

Colorado State University



From the Desk of Dr. Chad Miller



The Memorial Day weekend and summer season is on our doorstep! I am not sure where the spring semester went, but it is over, finals given, and grades are submitted. It was a pretty good first semester here at CSU. Speaking of spring, I know I have appreciated the very spring-like temperatures and generous moisture!

The 2022-2023 Cool Season trials have wrapped up, and we thank the committee members who assisted in the final evaluations, back in early May. More information on the Cool Season Trials highlights can be found below in the newsletter! The trials are looking really nice, perhaps a testament to the cooler temperatures and rains we have had! The picture below was taken on May 19th. The trials will be removed to make way for the summer annual trials.



The trial garden preparations and planting are in full swing! Our first planting date for the annual trials occurred last week, and subsequent plantings will occur over the next two weeks. The perennial trial gardens have also had a flurry of activity, removing the plants that have cycled through and planting of new entries. It should be a great set of trials, yet again. The goal is to have the gardens fully planted by June 9th.

We have a great group of students working across the trial gardens this year and in the next newsletter

edition, we will introduce the team! And of course, David Staats, our research associate who undoubtedly is the glue that holds a lot of this together is always instrumental in the trial gardens. He certainly has been a great help in my first trial season!

If you don't already have them on your calendar, the Public Evaluation Trial Day is August 5th, 2023, and the Industry Evaluation Trial Day is August 8th, 2023. We are excited again to be a part of the Colorado Destination Week with trial evaluations at Denver Botanic Gardens, Blooma Farms, and Welby Gardens (August 9th). Additional information can be found on the flowertrials.colostate.edu website.

I look forward to a successful growing season! As always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns! chad.miller@colostate.edu or 607.351.0760

2022-2023 CSU Cool Season Trial Winners

The evaluation day for the 2022-2023 CSU Cool Season Trial was held on May 3, 2023. Following are the winners from a season marked by severe cold and temperature fluctuations. On December 22, the high temperature was 49° F and in a little more than a 24-hour span, the temperature dropped to -17° F on December 23rd. The temperature plunged 49° F to -6° F and happened in a matter of about 4 hours, without any snow cover. Snow fall occurred a few hours later. In January and February, low temperatures of -11°F and -13°F respectively, were recorded.

In the 2022-2023 Cool Season trial, many selections in the Freefall™ Series were noted to be especially nice due to the vigorous spreading plants. Winter survival was impressive for such a severe winter. This was the second year in a row that many in the Freefall™ Series were recognized for superior performance. The plants looked great in the ground trial but would also work well trailing over the side of containers.

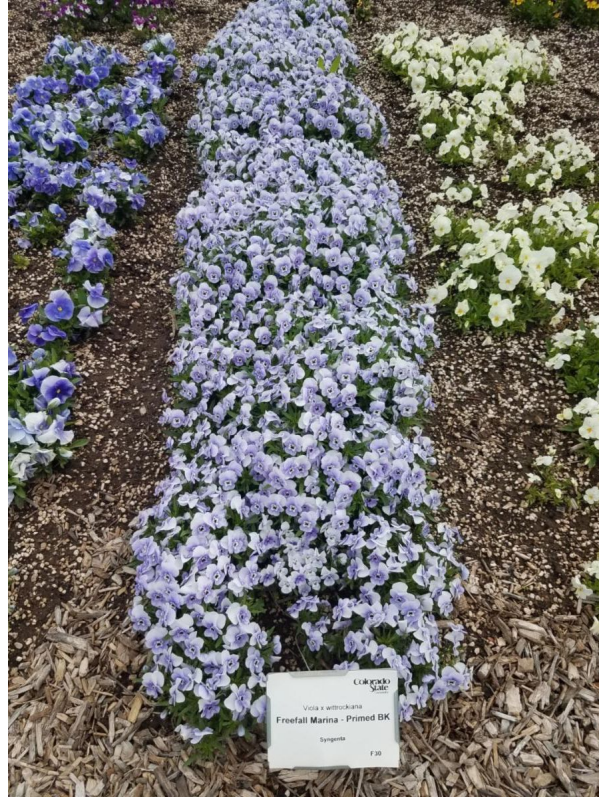




***Viola x wittrockiana* Freefall™ XL Blue Picotee Shades from Syngenta Flowers**

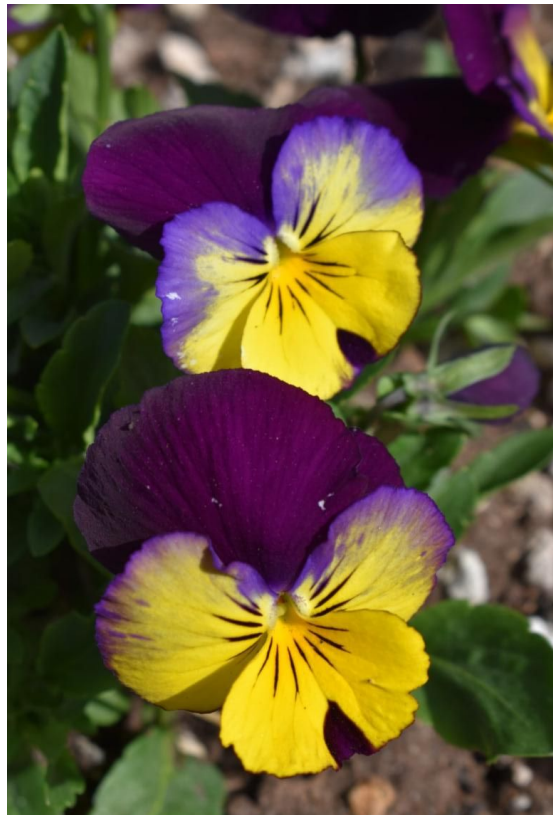
Selected as the “Best of Show” from the Cool Season Trial, it was an obvious and unanimous choice among the evaluators. It was the first in the trial to rebound from the winter and had excellent winter survival. Flowering was very prolific, and flowers faced upward providing maximum flower power. Multiple shades of blue added interest with the white and yellow in the flower face. Spreading plants had good vigor and great uniformity.





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

This entry was selected as a winner in the 2021-2022 trial as well. For two years in a row, it 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 growth habit and good uniformity.





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

Another repeat winner from the 2021-2022 trial. 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.





***Viola cornuta* Endurio® Bue Face from Syngenta Flowers**

This entry was a true viola and had excellent winter survival (100%) along with impressive “cuteness” appeal. Flowers were abundant and the color was very solid with no signs of fading. It was a nice tricolor that with a novel appearance of yellow, white and shades of lavender blue along the outer petal.

**2022 "Top Performer" Perennial Winner *Spotlight* -
Leucanthemum Sweet Daisy™ Rebecca
from Dümmen Orange**





Leucanthemum Sweet Daisy™ Rebecca from Dümmen Orange

At the CSU trials, plants were “right in your face” at peak bloom as they formed a solid canopy of flowers which was quite spectacular. Blooms were stunning white with multiple layers of petals and a yellow eye for maximum show. Petals had a very frilly edge and this was definitely not your average Shasta daisy. Plants had a compact and tidy growth habit.

The breeder notes that the entire series has an extended blooming period and large, clear white flowers. The Sweet Daisy collection of seven leucanthemum varieties offers a wide assortment of flower forms including singles, doubles, fluted and recurved. Rebecca is a double-fringed flowering variety. It is day length neutral, uniform, first-year flowering, programmable, has no vernalization requirement, and flowers in 14 weeks from an unrooted cutting. The flowering duration, habit and durability set it apart from many other leucanthemums.

First Year flowering – yes
Exposure – full sun
Hardiness zone 3-10
Height: 6-14 in
Width: 24-36 in

Propagation

6-8 weeks from stick (URC) to transplant, rooting hormone is optional, no need to pinch
Fertilizer: 100-150 ppmN
EC Range Moderate: (2.0-3.5 mS via SME)
pH range: 5.8-6.5
Avg temp for both soil and air: 65-72° F
Media should be kept moderately moist with mild dry cycles. Supplemental lighting is optional.

Finishing

No need for vernalization
4 in./qt. with 1 plant per pot finishes in 5-6 weeks
6 in./Gal. using 1-2 plants per pot finishes in 7-8 weeks
Fertilizer rate 150-200 ppm N
EC Range Moderate: (2.0-3.5 mS via SME)
pH range: 5.8-6.5

Day Temp: 65-7F
Night temp: 55-65 F
Media should be kept moderately moist with mild dry cycles.
No finishing pinch needed

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