

Demonstration Garden Partners: Goals, Policies & Expectations

Background information about Plant Select[®]

Plant Select[®] is a program designed to seek out and distribute the very best plants for gardens from the High Plains to the intermountain region. Plant Select[®] is a cooperative program administered by Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University together with landscape and nursery professionals from throughout the Rocky Mountain region and beyond.

Plants promoted through the program are evaluated on a variety of protocols that include: exceptional performance under low water conditions, adaptation to regional environmental and climatic conditions, uniqueness, resistance to pests and diseases, duration of bloom and a long period of garden interest, noninvasiveness, ease of production, marketability, and more.

Why become a Demonstration Garden?

In addition to the cooperation of the entities above, public gardens throughout the region may apply to become official Plant Select[®] Demonstration Gardens. These gardens provide opportunities for gardeners to observe how Plant Select[®] plants perform in garden settings under local and regional conditions. Official Plant Select[®] Demonstration Gardens are eligible to attend the annual meeting in June, receive a limited amount of plants at no charge, and have access to free Plant Select[®] brochures and signs. Official Plant Select[®] Demonstration Gardens are also listed on the Plant Select[®] website and in other publications.

I. Purpose of Demonstration Gardens Program

- To show Plant Select[®] introduced and recommended plants to their fullest capacity;
- To increase public awareness of the beauty, variety, and resilience of Plant Select[®] plants, especially on local and regional levels;
- To promote sustainable horticultural practices;
- To encourage regionally appropriate gardening.

II. These goals should be accomplished through:

- Good garden design with regular garden maintenance.
- A well-planned educational program (e.g. signage, brochures, events, etc.)

III. Requirements for Plant Select[®] Demonstration Gardens

- Education of visitors must be the garden's primary purpose.
- Garden must be open to the public year round.

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- Garden must be at least one year old before application will be considered.
- Clear and legible signage must include proper plant names and the Plant Select[®] logo.
- Funds must be available for ongoing maintenance.

IV. Application Process

An application must be approved by the Marketing Committee in order to become a Plant Select[®] Demonstration Garden. This application includes a written plan (including size and location of garden), description of educational efforts, description of volunteers or staff who will participate, funding sources, future goals, and more. Applications will also be assessed on the regional needs for a new Plant Select[®] Demonstration Garden in a particular area.

V. To maintain status as an official Plant Select[®] Demonstration Garden, each garden must:

- Complete an annual performance survey.
- Submit 4-6 photos or electronic images from current season, showing the overall garden, the general setting, signage, any activities that have taken place, etc.
- Maintain the requirements for Plant Select[®] Demonstration Gardens (see III).

VI. Other

- Plant Select[®] plants may be concentrated in one area, or can be displayed throughout the garden, provided the plants are clearly labeled with the Plant Select[®] logo so that visitors can find them easily.
- Public schools are not eligible due to the need for the garden to be fully accessible to the public without restriction.
- There is no requirement on the amount of space to be dedicated to individual plants, but it is preferred that as many Plant Select[®] introductions and recommendations be displayed in the Demonstration Garden as possible.
- Retail garden centers are encouraged to become official Demonstration Gardens but will not receive annual supplies of new plants.
- Retail garden centers who are listed as official Demonstration Gardens must also be Plant Select[®] retail members.

VI. Cost and Compensation

- Plant Select[®] does not compensate Demonstration Gardens for planting or other expenses.
- Demonstration Gardens will have the opportunity to receive a broad selection of Plant Select[®] recommendations and introductions at the annual meeting held in June.

V. Termination

- If a garden is unable to meet the above requirements, the garden's administrator should contact Plant Select[®] as soon as possible to be removed from the public listings.
- If the Marketing Committee deems that a garden is not meeting the requirements listed above, contact will be made with the administrator and the garden will be removed from public listings. Gardens may reapply at any time.

Plant Select[®] is pleased to promote and recommend public demonstration gardens which offer gardeners the opportunities to learn about appropriate gardening practices and to observe how Plant Select[®] plants perform under local and regional conditions