

Happy August!

We hope everyone is surviving the late summer heat. It's been a bit brutal here, with intermittent heat waves and torrential rains. But we managed to keep the gardens looking their best (or almost so) for our visitors.

In addition to the PPA symposium tours, which brought roughly 200 visitors to the gardens and greenhouses, we had a number of others coming through before or after the Penn State Trials Open House and other local events. It is always exciting to show off our hard work and chat with fellow plant geeks. We learn a great deal from these visits, and it helps us to improve the garden for next year.

Speaking of next year, it looks like we will be having an official Open House in late July/early August. We so enjoyed the PPA visitors, we decided to make it an annual event. More details on this will be forthcoming in future newsletters. For now, it is not too late to plan a visit to Lancaster to see our late summer garden. We welcome any visitors, just sign in at the office so we know you were here (in case we are not in the garden, which is rare).

Otherwise, we are busy collecting our final set of ratings and beginning the reporting process (results to be published later this fall). We've also begun planning for next year, our September newsletter will contain more information on those plans, but feel free to contact us if you have any information or requests.

-Eileen Anderson



August 2022



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PPA Symposium Tours:

August 3rd was a busy and wonderfully hectic day. We hosted two tours for approximately 200 people. Each tour also contained an optional tour of our greenhouses and production facilities. Truly a team effort, everyone at Green Leaf enjoyed meeting the PPA attendees and sharing our love of all things horticultural!

We asked every visitor to indicate which of the 350+ varieties in the garden where their favorites and the winners are on the next page.

Thanks to all of the attendees and If you have the time, please let us know your feedback and any suggestions for next year's garden and open house.

-Eileen Anderson & Jack Anton



Visitor Favorites:

We asked all visitors, from the PPA and others who came by, to indicate their favorites by putting a 'flag' by the plant's sign. In all, we tallied over 250 'flags', and the results are below. Though there were some clear favorites, almost one-third of the varieties received at least one flag. Note: second place was a three-way tie and are listed in alphabetical order.

Top Vote Getters:

1. (15 votes) RUDBECKIA 'American Gold Rush' from Intrinsic Perennials: The 2023 Perennial Plant of the Year has an outstanding habit and abundant blooms. It was a clear winner among our visitors, albeit most from the PPA Symposium!
2. (12 votes) ECHINACEA Sombrero® Salsa Red from Darwin Perennials®: Virtually every visitor to our garden has commented on the intensity of the color.
2. (12 votes) SALVIA nemorosa 'Rose Marvel' from Darwin Perennials®: Despite being on its second flush, its abundance of blooms and healthy foliage made this a clear favorite.
2. (12 votes) VERONICA 'Seaside' from GardenChoice™: Visitors commented on its large blooms and clean foliage.
5. (9 votes) ARTEMISIA GardenGhost™ from GardenChoice™: Its beautiful silver foliage and great habit were mentioned by virtually everyone.

1.



Rudbeckia 'American Gold Rush'

2. (tie)



Echinacea Sombrero Salsa Red

2. (tie)



Salvia 'Rose Marvel'

5.



Artemisia 'Garden Ghost'

2. (tie)



Veronica 'Seaside'

Visitor Favorites (continued):

As we mentioned, many varieties received at least one vote. This group received at least 5 votes and were crowd favorites.

ECHINACEA Sunseekers Series from Innoflora BV: All three shown here were crowd favorites, especially 'Rainbow'. Each has an abundance of blooms, and large flowers with a double row of petals. Rainbow's color changes as the blooms mature, turning from orange to pink shades. Red has intense reddish stems in addition to vibrant flowers and Salmon has paler pink blooms.

ACHILLEA Sassy Summer Taffy from Walter's Gardens: When most Achillea are looking tired and beginning to splay, this one stood out for its fresh look.

RUDBECKIA hirta Minibeckia 'Flame' from GardenChoice™: Visitors commented most on its uniform habit and abundant flowers.

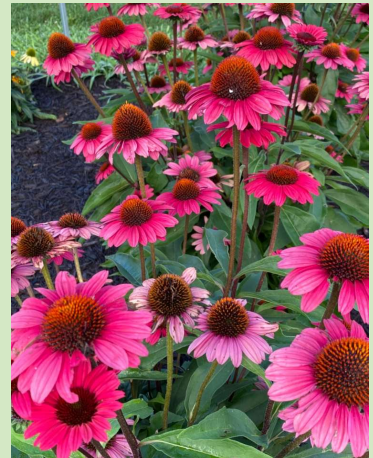
VERONICA longifolia Skyward™ Pink Red from Darwin Perennials®: Its light pink color, abundant flower spikes and clean foliage stood out.

-Eileen Anderson

Honorable Mentions:



Echinacea Sunseekers 'Rainbow'



Echinacea Sunseekers 'Red'



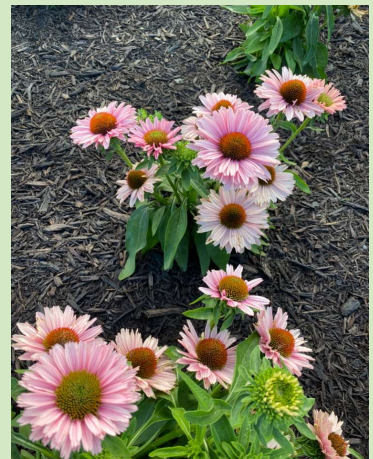
**Veronica
'Skyward Pink'**



**Rudbeckia hirta
MiniBeckia 'Flame'**



**Achillea
'Sassy Summer
Taffy'**



Echinacea Sunseekers 'Salmon'