

Gardener Selects Program

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Brilliant Pink," which has a mass of bold flowers on trailing vines; Petunia X hybrida "Pink Wave," with large flowers, high vigor and recommended for use in beds or as groundcover; Pleectranthus Madagascariensis, fast-growing and grown for its white and green leaves; portulaca "Sundial Mix," with pastel colors, large flowers and a mass of color in July and August; Rudbeckia "Indian Summer," with large golden-yellow flowers, and Salvia Farinacea "Signum," a beautiful blue salvia that is constantly blooming and attracts butterflies.

The Garden Selects program was established by Dr. Robert Berghage, the Penn State Trial Garden director, and in its first year looked at

the plant performance ratings of 27 herbaceous plants in the 29 locations statewide.

The 'best' plant performers were selected from earlier field trial evaluations at the Penn State Horticulture Trial Gardens at University Park and the Southeast Research and Extension Center in Landisville.

In York County, Becker said, "We're going to be expanding next year. We'll put a groundhog fence around a vegetable area and then the probation department is going to be bringing out teen-agers who are required to do some community service and they're going to be taking care of the vegetable trials, while the Master Gardeners will continue to maintain this area (flower gardens).

"We felt that York County

needs to have this trial for the purposes that people can start evaluating things on their own and you can see we've put good educational signs for each plant so that people don't have to be out here for a tour. They can come out at anytime and see the progress."

The Pennsylvania Gardener Selects plants will be promoted throughout the green industry. The industry supports the initiative, Becker said.

"It's a wonderful idea because it's going to make for more landscapes throughout York County that will look great all season long," Becker said.

Master Gardener Kathy Engle-Debes, designer of the beds at Rudy Park and one of York County's evaluators of the plants, explained that she

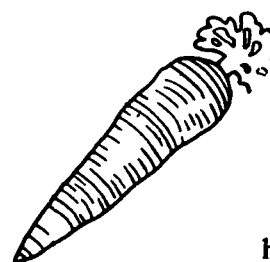
and another Master Gardener measured and placed bamboo sticks where each plant show go, making it easier for those doing the planting. The evaluation took place throughout the summer. Master Gardener Frank Sommer was the main evaluator of the project, making constant trips to the gardens.

Engle-Debes noted that a soaker hose was installed, but in some cases plants that are drought tolerant died out because the soil was too moist.

"We also have a very big population of butterflies that moved in and there are many

host plants. I found larvae on a couple of the plants, so we're starting to establish some beneficial insects," she said.

Becker said the perennial plants will remain next year, and "we will probably continue to put in native plants because we're seeing a continuing trend toward and interest in these types of plants, and they're things that people are not familiar with. Kathy has been helpful in putting in some unusual flowers that I wasn't even aware of, so that has been a real help for me."



HortiCountry

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• Finally — practice safe harvest and handling practices. Clean and sanitize harvest containers and handling areas prior to harvest. Store bins in the sun, because the ultraviolet rays can kill harmful organisms. Do not stand in bins during harvest. Keep harvested produce as cool as possible. Lower temperatures will both preserve produce quality and slow the growth of any potentially harmful organisms. Any water used for produce washing should be drinkable and changed often. Any ice used to cool harvested crops should be made from drinkable water. Keep animals away from produce handling and storage areas when possible. This includes dogs and cats! And again have workers practice good personal hygiene.

Unfortunately, there is no way you can possibly guarantee that any fruits or vegetables produced on your farm will be free of harmful organisms. However, there have been no produce-related outbreaks of foodborne illness from fruits and vegetables grown in Lancaster County. By incorporating as many of these safety suggestions as possible into your farming operation, the chances of a future outbreak should be reduced. In addition to reducing the chances of contamination of your fresh fruits and vegetables, many of these suggestions are also beneficial to crop production. To me that means a win-win situation.

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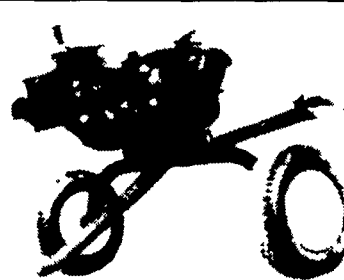
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41.5	4.9	2.1"	1150'	200'	100	63AT1050	\$16,890
48	4.6	2.38"	980'	210'	130	70AT885	\$16,990
50	4.6	2.5"	930'	210'	150	75AT820	\$17,213
68.3	5.3	3.0"	1000'	240'	200	90AT870	\$20,150
67.2	5.9	3.0"	1120'	240'	200	90AT985	\$21,950
61	7.0	3.0"	1250'	240'	180	90AT1250	\$26,350
90.7	6.8	3.75"	1180'	275'	275	110AT1050	\$27,230
90.2	7.6	3.75"	1310'	260'	275	110AT1180	\$28,700
88.7	8.3	3.75"	1440'	260'	275	110AT1312	\$33,250
135	7.8	4.00"	1200'	300'	450	120AT1050	\$33,180
176	7.5	4.20"	1150'	300'	500	125AT985	\$33,680
88.2	9.3	3.54"	1640'	260'	260	110AT1510	\$35,200
131	9.0	4.00"	1410'	280'	400	120AT1250	\$35,100
139	9.1	4.10"	1410'	300'	400	125AT1250	\$35,900

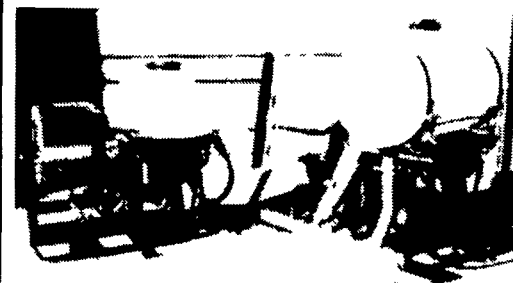


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