**Minutes**

**Plant Select® - Propagators’ Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2016**

**Denver Botanic Gardens**

**Present:** Colorado State University: Jim Klett, David Staats and Ronda Koski; Denver Botanic Gardens: Mike Bone, Mark Jordan, Sonya Anderson and Panayoti Kelaidis; Little Valley Wholesale Nursery: Keith Williamson and Brian Core; Echter’s Greenhouse: Harriett McMillan; Gulley Greenhouse: Gene Pielin and Mark Frey; Britton Nursery: Matt Cunningham; Brown’s Greenhouse: Kelly Grummons; Harlequin Gardens: Eve Reshetnick Brawner and Gary Meis; Harding Nursery: Bobbi Sexton; Welby Gardens: Al Gerace; Paulino Gardens: Joyce Vagnini; Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery: Scott Skogerboe; City of Denver: Jason Smith: and Plant Select®: Pat Hayward.

Introductions were made of all in attendance.

Minutes of the July 27, 2016 joint meeting of Propagation and Marketing Committee Meetings were approved as written with some grammatical changes noted.

The committee then discussed the 2017 Plant Select® plant introductions and recommendations. Pat Hayward reported that the 2017 brochure is currently in the mock-up stage.

* Cotoneaster racemiflorus var. soongoricus is available at Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery and at Little Valley Wholesale Nursery. Brian Core is also trying to grow this plant from seed.
* Salvia moorcroftiana x indica- Brian Core reported he has a crop at Little Valley Wholesale Nursery and Mike Bone at DBG has seed. He noted however the light colored seed seems not to geminate.
* Veronica ‘P018S’ Snowmass® blue-eyed veronica- available at Gulley Greenhouse and grower can obtain plugs from Gulley for stock.
* Lavandula angustifolia ‘Wee One’- Gulley has stock.
* Sorghastrum nutans ‘Thin Man’-Little Valley Wholesale Nursery has some. David Salman reported his supply of this plant is quite low.

Also in the 2017 brochure one fold of the brochure will feature “Penstemons for Pollinators” and will promote more “classic” penstemons promoted in the past by Plant Select®.

Brian Core next reported on a new cherry (red) form of callirhoe. Mike Bone of DBG reported he has several thousand seeds and Brian Core has plants and is building up stock numbers. He will distribute some plants in the spring. Stock is being grown at Chatfield with no other callirhoe near it to hybridize. DBG will grow out stock for seed production. We may be able to introduce in 2018 or 2019 and it will be a Plant Select® exclusive. One proposed name is ‘Prairie Cherry’. Royalty would be nine cents each.

Mike Bone next discussed Denver Botanic Gardens breeding program. They are primarily looking at two genera, Scutellaria and Dracocephalum. He stated they may be able to hybridize between these two genera. He showed slides of different species of these two genera that may have potential in a breeding program. They will sort out and probably target about 10 species in each of these two genera. They will save pollen from promising species and freeze it for their hybridization procedures.

Al Gerace discussed the Native Plant Initiative. He suggested Plant Select® could rebrand some current selections and explore for new native plants. Plant Select® could promote more natives and help get more of them in production. A potential name given to these plants could be “Adapted Natives.”

The group next discussed was Hedeoma todsenii. It is an endangered plant which is planted at Chatfield and the Gardens at Spring Creek, Fort Collins. It came from New Mexico and has beautiful orange/mango tubular flowers in late summer through fall. One cannot legally sell an endangered species commercially. Pat Hayward stated if Plant Select® wanted to pursue growing this plant we would have to submit a research proposal to a Federal Agency to show how it would help native populations. The DBG plant was obtained through an agreement with a botanical garden in New Mexico. Possibly we could make a selection from this plant and then maybe make it commercially available. The plant does not produce seed readily but roots easily. Further research needs to be conducted if Plant Select® wants to pursue this any further. Pat Hayward will continue to pursue this with DBG staff.

Pat Hayward reported on a presentation given by Steven Paulsen of Native Roots about his company at a recent Board of Directors’ meeting. He is a seed producer and producing seed from some of Steve Love’s introductions from the University of Idaho. He produces “uniform” natives which are selected for better ornamental features from seed. Plant Select® may wish to conduct trials of these selections in the future. Hopefully his seed would eliminate some of the variability problems we have from some of our current seed producers. He is looking at ways to get some of these seeds out to major growers and possibly Plant Select® could help with this. The Board of Directors will discuss in more depth at a future Board meeting.

The committee next discussed some new plants to consider for the future of Plant Select®. Scott Skogerboe discussed two mulberries from the Cheyenne Research Station. Scott is currently propagating them from cuttings and one has black fruit and another white fruit. However, black/purple fruit forms stains versus the white form which doesn’t, and white form is tastier. They have survived for years without irrigation at the Cheyenne Horticultural Station and are extremely hardy. It was suggested we should put them in multi-site woody plant trials. We would need to evaluate if they self-seed a lot.

Ann Hartmann Mahr suggested a selection of Salvia greggii as a potential Plant Select® plant .It is a sport that has a new flower color and possibly we could line out in our spring row trials.

Kelly Grummons suggested Salvia lemmonii that came from a seedling and has been hardy for several years in his yard.

Ronda Koski reported that one Tetraneuris is still flowering in October and the one from DBG is still the best selection in trials there. Mike Bone will get cuttings from this plant at CSU and plant out at Chatfield.

Hellebores were next discussed by the group. They are deer-resistant, evergreen, and a dry shade perennial with long-lasting flowers. Keith Williamson from LVWN stated they sell a lot of them and Kelly Grummons likes the clone ‘Silver Dollar’. CSU has tested many of the Gold Collection from Skagit Gardens. It was noted that aphids get on Hellebores but CSU Trials have not had any aphid problems. Discussion followed whether Plant Select® should promote Hellebores since CSU has done extensive evaluation research already on them. Gene Pielin suggested checking with a German company about their introductions but that would take another three years for evaluation for hardiness and adaptability. We should review photos of Hellebores from CSU Trials and see then if Plant Select® wants to pursue this plant further.

Sonya Anderson suggested Epimediums for dry shade.

Ronda mentioned a pink form of Holodiscus. Brian Core knows of some locations where we could collect seed.

Matt Cunningham suggested that Plant Select® should look at garden trends and discuss that at next propagation meeting.

Jim Klett reviewed the stock plant greenhouse research project for three Plant Select® plants. Studies are ongoing looking at different media, container size, plant growth regulators and fertilizers on these three plants. An update will be given at the December meeting.

Jim Klett gave an update on the new Perennial Research/Demonstration Garden at CSU. It is nearing completion. It will be part of the “Garden-Art District” of Fort Collins. Jim will bring photos to next meeting.

Next meeting will be a joint meeting of propagation and marketing committees and will be held on December 7, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at Echters’ Greenhouse.