**Summary and Notes from the 2016 Demonstration Garden Surveys**

Over 65 public gardens around the Rocky Mountain and High Plains region are currently partners with the Plant Select® program. Education of visitors is a high priority for all of these gardens, offering opportunities for communities to learn about appropriate garden and landscape choices for their unique, local environmental conditions. To read more about these garden partners, visit the “Learn” section at [www.plantselect.org](http://www.plantselect.org/). Maps, images, driving directions, and more information about each garden are posted and updated regularly.

**Highlights**

* 53 Demonstration gardens participated in the 2016 plant performance survey.
* Over 140 plant taxa were rated on a 1-9 scale.
* Blonde Ambition blue grama grass is the plant that received the highest score by the highest number of gardens that completed and returned the survey. Of the gardens that completed and returned the 2016 survey, 43 (81.1%) rated Blonde Ambition blue grama grass and it received a mean score of 8.3.
* HOT WINGS® Tatarian Maple was also at the top of the list in 2016. Of the gardens that completed and returned the survey, 33 (62.3%) rated HOT WINGS® Tatarian Maple and it received a mean score 8.2.

**2016 Detailed Plant Rating Averages**

**Plant Select® Demonstration Garden 2016 Top Plants**

**Top Five Plants for 3000-5500 ft Elevations**

58.5% (31 of 53) participating gardens

(reported by at least half of the participating gardens at this elevation range)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCIENTIFIC NAME** | **TRADE OR COMMON NAME** | **AVERAGE** | **NUMBER OF RESPONSES** |
| *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' PP 22,048 | Blonde Ambition blue grama grass | 8.8 | 25 |
| *Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn' PP 15,023 | HOT WINGS® Tatarian maple | 8.1 | 21 |
| *Hesperaloe parviflora* | Red yucca | 8.1 | 19 |
| *Veronica* liwanensis | Turkish veronica | 8.1 | 19 |
| *Zauschneria garrettii* 'PWWG01S' | ORANGE CARPET® hummingbird trumpet | 8.1 | 18 |

**Top Plants for 5500-7500 ft Elevations**

34% (18 of 53) participating gardens

(reported by at least half of the participating gardens at this elevation)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCIENTIFIC NAME** | **TRADE OR COMMON NAME** | **AVERAGE** | **NUMBER OF RESPONSES** |
| *Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn' PP 15,023 | HOT WINGS® Tatarian maple | 8.4 | 11 |
| *Veronica* liwanensis | Turkish veronica | 8.3 | 12 |
| *Nepeta* ‘Psfike' PP 18,904 | LITTLE TRUDY® catmint | 8.2 | 12 |
| *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' PP 22,048 | Blonde Ambition blue grama grass | 8.1 | 15 |
| *Fallugia paradoxa* | Apache plume | 8.1 | 13 |

**Top Plants for Elevations over 7500 ft**

.075% (4 of 53) Participating Gardens

(reported by at least half of the participating gardens at this elevation)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCIENTIFIC NAME** | **TRADE OR COMMON NAME** | **AVERAGE** | **NUMBER OF RESPONSES** |
| *Chamaebatiaria millefolium* | Fernbush | 9.0 | 2 |
| *Philadelphus lewisii* 'PWY01S' | CHEYENNE® mock orange | 8.7 | 3 |
| *Callirhoe involucrata* | Winecups | 8.5 | 2 |
| *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *aureum* 'Psdowns' | KANNAH CREEK® buckwheat | 8.5 | 2 |
| *Aquilegia chrysantha* | DENVER GOLD® columbine | 8.3 | 3 |

**Top 10 Plants by Overall Rating**

(reported by at least half of the 53 participating gardens)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCIENTIFIC NAME** | **TRADE OR COMMON NAME** | **AVERAGE** | **NUMBER OF RESPONSES** |
| *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' PP 22,048 | Blonde Ambition blue grama grass | 8.3 | 43 |
| *Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn' PP 15,023 | HOT WINGS® Tatarian maple | 8.2 | 33 |
| *Veronica* liwanensis | Turkish veronica | 8.1 | 33 |
| *Fallugia paradoxa* | Apache plume | 8.0 | 35 |
| *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *aureum* 'Psdowns' | KANNAH CREEK® Buckwheat | 7.9 | 34 |
| *Ephedra equisetina* | Bluestem Joint Fir | 7.9 | 28 |
| *Nepeta* ‘Psfike' PP 18,904 | LITTLE TRUDY® catmint | 7.8 | 40 |
| *Zauschneria garrettii* 'PWWG01S' | ORANGE CARPET® hummingbird Trumpet | 7.8 | 30 |
| *Berlandiera lyrata* | Chocolate flower | 7.8 | 29 |
| *Chamaebatiaria millefolium* | Fernbush | 7.5 | 35 |
| *Tanacetum densum ssp. Amani* | Partridge feather | 7.5 | 30 |

**Gardens Participating in 2016 Survey**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Alamosa Community Greenhouse  Aurora Xeriscape Demonstration Garden  BLM Anasazi Heritage Center  Berthoud Community Library District  Betty Ford Alpine Gardens  Boulder Bear Creek Park Garden  Butterfly Pavilion  Carnegie Public Library Demo Garden  City of Broomfield Xeriscape Garden  City of Greeley Water Department Xeriscape  City of Lakewood - Gardens at Kendrick Lake  Cliffrose Plant Select Demo Garden  Colorado Springs Utilities Xeriscape  Conservation Garden Park (West Jordan)  Conservation Gardens at Northern Water  Converse County Master Gardeners  CSU Trial Gardens at Remington  CSU Extension Adams County Fairgrounds | CSU Extension Boulder County  CSU Extension Denver County  CSU Extension Douglas County  CSU Extension Eagle County  CSU Extension Elbert County  CSU Extension Gunnison County Fairgrounds  CSU Extension Jefferson County Gardens  CSU Extension Phillips County  CSU Extension San Miquel County Fairgrounds  CSU Extension Summit County, Sue Cruth Memorial  CSU Extension Tri-River Area  Denver Botanic Gardens  Durango Public Library Demonstration Garden  Fort Collins Xeriscape Demonstration Garden  Gardens on Spring Creek  Highland's Garden Village  Home on the Range Gardens  Horticultural Art Society of Colorado Springs | Idaho Botanical Garden  Left Hand Water District – Peterson Gardens  Meadow Ridge Park Playground  Montrose Botanic Garden  Natrona County ARLC  Otero County Courthouse Garden  Pueblo West Xeriscape Demonstration Garden  Red Butte Garden & Arboretum  SE Colorado Water Conservancy District  SW Montana Master Gardener Association MSU  Thornton Fire Station 5 - Water-Wise Garden  Tizer Botanic Garden and Arboretum  Town of Erie Community Park  Town of Parker PACE Garden  Treasure Island Demonstration Garden  Washington County Events Center  Westminster - Heritage Golf Course at Westmoor |

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