

High Hopes For 2014

A Look At Some Top Plant Picks For Gardeners Next Year

BROOKINGS — David Graper, SDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist and Director of McCrory Gardens highlights the best performing bedding plants grown at McCrory Gardens this year that he believes South Dakota gardeners may be interested in considering for 2014.

"We receive bedding plants and perennials from about a half dozen different plant companies. Each year we get to grow about 160 different trial plants. To be honest, I really love this part of what we do at McCrory Gardens, getting to see the new, up and coming plants and how well they grow here in Brookings," Graper said.

Although Graper won't be discussing all of his favorites in this article, he will feature the plants that received his highest overall ratings, a score of 10 out of 10 in our trials.

"These are also plants that are fairly cold tolerant and may still look pretty good even by the end of October," he said.

ALYSSUM

"I was impressed by several cultivars of *Lobularia maritima*, or sweet alyssum," he said.

Sweet alyssum is usually used as an edging plant or a "spiller" in a container with its dozens of small stems, each displaying a dozen or more small flowers. Although it doesn't grow very tall Graper said it can spread out to cover about a square foot of bed area, by the end of the season.

"They usually start blooming while still in the cell packs and they keep on blooming and growing until a really hard freeze takes them out," he said. "They also have a wonderfully sweet fragrance that is hard to miss when you walk by a bed or container in which they are growing."

His favorite is called 'Blushing Princess'™.

"It is a vigorously growing plant that worked very well in a large container or planted in the ground. The flowers are a lovely soft pink color and it bloomed in abundance all summer and fall," Graper said.

Others to consider include: 'Snow Princess'®, which has the more typical white flowers but on an atypically vigorous plant that was continually loaded with flowers. 'Frosty Knight'™, also had an abundance of white flowers but had the added bonus of a small white stripe



PHOTO COURTESY OF IGROW.ORG
Graceful Grasses Vertigo grows to about 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide, and is a great selection for Pennisetum purpurem, according to David Graper, SDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist and Director of McCrory Gardens.

down the sides of each leaf.

"All three of these plants were Proven Winners® selections. If you are looking to add a bit of white or light pink to a container or flower bed and need a low growing plant, I would highly recommend these three cultivars of sweet alyssum," he said.

PETUNIAS

Petunias are a staple of most annual flower plantings, explained Graper.

There are hundreds of different cultivars to choose from, but Graper had two petunias that were rated 10 out of 10: the 'Supertunia® White Improved' and 'Cha-Ching Cherry' — both are Proven Winners® selections.

"Both of these plants were covered with flowers all summer and fall but really stood out as excellent plants," he said. "The white Supertunia® had nearly pure white flowers that covered the well-branched plants. The flowers were nicely fragrant too."

Graper went on to praise 'Cha-Ching Cherry' as a show-stopper.

"It had bright, cherry-red flowers that had star-shaped stripes of light pink to white with a yellow throat," he said.

Two other petunias which performed well included Petunia 'Flash Mob Blueirific' and 'Ez Rider™ Blue'.

"Since SDSU's colors are blue and gold, I

am always looking for good blue-flowered plants, which is actually harder than you might think," he said. "I am still waiting for a truly blue petunia but these two came pretty close, even though the color is more purple or lavender than blue."

Graper added that 'Flash Mob Blueirific' had lovely blue-lavender flowers that faded to lavender-white in the center and throat. "It was very floriferous and had well-branched plants," he said. 'Ez Rider™ Blue' had velvety purple, slightly fragrant flowers that were abundantly borne above the medium green foliage."

These were two are introductions from Burpee Home Gardening and Ball Seed respectively.

PENNISETUM PURPUREM

The last plant Graper highlights is Graceful Grasses® Vertigo®, a Proven Winners® selection of Pennisetum purpurem that was fantastic, he said.

"We used this plant in several of our large containers. It grew to about 4-foot tall and 4-foot wide and displayed gorgeous dark, purplish foliage that was a standout throughout the growing season," he said. "The foliage was the real attraction here since none of the plants ever produced a flower stalk."

To learn more visit, iGrow.org.

United Way

It's A Season Of Giving Thanks And Giving Back

BY LAUREN HANSON

United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton

This time of year, we tend to think a lot about giving — giving thanks, giving gifts, and giving back to others by sharing our time, talents and resources.

We at United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton have a lot to be thankful for; our Board of Directors, our Partner Agencies, our volunteers and all of our donors; individuals and companies who give back to our community!

There is no greater gift than helping to make a difference in someone's life: You can GIVE, you can ADVOCATE, or you can VOLUNTEER — any way you contribute, you will be helping to make our community stronger.



This Tuesday, Dec. 3, United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton is proud to support #GivingTuesday, where you can be a part of a movement to emphasize the "thanks" in Thanksgiving.

#GivingTuesday was created as an alternative to Black Friday and Cyber Monday to kick off the holiday season on a charitable note. The day's founding partners, which include United Way Worldwide, hope to turn the Tuesday after Thanksgiving into a day in which we give thanks by giving back to the community and supporting efforts to improve the lives of those in need.

What you give to United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton is critically important. Your donations are managed with diligent stewardship, distributing them to our partner agencies, projects and programs that help many people in the most effective ways.

Thanks to your efforts and support of United Way, here are just a few things accomplished this year to improve lives and our community:

- The Delta Dental's Smile Mobile served 41 local children who, for a variety of reasons, have been unable to access adequate dental care. It is the Smile Mobile's goal to provide restorative and preventive dental care to underserved children across South Dakota.

- The Center's Meals on Wheels program has delivered approximately 13,000 warm nutritious meals to local seniors, striving to positively affect their quality of life and assist in maintaining their independence.

- The Yankton Women's & Children's Center provides safe and immediate shelter to victims of domestic violence and their dependents. Year to date, they have served 32 women and 23 children, with a total of 822 shelter nights. The YWCC strives to prevent incidents of abuse through community partnerships and education.

- More than 7,000 children's books have been distributed through the Imagination Library program. The program, which fosters a love of reading among preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month, is available to children from birth to age 5 whose parent or guardian lives or works in Yankton County.

We are extremely thankful for the people who made these and many other wins for our community possible, because we know that the ultimate measure of our success is in the ways we are impacting the quality of life in our community.

We hope you will join us in making #GivingTuesday and our annual Campaign a success. Contact us at www.yanktonunited-way.org or call 605-665-6766 to learn about giving options.

From all of us at United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton, THANK YOU for your decision to give, advocate or volunteer, and showing that you know what it means to LIVE UNITED!

Happy Thanksgiving!

MEETINGS

KEYSTONE CHAPTER #33, OES

Keystone Chapter #33, OES, met Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013, at the Masonic Temple, Yankton. Sue Koopp, Worthy Matron, presided.

Year-end reports were given by Mary Johnson, Treasurer, and Chris Bryan, Eastern Star Home Representative. It was announced that the Official Visit will be Feb. 22, 2014.

Officers for the next term were installed. Janelle Kriebel presented Don and Sue Koopp, outgoing Worthy Matron and Patron, with gifts from the chapter.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Masonic Temple in Yankton, beginning at 7:30. Members are asked to bring a small gift for exchanging.

LADIES AUXILIARY V.F.W.

The Ladies Auxiliary to Ernest Bowyer Post 791 meeting opened by Joyce Stahlecker. Roll call was taken, Opening Prayer by Slowey and Patriotic instructions by Stoddard. The Pledge to the Flag and Star Spangled banner was sung. Motion was made to accept Application for new Memberships, Paulette Mangold and Jennifer Briest.

Minutes were read by Schramm and Treasurer's report by Olson. The Correspondence and General was read by Schramm. The Complimentary ticket to St. Ben's Soup Kitchen was won by Shirley Christensen.

Committee Reports were giving: Americanism by Stoddard, flag presentation at Lincoln school with rulers and Etiquette books given to students. Hospital by Slowey, a report on the months visit to HSC. CA&R by Olson, Cancer Pins are still available, and the membership for free years dues went to Leona Pechous and

Cancer insurance went to Mary Jean Mount. Yankton Care by Gwern, reported on the visit to Yankton Care. National Home by List, thanked all for Campbell labels and read from her bulletin.

New business: Slowey reported on District #1 Meeting. Craft Kits for the V.A. Hospital are available. President Stahlecker then brought up Marge Olson's resignation as Treasurer. After much discussion, Stoddard was then asked and she will work with Marge for the next few months.

Donations for the month were discussed. Two Holiday Wreaths were bought for the National Cemetery in Sturgis. A donation to the VA Hospital Christmas Fund was made. President Stahlecker then brought up "Make a Difference Day," the Auxiliary donated a variety of needed articles and will be delivered by Stoddard. Workers for Sunday evening bingo will be posted in the Post Newsletter. Stahlecker thanked all who participated in Veterans' Day observance and dinner at the Post Home. Schramm showed a sample of the star to be used on the Christmas Tree in Pierre. A veteran's photo may be placed on the star.

The next meeting will be Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

YANKTON COMMUNITY FORUM

During the month of November, the featured speakers at the Yankton Community Forum presented a wide range of topics.

Nov. 5 — Dave Mingo, Yankton Community Development Director, talked about past, current, and future developments in Yankton.

Nov. 12 — Brent Rupiper, Rupiper Travel, shared pictures from various tours all over the world and told about some of the unique and in-

teresting experiences he has had.

Nov. 19 — Joan Neubauer, Chairman of Yankton College Board of Trustees, presented the personal history and connections of some amazing individuals, like Yankton College Founder, Rev. Dr. Joseph Ward, his wife (Sarah Wood Ward), talented athletes/coaches, and others who contributed so much to the proud heritage of this first institution of higher learning in the Dakota Territory.

Nov. 26 — Bret Lammers, Nissen Winery, Hartington, Neb., spoke about how the two Nissen brothers became interested in developing their own winery in northeast Nebraska, the work and management of growing vines, and all that is involved in processing and bottling their wines.

Yankton Community Forum meets every Tuesday morning at the Hillcrest Country Club. Coffee, rolls, and socializing begins at 8:30 a.m., then at 9 a.m., there is a speaker presenting an informative topic regarding local or regional issues. Anyone over 50 years of age is welcome to come and join our friendly group.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact President Jack Lyons (665-9337) or Secretary Rose Mather (665-4615).

YANKTON TOASTMASTER CLUB 1294

Yankton Toastmaster Club 1294 met Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013, at 7:30 a.m. at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Hamilton. The invocation was given by Roy Wilcox, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Hamilton introduced new member, Jack Dahlseid. Joy Wither was introduced as the Toastmaster of the meeting. She called on Jeremy



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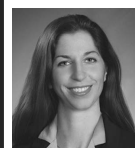
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