

Colorado State University



From the Desk of Dr. Klett



The garden is in full bloom and crew is doing an excellent job in keeping up with the weeding which is a constant task. Our current hot weather has helped many of the plants really take off. Now since the garden is fully planted, we are taking our initial data readings including heights and widths of all trial entries along with flower ratings on a weekly basis. We are observing many more visitors since the entries are showing good flower color.

Our evaluation day and open house is fast approaching on Tuesday, August 9, 2022. Please make plans to join us for lunch in the garden and help pick the 2022 standouts. The event starts at 9:00 AM and if you plan to attend please respond to email sent out on July 8, 2022. Respond to link listed and register. We are using Eventbrite this year for the registration process. Hopefully all have received the invitation and please respond by July 29th so that we can get an accurate number for lunch. Also if travelling to Colorado, plan to stay for Colorado Destination week on Wednesday morning and visit the Denver Botanic Gardens, Browns Greenhouse and Welby Gardens later that day on August 10, 2022. If you did not receive an email invite and plan on attending and help us pick our winners, you can still register via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-trial-garden-evaluation-day-tickets-379965355607> but **please RSVP by 5:00 pm MDT, July 29th**.

We are also planning our Public Evaluation Day on Saturday, August 6, 2022 from 9 AM to noon in the garden. Public will be voting on their top three choices on that morning. Encourage your friends to visit us on that morning.

All of us connected with our Colorado State University Trials look forward to seeing many of you at these upcoming events.

Diverse Visitors to the Garden by Tate Erickson - Student Coordinator Annual Trial Garden



This past month we have certainly brought quite a few various visitors to the Flower Trials off Remington. Most people will wander around the garden, in awe of the full beds of Dahlias, petunias, the few sunflowers, and so many more eye-catching plants enamoring our visitors. They walk each pathway in the ground beds and containers, seeing what names the signs allude the plants are. Even with it getting hotter into July, the garden is still buzzing with people and pollinators. Each morning the crew and I start early, when all the dragonflies are on their morning hunt. If you are lucky enough to see the few hummingbirds whizzing in and out the salvia bed and Plant Select Demo Garden too, it really is a sight with the vibrations from the bees and pollinators. There have been many educational groups that have been to visit the garden as well, Dr. Klett gave Tagawa interns a walkthrough of the gardens and master gardeners have been helping answering gardening questions on Saturday mornings a few times a month! There have been some art camps at the University Center for the Arts, and a Kids Do It All (KDIA) acting camp. We have also had a frequent visitor to all the gardens over the past two years, Mr. Cuddles the neighborhood friendly cat. He's a fan of all things gardening, showing up at Twilight Garden Series and whenever we're arms deep weeding beds.



Mr. Cuddles is a frequent visitor to the gardens.

2021 "Best Of" Winner *Spotlight*
Dahlia City Lights™ Purple
from Selecta One



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. In addition, the consistent appearance was a reason for it being a repeat winner from 2020. It is truly a solid performer year after year! Plants were uniform in habit and maintained a fresh appearance by burying its dead.

The breeder notes that the entire City Lights™ series stands out due to the dark foliage that contrasts well with the bright flowers. Plants have medium vigor and an upright growth habit. It is a well branched powerhouse with great flower power.

General & Information

- Height:12 - 14" (30 - 36cm)
- Spread:12 - 14" (30 - 36cm)
- Exposure:Sun

Rooting Guidelines

- Rooting Hormone (IBA + NAA mix):yes
- Average Days with Mist:9 to 12
- Early PGR Treatment Recommended (after 7 - 10 days):yes, B-Nine 1,500 PPM (S)

PGR applications during rooting:

Sprays only. Cover the plants and avoid run-off as much as possible. For vigorous products, first application should be done about 7-10 days after sticking, second when needed. Please test before use.

- Average Propagation Weeks:5
- Pinch in Propagation:yes

Rooting and Finishing

- **Media pH:**5.8-6.2

Best results are achieved if media with the correct pH is used starting with propagation.

- **Fertilizer Needs:**200-250 PPM N/EC 1.8-2.0

Start with low concentrations after roots show and increase with plant development to the recommended levels.

- **Watering:**high

In general avoid drying out or overwatering the substrate as this will affect plant quality and finishing time. Root system will suffer when conditions change from one extreme to the other. "Growing on the dry side" means letting the substrate become dry (substrate color turns light brown and substrate starts to separate from the pot edge) before watering.

"Keep constantly moist" means watering the plants just before substrate becomes dry. Water management in rooting and finishing is half the success and the best way to prevent root-bound diseases, improve performance and control plant quality.

Finishing

- **Temperature Needs Day/Night:**65-77°F/55-65°F 18-25°C/13-18°C

During rooting keep soil temperature measured in the liner at 70°F/21°C until cuttings are well-rooted. After planting the liner, keep temperature up until roots have developed nicely. Afterward follow recommendations.

The use of "Cool Morning" treatments will improve plant quality, flower and foliage color, and plant habit, and harden the plants. Lower the temperature by 8-12°F/4-6°C 2 hours before sunrise until 2-3 hours after sunrise. Start treatments after plants are rooted in, well-branched and cover the media (reach the pot edges). To avoid delayed flowering, keep the average day temperature under a close watch and if necessary, increase night temperatures. Finishing of the crop depends on the average day temperature, and positive or negative DIF methods as well as "Cool Morning" can be used to improve plant quality.

- **Pinch after Transplant** (unpinched liners):yes
- **Light Levels in Foot Candles:**4,000 to 7,000
- **Plant Growth Regulators** (PGR) (S) = spray / (D) = drench:B-Nine 2,500 PPM (S), B-Nine 1,000 PPM (S)/Cycocel 500 PPM (S) tank mix, Bonzi 2 to 4 PPM (D)
- **Pests and Fungal Diseases:**Pythium, Botrytis, Aphids, Thrips, Spider Mites, Mites, Root Rot, Powdery Mildew

Crop Time

- 4- to 5-inch (10- to 13-cm) Pots, Quarts:5 to 7 weeks, 1 ppp
- 6-inch (15-cm) Pots, Gallons:7 to 9 weeks, 1 ppp
- 10- to 12-inch (25- to 30-cm) Tubs or Baskets:10 to 14 weeks, 3 to 4 ppp

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