

New flower selections tested at Penn State

Those millions of seed catalogs in American homes this winter feature four new All-American flower selections tested in the trial garden of the Pennsylvania State University.

The new varieties are Peter Pan flame zinnia, dwarf crested French-Janie marigold, Sangria verbena, and Holiday Time ornamental pepper.

Marvin E. Runner, in charge of the Penn State project, said 60 selections of newly developed annual flowers, plus countless commercial comparisons,

are grown annually at the trial garden along University Drive near Beaver Stadium.

Dr. Runner not only supervises the Penn State garden but also serves as an official judge for All-America Selections (AAS), the non-profit educational organization for evaluating new varieties of annual flowers and vegetables.

The AAS, says Dr. Runner, is the only accepted rating system in North America for seed-grown flower varieties. Similar programs exist in Europe and England—the Fleuroselect and All-Britain

awards. All-American Selection trials in the U.S. are carried out in 30 gardens across the nation.

In addition to All-America Selection entires, last summer's trial garden included 528 samples of seed from 19 other seedsmen and hybridizers, both U.S. and foreign.

Summer visitors to the garden discover what Dr. Runner describes as "a liberal sprinkling of newly introduced varieties appearing for the first time." There are also dozens of pre-introduction or experimental cultivars developed by plant

breeders.

Serving as a convenient outdoor laboratory, the trial garden attracts students, landscapers, home gardeners, and seedsmen from distant states and foreign countries to study the several acres of plantings.

"Evaluation of new varieties determines their value for the home gardener as well as for the bedding plant industry," Dr. Runner explained. "Likewise, advanced cultural practices are demonstrated. We make certain that the plants grow and flower to their full potential," he added.

The following list represents a small group of new annual flower selections tested last summer at Penn State. Some will be available to the public in 1980:

Sprite snapdragon; Magic Carpet miniature snapdragon; Spindrift ageratum, a white color; Blue Victoria salvia farinacea; White Flash petunia; Salmon Cloud petunia; Starburst petunia, a grandiflora rose and white bicolor; Summer Sun petunia, a yellow color; Montrose lavatera; Frosted Mixture centaurea; Peter Pan Cream zinnia.

Bouquet Scarlet zinnia; Snowfire dianthus; Royal

Velvet and Yellow Velvet mimulus; Coco Duocolor begonia; Hot Tip begonia; Novette Bright Orange impatiens; Super Elfin impatiens; Blitz impatiens; Queen Bee marigold; Happy Orange and Happy Red marigold; and Nicki-Red nicotiana.

Details on the Penn State trial garden will be published in an upcoming issue of "Science in Agriculture," the quarterly magazine of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State. To get on the free mailing list, write to 229 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802

Bradford extension plans activities

BY JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent

TOWANDA — The executive committee of the Bradford County Extension Service met recently at the County Extension Office in Towanda, Pennsylvania, for the annual reorganization meeting. Perfect attendance for both staff and board were noted.

Jeff Hale, president of the board, reviewed the previous year's activities reporting that the regional and state extension boards spent a great deal of time with the legislators convincing them that the extension services were suffering from the cut in staff and money over the past few years. As a result a million dollars from the state was forthcoming.

More agents and home economists have been hired including Miss Cathy Bakalar who has recently been hired by the Northern Tier Region as a nutrition specialist and is working out of the Towanda office.

Hale was also pleased to note that due to the petition of county citizens, Miss Levetta Roof has been hired as a full time county employee to work as the 4-H agent.

The main point of business was the concern that the amount of money allotted by the county for the cost of extension office expenses was going to be \$5000 short.

A newly elected commissioner, Francis Douglas, was invited to lunch with the committee and confronted with the problem. He promised additional meetings with the other



The Bradford County Extension Executive Committee appointed the following officers for 1980: seated left, Karen Harris, secretary; Jeff Hale, president; standing left, Gary Green, vice-president; Rose Smith, treasurer.

county commissioners for further discussion.

The county agents, Orville Yoder, director, Jake Guffey, and Al Homan, Home Economist, Linda Hulslander, and Levetta Roof, 4-H agent, gave written reports of activities for the coming year.

According to Yoder, the Northern Tier region comprised of Wyoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Bradford Counties is the only region with its own board which is composed of two delegates from each county. Andy Dewing was appointed to serve with Rosa Wilcox.

Duane Lewis and Ellen Faust are alternates.

The officers elected for 1980 are as follows: Jeff Hale, president; Gary Green, vice president; Karen Harris, secretary; and Rose Smith, treasurer.

Other board members are: Ellen Faust, Robert

Whipple, Carrie Wilcox, Andy Dewing, Bob Taylor, Rosa Wilcox, Duane Lewis and Jane Bresee.

The next meeting of the Bradford County Extension Executive Board will be March 27, at 8:15 at the Extension office.

York horse club forming

YORK — A new 4-H Horse Club is being organized in the Felton Area. The club will have information for both English and Western Riding members. A complete 4-H Program will be offered to the members. Members must be 8 years of age and not have passed their 19th birthday.

The first meeting will be Wednesday, February 13th at 7:00. The meeting will be held at the home of Kimberly Hines, R2, Foulton School Road, Felton. The organizational leaders will be Mrs. Susan Schmidt, 1 Sawmill Road, Stewartstown R2, Phone - 933-3034, who has had 4-H experience in

Maryland; and Mr. & Mrs. Kum Myers, Rt. 3 Box 1155, Felton, Phone 244-3970, who have English and Western experience and have been 4-H members in the past. Youth interested in joining may call the leaders or be present at the club's first meeting.



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