

Colorado State University



From the Gardens...



Hello again, horticulture friends. Happy Fall...the solstice is next week, and I hope you are enjoying the fall weather as of recent! The trial gardens are still looking pretty good. There are a few species that are past their prime and on the way out, while others are still providing plenty of color! With the summer-like weather in the last ~month, there's been plenty of visitors to the gardens! (and a few more Japanese beetles as well...) We've got several more tours on the calendar in the coming weeks—into early October. So, hopefully we have a few more weeks to enjoy the gardens and the color!

The gardens hosted the last installment of the Twilight Garden Series talks in the gardens with a great turnout of over 60 people, including a several Master Gardener members from around Colorado. And the final Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Come to the Table mixer event will be held in the gardens on September 29th. The event will be featuring Talbott Farms (Palisade, CO) and the potato breeding program at CSU.

As has been done in the past, members of the Trial Garden Advisory Committee met on Friday, September 8th to go over the top results from the August 8th evaluation day. All but a couple of species that were voted the top performing plants held their own and will be recognized. You can see the first half of the winning species below in this newsletter! We will be sharing the winners with the industry, locally and nationally in the coming weeks. The fall advisory board meeting is set for Friday, October 13th at Tagawa Greenhouses in Brighton.

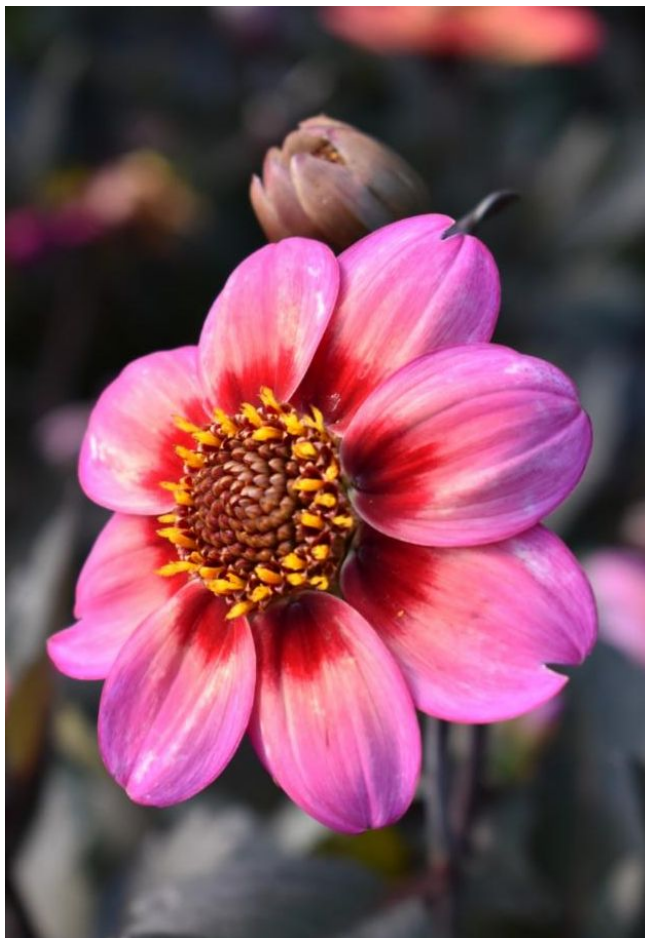
Planning for the 2024 trial season will be underway soon, as we wrap up this season. As always, any comments or thoughts you might have about making the CSU trial gardens even better, don't hesitate to let me know! Please reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns! chad.miller@colostate.edu or 607.351.0760

2023 "Best Of..." Winners!

The results are in and the 2023 "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 second half of the list will be sent out in the October issue but the names will still be listed at the end of this newsletter for those who can't stand the suspense until next month! The complete list and photos will also be on our website hopefully early next week. Look for the 2023 "Top Performer" perennials in the November newsletter!

Best of Show – Dahlia Dahlegria™ Apricot Tricolor from Syngenta®

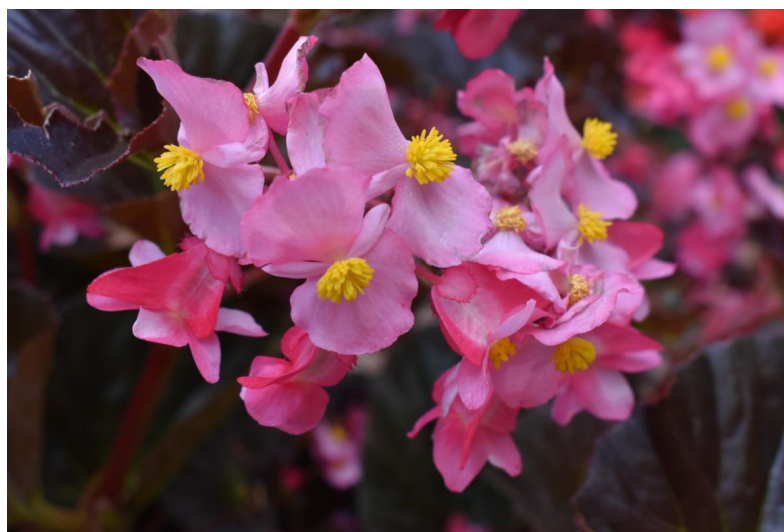
This entry holds the distinction of winning the "Best of Show" from both the industry and public evaluations! This plant is stunning on many levels. Flowers are a stunning combination of fruit stand colors such as apricot yellow, raspberry as well as magenta. The dark foliage makes a beautiful plant even without the flowers but when combined it is truly fascinating. Single petals and a pretty yellow eye are also a favorite of bees. It was bred for mildew resistance.



Best New Variety – Stonehedge Rose Bronze Leaf from Benary®

Plants have excellent vigor, never look tired and keep looking better and better right up until first frost. The large plants are very uniform with bright rose-colored flowers held high above the foliage for

maximum show. Stems were also noted to have a nice rosey hue that echos throughout the entire plant. The entire Stonehedge series was noted for superior performance and the breeder states even more colors will be coming soon.





Best Novelty – Centaurea FanciFillers™ Chrome Fountain from Westhoff

Selected for great color and great foliage, this plant looks great all by itself or as a companion plant. The rosettes of leaves provide a medium to coarse texture and an overall appearance that always looks very fresh and crisp. As an additional bonus, it also heat and drought tolerant. Grown mainly as a foliage plant, it may have late blooming flowers that have an interesting appearance or may just be snipped off to maintain the uniform growth habit.





Best Angelonia - Aria Alta Red Raspberry from Dummen Orange

Dark glossy foliage made a great contrast with the red flowers. Plants are tall and upright which are very attractive in the landscape. Flowering is prolific and long lasting so as not to require any dead heading.





Best Begonia (Rex type) - Spacestars Avior[®] from Beekenkamp Plants

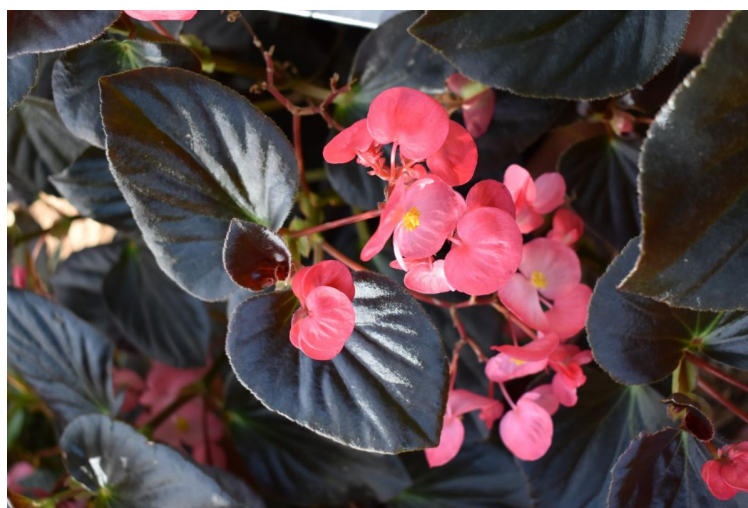
Grown for its very exotic and shiny foliage, it will make a bold statement in shady areas with its large, coarse canopy. It has exceptional vigor for a Rex type begonia.





**Best Begonia (shade, seed) container - Megawatt™ Rose Bronze Leaf
Improved from PanAmerican Seed®**

Abundant rose-colored flowers are self-cleaning resulting in low maintenance and a fresh appearance all the way up until a killing frost. Plants have impressive vigor while maintaining great uniformity. The foliage is attractive and has a very notable sheen in dappled sunlight.



**Best Begonia (sun), container - Stonehedge Rose Bronze Leaf from
Benary**

Plants have excellent vigor, never look tired and keep looking better and better right up until first frost. The large plants are very uniform with bright rose-colored flowers held high above the foliage for maximum show. Stems were also noted to have a nice rosy hue that echoes throughout the entire plant. The entire Stonehedge series was noted for superior performance and the breeder states even more colors will be coming soon.



Best Begonia (sun), ground – Stonehedge Light Pink Bronze Leaf from Benary

Plants have excellent vigor, never look tired and keep looking better and better right up until first frost. The large plants are very uniform with vibrant light pink flowers held high above the foliage for maximum show. Stems were also noted to have a nice pink hue that pulls the color through the entire plant.





Best Begonia (shade), ground – Dragon Wing[®] Red Bronze Leaf from PanAmerican Seed[®]

The unique wing shaped foliage is a nice dark bronze and has a nice gloss in filtered sunlight. Red flowers are numerous, and the color stands out well against the dark foliage. Flower power is enhanced as blooms are held high above the canopy. Plants have a beautiful arching, pendulous growth habit that was uniform and did well in relatively deep shade.





Best Begonia (vegetative) – BK Collection Vermillion Red® from Beekenkamp Plants

Impressive flower power with large clusters of striking red blooms stayed consistent all throughout the season. Double petals created a very unique appearance. Overall, it was noted for good flowering in the center of the pots and plants were uniform with strong stems.





Best Bracteantha - Granvia Pink from Suntory

Flowers were large with a great shade of pink and had long persistence. Plants were uniform and were strong bloomers with no decline. It grew well in the ground but would also make a great addition to a container.



Best Bidens - White Delight™ Improved from Danziger

White flowers were very prolific, and it made a large ball of white blooms when planted in a container that was very showy. Plants had great vigor and uniformity which almost appeared to be sheared. It didn't open up in the center and the crisp white blooms kept going through the entire season.



Best Calibrachoa – Cha-Cha™ Yellow from Ball FloraPlant®

Bright yellow flowers covered the plants creating a beautiful container with uniform habit and cascading blooms. The foliage is a nice dark green but not too visible amongst all the many blooms.





Best Coleus – FlameThrower™ Sriracha from Ball FloraPlant®

This compact-to-medium coleus had good vigor while maintaining excellent uniformity. The foliage had bold coloring of deep red and chartreuse edges that held its color in the intense sunlight. The serrated leaf edges add to the unique appearance. No flowering was observed, and it was a perfect foliage plant.





Best Combo – MixMasters™ Lucky Charm from Ball FloraPlant®

Noted for prolific flowering through the season, they were also combined with balanced plants and dark green foliage that really made the colors “pop”. This combo was a mix from the Lucky™ series which included Flame, Pot of Gold and Sunrise Rose.

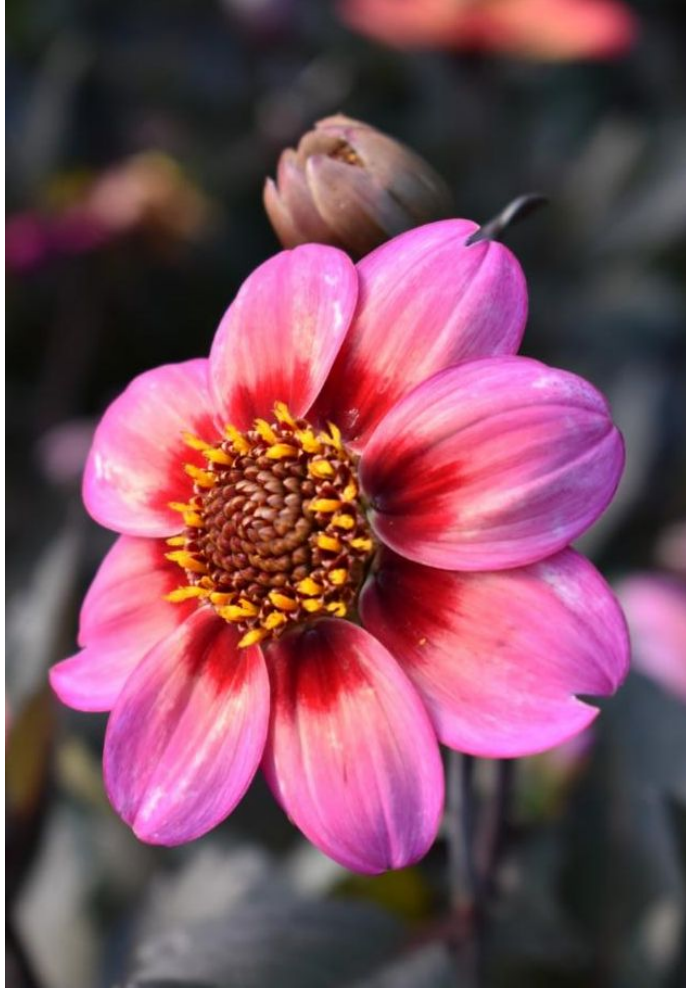




Best Dahlia – Dahlegria™ Apricot Tricolor from Syngenta®

This entry holds the distinction of winning the “Best of Show” from both the industry and public evaluations! This plant is stunning on many levels. Flowers are a stunning combination of fruit stand colors such as apricot yellow, raspberry as well as magenta. The dark foliage makes a beautiful plant even without the flowers but when combined it is truly fascinating. Single petals and a pretty yellow eye are also a favorite of bees. It was bred for mildew resistance.





Best Geranium, container - Moxie!™ Hot Pink from Syngenta®

Large flower clusters had a vibrant hot pink color that really stood out against the dark green foliage. Plants were well branched, vigorous and very floriferous for great flower power.





Best Geranium (interspecific) ground – Mantra™ Bright Red from Syngenta®

Velvety red flowers held their color under the intense sunlight and made a great combination with the dark green foliage. The dark flower stems were an added feature in that the dead heads tend to blend in and not require rigorous dead heading many other geraniums require.





Best Geranium (zonal) ground - Galaxy™ Pink from Ball FloraPlant®

The Galaxy™ series filled out the top five vote getter in this category but the pink entry was deemed the best. All in the series were noted for strong plants, uniformity and flowers that were held above the foliage. The pink entry also seemed to do well even in partial shade.





Best Impatiens, ground - Impara® XDR White from Syngenta®

Bright white flowers were prolific and would really help brighten up shady spots in the landscape. Uniform plants had good vigor and were bred for resistance to downy mildew.





Best Impatiens, New Guinea - Super Sonic® Orange Ice from Syngenta®

Large flowers had nice shade of orange combined with white for a vibrant color against the dark foliage. Leaves had a dark venation that echoed throughout the plant. Plants were problem free and very uniform.





Others on the list to be featured in the next newsletter:

Best Lantana, container – Hot Blooded™ Red from Syngenta®
Best Lantana, ground - Lucky™ Sunrise Rose from Ball FloraPlant®
Best Lobelia - Early Springs™ Sky Blue from Ball FloraPlant®
Best Marigold (container) – Cresta™ Gold from Syngenta®
Best Marigold (ground) – Big Duck® Yellow from AmeriSeed®
Best Osteospermum - 4D™ Berry White from Selecta One®
Best Petunia, (seed) container – Easy Wave® Yellow from PanAmerican Seed®
Best Petunia, (vegetative) container – Itsy™ Magenta from Syngenta®
Best Petunia (mini) ground – Supertunia Mini Vista® Pink Star from Proven Winners®
Best Petunia (seed), ground - Easy Wave® Blue from PanAmerican Seed®
Best Petunia (vegetative), ground - SureShot White from Ball FloraPlant®
Best Rudbeckia, container – Sunbeckia® Juliana from Bull Plant Genetics
Best Rudbeckia, ground – Sunbeckia® Luna from Bull Plant Genetics
Best Salvia - Mystic Spires from Ball FloraPlant®
Best Sun Impatiens - SunPatiens® Compact Rose Glow from Sakata® Seed America
Best Torenia - Summer Wave® Bouquet White from Suntory
Best Verbena, ground – Superbena® Pink Cashmere™ from Proven Winners®
Best Verbena, container – Lascar™ Purple+White from Selecta One®
Best Vinca (vegetative) – Soiree® Double Pink from Suntory
Best Vinca (seed) - Cora® XDR Punch from Syngenta®
Best Zinnia – Zydeco™ White from Syngenta®

Visit our website

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