



From the Desk of Dr. Klett



The 2022 Annual Flower Trials are coming to an end with a couple light frosts already but no hard freeze reported yet. Our fall season has been beautiful to the middle of October and visitor attendance has been great. Most of the more hardy annuals and those in more protected areas especially under shade structures still look excellent. The annual trial garden report for 2022 should be emailed to all of you by the week of October 24 2022. Thanks to Tate Erickson and David Staats for all their work in getting this massive report out in a very timely manner.

The Cool Season Trials were planted Wednesday, October 12, 2022. Hopefully they will have several weeks to get established before the really cold weather returns to Fort Collins. This year we have 50 varieties of Pansies and Violas in the Trials.

I want to thank all of our cooperators for helping to make the 2022 Colorado State University Flower Trials the success they were this season. We had great attendance on Consumer Day, Evaluation Day and from the general gardening public throughout the season and it still continues. Thanks especially to the Annual Trial Garden Student Coordinator Tate Erickson and his three student workers Ila jolly, Ian McLellan, and Cienna Tonini for all their hard work to make the garden the success it was in 2022. I welcome comments and improvements which can be emailed to me at jim.klett@colostate.edu.

Also, thanks to all the members of the Advisory Committee who met on Oct. 13, 2022 for their advice for the 2023 season and comments on how the garden can be improved from what they observed in the 2022 season.

In our November issue we will discuss the Top Performers from the Three Year Perennial Trial.

2022 "Best Of" Winners, Part II of II

The results are in and the 2022 "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 2022 "Top Performer" perennials in the November newsletter!

Best Lantana, container – Bandolista™ Pineapple from Syngenta® Flowers

Noted for its strong flower color and excellent flowering. The vigorous plants had a nice "sprounding" (spreading/mounding) habit that looked good in both the container and in the ground. This entry loved the heat and looked great throughout the many near 100° days.



Best Lantana, ground – Bandolista™ Mango from Syngenta® Flowers

Nice shades of mango live up to the flower name with abundant blooms of bicolor flowers. The heat loving plants had high vigor and would look in good either in the ground or in a basket. No seed set was noticed which led to better flowering. It was also a favorite of the bees.



Best Marigold – Endurance™ Yellow from Syngenta® Flowers

The endurance name fit the flower as it looked good a very long time with many bright yellow blooms. Triploid plants were credited with better heat tolerance, flower power and large blooms. Plant vigor was excellent and buried its dead resulting in superior overall appearance and low maintenance.





Best 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. It is a consistent performer and also won in 2021.



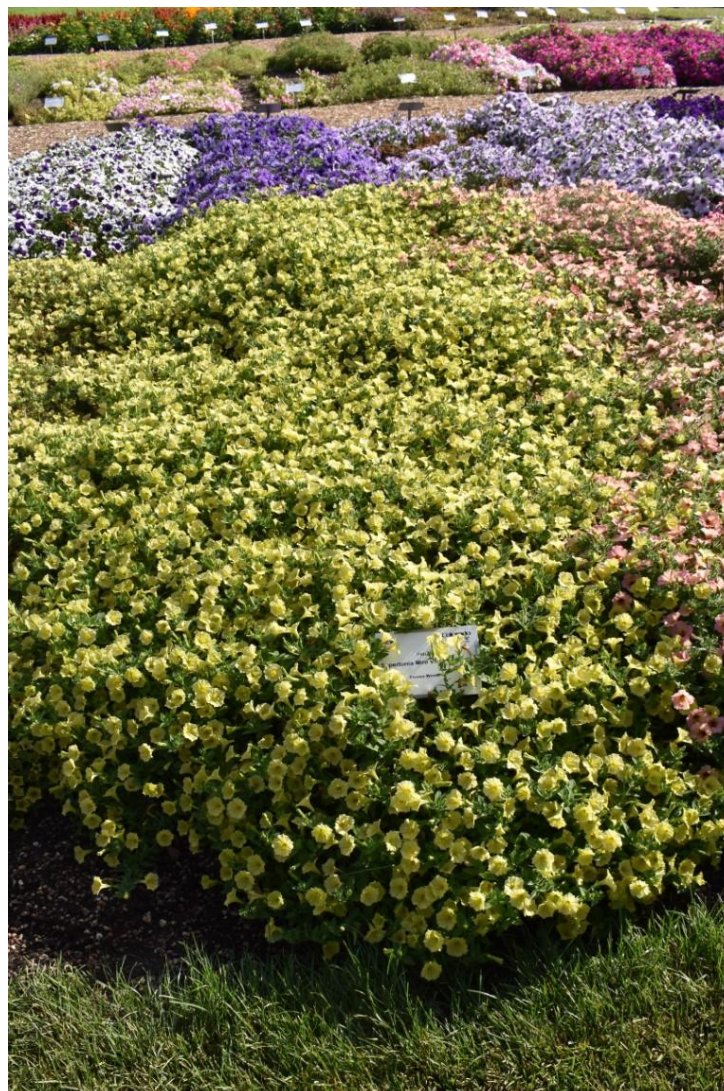
Best Petunia, container – SureShot™ White from Ball FloraPlant®

Prolific clean white flowers covered the trailing plants which in turn enveloped the entire container. The growth habit was very uniform and plants were very full. Flower power was excellent all season long.

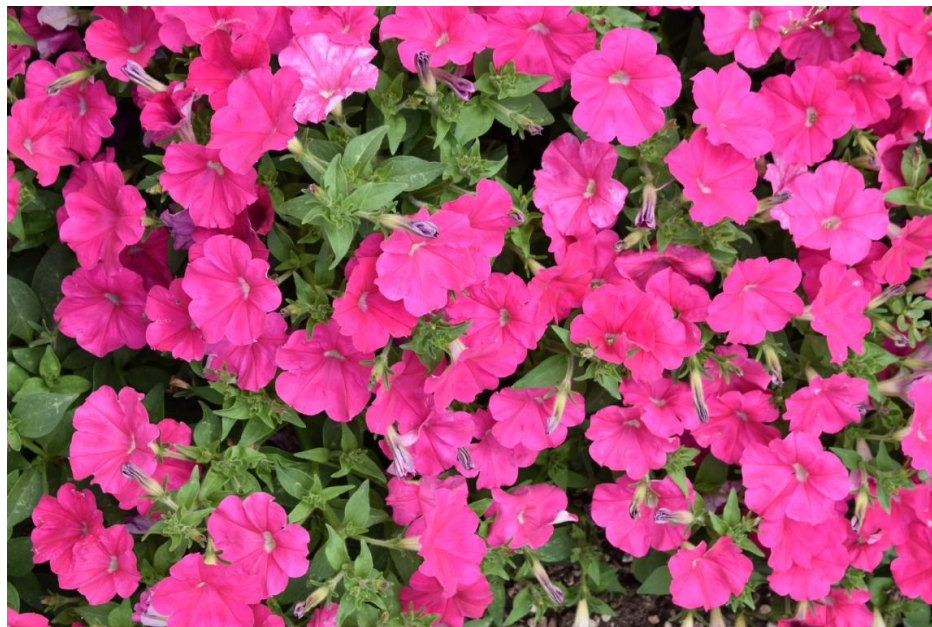




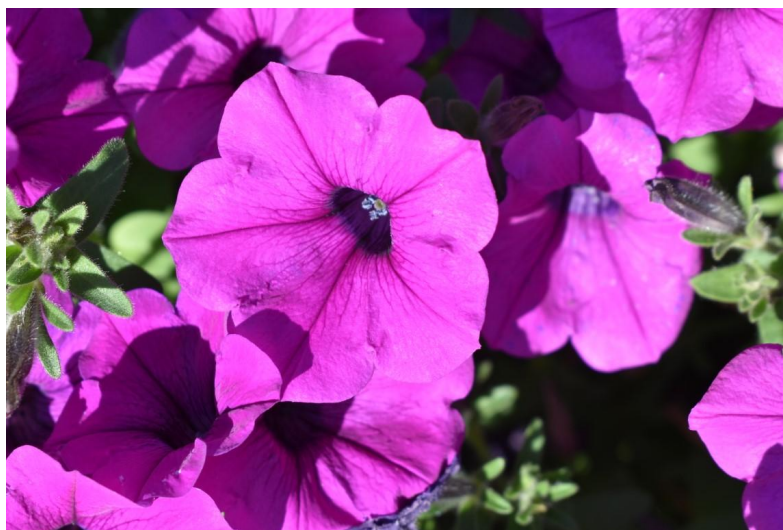
Best Petunia (mini) ground – Supertunia Mini Vista® Yellow from Proven Winners®
 Plants were loaded with petite yellow flowers to the point the foliage was almost unseen. It would make a great spreader for the landscape or look good in a large planter. Evaluators described it as smaller, yellow version of Supertunia Vista® Bubble Gum® which won CSU Flower trial award more times than any other petunia over the years.



Best Petunia (seed), ground – FotoFinish™ Pink from Syngenta® Flowers
 Great choice for the landscape as plants had excellent vigor and a nice spreading habit. The abundant hot pink flowers and good flower size created a lot of high impact flower color that was visible from a long distance.



Best Petunia (vegetative), ground – DuraBloom® Electric Lilac from Dummen Orange®
Plants are durable and looked good all season with prolific flowering. Uniformity and vigor was superior all season and resulted in excellent overall aesthetics with relatively low maintenance.





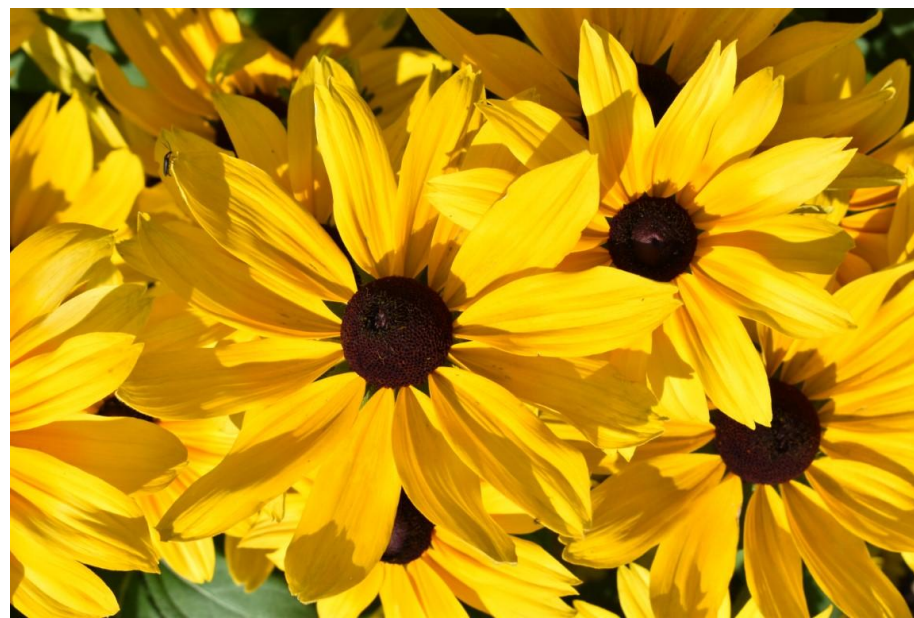
Best Portulaca – Pazaaz™ Yellow Improved from Danziger

This drought tolerant plant looked good in a container and could also be used as an annual groundcover. The many flowers were noted for opening relatively early for maximum show. Blooms had a strong yellow color while the plants had good uniformity and vigor.



Best Rudbeckia – Sunbeckia Maya from Bull Plant Genetics

Large striking flowers were very showy with two tone yellow petals and a chocolate colored cone in the middle that reminded some of a Hershey's Kiss. Flowers aged well and maintained their appearance for a very long period both in the ground and container. Plants were very uniform.



Best Salvia - Rockin'® Deep Purple 2023 from Proven Winners®

Deep purple flowers combined with dark calyx and stems made a great color contrast with the attractive foliage. Plants were very sturdy and did not lodge even with overhead irrigation. Growth habit was very uniform and plants had excellent vigor. Would make a good choice for either ground or containers.





Best Sun Impatiens - SunPatiens® Vigorous Peach Candy from Sakata® Seed America
Prolific peach colored flowers blanket the attractive dark green foliage. Blooms kept a nice pattern and were a very nice bicolor with peach and white that maintained vibrant color even in the intense Colorado sun. Plants were noted for their great vigor and uniform shape. Plants would be ideal for the landscape with its ability to provide massive color.

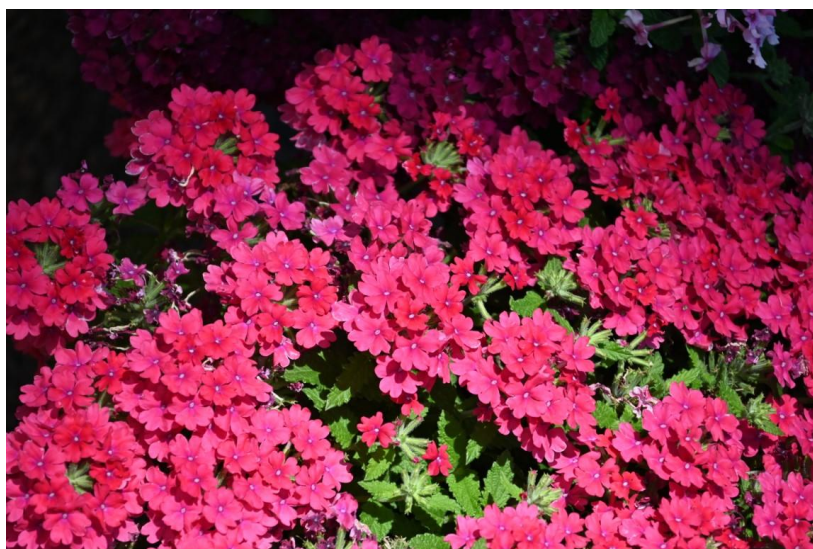


Best Verbena, ground – EnduraScape™ Pink Bicolor (Balendpibi)™^{PP28,455} from Ball FloraPlant
Noted for consistent flowering over the high heat of the summer it is also bred to be relatively cold tolerant. It remained in bloom all season without any flushing. Plants are vigorous with a nice uniform habit and were also designated as a AAS winner in 2017.



Best Verbena, container – Vanessa™ Compact Neon Pink from Danziger

Bright pink flowers covered the nicely mounded plants. This would make an excellent choice for a hanging basket due to the well branched habit. Flower color held strong even in the heat of the summer. There were no signs of powdery mildew even late in the season.



Best Vinca – Cora® XDR Punch from Syngenta Flowers®

Noted for being “tried and true” due to its large flower and glossy foliage while also having high heat and disease tolerance. Plants had good vigor and uniformity while the large blooms had a nice bright color that was very showy.



Best Zinnia – Magellan™ Orange from Syngenta Flowers®

Large flowers had a nice pumpkin shade of orange. Flowering was prolific on very uniform plants. Foliage was very healthy with no signs of powdery mildew even into September. Plants buried their dead for a relatively low maintenance plant. It could also be considered as a good substitute for marigolds.



Other Outstanding Plants

Dahlia Labella® Maggiore Fun Chocolate Yellow from Beekenkamp Plants

Flower buds start out as a chocolate color and open to a bright yellow bloom that has excellent contrast with the dark foliage. The plants are upright with a nice compact growth habit and great uniformity

resulting in excellent overall aesthetics.



Lantana Bandolista™ Red Chili from Syngenta Flowers®

Flowers had a strong, saturated red/orange color. The heat loving plants looked great in a container but would also look fine in the ground. Plant vigor was excellent with consistent blooming all summer.



Gerbera Garvinea Majestic Light Pink from HilverdaFlorist

Prolific flowering all season was combined with color that did not fade even in the intense sunlight of Colorado. Entire Garvinea series is bred for the landscape and had excellent flower power and uniform, disease free plants.



Sun Impatiens - SunPatians® Compact Classic White ('SAKIMP068') from Sakata® Seed America

Plants had perfect form all season and were covered by a cape of white flowers. The classic white blooms were crisp and clear in color. Can be grown in sun or shade. Plants were compact and disease resistant.



Zinnia Zesty™ Purple form Syngenta Flowers®

Flower color is a “stunner” as the purple color is very striking and there is nothing similar to it in any other series. The color makes it a standout in the landscape. The flower is densely packed with petals and very large with blooming that continues all season. Plants are very uniform, disease free and have excellent overall aesthetics.



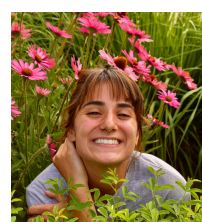
"Best Of" Winners Previously Mentioned in the September Newsletter:

- Best of Show** – SunPatiens® Vigorous Peach Candy from Sakata® Seed America
- Best New Variety** – Salvia Rockin'® Deep Purple 2023 from Proven Winners®
- Best Novelty** – Senecio Angel Wings ('Senaw')^{PP28,830} from Concept Plants

Best Of....

- Best Angelonia, container – Archangel™ Blue Bicolor ('Balarcubi') from Ball FloraPlant®
- Best Angelonia, ground - Archangel™ Purple Improved from Ball FloraPlant®
- Best Begonia (Rex) – Jurassic Jr.™ Fire Spike from Ball Ingenuity®
- Best Begonia (seed), container – Hula™ Red Spreading Begonia from PanAmerican Seed
- Best Begonia (seed), ground – Bionic™ Green Leaf Rose from Syngenta® Flowers
- Best Begonia (vegetative) – BK Collection Vermillion Red from Beekenkamp Plants
- Best Calibrachoa – Bumble Bee™ Hot Pink from Ball FloraPlant®
- Best Celosia – Flamma Bright Red from Sakata® Seed America
- Best Coleus – Main Steet Yonge Street from Dummen Orange®
- Best Combo – MixMasters™ Amped Up from Ball FloraPlant®
- Best Dahlia – City Lights™ Purple from Selecta One®
- Best Geranium, container – Sunrise™ Brilliant Red 23 from Selecta One®
- Best Geranium (interspecific) ground – Caliente® Coral Salmon from Syngenta® Flowers
- Best Geranium (zonal) ground – Dynamo™ Dark Red from Ball FloraPlant®
- Best Gerbera – Garvinea Sweet Sparkle from HilverdaFlorist
- Best Impatiens, container - Beacon® Portland Mix from PanAmerican Seed®
- Best Impatiens, ground – Imara XDR Rose from Syngenta Flowers
- Best Impatiens, New Guinea – Super Sonic® White from Syngenta® Flowers

2022 Plant Select Display Gardens by Cienna Tonini



Plant Select® is a program that focuses on new plant cultivars that thrive in the environmental conditions for the Rocky Mountain region. This program has been providing a wide range of selection including woody plants, flowering perennials, vines and groundcovers for 25 years!

Here at Colorado State University, I have been given the privilege to maintain both the Plant Select display gardens located at the Annual Trial Garden and at the Horticulture Center. These plants provide tremendous ornamental value and are quite sustainable for the environment.

Fortunately, this year in particular we have received a generous amount of plant donations to renovate these gardens. Also, both locations received a new layer of dark wood-chip mulch. All varieties are labeled to provide educational value. The garden located at the Horticulture Center this summer got a large extension that displays an example of both rock garden (xeric) and moderate moisture landscape demonstrations.



In late spring, the gardens were cleaned up from winter debris and required consistent weed management throughout the entire season. Throughout the summer, the gardens had an automatic irrigation schedule that watered 2-3 times a week for a 15 minute period; although extra irrigation was provided during periods of hot/dry conditions. To ensure secondary and/or full season blooms, all varieties were pruned (deadheaded) frequently in order to encourage optimal quality and color.

As expected, there sometime some problems with insects. The most commonly observed insects dealt with were grasshoppers and Japanese beetles. Our IPM strategies varied between the species. Common chemical control methods are difficult since it is a public garden and the because of possible side affects to pollinators. To avoid this, we mainly eradicated Japanese beetles when spotted by knocking them off the plants and into soap-water mix. Also, we had some beneficial insects such as lady bugs and pollinators. Individuals who studied bee populations at the gardens, stated there were over 26 species caring for the plants here! This season, the Plant Select locations had minimal signs or symptoms of disease.



During the autumn/winter season, we will cut back all perennials roughly to 2-3 inches above soil surface. When plant material is removed, it is composted thru the campus compost program which will eventually be recycled into new soil/mulch for future use. There are several cold-hardy species that will provide winter texture and demonstrate the multi-season beauty of many in the Plant Select® program.

2022-2023 Cool Season Trial

The 2022-2023 Cool Season Trial was planted on a beautiful day last week on October 12th. A total of 50 entries were planted by the CSU staff which will be coordinated by Ian McLellan an Environmental Horticulture undergraduate. They will be established in the fall and remain through the winter and evaluated in April to select the best cool season plants for this region. The winners will be promoted in the April or May 2023 newsletter so be sure to watch for the future winners!



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