



Prairie Star

Prairie Star Flowers (prairiestarflowers.com) are determined at the Kansas State bedding plant research trials by Dr. Alan Stevens and the Prairie Star program. The trials evaluate plants for their performance in heat-tolerance zones 7 and 8 and cold-hardiness zones 5 and 6. The plants included are usually considered annuals in the region, and tested as such. Added to the list in 2011 are:



Begonia boliviensis 'Sparkle'

This begonia has been an excellent performer in the container trials. There's a multitude of very bright, large flowers that cover the plant. It is especially adapted to containers or hanging baskets where its growth habit drapes over the edge. Annual.



Canna 'Rosita'

It's time to rethink cannas! There's a new group of cannas from tissue culture. They stay short and have larger and showier flowers. 'Rosita' is one example that stays about 3 feet tall at maturity with very large, deep rose colored flowers. Full sun. Zones 7b-10.



Calibrachoa Superbells Lavender ('USCAL56501')

Calibrachoa often have a hard time growing well in the difficult Kansas conditions. However, the Superbells Lavender has been an exception. It has done well both in the flowerbed and container trials. Trails to 36 inches. Full sun. Annual.

Mandevilla Sun Parasol Giant group

The size of these flowers is incredible! On a trellis, the plants give a gorgeous vertical display of showy



flowers. The vine can reach 10 to 15 feet long. Full sun. Recommended as a container plant or houseplant. Does not take temperatures below 50°F.

Pennisetum purpureum
'Vertigo'

A very bold grass with dark foliage and tall stature. Loves the heat. Its dark but colorful foliage stands out when planted alone or provides contrast amid light or bright flowers. Grows 3 to 4 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide. Full sun. Zones 8–11.

Petunia Littletonia series
There are many colors to choose from

in this series. They provide ideal smaller flowers and foliage for today's window boxes and planters. This compact petunia also provides a unique texture and lower elevation when planted as a drift in a flowerbed. Full sun to partial shade. Annual.

Salvia farinacea
'Sallyfun Blue Emotion'

This has proven to be highly heat and drought tolerant, with spikes of blue and white flowers. The spikes can be dried and used for winter decoration. Full sun to partial shade. Annual.

Plant Select

Plant Select (plantselect.org) is a collaborative effort of the Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado State University and regional and national horticultural professionals. They are pleased to announce the 2011 plants chosen for performance in the Rocky Mountain region:

Amsonia jonesii

This widely adaptable western native, known as Colorado desert bluestar, thrives in ordinary gardens or unwatered xeriscapes. Sapphire flowers appear from April to early summer, and the autumn foliage is a beautiful, clear yellow. Grows 10 to 14 inches tall and 12 to 15 inches wide. Full sun and well-drained soils. Zones 4–9.

Erodium chrysanthum

Golden storksbill is a long-lived, easy, adaptable perennial with silvery mounds of evergreen ferny foliage. Fragrant, soft yellow, geranium-like flowers appear from early spring through late summer. Grows 8 to 10 inches tall and 10 to 25 inches wide. Full sun to part shade. Zones 4–9.

Bouteloua gracilis

'Blonde Ambition'
The first of its kind, 'Blonde Ambition' is a highly ornamental selection of native blue grama grass with tall, upright stems. Showy chartreuse seed heads age to blonde and hold their straight shape high above the foliage through winter. Grows 30 to 36 inches tall and wide. Full sun to partial shade. Zones 4–9.

Osteospermum 'Avalanche'

Its dazzling white daisy flowers with metallic backing are produced from April through summer over glistening mats of lustrous, nearly succulent, evergreen foliage. Large blossoms close at night to reveal a metallic reverse of the ray flowers. Grows 8 to 12 inches tall and 10 to 15 inches wide. Full sun to partial shade. Zones 4–9.

