

Colorado State University



From the Gardens...



It was a matter of time; summer has finally arrived! And with our first heat advisory of the summer! With the heat and sunshine, the plants are beginning to fill out. And so are the weeds, but the crew is keeping them in check and the gardens are looking great. The evaluation days are less than just a month away! We are excited to host everyone and hope you can join us as part of the Colorado Destination Week. Registration information for the Industry Evaluation Day (August 8, 2023) is open. Click the following link to register! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/csu-trial-garden-evaluation-day-tickets-670776489537>

In the last newsletter, we highlighted the CSU Trial Gardens Crew. In this issue, I would like to highlight others who are integral to this program.

First, I have asked David Staats, long time research associate of the program to write a bit about himself. No doubt, David is the proverbial 'glue that keeps everything together.' Whether it is assisting with tinkering and tweaking the irrigation system and schedule, assisting the student crew with their questions, applying a pesticide, or grilling up some hotdogs and burgers for a lunch BBQ, David does it all. Read a bit more about David, below.

Second, I would like to shout out and recognize all the Master Gardener volunteers who assist with the program. We have Master Gardener volunteers from Larimer and Weld Counties participating, with a big thanks to Alison O'Connor and Amy Lentz helping to organize different volunteers for the shifts. We have Master Gardeners volunteering throughout the year and in different parts of the trial gardens program, including greenhouse planting days, annual and perennial trial garden planting days, flower bed planting and maintenance on College Avenue, and volunteers that assist with the perennial demonstration garden! Between the transplanting dates back in March and April, along with the garden planting dates in late May and into June, we had about 70 Master Gardeners volunteer!

Gardens, research programs, and activities like the CSU Trial Gardens do not just happen! They are only successful with the assistance of great people and copious amounts of time and effort. This work happens in cold, wet, hot, dry, pestering flies and mosquitos, and any combination thereof. I appreciate all the folks who contribute and make these trials a success.

Stay cool, as we roll through the "dog days of summer." By the way, do you know how these days (~July through ~August) got their name? These are the days that mark the rising of Sirius, the dog star...which happens to be a part of the constellation, Canis Majoris. Sirius (meaning 'scorching' from the Ancient Greek from 'seirios') is one of the brightest stars in the sky. The Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans claimed that the combination of the rising of Sirius and our own bright star, the Sun, led to sweltering summer temperatures.

We hope to see you in a couple weeks at the evaluation day! As always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns! chad.miller@colostate.edu or 607.351.0760

Get to know some of the Flower Trial Staff



David Staats, Research Associate

Hello, I am David Staats and I've been a Research Associate helping with the Flower Trials for almost 30 years. I originally graduated from college with a BS in Business Administration and started working at the Federal Reserve Bank in Denver for several years before I came to CSU to get a MS in Horticulture. Although I found it very unique working at the bank and seeing large pallets of cash roll down the hallway each morning, I find working in a garden to be much more interesting and fulfilling.

When I first came to CSU to get a second degree, I hoped to combine my interest in plants with something that could help the community around me, so I was planning to get into Xeriscape and water conserving plants. Apparently, I should have taken a class in water-conserving toilets or plumbing since it was difficult to find a job with most municipalities when I graduated but I found something even better with the Flower Trials. I still get to work with plants and it truly is a special place in the community.

Just as the gardens have a wide variety of unique flowers it also draws a wide variety of visitors on a sunny summer day. Despite so many things that divide people in the community, it is nice to be part of something that can bring so many different people together with people leaving feeling better than when they arrived!

2022 "Top Performer Perennial" Winner *Spotlight* -
Armeria Dreameria® 'Dream Clouds'TM
from Darwin Perennials®



***Armeria pseudarmeria* 'Dream Clouds' PP33,597**

At the CSU trials, a heavy first flush of pure white flowers gives a crisp, impressive appearance with plenty of “Wow!” from visitors. The pom-pom flowers give a unique appearance and form for the garden. Growth habit is very uniform and tidy, dark green foliage is attractive even without flowers.

The breeder states the Dreameria series offers new and unique breeding for the *Armeria* class which is designed to move the genus from strictly early-Spring and late-Fall cool season flowering to season-long flowering. It is recommended to remove old flowers once a month for best performance. 'Dream Clouds' is a beautiful pure-white variety in the series. It features large flowers on sturdy stems for an excellent presentation. It is heat tolerant and its tidy habit is perfect for both landscapes and patio containers. It attracts butterflies but is resistant to deer.

Propagation

- **Media EC/pH:** EC 0.80 mmhos/pH 5.8-6.2
- **Soil Temperature:** 70-74°F (21-23°C)
- **Rooting Hormone:** 2,500 ppm IBA
- **Mist:** Low
- **Fertilization:** 100 ppm N starting at Day 7
- **Pinching:** Not necessary.
- **Transplanting:** 42-45 days after sticking
- **Comments:** Quite easy to propagate. Callused cuttings greatly enhance the grower's ability to grow this crop. Do not over-mist. Remove from mist after 10 to 12 days. Allow media to dry slightly between irrigations to encourage root development.

Finishing

- **Media pH:** 5.8-6.2
- **Temperature:** Nights: 55°F (13°C) Days: 68°F (20°C)
- **Light Level (fc):** 3,000 to 5,000
- **Vernalization:** No
- **Daylength:** Day length neutral
- **Watering:** Moderate
- **Fertilization:** Use a balanced fertilizer at a rate of 150 to 175 ppm N.
- **Pinch After Transplant:** No
- **Plant Growth Regulators:** PGRs generally not needed

Crop Time

- **1-qt. (10-cm) pot, 1 plant per pot:** Liner: 10-12 wks
- **1-gal. (15-cm) pot, 1 plant per pot:** Liner: 14-16 wks

Visit our website

Colorado State University Flower Trial Garden | 1401 Remington Street, Fort Collins, CO 80525

[Unsubscribe david.staats@colostate.edu](mailto:david.staats@colostate.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by david.staats@colostate.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!