

February 6, 2017

You are cordially invited to participate in the 2017 Penn State Flower Trial located at the Penn State Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SEAREC) in Manheim, PA. The Trial evaluates commercially available annual and perennial flowering plants, both vegetatively and seed propagated, as well as plants not yet in the market.

Commercial greenhouse growers, sales people, garden centers, news media, and home gardeners throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region utilize the PSU Trials. Trial results are presented at a number of extension programs throughout Pennsylvania, surrounding states, Canada, and are the subject of trade articles.

Our 2016 collaborative sites included: North Park, Hershey Gardens, and Ag. Progress Days where over 250,000 visitors were in attendance. At our trial site in Manheim, despite over 9 weeks of excessively hot temperatures, over 60% of our entries scored 4.2 or better out of 5. Over 13% of the 2016 entries were rated exceptional, receiving a 4.8 score or greater. Those results and some great photos will soon be available on our website at: <http://trialgardenspsu.com>.

Our 2017 trial will be conducted under the direction of the team including: Dr. Alyssa Collins (SEAREC Director), Sinclair Adam (Trials Director & Extension Educator), Deneen Shaffer (Trials Associate), Dr. Robert Berghage (Consulting Advisor), and Dr. Jay Holcomb (Professor Emeritus and Consulting Advisor).

A Trial Entry form and submission procedures are attached. Please forward your completed form by February 6, 2017. Sponsors are required to submit their entry product lists by April 18<sup>th</sup>. The list should include entry name, required register and trademark symbols, expected shipping dates, and an indication of any new 2017 products.

Field Day 2017 at SEAREC will be held Thursday, July 27th. We hope you are available to attend and look forward to working with you this season. Please feel free to contact either Deneen Shaffer email: [des346@psu.edu](mailto:des346@psu.edu) or Sinclair Adam email: [saa19@psu.edu](mailto:saa19@psu.edu) with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



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