



From the Desk of Dr. Klett



The fall season is starting to turn to winter here in Fort Collins since we had several hard freezes and a dusting of snow in between warm weather. In the annual garden, both the ground beds and containers have been cleaned and dead plants composted. The final Annual 2021 report has been published and you should have received a copy via email. If you did not receive a copy, please email me at jim.klett@colostate.edu for a copy or it can be found on our website at flowertrials.colostate.edu.

Our efforts now have shifted to our three year Perennial and Cool Season Trials. The formal report should be finished by mid-to-late December. The winners of our 2021 Top Performers are listed in this newsletter.

All of this information will be up on our website soon. The winners of our 2021 Annual and Perennial Trials will be announced at the upcoming state industry educational shows in person this year. Information about these winners have already been sent out for our "Best Of" annuals and will be shortly for our "Top Performers" perennials.

I want to state my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who made the Colorado State University Annual, Perennial and Cool Season Trials possible during 2021. Without your continual support, we could not continue to do these trials.

I want to especially thank Sheila Prentice for the excellent job she did as the Annual Trial Garden Coordinator in 2021. Sheila will continue to be Cool Season Trial Coordinator and will put her efforts towards finishing the requirements for the Master of Science degree in the Department. She is turning over the Annual Trial Garden Coordinator position to Tate Erickson, an undergraduate Environmental Horticulture major who worked in the annual trial garden during the 2021 season. I hope the transition will go well and he will fill Sheila's shoes excellently.

Also in this issue is a picture of all of our 2021 Annual, Perennial and Cool Season Trial team. I want to personally thank all of them for their hard work and dedication to these trials in 2021.

Have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season and we will start up again in the early Spring of 2022.



Fall 2021 Flower Trial Team (back row, L-R: Sheila Prentice, Bryce Phipps, Courtney Dunbar, Tate Erickson, Max Nikkari, Dr. Jim Klett; front row: David Staats, Cienna Tonini, Sarah Mendus, Emily Gritters)

2021 "Top Performer" Perennial Winners

The results are in and we are excited to announce the 2021 "Top Performer" Perennials! Winners of the "Top Performer" award are selected by a different process than the "Best Of" Annual winners. Since individual perennials often peak at different times of the year, evaluators meet and review photos that were taken every two weeks during the growing season for the entire trial period of two winters and three growing seasons. Data tabulated by the student coordinator throughout the season is also taken into consideration during the process. The evaluators are members from the Perennial Trial Garden sub-committee which is made up of professionals from the local Green Industry as well as staff from Colorado State University. A perennial entry is only considered for the "Top Performer" award if it has maintained superior performance in the ground for two winters and three growing seasons.

Achillea 'Firefly Sunshine' **(*Achillea x hybrida*) from Walters Gardens, Inc. /Proven Winners®**

Vibrant yellow flowers provided a lot of color and with a long-lasting bloom. Dark green foliage also made the flower color stand out. It had superior qualities with a more compact growth habit that did not lodge despite overhead watering and had excellent winter survival. It was also noted that it did not spread around the garden which is a definite plus.



Brunnera ALCHEMY™ Silver
(*Brunnera macrophylla*) from Terra Nova Nurseries

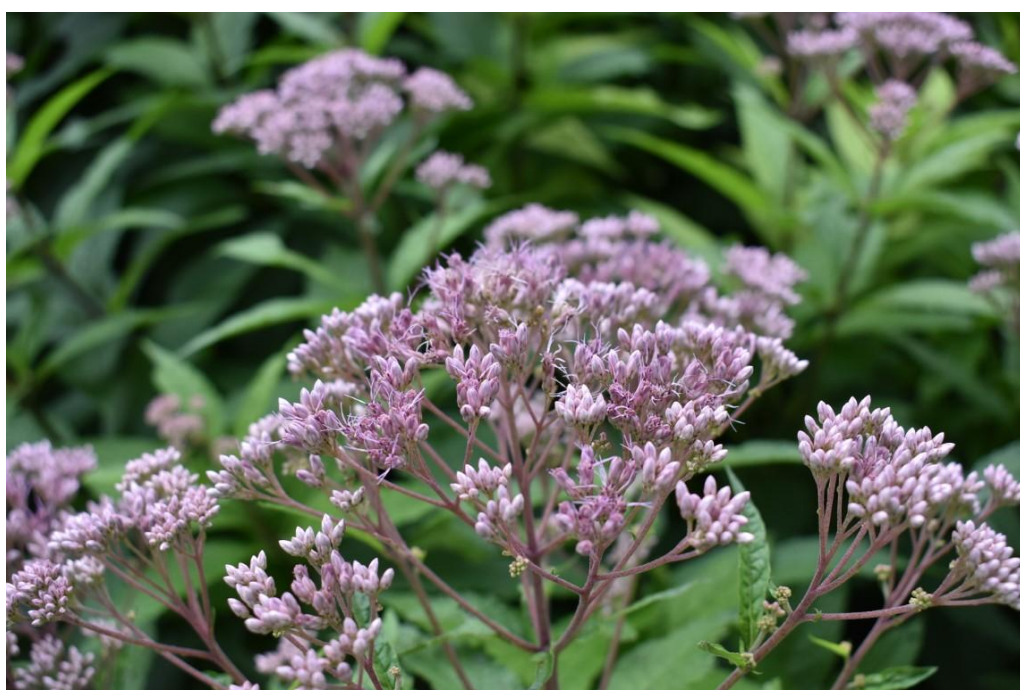
This great plant can brighten up a shady area with a constant display of beautiful silver foliage. Plants are vigorous and are covered by a delicate cloud of light blue flowers from about May into June. Leaves are relatively thick and stand up well with strong stems to create a very attractive and uniform growth habit.





Eupatorium Euphoria™ Ruby
(*Eupatorium purpureum* 'FLOREUPRE1', PP31,668) from Darwin Perennials®

Shorter and more compact than the species, this is a nice medium size plant for the modern landscape. This was a unanimous choice for the "Top Performer" award with dependable light ruby/lilac colored flowers that combines well with dark leaves and stems. It was noted to be an excellent pollinator plant.



Perovskia CrazyBlue
(*Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'CrazyBlue' PP #25,639) from Darwin Perennials®

Plants were noted to have superior flowering and growth habit. The flower have a long lasting bloom period and the violet-blue flowers last longer than other *Perovskia*. Uniform plants had interlacing branching and sturdy stems that kept it from lodging and maintained an attractive appearance all season. It is a mid-sized plant about 3-4 feet in height.



**Rosa Sunbeam Veranda®
(Rosa x 'Korfloci52' PP23,314) from Star® Roses and Plants**

Glossy, dark green foliage made the bright yellow flower color even more stunning. Blooming started in June and lasted well into September. The compact size make this a great choice for smaller gardens spaces. Plants had excellent winter hardiness.



Rosa Cherry Frost™
(*Rosa* x 'Overredclimb' PP31,286) from Star® Roses and Plants

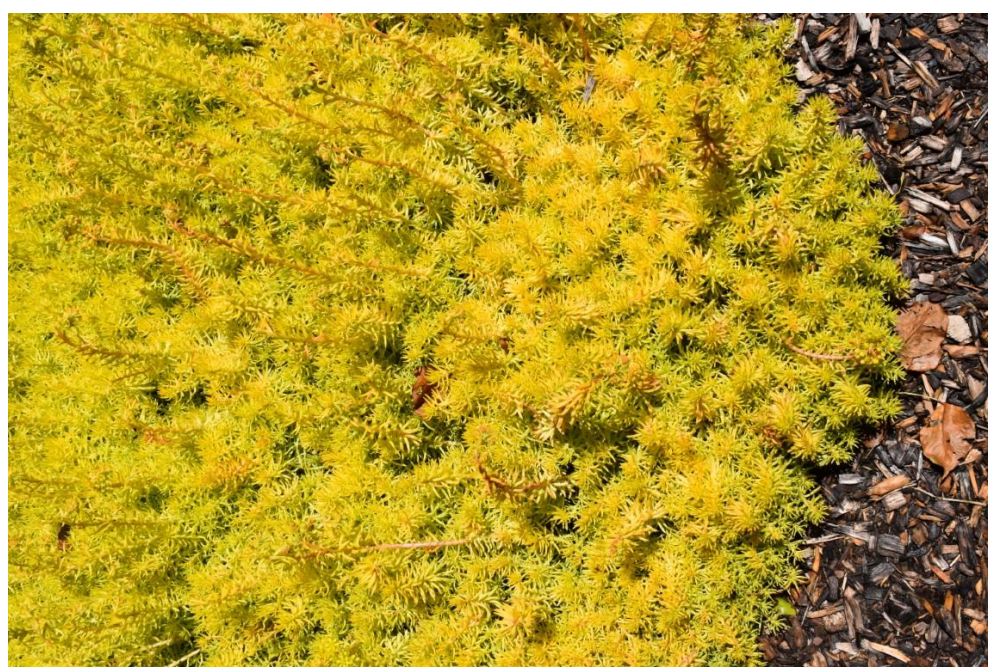
Abundant bright red flowers and good disease resistance make this a good climbing rose for Colorado. Clusters of small flowers kept repeating throughout the growing season in flushes for long lasting color. It had excellent winter survival.





Sedum Prima Angelina
(*Sedum rupestre*) from Darwin Perennials®

Great neon yellow foliage makes this an excellent foliage plant in the summer and also is quite showy in the winter with a nice shade of red. The spreading growth habit is very uniform and a great choice with rock gardens or combined with other *Sedums* for additional color contrast. Prima Angelina is superior to the straight Angelina with better branching and growth habit while also being less brittle.



Veronica Moody Blues® Mauve Improved
(*Veronica spicata*) from Darwin Perennials®

Impressive vibrant, mauve colored blooms cover the plants at peak and repeat later in the season. Well branched plants are compact and very uniform with 100% winter survival. It has the added bonus of being a good bloomer the first year in the garden.



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