



ALBERTA PERENNIAL TRIALS EVALUATION OF NEW HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS FOR HARDINESS & LANDSCAPE QUALITY AT THREE ALBERTA LOCATIONS

2006 REPORT FOR THE ALBERTA PROFESSIONAL & HORTICULTURAL
GROWERS CONGRESS & FOUNDATION SOCIETY

The Alberta Perennial Trials (APT) continues to evaluate new and newer perennials for the Alberta region. This project is currently funded by members of the horticultural industry and horticultural community (please see Appendix A for a summary of the current participants). Further, with the exception of paid site representatives, members of the Alberta Perennial Trials leadership team donate their time and expertise to the continuation of this project.

In 2005 the Alberta Perennial Trials adopted a new format for introducing plant material into the study. With the new incremental approach, 50 plant groups are accepted for evaluation each year. Each plant group is still evaluated over three seasons but this staggered introduction approach allows the project to stay current with the trends of the year. Plant material continues to be evaluated at our three test sites: Olds College Botanical Gardens; the Muttart Conservatory; and The Calgary Zoo and Botanical Gardens. This year data collection continued for the plant material established in 2005 and commenced for the new 2006 introductions.

In 2005 over sixty perennial species/cultivars were introduced into the study. Each trial site obtained a minimum of three specimens (typically five) of each cultivar. In May 2006 site representatives began recording data on the surviving plant material established in 2005. Data collected includes winter survival rates, growth rates (recorded monthly), bloom data (recorded weekly), incidence of pests and diseases (weekly), comments on overall landscape value and digital photos of all test plant material. Representatives also prepared planting beds for the new 2006 introductions to the study. Throughout the season beds are regularly weeded and are irrigated as required. Plants are staked and conservative pest control undertaken as required. Weather reports from the test sites are included in data collection.

In June over forty new cultivars were accepted into the study and the new donations were distributed to the three test sites. These perennials were incorporated into the test beds according to their particular cultural requirements and the condition of the perennials on planting was noted. Data was subsequently collected weekly and monthly as outlined above. Data was collected throughout the growing season, finishing at the end of September. All plant material was labelled in the test beds and site maps were updated to indicate the position of all test material in the planting beds. Donors of plant material are indicated on plant labels and all contributors to the study are listed in site signage and project publications.

Additional activities of the study included attending Home & Garden and horticultural shows in both Calgary and Edmonton. Articles on the project appeared in the Calgary Horticultural Society's magazine *Calgary Gardening* and in *Bloom* magazine. The project was presented to various gardening groups in Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton. Tours of all three test sites were conducted throughout the summer for various groups. Local television stations showcased the project, interviewing site representatives at both the Edmonton and Calgary locations. At all these promotional events brochures of the results of the 2002 – 2004 perennial trials were sold. The project was also represented at the Green Industry Show & Conference in November, 2006.

APPENDIX A

APT Contributors/Participants 2006

Contributors – 2005/06

Calgary Zoo and Botanical Gardens
Olds College Botanic Gardens
The Muttart Conservatory
Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA)
LANTA Retail Operators Commodity Group
LANTA Growers Group
Alberta Professional Horticultural Growers Congress and Foundation Society
Edmonton Community Services, Partners in Parks
Amazon Iron Ltd.
Bowman Greenhouses Ltd.
Bron & Sons Nursery Co.
Cheyenne Tree Farms Ltd.
C. Frensch Ltd.
Elaine Peek
E & M Woodland Farms
Green Side Up Inc.
Jeffries Nurseries Ltd.
Linnaea Nurseries Ltd.
Luster Leaf Products Inc.
Parkland Nurseries & Garden Centre Ltd.
Paridon Horticultural Ltd.
Pepindale Nursery
M. Van Noort & Sons Bulb Company Ltd.
Salisbury Greenhouse & Landscaping
Valleybrook Gardens/Heritage Perennials
Vanhof & Blokker Ltd.

Alberta Perennial Trials Team

Edmonton

John Helder	Principal of Horticulture, Edmonton
Sheryl Wotherspoon	Cheyenne Tree Farms
Donna Hamel	Horticulturist, Muttart Conservatory
Jane Huggan	Site Representative, Muttart

Calgary

Olivia Johns	Horticulturist, Calgary Zoo Botanic Gardens
Corinne Hannah	Project Coordinator and Site Representative

Olds College

Wendy Daley	Instructional Assistant, Olds College
Jamie VandePypekamp	Site Representative

Red Deer

Christine Cornelius	Parkland Nurseries & Garden Centre Ltd.
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APPENDIX B

Plants Currently Under Trial (2005/2006 Introductions)

<i>Agastache rugosa</i> 'Golden Jubilee'	<i>Helleborus orientalis</i>	<i>Molinia caerulea</i> 'Moorflamme'
<i>Alcea rosea</i> 'Queenly Purple'	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Big Time Happy'	<i>Molinia caerulea</i> subsp. <i>Caerulea</i> 'Variegata'
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i> 'Honorine Jobert'	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Janice Brown'	<i>Molinia caerulea</i> subsp. <i>arundinacea</i> 'Skyracer'
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i> 'Party Dress'	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Just Plum Happy'	<i>Monarda</i> 'Coral Reef'
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i> 'September Charm'	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Magnificent Rainbow'	<i>Monarda didyma</i> 'Grand Marshall'
<i>Armeria juniperifolia</i>	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Miss Quinn's World'	<i>Monarda didyma</i> 'Grand Parade'
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Moonlit Masquerade'	<i>Monarda</i> 'Jacob Cline'
<i>Athyrium nipponicum</i> 'Metalicum'	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Pudgie'	<i>Ophiopogon planiscapus</i> 'Nigrescens'
<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i> 'Dreamweaver'	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Rosy Returns'	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Rostralbusch'
<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i> 'Firestorm'	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Ruby Stella'	<i>Papaver orientale</i> 'Double Pleasure'
<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i> 'Jefdust' (Stardust')	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Siloam Ethel Smith'	<i>Phegopteris decursive-pinnata</i>
<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i> 'Showbiz'	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Siloam Justin Lee'	<i>Phlox paniculata</i> 'Becky Towe'
<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i> 'Suncatcher'	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Woodside Rhapsody'	<i>Phlox paniculata</i> 'Nora Leigh'
<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i> 'Tiger Tail'	<i>Heuchera americana</i> 'Plum Pudding'	<i>Phlox paniculata</i> 'Starfire'
<i>Clematis</i> 'Joe Zary'	<i>Heuchera</i> 'Chocolate Ruffles'	<i>Phlox x arendsii</i> 'Pink Attraction'
<i>Coreopsis</i> 'Crème Brulee'	<i>Heuchera</i> 'Dolce Key Lime Pie'	<i>Polemonium reptans</i> 'Stairway to Heaven'
<i>Delphinium</i> 'New Millenium Blushing Brides'	<i>Heuchera</i> 'Frosted Violet'	<i>Ranunculus repens</i> 'Buttered Popcorn'
<i>Delphinium</i> 'New Millenium Innocence'	<i>Heuchera</i> 'Hercules' (will require retrial)	<i>Salvia pratensis</i> 'Pink Delight'
<i>Delphinium</i> 'Guinevere'	<i>Heuchera</i> 'Orange Man' (will require retrial)	<i>Salvia pratensis</i> 'Rhapsody in Blue'
<i>Delphinium</i> 'New Millenium Dusky Maidens'	<i>Heuchera</i> 'Peach Flambe'	<i>Sedum alboroseum</i> 'Frosty Morn'
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> 'Northern Lights'	<i>Heucherella</i> 'Stoplight'	<i>Sedum</i> 'Lynda Windsor'
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> 'Bronzeschleier'	<i>Hosta</i> 'Color Glory'	<i>Sedum</i> 'Purple Emperor'
<i>Dianthus chinensis</i> 'Corona Cherry Magic'	<i>Hosta</i> 'Dream Weaver'	<i>Sedum rupestre</i> 'Angelina'
<i>Dianthus gratinopolitanus</i> 'Firewitch'	<i>Iris</i> 'Clarence'	<i>Sedum spurium</i> 'John Creech'
<i>Dianthus knappii</i>	<i>Iris x pumila</i> 'Brassie'	<i>Sempervivum ciliosum</i> var. <i>borisii</i>
<i>Dianthus x</i> 'Bouquet Purple'	<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	<i>Sempervivum</i> 'Edge of Night'
<i>Dryopteris atrata</i>	<i>Leucanthemum superbum</i> 'Crazy Daisy'	<i>Sempervivum</i> 'Icicle'
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	<i>Lewisia x</i> 'Little Plum' (<i>longipetala x cotyledon</i>)	<i>Sempervivum</i> 'Oddity'
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Double Decker'	<i>Ligularia dentata</i> 'Britt-Marie Crawford'	<i>Sideritis hyssopifolia</i>
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Rubin's Glow'	<i>Ligularia dentata</i> 'Desdemona'	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i> 'Golden Moss'
<i>Echinacea</i> 'Razzmatazz'	<i>Ligularia</i> 'The Rocket'	<i>Tellima grandiflora</i> 'Purpurea'
<i>Echinacea</i> 'Sundown'	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi plena</i> 'Jenny'	<i>Thymus</i> 'Hartington Silver'
<i>Fargesia murielae</i>	<i>Lychnis viscaria</i> 'Splendens plena'	<i>Tradescantia</i> 'Sweet Kate'
<i>Gaillardia</i> 'Fanfare'	<i>Lysimachia atropurpurea</i> 'Beaujolais'	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i> 'Color Guard'
<i>Geranium cinereum</i> 'Carol'	<i>Miscanthus</i> 'Giganteus'	
<i>Geranium phaeum</i> 'Springtime'	<i>Miscanthus</i> 'Purpurascens'	
<i>Gypsophila fastigiata</i> 'Silverstar'	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Huron Sunrise'	
<i>Helenium bigelovii</i> 'The Bishop'		