**Summary and Notes from the 2015 Demonstration Garden Surveys**

Over 70 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**

• 44 Demonstration gardens participated in the 2015 plant performance survey.

• 134 plant taxa were rated on a 1-9 scale; and received ratings as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Average Rating** | **Number of Plant Select® Plant Taxa That Received This Average Rating** |
| 9.0 | 1 |
| 8.0-8.9 | 16 |
| 7.0-7.9 | 69 |
| 6.0-6.9 | 36 |
| 5.0-5.9 | 9 |
| 4.0-4.9 | 1 |
| 3.0-3.9 | 1 |

• Blonde Ambition grama grass is the plant that received the highest score by the highest number of gardens that completed and returned the 2015 survey. Currently being grown in 40 of the 44 gardens that completed and returned the 2015 survey (90.9%), Blonde Ambition grama grass received a mean score of 8.2.

• HOT WINGS® Tatarian Maple was also at the top of the list in 2015. Currently being grown in 25 of the 44 gardens that completed and returned the 2015 survey (56.8%), HOT WINGS® Tatarian Maple received a mean score 8.2.

**2015 Detailed Plant Rating Averages** (alpha by botanic name)

| **SCIENTIFIC NAME** | **TRADE OR COMMON NAME** | **AVERAGE** | **NUMBER OF RESPONSES** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn' PP 15,023 | HOT WINGS® Tatarian Maple | 8.2 | 25 |
| *Agastache aurantiaca* 'P012S' | CORONADO® Hyssop | 7.0 | 14 |
| *Agastache cana* 'Sinning' PP 13,673 | SONORAN SUNSET® Hyssop | 7.6 | 20 |
| *Agastache* 'Pstessene' | CORONADO® Red Hyssop | 7.1 | 11 |
| *Agastache rupestris* | Sunset hyssop | 7.6 | 26 |
| *Amsonia jonesii* | Colorado desert blue star | 7.9 | 22 |
| *Anchusa capensis* | Cape-forget-me-not, Summer-forget-me-not | 5.8 | 9 |
| Andropogon gerardii 'PWIN01S' | WINDWALKER® big bluestem | 9.0 | 1 |
| *Anthemis marschalliana* | Filigree Daisy | 7.0 | 9 |
| *Aquilegia chrysantha* | DENVER GOLD® Columbine | 7.5 | 32 |
| *Aquilegia 'Swan Violet & White'* | REMEMBRANCE® Columbine | 5.9 | 14 |
| *Arctostaphylos x coloradensis* | Mock Bearberry Manzanita | 8.0 | 20 |
| *Arctostaphylos x coloradensis* ‘Panchito’ | Panchito Manzanita | 7.3 | 20 |
| *Arctostaphylos x coloradensis* ‘Chieftain' | Chieftain manzanita | 6.6 | 13 |
| *Arenaria* 'Wallowa Mountain' | Desert moss | 6.3 | 3 |
| *Artemisia versicolor* 'Sea Foam' | Sea Foam Artemisia | 6.9 | 30 |
| *Berlandiera lyrata* | Chocolate Flower | 7.3 | 28 |
| *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' *PP 22,048* | Blonde Ambition grama grass | 8.2 | 40 |
| *Buddleia alternifolia* 'Argentea' | Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush | 7.7 | 19 |
| *Calamagrostis brachytricha* | Korean Feather Reed Grass | 7.7 | 27 |
| *Callirhoe involucrata* | Winecups | 7.6 | 33 |
| *Calylophus serrulatus* 'Prairie Lode' | Prairie Lode sundrops | 6.5 | 12 |
| *Cercocarpus intricatus* | Littleleaf mountain mahogany | 7.3 | 32 |
| *Chamaebatiaria millefolium* | Fernbush | 7.4 | 30 |
| *Chrysothamnus (Ericameria) nauseosus* var. *nauseosus* | Baby blue rabbitbrush | 8.0 | 34 |
| *Clematis integrifolia* 'PSHarlan' | MONGOLIAN BELLS® clematis | 6.6 | 28 |
| *Crambe maritima* | Curly leaf sea kale | 6.9 | 23 |
| *Crataegus ambigua* | Russian hawthorn | 8.3 | 11 |
| *Cytisus purgans* | SPANISH GOLD® broom | 6.1 | 19 |
| *Daphne x burkwoodii* 'Carol Mackie' | Carol Mackie Daphne | 7.3 | 27 |
| *Delosperma dyeri* 'Psdold' | RED MOUNTAIN® ice plant | 5.9 | 9 |
| *Delosperma floribundum* | STARBURST® ice plant | 6.3 | 9 |
| *Delosperma* 'John Proffitt' | TABLE MOUNTAIN® ice plant | 6.7 | 23 |
| *Delosperma* 'Kelaidis' PP 13,876 | MESA VERDE® ice plant | 6.9 | 19 |
| *Delosperma* 'P001S' | FIRE SPINNER® ice plant | 7.1 | 16 |
| *Delosperma* 'Psfave' | Lavender Ice ice plant | 7.2 | 13 |
| *Dianthus* FIRST LOVE | FIRST LOVE® dianthus | 7.3 | 13 |
| *Diascia integerrima* 'P009S' | CORAL CANYON® twinspur | 7.3 | 16 |
| *Digitalis obscura* | SUNSET® foxglove | 7.0 | 17 |
| *Digitalis thapsi* | SPANISH PEAKS® foxglove | 7.0 | 14 |
| *Dolichos lablab* 'Ruby Moon' | Ruby Moon hyacinth bean | 7.3 | 11 |
| *Echinacea tennesseensis* | Tennessee purple coneflower | 7.6 | 19 |
| *Echium amoenum* | Red Feathers | 6.8 | 30 |
| *Engelmannia peristenia* | Engelmann's daisy | 6.8 | 4 |
| *Ephedra equisetina* | Bluestem Joint Fir | 8.1 | 28 |
| *Epilobium fleischeri* | Alpine willowherb | 7.5 | 10 |
| *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *aureum* 'Psdowns' | KANNAH CREEK® buckwheat | 7.9 | 29 |
| *Eriogonum wrightii* var. *wrightii* | Snow Mesa buckwheat | 7.0 | 5 |
| *Erodium chrysanthum* | Golden storksbill | 7.9 | 30 |
| *Fallugia paradoxa* | Apache plume | 7.9 | 32 |
| *Gazania krebsiana* | TANAGER® Gazania | 5.3 | 6 |
| *Gazania linearis* 'P004S' | COLORADO GOLD® Gazania | 7.5 | 20 |
| *Geranium dalmaticum* | Dalmatian pink cranesbill | 7.0 | 7 |
| *Geranium magniflorum* 'LaVeta Lace' | LaVeta Lace® geranium | 8.0 | 3 |
| *Heptacodium miconioides* | Seven-Son flower | 6.7 | 17 |
| *Hesperaloe parviflora* | Red yucca | 7.7 | 23 |
| *Heuchera sanguinea* 'Snow Angel' | Snow Angel coral bells | 6.1 | 21 |
| *Jamesia americana* | Waxflower | 5.6 | 15 |
| *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Woodward' | Woodward columnar juniper | 8.7 | 3 |
| *Kniphofia caulescens* | Regal torchlily | 5.7 | 15 |
| *Linum narbonense* | Narbonne blue flax | 6.9 | 19 |
| *Lonicera korolkowii* 'Floribunda' | BLUE VELVET® honeysuckle | 8.0 | 10 |
| *Lonicera reticulata* 'P015S' | KINTZLEY'S GHOST® honeysuckle | 8.0 | 26 |
| *Marrubium rotundifolium* | Silverheels horehound | 7.3 | 29 |
| *Melinis nerviglumis* | PINK CRYSTALS® Ruby Grass | 7.8 | 5 |
| *Monardella macrantha* 'Marian Sampson' | Hummingbird trumpet mint | 6.1 | 15 |
| *Muhlenbergia reverchonii* 'PUND01S' | UNDAUNTED® ruby muhly | 6.9 | 15 |
| *Nepeta* ‘Psfike' PP 18,904 | LITTLE TRUDY® catmint | 8.1 | 32 |
| *Oenothera macrocarpa* subsp. *incana* | SILVER BLADE® evening primrose | 6.9 | 24 |
| *Origanum libanoticum* | Hopflower Oregano | 8.0 | 26 |
| *Osteospermum* ‘Avalanche' PP 22,705 | Avalanche white sun daisy | 6.9 | 22 |
| *Osteospermum barberiae* var. *compactum* 'P005S' | PURPLE MOUNTAIN® Sun Daisy | 7.5 | 11 |
| *Osteospermum* sp. 'P006S' | LAVENDER MIST® Sun Daisy | 7.1 | 9 |
| *Paxistima canbyi* | Mountain Lover | 6.0 | 10 |
| *Penstemon grandiflorus* 'P010S' | PRAIRIE JEWEL® penstemon | 7.5 | 19 |
| *Penstemon linarioides* var. *coloradoensis* 'P014S' | SILVERTON® bluemat penstemon | 6.2 | 21 |
| *Penstemon mensarum* | Grand Mesa penstemon | 8.0 | 10 |
| *Penstemon pseudospectabilis* | Desert beardtongue | 7.0 | 8 |
| *Penstemon rostriflorus* | Bridges' penstemon | 7.8 | 12 |
| *Penstemon* x 'Coral Baby' | Coral Baby penstemon | 7.0 | 2 |
| *Penstemon x mexicali* 'Carolyn's Hope' PPAF | Carolyn's Hope pink penstemon | 6.8 | 8 |
| *Penstemon x mexicali* 'P007S' | PIKES PEAK PURPLE® Penstemon | 7.2 | 19 |
| *Penstemon x mexicali* 'P008S' | RED ROCKS® penstemon | 7.5 | 22 |
| *Penstemon x mexicali* 'Psmyers' | SHADOW MOUNTAIN® penstemon | 6.8 | 11 |
| *Penstemon x mexicali* 'PWIN02S' | WINDWALKER® garnet penstemon | 6.6 | 7 |
| *Philadelphus lewisii* 'PWY01S' | CHEYENNE® mock orange | 7.4 | 25 |
| *Phlomis cashmeriana* | Cashmere Sage | 6.4 | 21 |
| *Phlox bifida* | SNOWMASS® Phlox | 4.0 | 2 |
| *Picea glauca* 'Pendula' | Weeping white spruce | 7.2 | 11 |
| *Prunus besseyi* 'P011S' | PAWNEE BUTTES® sand cherry | 7.5 | 31 |
| *Prunus nigra* 'Princess Kay' | Princess Kay plum | 7.4 | 7 |
| *Rhamnus smithii* | Smith's buckthorn | 5.8 | 6 |
| *Rhus trilobata* 'Autumn Amber' | Autumn Amber sumac | 6.4 | 8 |
| *Ribes uva-crispa* 'Red Jacket' | Comanche® gooseberry | 8.0 | 5 |
| *Rosa glauca, R. rubrifolia* | Redleaf rose | 6.8 | 23 |
| *Rosa* 'Ruby Voodoo' | Ruby Voodoo rose | 6.8 | 20 |
| *Rudbeckia* | Denver Daisy | 7.1 | 16 |
| *Salvia argentea* | Silver Sage | 7.2 | 24 |
| *Salvia daghestanica* | PLATINUM® Sage | 7.0 | 22 |
| *Salvia darcyi* 'Pscarl' | VERMILION BLUFFS® Mexican Sage | 7.3 | 18 |
| *Salvia darcyi* x *S. microphylla* 'PWIN03S' | WINDWALKER® royal red salvia | 7.0 | 3 |
| *Salvia greggii* | Wild Thing Sage | 6.3 | 9 |
| *Salvia greggii* 'Furman's Red' | Furman's Red Sage | 7.6 | 8 |
| *Salvia pachyphylla* | Mojave Sage | 7.3 | 16 |
| *Satureja montana* var. *illyrica* | Purple Winter Savory | 6.6 | 15 |
| *Scrophularia macrantha* | Red Birds in a Tree | 7.1 | 20 |
| *Scutellaria resinosa* 'Smoky Hills' | Smoky Hills skullcap | 7.0 | 9 |
| *Scutellaria suffrutescens* | Cherry Skullcap | 6.7 | 12 |
| *Sedum sediforme* | Turquoise Tails blue sedum | 7.8 | 24 |
| *Seseli gummiferum* | Moon carrot | 7.4 | 17 |
| *Sibiraea laevigata* | Siberian spirea | 5.7 | 10 |
| *Sporobolus wrightii* | Giant sacaton | 7.9 | 27 |
| *Tanacetum cinerariifolium* | Dalmatian daisy | 5.5 | 12 |
| *Tanacetum densum* ssp. *Amani* | Partridge Feather | 7.6 | 23 |
| *Verbena bipinnatifida* | VALLEY LAVENDER® plains verbena | 6.5 | 10 |
| *Veronica liwanensis* | Turkish veronica | 7.9 | 28 |
| *Veronica* 'Reavis' | CRYSTAL RIVER® veronica | 8.1 | 24 |
| *Viburnum* x *rhytidophylloides* 'Alleghany' | Alleghany viburnum | 7.9 | 15 |
| *Viola corsica* | Corsican violet | 7.5 | 11 |
| *Vitis* x ‘St. Theresa Seedless' | St. Theresa Seedless Grape | 6.6 | 14 |
| *Xanthoceras sorbifolium* 'Psgan' | CLEAR CREEK® golden yellowhorn | 8.1 | 7 |
| *Zauschneria garrettii* 'PWWG01S' | ORANGE CARPET® hummingbird trumpet | 7.9 | 28 |
| *Zinnia grandiflora* 'Gold on Blue' | Golden flowered prairie zinnia | 7.5 | 6 |

**Plant Select® Petites Rating Averages**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Androsace sarmentosa* 'Chumbyi' | Silky rock jasmine | 8.6 | 5 |
| *Arenaria* 'Wallowa Mountain' | Desert moss | 6.3 | 3 |
| *Clematis scottii* | Scott's sugarbowls | 6.9 | 14 |
| *Geranium dalmaticum* | Dalmatian pink cranesbill | 7.0 | 7 |
| *Heterotheca jonesii x villosa* 'Goldhill' | Goldhill golden-aster | 7.0 | 3 |
| *Heuchera pulchella* | Sandia coralbells | 6.6 | 10 |
| *Iris hookeri, I. setosa* ssp. *canadensis* | Dwarf beach-head iris | 7.3 | 7 |
| *Pinus edulis* | Dwarf pinon pine | 7.7 | 3 |
| *Primula elatior* | Oxlip primrose | 8.3 | 3 |

**Plant Select® Demonstration Garden 2015 “Top Ten” Plants**

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

61.4% (27 of 44) 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** |
| *Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn' PP 15,023 | HOT WINGS® Tatarian Maple | 8.2 | 17.0 |
| *Ephedra equisetina* | Bluestem Joint Fir | 8.2 | 15.0 |
| *Veronica* 'Reavis' | CRYSTAL RIVER® Veronica | 8.2 | 15.0 |
| *Zauschneria garrettii* 'PWWG01S' | ORANGE CARPET® Hummingbird Trumpet | 8.2 | 18.0 |
| *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' PP 22,048 | Blonde Ambition grama grass | 8.1 | 25.0 |
| *Hesperaloe parviflora* | Red yucca | 8.1 | 15.0 |
| *Sporobolus wrightii* | Giant Sacaton | 8.1 | 16.0 |
| *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* var. nauseosus | Baby blue rabbitbrush | 8.0 | 22.0 |
| *Nepeta* ‘Psfike' PP 18,904 | LITTLE TRUDY® Catmint | 8.0 | 21.0 |
| *Origanum libanoticum* | Hopflower Oregano | 8.0 | 17.0 |

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

40.9% (18 of 44) participating gardens

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCIENTIFIC NAME** | **TRADE OR COMMON NAME** | **AVERAGE** | **NUMBER OF RESPONSES** |
| *Fallugia paradoxa* | Apache Plume | 8.3 | 14 |
| *Nepeta* ‘Psfike' PP 18,904 | LITTLE TRUDY® Catmint | 8.3 | 11 |
| *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' PP 22,048 | Blonde Ambition grama grass | 8.3 | 15 |
| *Arctostaphylos* x *coloradensis* | Mock Bearberry Manzanita | 8.2 | 9 |
| *Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn' PP 15,023 | HOT WINGS® Tatarian Maple | 8.2 | 10 |
| *Origanum libanoticum* | Hopflower Oregano | 8.2 | 10 |
| *Sedum sediforme* | Turquoise Tails blue sedum | 8.2 | 10 |
| *Chrysothamnus (Ericameria) nauseosus* var. nauseosus | Baby blue rabbitbrush | 8.1 | 14 |
| *Ephedra equisetina* | Bluestem Joint Fir | 8.1 | 14 |
| *Agastache cana* 'Sinning' PP 13,673 | SONORAN SUNSET® Hyssop | 8.1 | 9 |

**Top Plants for Elevations over 7500 ft**

4.5% (2 of 44) Participating Gardens

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCIENTIFIC NAME** | **TRADE OR COMMON NAME** | **AVERAGE** | **NUMBER OF RESPONSES** |
| *Aquilegia chrysantha* | DENVER GOLD® columbine | 9.0 | 2 |
| *Aquilegia* 'Swan Violet & White' | REMEMBRANCE® columbine | 9.0 | 2 |
| *Erodium chrysanthum* | Golden storksbill | 9.0 | 2 |
| *Nepeta* ‘Psfike' PP 18,904 | LITTLE TRUDY® Catmint | 9.0 | 2 |
| *Cytisus purgans* | SPANISH GOLD® Broom | 8.5 | 2 |
| *Echium amoenum* | Red Feathers | 8.5 | 2 |
| *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *aureum* 'Psdowns' | KANNAH CREEK® Buckwheat | 8.5 | 2 |
| *Philadelphus lewisii* 'PWY01S' | CHEYENNE® Mock Orange | 8.5 | 2 |
| *Prunus besseyi* 'P011S' | PAWNEE BUTTES® Sand Cherry | 8.5 | 2 |
| *Viola corsica* | Corsican Violet | 8.0 | 2 |

**Top 20 Plants by Overall Rating**

(reported by at least half of the 44 participating gardens)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **SCIENTIFIC NAME** | **TRADE OR COMMON NAME** | **AVERAGE** |
| 1. | | *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition'PP 22,048 | Blonde Ambition grama grass | 8.2 |
| 2. | | *Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn' PP 15,023 | HOT WINGS® Tatarian Maple | 8.2 |
| 3. | | *Ephedra equisetina* | Bluestem Joint Fir | 8.1 |
| 4. | | *Veronica* 'Reavis' | CRYSTAL RIVER® Veronica | 8.1 |
| 5. | | *Nepeta* ‘Psfike' PP 18,904 | LITTLE TRUDY® Catmint | 8.1 |
| 6. | | *Origanum libanoticum* | Hopflower Oregano | 8.0 |
| 7. | | *Chrysothamnus (Ericameria) nauseosus* var. nauseosus | Baby blue rabbitbrush | 8.0 |
| 8. | *Lonicera reticulata* 'P015S' | KINTZLEY'S GHOST® Honeysuckle | 8.0 |
| 9. | *Veronica liwanensis* | Turkish Veronica | 7.9 |
| 10. | *Zauschneria garrettii* 'PWWG01S' | ORANGE CARPET® Hummingbird Trumpet | 7.9 |
| 11. | *Sporobolus wrightii* | Giant Sacaton | 7.9 |
| 12. | *Fallugia paradoxa* | Apache Plume | 7.9 |
| 13. | *Erodium chrysanthum* | Golden Storksbill | 7.9 |
| 14. | *Amsonia jonesii* | Colorado desert blue star | 7.9 |
| 15. | *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *aureum* 'Psdowns' | KANNAH CREEK® Buckwheat | 7.9 |
| 16. | *Sedum sediforme* | Turquoise Tails blue sedum | 7.8 |
| 17. | *Hesperaloe parviflora* | Red yucca | 7.7 |
| 18. | *Calamagrostis brachytricha* | Korean Feather Reed Grass | 7.7 |
| 19. | *Tanacetum densum* ssp. *amani* | Partridge Feather | 7.6 |
| 20. | *Callirhoe involucrata* | Winecups | 7.6 |

**Gardens Participating in 2015 Survey**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Alamosa Community Greenhouse  Anasazi Heritage Center (BLM)  Aurora Xeriscape Demonstration Garden  Bozeman Public Library  Demonstration Garden  Butterfly Pavilion  Carnegie Public Library Demo Garden  Cliffrose Plant Select Demo Garden  Colorado Springs Utilities Xeriscape  Converse County Master Gardeners  CSU at Remington  CSU Extension Denver  CSU Extension Douglas County  CSU Extension Eagle County  CSU Extension Elbert County | CSU Extension Gunnison County  CSU Extension Morgan County  CSU Extension Phillips County  CSU Extension Summit County  CSU Extension Tri-River Area  Denver Botanic Gardens  Durango Public Library Demonstration Garden  Erie Community Park  Fort Collins Xeriscape Garden  Gardens on Spring Creek  Highland's Garden Village  Home on the Range Gardens  Horticultural Art Society of CO Springs  Idaho Botanical Garden  Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District  Conservation Garden Park | Kendrick Lake Garden  Left Hand Water District - Paterson Gardens  Monarch Spur Park  Montrose Botanical Society  Otero County Courthouse Garden  Parker PACE garden  Pueblo West Xeriscape Demonstration Garden  Red Butte Garden & Arboretum  Sedalia Demonstration Garden  SE Colorado Water Conservancy District  Thornton Fire Station 5’s Water-Wise Garden  Treasure Island Garden  Western Colorado Botanic Gardens  Westminster/The Heritage Golf Course  Yampa River Botanic Park |

**explore> plantselect.org**