**Minutes of Plant Select® Propagation Committee**

**Wednesday July 6, 2016**

**Colorado State University**

**Agricultural Research and Development**

**Present:** Colorado State University: Jim Klett, Ronda Koski, David Staats, Shana Brown, Sean Markovic; Little Valley Wholesale Nursery: Brian Core; Gulley Greenhouse: Mark Frey, Selena Kunze; Denver Botanic Gardens: Sonya Anderson; Plant Select®: Pat Hayward

Minutes of the February 3, 2016 meeting were reviewed and after noting a couple of misspellings, they were then approved with these minor corrections noted.

The committee then discussed the plants they evaluated in the Colorado State University row trials. Some of the more outstanding plants that the committee commented on included: Scutellaria scordifolia, Dracocephalum discolor (due to tight rounded growth habit and blue flowers), Dracocephalum ruyschianum (possibly look at once since seed is available from Jellito) and Tetraneuris scaposa (selection from DBG). Ronda Koski reviewed the maintenance for these trials and she stated they received no additional water in 2016 until this week. She will cut back one-half of all plants in trial and observe any re-bloom later in the season. Sonya Anderson also noted she liked Sideritis syriaca (vigorous but more open in center). Ronda also noted that Alyssum stribrnyi had abundant flowers early in the season but it does not look very ornamental after the bloom period.

The propagation committee next discussed the 2017 Plant Select® winners. Pat Hayward stated propagation protocols are written and posted for all the 2017 winners except for Salvia moorcroftiana x indica which Mike Bone will write. Availability of 2017 plants was next discussed. Cotoneaster racemiflora ssp soongarica is available from Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery. Little Valley Wholesale Nursery, and Gulley will have Salvia moorcroftiana x indica (it is easily grown from seed). Pat Hayward will get the word out to growers that DBG has seed and Gulley will bring some plants for distribution at the next propagation meeting. Sorghastrum nutans ‘Thin Man’ is available from Waterwise Gardening, LLC along with Little Valley Wholesale Nursery. Committee felt sales will climb once the public learns of its unique growth habit.

Veronica – Snowmass® blue-eyed veronica is available at Gulley Greenhouse and Little Valley Wholesale Nursery. Availability should not be a problem.

Lavandula ‘Wee One’ is doing very well in CSU 3 year perennial trial. Center Greenhouse and Gulley propagating this Lavandula.

Applewood Seed will not have seed of Achnatherum calamagrostis (a 2018 designate) due to accident in this plot but seed should be available from Scott Skogerboe and it is also easy to propagate by division.

Committee next discussed certain pollinator plants to promote in the 2017 Plant Select® brochure. Plants that would be promoted include: Denver Gold® Columbine; Little Trudy, Coral Baby Penstemon, Penstemon x mexicali: Red Rocks®, Pikes Peak Purple®, Windwalker® Garnet, Carolyn’s Hope and hopflower oregano. Some plants that were eliminated from the list included: Vermilion Bluffs® salvia, Mojave sage, Kintzley’s Ghost® honeysuckle, Gold on Blue zinnia, fernbush and Kannah Creek® buckwheat.

Jim Klett then reviewed the Plant Select® greenhouse research program. Conference call meeting was held on May 17, 2016 to gather input from propagators about research proposals; one plant Select® plant identified that needed research on production and propagation was assigned to each of the researchers: Shana Brown, Sean Markovic and Ronda Koski.

Research will initiate, first looking at stock plant production with three plants including Orange Carpet® zauschneria, Coral Baby penstemon and Snow Angel heuchera.

Experiments will look at different container sizes and media to grow stock plants in. We will also have an experiment looking at different plant growth regulators on stock plants to determine if more cuttings can be produced by using them. We will probably look at recommended rate, ½ recommended rate and 2x recommended rate. Another study will look at different fertilizers on these stock plants to observe any increase cutting production.

Research with various LED lighting will be delayed until more commercial operations start to use LED different lighting as part of their normal operating procedures. Research on number of cuttings produced will follow and rooting percentage research will follow.

A Specialty Crop Block Grant was awarded for 2017-18 from State of Colorado to help financially support this project.

Jim Klett reported that five different taxa were planted in multi-site woody plant evaluation program.

The committee then discussed some potential Plant Select® new plants. Two new delospermas were discussed, both from John Stireman of Sandy, UT. One is a raspberry color and the other orange. These will be placed in trials to determine hardiness. Kelly Grummons suggested Plant Select® consider Artemisia abrotanum (dwarf selection) and Sphaeralcea hybrids in three different colors. Also a pink flowering form of Zauschnerica arizonica v. latifolia (salmon-pink form) could be considered. All five plants have been delivered to Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield for planting into row trials.

Pat Hayward informed committee that David Salman signed a contract with Monrovia for his new plant introductions so there will be fewer new plants coming to Plant Select® from him.

Brian Core discussed the status of a red flowering Callirhoe that Plant Select® has been considering. He’s currently working with Mike Bone on seed production. Also it was suggested that Plant Select® pursue finding a pink form of Holodiscus.

Committee also discussed some plants considered in the past that seem to be hard to propagate that could be considered again if propagation protocols can be determined. These include Clematis, Linum and Scabosia. Once research is done on these they may become more viable plants for the Plant Select® program. The Scabiosa will be removed from consideration at this time.

Several announcements were then given.

Jim Klett mentioned the Annual Trial Garden Evaluation Day will be on Tuesday, August 2, 2016. He also stated Dr. Jessica Davis has been hired as the new Department Head for Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department.

Pat Hayward stated the City of Fort Collins will potentially move forward with naming Tim Buchanan’s tree selections. No decision if the selections will be called Choice City™ or City Choice™.

Jim Klett also gave an update on move of perennial demonstration garden from Plant Environmental Research Center to area north of University Center for the Arts.

Pat Hayward mentioned pollinator study being conducted by CSU and volunteers includes many Plant Select® plants.

Next meeting will be a joint Propagation and Marketing Committing meeting at Chatfield on Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

Next marketing meeting will be on September 7, 2016 at Shelly’s Garden Center, Broomfield.