

Colorado State University



From the Desk of Dr. Klett



The Colorado State University Annual Trial Garden has been transformed from Cool Season Trial beds and bare soil to flower beds showing every color of the rainbow. Our student annual and perennial coordinators and summer workers along with help from Larimer and Weld County Master Gardeners have been busy planting the over 1000 annual varieties and close to 100 new perennial introductions. We have and five planting days with volunteers and I feel the process went well and efficiently. We are working now on getting all the signage placed in the garden. Visitation has already picked up this spring and I expect it will continue to surge throughout the summer.

We have sent out our 2021-22 Cool Season Report to all of our cooperators and look forward to having that trial grow in the 2022-23 season. Just a reminder that if you are planning to send entries in for the 2022-23 trial we will need to have the seed sent by July 8th.

Currently our evaluation day is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9th, 2022 and we are looking forward to have all of you visit Fort Collins on that day and stay for Colorado Destination Week on Wednesday, August 10th and visit the Denver Botanic Gardens, Brown's Greenhouse and Welby Gardens in Denver. A special invite is forth coming by e-mail in the next couple of weeks requesting your presence and we will again be serving lunch .

Thanks again for your continual support for the 2022 season. Any questions feel free to contact me at jim.klett@colostate.edu or cell 970-218-0104.

2021 "Top Performer" Perennial Trial Winner *Spotlight*

Brunnera 'ALCHEMY™ Silver'

from Terra Nova Nurseries





Brunnera ALCHEMY™ Silver (Brunnera macrophylla^{PPAF} ('TNBRUAS')) from Terra Nova Nurseries

At CSU, this great plant was noted to be able to brighten up a shady area with a constant display of beautiful silver foliage. Plants were vigorous and are covered by a delicate cloud of light blue flowers from about May into June. Leaves are relatively thick and stood up well with strong stems to create a very attractive and uniform growth habit.

Terra Nova also describe it as a vigorous selection that will impress with its showy silver foliage and great crown count. In the spring blooms of blue, forget-me-not flowers are very attractive in addition to the foliage. The leaves of ALCHEMY™ Silver are textured, substantial and should hold up well in southern climates as well as the north. Hybrid vigor makes it easy to fill a gallon pot quickly. Prefers organic soils, must be well drained but moist in the garden. It makes a wonderful shade accent plant. Use in containers, as a mass planting, or in a border.

USDA Hardiness Zone(s): 4-9
Size (HT/W/FL HT): 14" / 18" / 16"
Exposure: Part shade, full shade
Bloom time(s): May into June
Habit: Clump forming

Finish time: plug to 4" 5-7 weeks, plug to gallon 8-10 weeks

Water requirements: dry moderately between waterings

Fertilizer: 50 PPM

EC: 0.5-0.7

pH: 5.5-6.8

Day length for flowering: Long day

Meet the 2022 Crew!

Just as the trial gardens are made up of a unique mix of many different plants, the crew taking care of them has a lot of unique talents and backgrounds (and even hat preferences) that work hard together to create a successful trial. Read below to meet the crew for 2022:



2022 Crew from left to right: Tania Lemus, Kit Powell, Cienna Tonini, Ian McLellan, Tate Erickson and Ila Jolly, Not pictured: Sarah Mendus

Tate Erickson is the current Annual Trial Coordinator and is originally from the Black Hills of SD. He's a junior double majoring in Environmental Hort- nursery and landscape management and Controlled Environmental Horticulture. He can't just have one favorite plant, but the rex begonias, bidens, and portulaca are three that deserve a notable mention. You can find Tate in a flannel and straw hat, anything to hold his hair back. Tate wants to go in the direction of crevice gardening after growing up and being inspired by the granite spires in the Black Hills. He wants to open his own nursery that promotes environmental awareness and the ability to have a lush garden with waterwise gardening.

Ian Mclellan is on our Annual Crew and is from Northern VA/Baton Rouge, LA. He's a transfer student- Junior in Environmental Horticulture concentrating in Nursery and Landscape management. Ian's favorite plant is the Begonia Rex, and more specifcily to the 2022 Trials is Begonia Rex 'Megalo Reptile' from Ball Seed. Ian is a man of two hats - A straw sun hat and a baseball hat. After school he would like to get into plant breeding.

Ila Jolly grew up on a farm in the San Luis Valley. She's running the social media along with working with the Annual Crew. She is a senior studying horticulture with concentration of controlled environment. Her favorite plant is 'White Flame' Salvia for it's scent. The hat style you will see her in is anything that covers her ears and isn't too hot. After school she is planning to get into the industry.

Cienna Tonini, works with both the Annual Trial crew and Plant Select garden. She grew up in Annapolis, Maryland & Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is currently a senior studying Environmental Horticulture; Greenhouse Nursery and Landscape Management. Cienna's favorite plant in the garden Lantana 'Shamrock Peach Improved'. She has plans after school to open her own greenhouse/nursery business and improve sustainability within the industry.

Sarah Mendus is our Perennial Trial Coordinator, and is from Castle Rock, Colorado. Currently she is a senior, majoring in horticulture with controlled environment concentration, minor in creative writing! Sarah's favorite plant in the Perennial Trial garden is Lupine 'Beefeater' with its vibrant red color. Her plans after college are getting involved in controlled environment food crop production on either the research or production end to help address food insecurity

Kit Powell has taken the reigns on the Perennial Demo Garden coordinator, originally from Boulder Colorado. He's persuing a second degree in horticulture and has a big straw hat you that makes him easy to find at the garden.

Tania Lemus assists over at the Perennial Demo Garden and is from Dallas, Texas. She is a senior in Horticulture with a Controlled Environment Concentration. Her favorite plant: Delosperma hybrid "Ocean Sunset Orange Glow Ice Plant" found in the Perennial Demo garden. Tania will be found usually wearing a gardening hat or a baseball cap. After school she plans on becoming a horticulture teacher for high school and hopefully one day own a nursery/coffee shop!

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