

Colorado State University



From the Desk of Dr. Klett



The 2022 growing season is upon us and the Spring 2022 semester classes are completed and grades turned in. My efforts are now turned to getting the 2022 Annual and Perennial Trials planted. The student workers are now able to put in more hours to get the trials planted and cared for.

We have completed our Cool Season Trials for the 2021-2022 season. I thank the committee members who were able to attend our evaluation day and pick our top performers. The winners are listed later in this newsletter.

I am happy to report we are looking forward to having many of you visit Colorado State University Trials as part of Colorado Destination Week, August 9-10, 2022. You will be able to view trials at four different locations - Colorado State University in Fort Collins on August 9, 2022 and Denver Botanic Gardens, Brown Greenhouses and Welby Greenhouse in Denver on August 10, 2022. More detailed information and registration will be listed on our website flowertrials.colostate.edu.

We will also have our Public Evaluation Day for the public at our Annual Trial Garden on Saturday, August 6, 2022.

We plan to start planting our Annual Trial the week of May 23, 2022 hopefully after the last cold spell of the season. Our goal is to have all the annual and perennial trials planted by June 15th or before.

We look forward to a more normal growing season and seeing most of you in August 2022.

2021-2022 CSU Cool Season Trial Winners

The evaluation day for the 2021-2022 CSU Cool Season Trial was held on April 27, 2022. Following are the winners from a season marked by adverse growing conditions in April that were characterized by high winds, virtually no precipitation and widely fluctuating temperatures ranging from 16° F to 80° F in a matter of two weeks.



***Viola cornuta* Penny™ Violet Tiger Face from Syngenta Flowers**

Overall uniformity was striking and described by one evaluator as looking like “little soldiers” in a perfect row. The rich velvety flowers had a bright yellow center for nice contrast and cute whiskers made it even more attractive. Winter survival was perfect without any losses or dieback.



***Viola x wittrockiana* Freefall™ Series from Syngenta Flowers**

The entire Freefall Series was noted to be especially nice due the vigorous spreading plants which looked great in the ground but also work well trailing over the side in containers. Freefall™ Golden Yellow was a standout in the series with a nice golden yellow flower and attractive green foliage. Winter hardiness was excellent.



***Viola x wittrockiana* Freefall™ Mariana from Syngenta Flowers**

This entry was noted for strong vigor and a classic blue and white pattern. As one evaluator described it, it “speaks spring”. Flowering was prolific and it had an excellent mounding growth habit and good uniformity.



***Viola x wittrockiana* Delta™ Premium Violet and White from Syngenta Flowers**

Blooms had great flower power as all the flowers faced up and almost completely obscured the vegetation. Flowers were relatively large. Dark purple combined with white to provide a very crisp pattern. Plants had good vigor and excellent uniformity.



***Viola x wittrockiana* Freefall™ Sundown**

Flowers had good depth of color with nice contrast between the dark violet and yellow. Whiskers were an added bonus on the abundant flowers. Winter hardiness was excellent without any losses or dieback. Plants and flowers had nice size as well as being very uniform.

**2021 "Top Performer" Winner *Spotlight* -
Veronica Moody Blues® Mauve Improved®
from Darwin Perennials**



Veronica Moody Blues® Mauve Improved® (Veronica spicata 'Balmoomai'^{PP31833})

At the CSU trials the impressive vibrant, mauve colored blooms covered the plants at peak and repeated later in the season. Well branched plants were compact and very uniform with 100% winter survival. It has the added bonus of being a good bloomer the first year in the garden and a favorite with bees.

The breeder notes that the entire series has great uniformity and habit make it an ideal choice for 2.5-qt and 1-gal production. No vernalization is required and there are multiple colors in the series. Consumers will also appreciate the tidy habit, first year flowering, repeat blooming and that it works great in both the garden or in a mixed container. Prefers well-drained soil in full sun, although will tolerate a wide range of soils and conditions.

Hardiness Zone : 4b - 9b

Plant Habit : Upright

Characteristics : Attracts Bees, Drought Tolerant, Heat Tolerant

Water : Light

Fertilizer : Once a month

Spacing : 6 - 14" (15 - 36cm)

Height : 12 - 14" (30 - 36cm)

Width : 12 - 14" (30 - 36cm)

Exposure : Sun

Media EC/pH: EC 0.75-0.80 mmhos/pH 5.8-6.2

Soil Temperature: 70-72°F (21-22°C)

Rooting Hormone: 500 ppm IBA

Mist: Moderate

Fertilization: 50-75 ppm N

Pinching: Recommended after roots are established. Leave 4-5 active internodes.

Transplanting: 35-42 days after sticking

Comments: Roots quickly. Plan to pinch in liner tray.

Temperature: Nights: 50 to 55°F (10 to 13°C) Days: 60 to 70°F (16 to 20°C)

Light Level (fc): 5,000 to 8,000

Vernalization: No

Daylength: Long day facultative

Watering: Allow media to dry slightly between watering.

Plant Growth Regulators: PGRs generally not needed

1-qt. (10-cm) pot, 1 plant per pot: Unrooted: 10-14 wks Rooted: 8-10 wks

1-gal. (15-cm) pot, 1 plant per pot: Unrooted: 14-16 wks Rooted: 10-12 wks

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