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Plant evaluations at the Georgeson Botanical garden included 850 woody perennials, herbaceous perennials, annual flowers, herbs and vegetables. Recommended perennials for Interior Alaska that have shown superior hardiness include:*Hesperis sibirica, Picea glauca albertiana, Viola altaica, Aquilegia sibirica, A. nana alba, Rosa* 'Lac Majeau' and a Russian selection of *Delphinium elatum*. The annual flower evaluations showed significant discrepancies in plant height between the field trials and published commercial information. For instance, pansy varieties were two- to three-times the height of commercial descriptions, whereas Amaaranth cultivars were two- to three- times shorter than commercial descriptions.

For the second year, 'Subarctic 25' tomatoes showed no difference in yield when grown through IRT-100 or red polyethylene mulch. There is no advantage at northern latitudes to using red mulch for improved field tomato yield. Highest yielding broccoli varieties included, early season: 'Paragon' and 'Saga'; mid season: 'Everest' and 'Marathon'; and late season: 'Arcadia' and 'Shogun'. 'Red Lasso' topped the yield of red cabbages. Only one variety, 'Cardinal Red' was deemed unacceptable for Alaska's Interior. 'Baby Sweet' carrots yielded the most per meter of row of 15 varieties evaluated. 'Nelson' yielded the greatest of Nantes types carrots. Based on sensory evaluations, this variety also was the most preferred by consumers for appearance and flavor. The signet marigold, 'Lulu' did not deter damage from root maggots when interplanted with turnips and radishes.

This research will assist seed companies, nurseries, growers, landscapers and home gardeners in identifying hardy perennials, well adapted, disease resistant annual flowers and high quality vegetables for home and commercial production. It will also provide consumer information on the usefulness of new products such as red mulch in subarctic farms and gardens.

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