even with overhead irrigation.



"Best Of" Winners Previously Mentioned in the September Newsletter:

Best of Show – Rudbeckia 'Sunbeckia Ophelia' from Flamingo Holland/Bull
 Best Novelty – Heliotropium Augusta® Lavender from Proven Winners
 Best New Variety – Bidens 'Brazen™ Imperial Luck from Syngenta Flowers

"Best Of..." by Class:

Angelonia (container and ground) - Archangel™ Dark Rose from Ball FloraPlant
 Begonia (container, upright) - BK Collection Vermillion Hot Pink from Beekenkamp
 Begonia (container, seed) - Nonstop® Joy – Orange from Benary
 Begonia (container, trailing) – Shine Bright White from Westhoff
 Begonia (Rex) - Jurassic™ Pink Splash from Ball Ingenuity
 Begonia (wax, ground) - Tophat™ Rose Bicolor from Syngenta Flowers
 Bidens – Brazen™ Imperial Luck from Syngenta Flowers
 Calibrachoa - Cabaret® Good Night Kiss from Ball FloraPlant
 Coleus - Main Street Orchard Road from Dummen Orange
 Combination - Kwik Kombos™ Blue Lightning™ Mix Imp. from Syngenta Flowers
 Dahlia - City Lights™ Purple from Selecta One
 Geranium (container) - Mojo™ White from Syngenta Flowers
 Geranium (ground, Interspecific) - Calliope® Large Orange Splash from Syngenta Flowers
 Geranium (ground, Zonal) - Galaxy™ Violet from Ball FloraPlant
 Impatiens - Beacon® Rose from PanAmerican Seed
 Impatiens (vegetative, sun) - SunPatiens® Compact Deep Red from Sakata Seed America
 Lantana - Hot Blooded® Red from Syngenta Flowers

2020 "Top Performer" Perennial Winner *Spotlight!*

Salvia 'Blue by You' (Salvia nemorosa^{PP31,033})
 from Darwin Perennials



Salvia 'Blue by You' (*Salvia nemorosa*^{PP31,033}) from Darwin Perennials

At CSU, the vibrant blue flowers were very showy with prolific amounts of blooms early in the season and an impressive repeat later in the season after a hard cut back of old blooms. The unique blue color is a great addition to the pallet of *Salvia* colors in the trade and evaluators said they "had to go see it" from across the garden.

Darwin Perennials notes that it features excellent winter hardiness and heat tolerance. The long, bright blue flower spikes can easily have repeat blooming for continual flowering during the growing season when spent flowers are removed. It attracts bees but is deer resistant. It is a sterile hybrid between *Salvia nemorosa* and *Salvia pratensis*.

Height: 20-22"

Spread: 18-22"

Growth Habit: Mounded

Bloom time: Starting early spring through autumn

Hardiness Zones: 4b – 9a

Exposure: Sun

Water: Medium

Soil pH: 5.8 – 6.2

Mist: Low

Crop Time Gallons: 1 plant per pot – unrooted:15-17 weeks, rooted : 10-12 weeks

Day Length for Flowering: Day length neutral

PGRs generally not needed

Fertilization (ppm N): 50-75 (propagation), 150-200 (finishing)

Pinching: a soft pinch will increase branching

Rooting Hormone: 1,000 ppm IBA

Comments: vernalization is beneficial to aid in bulking but not needed for flowering.

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