HOA 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 an HOA Demonstration Garden?

HOA Demonstration Gardens take the mission of Plant Select to the next level demonstrating that the selection of Plant Select plants can be used throughout landscapes to enhance beauty, conserve water and save HOA communities money.

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 Garden representatives 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® signs and 200 brochures annually. Official Plant Select® Demonstration Gardens are also listed on the Plant Select® website and in other publications.

I. Purpose of an HOA Demonstration Gardens Program

- To support and celebrate any HOA going through landscape installations or conversions of landscapes to more appropriate plantings for this region.
- To discover how Plant Select® plants, introduced and recommended, can impact communities on an environmental and fiscal scale.
- To increase public awareness of the beauty, variety, and resilience of Plant Select® plants.
- To promote sustainable horticultural practices.
- To encourage regionally appropriate landscaping/gardening.
- To enhance curb appeal and offer an amenity to HOA residence and the surrounding community.
II. These goals should be accomplished through:

- Appropriate landscape/garden design with regular maintenance.
- An educational component (e.g. provide plant signage, place an enclosed box for brochures, share or post garden information on HOA website or other social media used to communicate with residents, host informative events, etc.)

III. Requirements for Plant Select® Demonstration Gardens

- Education of residents/visitors must be the garden’s primary purpose.
- A Garden must be open to the HOA community year-round.
- HOA Garden will be posted on Plant Select website one year after garden installation.
- Clear and legible signage must include proper plant names and the Plant Select® logo. (Plant Select® resources may be available to order. Inquire with the Director of Plant Select®.
- Funds must be available for ongoing maintenance to keep the garden weeded and in shape for year-round beauty and interest.

IV. Application Process

Complete the HOA Demonstration Garden Application with supplemental information outlined in the application and submit for review by the Plant Select® Marketing Committee. Applications will be reviewed at the next upcoming Marketing Committee Meeting followed by a response within (7) business days.

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

- Pay an annual HOA Plant Select Demonstration Garden fee of $50 until applicant has mentored a new HOA into becoming a Plant Select HOA Demonstration Garden, by encouraging HOA applicants and answering questions new applicants may have about the process and success of becoming a Plant Select Demonstration Garden.
- Report annual water use and general community response to landscape changes within the HOA.
- Submit (annually) 4-6 photos or electronic images from the current season, showing the overall garden, the general setting, signage, any activities that have taken place, etc.
- Maintain the requirements for Plant Select® HOA 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 on staked plant signs so that visitors can find them easily.
- 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 are displayed in the Demonstration Garden as possible.

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 periodic meetings.
- Plant Select® may be able to offer plant signs at a discounted rate. Email director@plantselect.org to inquire.

V. Termination

- If a garden is unable to meet the above expectations, 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. HOA Gardens may reapply at any time.
Plant Select® is pleased to promote HOA Demonstration Gardens which offer gardeners and the public at large the opportunity to learn about appropriate gardening practices and to observe how Plant Select® plants perform under local and regional conditions.

**HOA Demonstration Garden Application**

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Website

1. What is the primary purpose for the HOA Demonstration Garden? (e.g. curb appeal, reduce turf, save water, etc.)

2. Why are you applying to be part of the Plant Select® HOA Demonstration Gardens Program?

3. How long has the garden been in existence?

4. What days/hours is the garden open to your community?

5. Directions to garden from well known, or nearest, major intersection:
6. Please attach or describe the landscape design plans for the proposed area, including size and community access, amount of turf reduction or replacement of with a low water alternative (DOGTUFF grass or other).

7. Please attach or describe proposed annual budget and funding sources for maintenance and signage plans.

8. Will the HOA maintenance contractor maintain the HOA Demonstration Garden area(s) in addition to the remaining existing landscape?

9. Please tell us a little more about the history, present and future goals for the landscape/garden.

I have read and agree to abide by the “Plant Select® Demonstration Gardens Program Policies”

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When completed, please return to:
Plant Select®
c/o Colorado State University
1173 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins CO 80523-1173

Your application will be reviewed by the Plant Select® Marketing Committee at its next upcoming meeting. A committee member will respond within seven days following the review.

We appreciate and thank you for your interest in becoming a Plant Select® Demonstration Garden!