

Field Geranium Tests — 1972

W. D. Holley

Most producers of geraniums for spring sales never see their plants in flower during the summer. Varieties that make good 4-inch plants in May are not necessarily good performers in the garden. As a part of the garden flower trials at the Plant Environment Research Center during the summer of 1972, 30 geranium varieties were rated for performance. Six Carefree (seed grown) varieties were rated for show along with 24 cutting propagated cultivars. The Denver City Parks donated two of their favorites, Jim Mikkelson of Ashtabula, Ohio supplied three, and the balance, including the 20 most popular varieties, were donated by Yoder Bros., Inc. of Barberton, Ohio. The latter group was received as 2¼-inch plants on April 24 and were good 4-inch plants in bloom when they were planted in the garden on June 7.

Several observations were made during the summer and a final rating of growth and show was recorded September 21. An arbitrary score of 1 to 5 was used to rate the varieties with consideration given to growth, flowering, and overall show for the garden. Those with a rating of 5 are what we considered the best performers under conditions of high altitude and cool nights with relatively low rainfall but occasional overhead irrigation. Those with a rating of 1 to 3 may have been excellent as 4-inch pots but their garden performance was poor to fair.

The six Carefree varieties were planted as budded plants from AC-4 paks. Growth was excellent but they were late in making a show of flowers compared to the cutting propagated plants. Carefree Scarlet and Carefree Bright Pink were best for garden color while

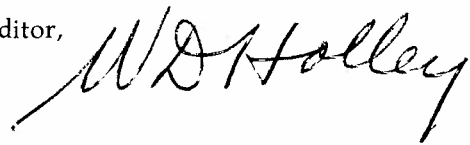
Deep Salmon, Crimson, Light Pink, and White were not quite as desirable under these conditions. All Carefrees performed better than the poor to average cutting propagated varieties. A more extensive evaluation will be conducted next summer.

Table 1. Rating of growth and flowering of 24 geranium cultivars at Fort Collins, Colorado — Summer 1972.

Cultivar	Rating ^a	Remarks
Apple Blossom	5	Best light pink
Bess	5	Large plants
Blaze	4	
Blueblood	5	Purple single
Cardinal	5	
Cherry Blossom	2	
Dark Red Irene	1	
Dawn	1	
Enchantress Fiat	2	
Eleanor	5	Very good medium pink
Improved Ricard	2	
Irene	3	
Jackie	4	Low flower count
Olympic Red	4	A bit tall
Penny Irene	4	Limited growth but desirable color
Pink Camelia	1	
Red Perfection	5	
Salmon Ideal	4	A bit rank
Salmon Irene	1	
Sincerity	5	
Snowmass	4	Light green foliage
Springtime Irene	1	
Summer Cloud	4	Whitest flowers, dark foliage
Vivid Red	3	

^aRating of 5 = very good, 1 = poor.

Your Editor,



COLORADO FLOWER GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
 OFFICE OF EDITOR
 W. D. Holley
 Colorado State University
 Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

FIRST CLASS