

2018 CSU Flower Trial Winners

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2018 “Best Of” Annual Winners

Best of Show – Salvia ‘Big Blue’ from PanAmerican Seed

A later bloomer that is worth the wait was impressive with large flower spikes that are showy in the garden as well as making a good cut flower. Plants had dark green foliage, strong upright growth habit, excellent branching and very uniform overall. A strong favorite with bees as well as humans.

Best Novelty - Artemisia ‘MAKANA™ Silver’ from Terra Nova® Nurseries, Inc.

This fine textured foliage plant makes a great complement to many other plants in a classic border. The beautiful silver foliage is dense on vigorous and very compact and uniform plants. It would look great in both a container as well as ground. It makes a good filler plant as well adding a strong textural element to any garden.

Best New Variety – Rudbeckia ‘Rising Sun® AS Chestnut Gold’ from Green Fuse™ Botanicals

Huge flowers covered this plant all season creating impressive flower power. Besides the prolific flowering, the intense coloring of the flowers make this a definite “55 MPH plant”. It is impossible not to be impressed even from a brief glance at a great distance.

“Best Of...” by Class

Argyranthemum - Limero White from Benary+

Large, crisp white, flowers covered the canopy that were very eye-catching. Plants were self-cleaning and were popular in regard to having low maintenance but high visual impact. The blooms were long lasting while the plants also had great uniformity.

Angelonia - Archangel™ Raspberry from Ball FloraPlant

Flowers were abundant all season but stood out also for the intense unique raspberry color. The upright plants maintained excellent uniformity and made a nice complement to the flowers above the glossy green foliage below.

Begonia semperflorens (Shade) - ‘Megawatt™ Pink Bronze Leaf’ from PanAmerican Seed

The vigorous plants were characterized by their large leaves, strong stems and large flowers. The bright pink flowers were very floriferous and had excellent contrast with the dark foliage. Blooms were self-cleaning so the plants always looked fresh.

Begonia hybrids - ‘I’Conia Portofino Orange’ from Dümmer Orange

Vibrant orange flowers appeared even brighter against the very dark bronze foliage. The serrated edges and sheen to the leaves created an attractive leaf shape. Flowers were large and made a dramatic statement in a container.

Begonia elatior – ‘BK Collection Evi Bright Pink’ from Beekenkamp

Large pink flowers with double petals had good tolerance to sun and heat all season and still looked fresh into September. Flowers were abundant and very showy. Plants were very uniform and would look good in either a landscape or container setting.

Bracteantha – ‘Mohave™ White 19’ from Selecta

Clean white flowers covered the canopy and made a dazzling display in full sun. Plants were very uniform with a nice mounding growth habit. The prolific flowers were also everlasting and excellent for dried bouquets.

Bidens – ‘Bidy Boom Red’ from Dümmer Orange

Large amounts of long lasting red flowers were packed on a smaller, compact plant with a very tidy growth habit. Blooms also had very intense color to create a lot of flower power for a small plant. Bees love this flower.

Calibrachoa – ‘Calitastic® Papaya’ from Westhoff

Unique color and a larger bloom made this stand out from other calibrachos. The bicolor flowers had a nice bright color and strong blooming. Growth habit was very uniform and looked good overall.

Celosia – ‘Kelos® Fire Scarlet’ from Beekenkamp

The attractive dark foliage was impressive all by itself but the abundant petite flowers were bright and made a great contrast with the foliage. Plants are vigorous and have good garden performance.

Coleus – ‘FlameThrower™ Serrano’ from Ball FloraPlant

The attractive dark red foliage had a bright green edge that created a lot of contrast and a bold look. Leaf shape was also unique and added interest. Plants did not flower and kept a very uniform appearance all season.

Combination – ‘Kwik Kombos™ Fire and Ice™ Mix’ from Syngenta

Plants created a ball of flowers in a container that had a very high “Wow!” factor. Colors were vibrant and made an excellent mix. It was noted that very few combos work with different genera but this is the exception as the bidens, petunia and lobelia were equally represented and none dominated the other.

Dahlia – ‘Temptation Orange’ from Dümmer Orange

The intense dark foliage makes the color of the clear orange flowers really pop out. The contrast was especially good in full sun and flower color doesn’t fade. Dark foliage also hides dead heads and requires less maintenance. Growth habit was very uniform.

Geranium (Interspecific) – ‘Caliente® Coral Salmon’ from Syngenta

Impressive vigor and flowering were the obvious characteristics of this winning plant. Prolific flowering and vibrant color made for exceptional flower power. This is definitely a great choice for a landscape plant.

Geranium (Zonal) – ‘Brocade Cherry Night’ from Dümnen Orange

Plants were unique with foliage that has a very large zonation with a rich chocolate color. The dark foliage makes for high contrast with the bright rose colored flowers. The tight double flowers have a bit of a multiflora look to them. Overall the plants were very uniform.

Ipomoea – ‘SolarPower™ Black Heart’ from Ball FloraPlant

Extra-large, heart shaped leaves were dark and created a bold appearance. Plants had good vigor but maintained a compact and uniform growth habit that “plays well with the neighbors”.

Lantana – ‘Lucky™ Sunrise Rose’ from Ball FloraPlant

This is a dependable performer and is a winner from multiple years in the past as well as 2018. The bright flowers had a mesmerizing mix of colors often found in a sunrise. Plants were very uniform and flowering was very abundant all through the season.

Lobularia – ‘Passionaria™ Purple White’ from Ball Ingenuity

Flowering was so prolific that no foliage was visible. Plants created a mass of intense purple and white bicolor flowers that looked great all by themselves or would look good combined with others. The growth habit was very compact and uniform

Marigold (French) – ‘Super Hero Dark Orange’ from Benary

Dark green foliage combined well to show off the intense orange flowers. Plants had a nice mounding growth habit that looked good without any deadheading through early September. The cheerful looking flowers would look great in any border.

New Guinea Impatiens – ‘Sun Harmony™ Blushing Orchid’ from Danziger

Plants were both vigorous and very floriferous and made a very colorful container. The large flowers held up to the sun and had added interest due to the light lavender striping in the petals. Growth habit was very uniform.

Osteospermum ‘Osticade™ Lemon’ from Danziger

Abundant clear yellow flowers were unusually large and had a deep yellow eye for added interest. Blooms were consistent all season long and very showy with uniform plants with clean foliage.

Pentas – ‘Lucky Star® Dark Red’ from PanAmerican Seed

Rich red flowers made a great contrast with the dark green foliage. Flowers were abundant and very showy. Plants were vigorous with a tight and compact growth habit.

Petunia (Container) – ‘Constellation® Aries’ from Westhoff

Flowers had a unique appearance with speckles and blotches on blooms but were also very floriferous. The densely flowered plants were noted for a good uniform growth habit that held its shape late into the season.

Petunia (Seed) – ‘Easy Wave® Silver’ from PanAmerican Seed

Abundant flowers covered this plant and had superior performance in the ground. Flowers were mostly white with a silky sheen and a hint of lavender primarily near the eye. The overall growth habit was very uniform.

Petunia (Spreading) – ‘Supertunia Vista® Bubblegum’ from Proven Winners

This is a multi-year winner from many past trials and is considered to be possibly the best petunia in the last 10 years. It always has a dependable show of prolific pink flowers with exceptional vigor.

Portulaca – ‘ColorBlast™ Double Magenta’ from Westhoff

Plants were vigorous and very uniform. Double flowers were very showy and had the added benefit of staying open longer than the single petaled varieties. Plants stood out for the unique magenta flower color and spreading growth habit.

Salvia – ‘Mystic Spires Improved’ from Ball FloraPlant

Another past winner, it stood out again in 2018 for the abundant dark purple flowers and vigorous, upright plants. Foliage was clean and glossy. This was another bee friendly plant that was often buzzing with excitement.

Scaevola – ‘Scalora® Pearl’ from Westhoff

Plants were vigorous and covered with abundant white flowers. The dense round growth habit was very uniform and superior to many other varieties. The multiflora blooms were a favorite with many pollinators in the garden.

Verbena – ‘Lanai® Upright Twister Watercolor’ from Syngenta

Abundant flowering covered the canopy almost all season with attractive shades of soft lavender that was attractive even as the blooms faded. Plants had a long lasting flower display and seemed to “bury its dead” blooms under new ones. Uniform growth habit and lack of any sign of mildew also made this plant a winner.

Vinca – ‘Tattoo™ Papaya’ from PanAmerican Seed

Very unique flower color and abundant blooms were very impressive. Flowers had a very unusual and beautiful “inky” blush pattern that helped earn the first part of the name, “Tattoo”. Plants had an upright growth habit and can grow well in full sun or part shade.

Other Outstanding Plants**Anigozanthos ‘Kanga Jump Red’ from Green Fuse Botanicals**

Another novelty plant that is popular in Australia but just starting to make an impression in the United States. Foliage almost looks succulent or tropical while the flowers almost look like red fuzzy pods for a very unique overall appearance. Blooms were very abundant and emerged bright red and matured to a dark maroon color over a long period of time.

Begonia ‘Tophat™ Pink’ from Syngenta

Plants had great vigor that just kept getting bigger and better as the season progressed until a hard frost. Produces abundant, large pink blooms that are outstanding. Plants had a very uniform growth habit.

Coreopsis 'Electric Sunshine' from Darwin Perennials

This was a non-stop bloomer which still looked great late in the season. Bright yellow flowers also had a splash of dark red on the petal for excellent contrast. Plants were vigorous but considered an annual for Zone 5.

Gomphrena 'Truffula™ Pink' from Proven Winners

Abundant and long lasting pink flowers covered this plant all season. Well branched, mounding plants were very uniform and considered "well behaved" even with the vigorous growth. This low maintenance plant does not require deadheading and can tolerate some dry conditions.

Iberis 'Summer Snowdrift' from Darwin Perennials

Bright white flowers covered the plant all summer without any shattering. Plants had a very compact and mounded growth habit that were covered with white blooms. Flowers give a similar flower effect as the perennial type. They bloom all summer but unfortunately are only considered an annual for Zone 5.

"Top Performer" Perennials from the 2018 CSU Perennial Trial

Geum 'RUSTICO™ Orange' from Terra Nova® Nurseries

(*Geum* x 'TNGEURO'^{PP28238})

Flowers were a beautiful bright orange and very prolific but the foliage was equally impressive if not more so and some evaluators commented the plant "looked so good that it didn't even need the flowers". Plants had a great dark green foliage that kept a fresh look all through the season and made a good contrast for the colorful blooms. The growth habit was very controlled and had a very uniform appearance. It would make a great choice for mass plantings.

Flame® New Improved Purple from Dummen Orange®

(*Phlox paniculata* Flame® New Improved Purple)

Abundant purple flowers made a solid canopy of color at peak bloom and also rated higher than other phlox for an impressively long bloom period. Plants had a very uniform growth habit with dark green foliage. A small splash of white at the base of each petal added a bit of "sparkle" to each flower as it matured. Blooms also were noted to have an attractive color even as they faded late in season. Plants had superior resistance to powdery mildew.

KISMET™ Raspberry Coneflower from Terra Nova® Nurseries

(*Echinacea* 'TNECHKR'^{PP28768})

Prolific flowers formed a solid canopy of blooms over the plants and even had an attractive rustic look as it faded from peak bloom. Dark green foliage kept the plant attractive even at times when the flowers were not present. Plants had a very uniform growth habit and good branching. The **KISMET™** series also features colors of orange, red and yellow.

**Gaillardia 'SpinTop Yellow Touch' from Dummer Orange®
(*Gaillardia aristata* 'SpinTop Yellow Touch)**

Plants were unique with a relatively small, compact mounded growth habit but packed a lot of flower power on the top of each one. Flowers were very showy and predominately red but had an edge of yellow around the tip of each blossom. Plants had attractive green foliage that complemented the bloom color. Cold hardiness was also very impressive as the survival rate was very good for a Gaillardia. Additional entries in the 'SpinTop' series seemed to have superior cold hardiness as well.

**Delosperma 'Alan's Apricot' from Plant Select
(*Delosperma* 'Alan's Apricot'^{PPAF})**

Flowers made this a standout for both the unique color and continual blooming through the season. At peak bloom plants are just a carpet of Apricot colored flowers. Plants are very uniform, have great vigor and have better cold hardiness than most *Delosperma*. Good for low water plantings but will also tolerate extra water in areas that often kills other *Delosperma*. This is a great low maintenance plant.

2017-18 Cool Season Trials "Best Of" Winners

One hundred and twenty-one varieties were evaluated in the 2017-2018 Cool Season trial from planting in mid-October 2017 through April 2018. On evaluation day (April 25, 2018), ten varieties were selected by the Annual Trial Garden Committee as top-rated performers. All varieties were monitored and observed weekly during the trial period. Plants were watered and fertilized initially until sprinklers were winterized (early November) and then were hand watered when the soil was dry and temperature above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. We had some snow cover for about one to two months of the trial period.

Best of Show Pansy – 'Freefall XL Purple Face' from Floranova

Vibrant flowers covered the plant all over including not just the top but the sides as well. Plants were vigorous and sturdy as well as being covered by blooms. White centers really made the dark purple flowers stand out. This entry also won the Best Trailing Pansy category.

Best Purple/Blue Pansy - Pansy Inspire® Plus Blue Blotch from Benary

Flowers were noted for their striking color of a large dark blotch in the center of deep blue petals. Blooms were significantly more abundant than any other Pansy in that category. Plants were vigorous and maintained good uniformity.

Best Light Blue Pansy - Inspire® Plus Exp. Marina Improved from Benary

Unique flower color combined with a slightly ruffled petal edge to create a very dainty appearance. Light blue was around the outer edge of the flower followed by another band of white and a dark purple/blue center for a very relaxing combination of colors. Plants were very uniform and blooms covered the top as well as on the sides.

Best White Pansy - Cats™ White from Benary

Plants were noted for impressive flower power and a nice uniform growth habit. Attractive purple whiskers added interest to the slightly primrose colored flower with a splash of yellow in the center.

Best Yellow Pansy - Spring Matrix™ Yellow Improved from PanAmerican Seed

Bright yellow flowers were very abundant and eye catching as they were well above the foliage for maximum flower power. The abundant blooms were also noted for being weather resistant and maintained their shape. Clear yellow flowers had no markings so color really popped.

Best Novelty Pansy - Cats™ Purple & White from Benary

Picotee flowers seemed to have a “crazy face” that was very bold and variable. Dominant purple whiskers stretched across the white inner petal while a band of dark purple was on the outer edges and it was capped off with a small yellow eye in the center. Flowers had a very unique overall appearance.

Best of Show Viola – ‘Viola Endurio® Blue Yellow with Purple Wing’ from Syngenta

Vibrant flowers were a combination of three different colors. Varying shades of dark purple, violet and yellow created a lot of interest and although the color was variable the overall result was very captivating. Plants were rated highly for great vigor and good uniformity. This entry also won the Best Novelty Viola category.

Best Purple Viola - Admire® Exp. Deep Purple from Benary

Flowers had an exceptionally dark, rich purple with a lighter violet halo that seemed to glow from the inside of the bloom. Plants were very uniform and flowering was very abundant.

Best Light Blue Viola - Bel Viso Marina Improved from Floranova

Evaluators were impressed with the abundance of the light blue flowers and uniform plants. White centers had a smaller dark blotch for a very unique eye. Plants had a very nice mounding growth habit.

Best Yellow Viola - Bel Viso Yellow from Floranova

Vigorous plants looked like bouquet of prolific yellow flowers. The vibrant blooms were a unique shade of yellow and had small dark whiskers. Flowers seemed to be slightly larger than other in that category.