

Herb Evaluations 2007

AFES Variety Trial
2008-03 • March 2008

HERB BUNCH VOLUNTEERS:

Perennial Herb Garden
Marsha Munsell

Cajun Garden
Olga Cook and Nancy Johnson

Silver and Gold Garden
Celeste Hansen, Dee King, Moira Nutter, and Heather Robertson

Exotic Kitchen Garden
Marilyn Askelin and Barbara Rondine

Sorcerer's Garden
Emily Reiter and Maggie Waite

Victorian Herb Garden
Virginia Damron, Phyllis Haggland and Dida Uotila



AND GBG STAFF:

Patricia S. Holloway
Etta Gardiner
Grant Matheke

Rosemary, *Rosemarinus officinalis*.
—Image from Wikimedia.



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Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, or kinnikinnik. —Image by Walter Siegmund, from Wikimedia.

Introduction

The **Dorothy Truran Herb Garden** at the Georgeson Botanical Garden was created in 1999 to display herbs with a variety of uses, to evaluate Alaska native herbs and their potential for cultivation, to identify the usefulness of new herbs and cultivars for Alaska gardens, and to evaluate the hardiness of perennial herbs. The Truran Herb Garden has been planted and cared for by a community volunteer group, the Herb Bunch, since 2003. The garden consists of six permanent raised-bed gardens that were initially constructed in 1999. Soils are Fairbanks silt loam amended with composted garden soil. Beds are surrounded by stone borders a minimum of 12 in (30.5 cm) high.

Soils were fertilized with 3 lb per 100 ft² (147 gm per m²) 10-20-20S on 1 June. All amendments were broadcast spread. If the area was not planted yet, amendments were tilled into the top six inches using a mini-tiller. Beds were planted starting 4 June, except

the perennial beds to which plants have been added throughout the season since 2001.

All cultivars and species were planted in unreplicated beds according to recommended commercial spacings or design specifications. Plant numbers varied according to plot size and design. Summer maintenance consisted of hand weeding and pruning plus overhead irrigation as needed. Plot evaluations occurred once during the 3rd week of August and included height, spread, flower and foliage color presence of disease and insect pests, winter survival of perennials and overall subjective comments on growth, usefulness as a culinary or medicinal herb, and ornamental appeal.

Weather data were compiled annually from a U.S. Weather Service station, elevation 475 ft (145 m), located approximately 350 ft (107 m) west of the garden. The summer was warm, especially August which was the second warmest August in the past 10 years (Tables 1

and 2). The total thaw degree days ranked the 2007 season third in total heat accumulation during the growing season, second in the number of frost free days and first in rainfall. Precipitation was lowest in May and highest in July (Table 2).

2

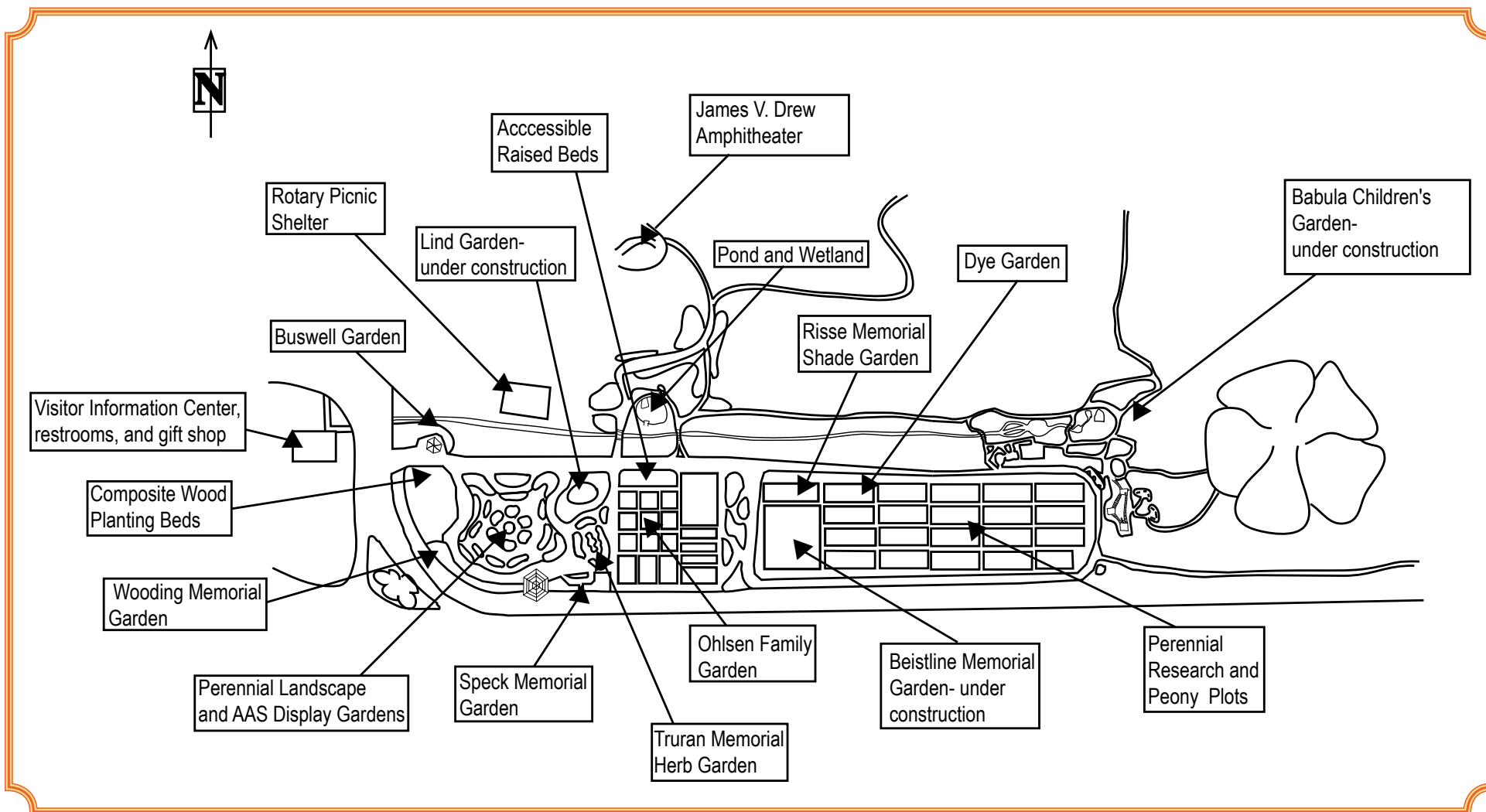
Table 1. Weather data from the U.S. Weather Service station located just west of the garden for years 1997 - 2007.

| Season | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Average temperature: (°F) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May | 48 | 49 | 46 | 44 | 45 | 50 | 44 | 52 | 56 | 50 | 50 |
| June | 61 | 58 | 61 | 59 | 57 | 58 | 61 | 66 | 67 | 59 | 60 |
| July | 64 | 62 | 61 | 59 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 65 | 63 | 62 | 64 |
| Aug | 57 | 52 | 58 | 52 | 57 | 54 | 55 | 62 | 58 | 55 | 60 |
| Sep | 50 | 46 | 45 | 41 | 49 | 47 | 41 | 38 | 46 | 50 | 47 |
| Maximum temperature (°F) | 87 | 87 | 91 | 83 | 95 | 85 | 82 | 90 | 85 | 80 | 84 |
| Growing season: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last frost | May 25 | May 13 | May 29 | May 15 | May 13 | May 12 | May 24 | May 8 | May 5 | June 4 | May 13 |
| First frost | Aug 19 | Sep 13 | Sep 11 | Sep 16 | Sep 24 | Sep 2 | Sep 13 | Sep 4 | Sep 2 | Sep 25 | Sep 22 |
| Frost free days | 86 | 123 | 105 | 124 | 134 | 113 | 112 | 119 | 120 | 112 | 132 |
| Thaw degree days* | 3656 | 3278 | 3383 | 2943 | 3439 | 2980 | 3123 | 3751 | 3767 | 3523 | 3728 |
| Rainfall (inches) | 5.86 | 9.87 | 8.66 | 8.55 | 5.80 | 9.35 | 9.91 | 5.6 | 10.59 | 7.86 | 11.32 |
| Previous winter season: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum temperature (°F) | -54 | -48 | -54 | -50 | -27 | -36 | -35 | -45 | -50 | -49 | -41.7 |
| Snowfall (inches) | 38.4 | 30.6 | 31.6 | 62.2 | 39.9 | 39.7 | 33.2 | 51.7 | 70.9 | 51.8 | 25.2 |

* Thaw degree days = Cumulative (1 May - 30 Sep) average daily temperature minus 32 °F baseline.

Table 2. Weather data summaries for growing season years 2005 - 2007.

| | May | | | June | | | July | | | August | | | September | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|-----------|------|------|
| Temperature °F | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Average daily maximum | 68 | 63 | 62 | 73 | 69 | 72 | 74 | 71 | 76 | 69 | 65 | 71 | 54 | 61 | 57 |
| Monthly high | 77 | 75 | 80 | 84 | 80 | 84 | 81 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 72 | 84 | 66 | 69 | 71 |
| Average daily minimum | 43 | 38 | 38 | 50 | 48 | 49 | 51 | 52 | 52 | 46 | 45 | 48 | 38 | 38 | 37 |
| Monthly low | 31 | 27 | 28 | 43 | 30 | 41 | 39 | 46 | 44 | 33 | 36 | 39 | 28 | 29 | 22 |
| Rainfall (inches) | 1.66 | 0.20 | 0.90 | 2.97 | 1.15 | 2.66 | 4.09 | 3.42 | 4.12 | 0.39 | 2.48 | 1.85 | 1.48 | 0.61 | 1.79 |



| location | common name | cultivar | first harvest | flower color | foliage color | foliage height inches | foliage spread | flavor rating | Aroma rating | productivity rating | winter survival for perennials/ frost tolerance for annuals | overall rating | comments |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--|----------------|---|
| Perennial | Black Currant | Melalathi | 10 Sept | yellow green | dark green | 36 | 150 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | Vigorous growth with recumbent branches, fruit hangs beneath the leaves near the ground, strong smell to leaves and fruit, excellent productivity |
| Perennial | Black Currant | Erkheikki VII | 10 Sept | yellow green | dark green | 36 | 109 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | Vigorous growth, spreads widely, sprawling growth habit, needs a lot of pruning to keep it from spreading by layering |
| Perennial | Black Currant | Nikkala XI | none | blue green | dark green | 36 | 100 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | Spreading branches covered with large black fruit, very productive, strong flavor and aroma |
| Perennial | Chinese Garlic Chives | | 1 Jul | pinkish white | blue-green | 18.5 | 48 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 3 | Flat-leaved plants with hint of garlic, used like chives, very productive, spreads well, also use as ornamental |
| Perennial | Chives | Grande | 1 Jul | lavender pink, purple | dark green | 18 | 64 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | Very productive, robust, has larger leaves than most chives, overwintered well |
| Perennial | Chocolate Lily | | | purplish brown | med green | 18 | 9 | 2 | | 4 | 0 | 3 | Blooms early with aromatic flowers, edible bulbs were not harvested, produced at least two stems, died back by late August, flowered early |
| Perennial | Common Yarrow | | | white | yellow green | 20 | 18 | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | Good clumping growth and abundant blooms, not very ornamental, fine feathery foliage |
| Perennial | Costmary | | | white | med green | 18 | 24 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | Died out in 06/07 winter due to no snow cover, replanted 2007, good first year growth |
| Perennial | Crowberry | | | greenish white | glossy green | 6 | 6 | | | | 0 | 3 | Small rooted cuttings planted in June, excellent spread in summer, no flowers or fruit |
| Perennial | European Dwarf Cherry | | | white | glossy dark green | 38 | 103 | | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | One bush shaded by larger tree has few fruit; second bush had several fruit per branch, fair productivity |
| Perennial | Green's Mountain Ash | | | | med green | 84 | 79 | | | | 0 | | One plant died, remaining plants growing well, no flowers or fruit yet |
| Perennial | Kinnikinnick | | | pale pink | yellow green | 7 | 94 | | | | 1 | 3 | Good ground spread, no flowers and berries this year, some winter kill at the tips but only where branches overhung the rock raised bed |
| Perennial | Labrador Tea | | | white | yellow green | 13.5 | 15.5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | Sparsely-leaved bush that flowered in mid to late May, well established in second year |

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|-----------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Perennial | Lingonberry | Gilmore | | pink | glossy dark green | 4 | 9 | | | | 1 | | Single plant died in first winter, planted six additional plants in 2007, most growing well, a few late-season flowers |
| Perennial | Lovage | Magnus | | | green | | | | | | 4 | | Did not survive one winter, replanted in 2006, but did not survive |
| Perennial | Mint, Chocolate | | | | | | | | | | 4 | | Did not survive first winter, replanted in 2006, and again did not over winter |
| Perennial | Mint, Ginger | Variegata | | purple | variegated green/yellow | 8 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | First plantings did not survive one winter, planted 3 new plants in 2007; very productive, grown in plastic tubs to confine spread |
| Perennial | Nettle, Stinging | Max | | greenish yellow | light green | 46 | 35 | | | 4 | 2 | | Bushy plants were cut back to the crown in 2006, a few shoots returned in May 2007 but were pulled as a weed by mistake, good recovery of remaining plant |
| Perennial | Northern Bedstraw | | | white | yellow green | 15 | 14 | 4 | | 3 | 0 | 3 | Native bedstraw, spreading by rhizomes, very fragrant but only if you stick your nose into the flowers, used as medicinal plant and for potpourri |
| Perennial | Onion, Altai | | | white | dark green | 41 | 81 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | Large round edible stems, biting flavor, attracts many pollinators, spreads mostly by self sowing, may become a nuisance if seed heads are not removed, mild bulbs, spicy leaves for salads |
| Perennial | Onion, Flat-leaved | | | white | med green | 16 | 75 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 3 | Flat leaves look like daffodil, mild flavor, attracts insect pollinators, flowers late so no viable seeds produced, ornamental as well as edible |
| Perennial | Onion, Welsh | Gribovski | | white | dark green | 45 | 90 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 3 | Large, round stems, biting flavor, excellent growth from crown, grow from seed as green onions, keep mature plants for seed only |
| Perennial | Red Gooseberry | | 15 Aug | yellow | dark green | 40 | 85 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | Small reddish-pink fruit hang on older branches on the inside of the bush; easy to miss, increasing yield in this third year after transplanting |
| Perennial | Roseroot | | | yellow | light green | 4.5 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | Some parts of the plant were winter killed, but enough survived to grow well in 2007 |

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| Perennial | Saskatoon | Martin | 30 Jul | white | dark green | 120 | 94 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | Largest fruit of all saskatoons tested; juicy, sweet, chewy seeds; very ornamental white flowers in spring |
| Perennial | Saskatoon | Smoky | 30 Jul | white | dark green | 140 | 115 | | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | Small fruit, very productive berries this year, tasty sweet flavor, chewy seeds |
| Perennial | Shepherd's Purse | | | white | grass green | 12 | 12 | | | 2 | | 2 | Winter annual weed harvested in the spring an as a midsummer rosette for greens |
| Perennial | Sorrel | Blonde de Lyon | 1 Aug | | green w/ red edges and veins | | | | | | 4 | | Did not survive the winter |
| Perennial | Sorrel, French | Silver Buckler | 15 Jul | | dark green | 53 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | | 4 | Very productive, bushier with smaller leaves than other sorrel cultivars, nice biting flavor, not bitter |
| Perennial | Stinkweed | | | yellow green | yellow green | 18 | 105 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 | Seedlings planted in mid summer, excellent growth, very bushy, leaves used in traditional Alaska medicines, some aphid damage |
| Perennial | Sweet Cicely | | | | med green | 7 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | Nearly died out over winter, re-planted one volunteer growing in the pathway |
| Perennial | Sweet Woodruff | | | white | light green | | | | | | 4 | | Did not survive the winter |
| Perennial | Tarragon | Russian | | | light green | 30 | 28 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | Poor flavor compared to French Tarragon |
| Perennial | Tarragon, French | | 4 Sep | green | dark green | 40 | 36 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | Bushy perennial with oblong toothed leaves, very productive, tarragon of choice for cooking |
| Perennial | Wild Potato | | | | | 15 | 20 | | | 3 | 2 | 3 | Three planted and two died in second year, disease of some sort that caused the whole crown to die back in mid summer |
| Perennial | Wild Potato | Alaska wildflower | | pink | green | 6 | 19 | | | 3 | 2 | 3 | Some leaves curled and browning at tips, much less disease than previous years, no similar disease in wild plants |
| Perennial | Wild Strawberry | | | white | dark green | 7 | 76 | | | | 0 | 3 | No berries this year although bloomed all summer |
| Perennial | Yarrow, Mace | | | white | light green | 18 | 20 | 3 | | 3 | 0 | 3 | Nice bushy growth this second season, some flowers, not harvested |

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| Cajun | Basil | Pixie | | lavender | dark green | 10 | 15 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | 3 | Leaves have pungent aroma, started small and did not become established until late in the season, five died immediately but the remainder grew well, need close spacing to be used as a border, needs deadheading late in the season |
| Cajun | Bay Laurel | | | | med green | 7.5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | Grew poorly all summer, increasing just a few inches in height, fresh leaves had no fragrance when rubbed, pale yellow leaves late in the season |
| Cajun | Chili, Thai | Fogo | | | | | | | | | | | Produced an abundance of small, dark green chilies (40 total) by mid Sept. |
| Cajun | Fennel | Bronze | | gold | gray-green stalks, bronze foliage | 31 | 19 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | Foliage has wonderful anise aroma when crushed, nice feathery foliage useful in dips and salads, bushy, needs room to spread |
| Cajun | Pepper | Cayenne | | white | med green | 20 | 17 | | | 5 | | | Yellow fruit in mid summer; harvested a total of 8, 2-4 inch fruit in mid Sept.; short, pointed, oblong fruit; not productive |
| Cajun | Pepper | Tabasco | | | dark green | 18.5 | 15 | | | | | | No visible flowers at the end of July, did not produce any fruit all summer |
| Cajun | Pepper | Long Cayenne | | white | med green | 33.5 | 24 | | | | | | Tallest of the pepper plants this season; 2 fruit at the end of July; by mid Sept. had 63 6-8 inch fruit; the most mature were a dark purple; the most productive of all grown in the herb garden this summer; very attractive |
| Cajun | Pepper | Magic Red | | white | | 17 | 12 | | | | | | A few budding flowers at the end of July, no fruit, floppy stems; in mid Sept., 18 fruit were harvested; some were bright red, most were green |
| Cajun | Peppermint | Variegata | | lavender pink | forest green/ cream variegated | 10 | 20 | | | | | | Tiny flowers, strong mint aroma when leaves are crushed; variegation is uneven and becomes sparse as the plant grows; entirely green shoots are more vigorous and outgrow the variegated ones over time |

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|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--|----------------|--|
| | | | | | | foliage height | foliage spread | | | | | | |
| Cajun | Rosemary | Blue Rain | | | pale green | 5 | 17 | | | | | | Prostrate growth habit; tiny leaves, pungent aroma when crushed; no flowers; nice ornamental but hard to harvest; leaves near ground are muddy; need more cleaning than upright bushes |
| Cajun | Thyme, Minus | Minor | | | med green | 2 | 9 | | | | | | Wonderful, strong aroma; spreads well but difficult to harvest tiny leaves on this prostrate plant |
| Exotic Kitchen | Ajmud | | | off white | med light yellow-green | 46 | 37 | | | | | | Gone by early Sept., died out; tasters said, "nutty, strong, flavorful"; 6 plants displayed 6 different stages of growth; leaves are used as parsley substitute; bushy mound of airy flowers; used in Indian curries, pickles, and chutneys |
| Exotic Kitchen | Chives | Grolau Windowsill | | | blue/green | 21 | 6 | | | | | | hardy, healthy plants; mild onion flavor |
| Exotic Kitchen | Mint | Jim's Candy Lime Westerfield | | lt blue/purple | yellow/green | 22 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | 3 | Bushy, productive plant; very strong mint flavor, almost too strong for fresh eating; delayed but lingering taste; 2 plants did well, the 3rd was weaker |
| Exotic Kitchen | Nasturtium, Dwarf | | | multi- lt/ dark yellow, orange, red | blue-green to yellow green | 21 | 39 | | | | 0 | | Bushy plants, not as dwarf as expected although not a trailing type; excellent bushy, mounding growth but overwhelmed its neighbors; leaves have bright pepper flavor, flowers are milder; prolific, strong growth of leaves and flowers; spread min- 2", max- 3" |
| Exotic Kitchen | Nigella | | | | silver blue/ green | 18 | 7 | | | | 0 | | Tiny plant that died out in mid August; harvested seeds had an excellent peppery flavor; not productive, so few seeds were harvested; used in perfumes; seeds are insect repellent in clothing; plants did not do well—spindly, fragile, dead; produced seed pods very early, seeds had peppery, floral flavor |
| Exotic Kitchen | Syrian Oregano | Zaatar | | white | gray green | 7 | 7 | | | | | | Very sharp flavor in fresh leaves; not for fresh eating; a burning sensation in mouth; good oregano flavor; grew but did not thrive |

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| | | | | | | foliage height | foliage spread | | | | | | |
| Exotic Kitchen | Thyme, Lemon | Magic Carpet | | | med green w/yellow shading | 4 | 8 | | | | | | Overrun by neighbors; light lemony flavor; difficult to harvest because of tiny, prostrate leaves; did not do well as it was over shadowed by the nasturtiums; low, close to ground profile |
| Silver & Gold | Chrysanthemum | Shungiku Edible | | yellow, yellow/white bicolor | med green | | 33 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | 3 | Large and floppy; needs lots of space to spread out; covered up a lot of other plants in the bed; flowers provide nice color and slightly spicy flavor in salads |
| Silver & Gold | Dusty Miller | Cirrus | | | silver green | 15 | 9 | | | 4 | | 4 | Broad, oval leaves with wavy edges covered with silvery hairs; excellent contrast to the more feathery 'Silver Dust'; great in mixed borders; grown as a silver accent |
| Silver & Gold | Dusty Miller | Silver Lace | | | silvery green | 12 | 12 | | | | | | Fine feathery foliage with silvery hairs; great contrast to more coarse-leaved dusty miller, Cirrus; excellent edging plant grown alone or mixed with other dusty millers |
| Silver & Gold | Dusty Miller | Silverdust | | | silvery green | 18 | 15 | | | 4 | | 4 | Tallest of the dusty millers; segmented foliage, not as fine as Silver Lace but still beautiful silvery display; excellent in borders |
| Silver & Gold | Lamb's Ear | Lanata | | | med green, white hairs | 21 | 19 | | | | | | Very nice, thick, oblong-oval silvery green foliage; very soft to the touch; no flowers; makes a nice low silver edging for borders; not reliably hardy as a perennial |
| Silver & Gold | Marigold, Signet | Lemon Gem | | bright yellow | med green | 23 | 27 | 4 | 3 | 4 | | 4 | Large mounds bursting with color nearly all season; maintenance free; great for edging in borders; edible flowers; aromatic plants especially when you brush up against the plant |
| Silver & Gold | Nasturtium | Moonlight | | dull yellow | light yellow-green | 37 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | Fair growth this season; too tangled to measure spread; many blooms hidden by foliage |
| Silver & Gold | Sage | | | | blue-green | 21 | 21 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | Reliable growth, nice yield of leaves; grown for silvery foliage in this bed; contrasts well with dusty miller and lamb's ears |

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| | | | | | | foliage height | foliage spread | | | | | | |
| Silver & Gold | Sunflower | Pro Cut Yellow Lite | | yellow | yellow green | 30 | 20 | | | 2 | | 1 | Medium sized plant with multiple heads; fair display all summer, poor in late season; heads rot at the end of the season due to <i>Sclerotinia</i> sp. |
| Sorcerer's | Blue Vervain | | | purple | forest green | | | | | | | | Upright, bushy plants covered with thin spikes of flowers all summer; spikes bloom from the bottom up, very ornamental, fills in well |
| Sorcerer's | Foxglove | Foxy | | | | | | | | | | | Beautiful flowers late in the season; excellent plant for back of borders |
| Sorcerer's | Lavender, English | Hidcote | | dark lavender | silver green | | | | | | | | Small plants overwhelmed by other plants; few flower heads, not as good as "Lady" |
| Sorcerer's | Sage, White | White | | white | silver green | | | | | | | | Nice tall stalks of flowers late in the season; bushy; interesting long anthers protruding from each flower |
| Sorcerer's | Thyme, Lemon | Magic Carpet | | lavender | light green | | | | | | | | Tiny leaves, great ground cover; needs careful weeding among prostrate branches to maintain appearance |
| Sorcerer's | Wooly Lamb's Ear | | | | silver grey | | | | | | | | Big, bushy leaves from rosettes; no flowers; very nice edging plant; soft, hairy leaves invite "petting" |
| Sorcerer's | Wormwood | | | green | silver grey | | | | | | | | Huge, bushy plants; needs lots of room to spread; okay for contrasting color, otherwise not attractive |
| Victorian | Apple-scented Geranium | | | white | yellow green | 7 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | 3 | Grown in container; remained small all summer, was crowded out by other scented geraniums; individual leaves are small, very aromatic with mild apple aroma |
| Victorian | Borage | | 22 Jun | sky blue | gray green | 44 | 60 | 3 | 2 | 4 | | 3 | Big, bushy, floppy stems covered with flowers nearly all season; very productive; trimmed from late June onward; measurements on 8/16/07; Nice cucumber flavor in flowers and foliage |
| Victorian | Chives | | | | hunter green | 23 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | Mild flavor not much different from Chinese chives; round leaves, not flat like Chinese chives |

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| Victorian | Chives, Chinese | | | white | hunter green | 23 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | Flat leaved chive; mild onion flavor with hint of garlic; great chopped in salads and in dips |
| Victorian | Dill | Fernleaf | early June, leaves | yellow | yellow green | 30 | 27 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | 2.5 | Bushy plants covered with blooms; seeds began development in mid June in hot summer; more flowers than foliage |
| Victorian | Dill | Vierling | | yellow | moss green | 34 | 22 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | Went to seed very early; very little typical dill flavor in seeds or leaves |
| Victorian | Hyssop | Sprite Three Color Blend | | pink, purple mix | blue green | 24 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 2 | Very little flavor to fresh flowers; bushy plant; fills in well; not recommended for culinary uses |
| Victorian | Lavender | Lady | | lavender | grey green | 15 | 19 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | 4 | Neat compact mounds loaded with blooms at season's end; short stems; one of the most productive in hot weather; wonderful scent |
| Victorian | Lemon Balm | | | | grass green | 13 | 22 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | 3 | Excellent growth in this warm summer; blankets of large leaves; mild lemony flavor |
| Victorian | Lime-scented Geranium | | | | grey green | 13 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 2.5 | Small, weak plant grown in container; remained small, compact with lots of tiny, pungent leaves; strong flavor and aroma |
| Victorian | Marjoram | Variegata | | | green/white variegated | 8 | 11 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | 4 | Beautiful variegated plant; mild and very pleasant flavor; went to seed week of 20 Aug |
| Victorian | Mint | Pink Candypops Westerfield | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 4 | | 2 | Striking variegated foliage on small, mounded compact plant; productive; more ornamental appeal than culinary; nice aroma but very mild flavor; late to bloom; measured in mid Aug after continual thinning since 19 July |
| Victorian | Parsley | Afrodite | | | "glowing" green | 14 | 26 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | 4 | Elegant, rich green leaves; one of the most ornamental curled parsley; mild flavor that gets stronger with drying; bushy and productive; one plant collapsed at the end of the season; root crown was rotten in center |
| Victorian | Peppermint-scented Geranium | | | | gray green | 15 | 27 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | Large fuzzy leaves; largest of scented geraniums this season; grown in containers; wonderful aroma when leaves are touched or crushed |

Rating: 0. dead, did not germinate, total loss because of disease, etc.; 1. poor germination, susceptible to disease, insects, other problems, poor quality; 2. fair, other cultivars of its kind have been better; 3. good, worth growing, good quality; 4. outstanding, the best of its kind grown in the garden.

| location | common name | cultivar | first harvest | flower color | foliage color | foliage height inches | foliage spread | flavor rating | Aroma rating | productivity rating | winter survival for perennials/ frost tolerance for annuals | overall rating | comments |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--|----------------|---|
| Victorian | Rosemary | Tuscan Blue | | | blue green | 15 | 17 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | Bushy, large leaves; very nice but low growth; sharp, tangy leaves, aromatic; best growth of all rosemary cultivars this season |
| Victorian | Rosemary | Pink Majorca | | | hunter green | 18 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | Compact plant; tiny, nearly upright leaves; little aroma; sharp, bitter, menthol flavor when fresh; much stronger flavor than Tuscan Blue |
| Victorian | Rosemary | Gorizia | | | hunter green | 19 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | Not the best flavor or aroma of the rosemary cultivars; very pronounced "piney" taste |
| Victorian | Sage, Cashmere | Cashmere | | | med green | 7 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | Poor growth all season; not a true sage |
| Victorian | Sage, Golden | Aurea | | | yellow/green variegated | 10 | 22 | 1 | 2 | 4 | | 2 | Bushy, excellent ornamental edging; poor grassy flavor; grow as ornamental |
| Victorian | Sage, Tricolor | Tricolor | | | green/white/pink variegated | 14 | 19 | 2 | 2 | 4 | | 3 | Very ornamental multi colored foliage; worth growing as edging on beds; compact mounds loaded with variegated leaves; flavor is fair; not much culinary use |
| Victorian | Santolina | Santa | | | gray green | 10 | 13 | 0 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | Slow to grow but finally spread a little at the end of the season, poor flavor |
| Victorian | Summer Savory | Aromata | | lavender | moss green | 16 | 20 | 0 | 4 | 4 | | 2 | Strong aroma; poor flavor; developed for commercial market; beautiful lavender flowers |
| Victorian | Tansy | Goldsticks | | gold | grass green | 45 | 50 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | Grew beautifully; spread well; medicinal aroma and flavor; used to produce yellow and green dyes, repels ants |
| Victorian | Thyme, Creeping Lemon | Purple Carpet | | purple | bright green | 1.5 | 12 | | 4 | 3 | | 4 | Bloomed in August; small flowers; beautiful plant; wonderful lemon flavor |
| Victorian | Wooly Lamb's Ear | | | | silvery gray green | 13 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | 4 | Very nice rosettes of gray green leaves; spreads well and forms a great edging |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Rating: 0. dead, did not germinate, total loss because of disease, etc.; 1. poor germination, susceptible to disease, insects, other problems, poor quality; 2. fair, other cultivars of its kind have been better; 3. good, worth growing, good quality; 4. outstanding, the best of its kind grown in the garden.

Scientific Names of Herbs in the Trial Gardens

PERENNIAL HERB GARDEN

Bedstraw, Northern (*Galium boreale*)
Cecily, Sweet (*Myrrhis odorata*)
Cherry, European dwarf (*Prunus fruticosa*)
Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*)
Chives, Chinese Garlic (*Allium tuberosum*)
Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria camschatcensis*)
Costmary (*Tanacetum balsamita*)
Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*)
Currant, Black (*Ribes nigrum*)
Gooseberry, red (*Ribes* spp.)
Kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
Lambs Quarter, Magentaspeen (*Chenopodium album*)
Labrador Tea (*Ledum palustre*)
Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*)
Lingonberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*)
Lovage (*Levisticum officinalis*)
Mint (*Mentha* spp.)
Mountain Ash, Green's (*Sorbus scopulina*)
Nettle, Stinging (*Urtica dioica*)
Onion, Altai (*Allium altaicum*)
Onion, Flat-leaved (*Allium senescens*)
Onion, Welsh 'Gribovski' (*Allium fistulosum*)
Parsley 'Hamburg Rooted' (*Petroselinum crispum*)
Roseroot (*Rhodiola rosea*)
Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)
Sorrel (*Rumex* spp.)
Sorrel, French (*Rumex scutatus*)
Stinkweed (*Artemisia tilesii*)
Sweet Cicely (*Myrrhis odorata*)
Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)

Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*)
Wild Potato (*Hedysarum alpinum*)
Yarrow, Mace (*Achillea decolorans*)

ANNUAL HERBS

Ajmund (*Carum roxburghianum*)
Borage (*Borago officinalis*)
Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)
Bay Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*)
Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*)
Chives, Chinese (*Allium ramosum*)
Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum coronarium*)
Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)
Dusty Miller (*Senecio cineraria*)
Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)
Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)
Geranium, Apple-scented (*Pelargonium odoratissimum*)
Geranium, Lime-scented (*Pelargonium x nervosum*)
Geranium, Peppermint-scented (*Pelargonium tomentosum*)
Hyssop (*Hyssop officinalis*)
Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantina*)
Lavender (*Lavandula* spp.)
Lavender, English (*Lavandula angustifolia*)
Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*)
Loosestrife, Yellow (*Lysimachia nummularia*)
Marigold, Signet (*Tagetes tenuifolia*)
Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*)
Mint (*Mentha* spp.)
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)
Nasturtium, Dwarf (*Tropaeolum minus*)
Nigella (*Nigella damascena*)



Fritillaria camschatcensis, or chocolate lily.
—Image from Wikimedia.

Oregano, Syrian (*Origanum maru*)
 Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*)
 Pepper (*Capsicum anuum*)
 Peppermint (*Mentha x piperita*)
 Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
 Rue (*Ruta graveolens*)
 Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)
 Sage, Cashmere (*Phlomis cashmeriana*)
 Sage, White (*Salvia apiana*)
 Santolina (*Santolina camaecyparissus*)
 Savory, Summer (*Satureja hortensis*)
 Sunflower (*Helianthus anuus*)
 Syrian Oregano (*Origanum maru*)
 Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
 Thyme, Creeping Lemon (*Thymus praecox*)
 Thyme, Lemon (*Thymus praecox articus*)
 Thyme, Minus (*Thymus praecox articus*)
 Vervain, Blue (*Verbena hastata*)
 Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)



Salvia officinalis, or culinary sage.
 —Image from Wikimedia.

Seed and Plant Sources

The list does not include all possible seed and plant sources. The list reflects sources from which the Georgeson Botanical Garden has received seeds/plants. No endorsement of companies should be implied by those listed, nor criticism intended of those not listed.

ALASKA SOURCES

Ann's Greenhouse, 780 Sheep Creek Rd, Fairbanks AK 99709
 Alaska Greenhouse, 1301 Muldoon Rd, Anchorage AK 99514
 Clair's Cultivations, 1364 Esro Rd, Fairbanks AK 99712
 Denali Seed, PO Box 111425, Anchorage AK 99511, www.denaliseed.com
 Dinkel's Fairview Nursery, HC 31 Box 5193, Wasilla AK 99687
 Driftwood Nurseries, 7.2 Mile Chena Hot Springs Rd, PO Box 10462, Fairbanks AK 99710
 Hawk's Farm & Garden Center, 12 Mile Richardson Hwy, PO Box 55759, North Pole AK 99705
 Holm Town Nursery, PO Box 71565, Fairbanks AK 99707
 Plant Kingdom, 620 Fiedeler Rd, Fairbanks AK 99709
 Risse Greenhouses, 981 Risse Rd, Fairbanks AK 99712
 Seeds of Alaska, Box 3127, Kenai AK 99611
 Washburn Farm Nursery, PO Box 823, Palmer AK 99645
 Woodland Farms, Mile 311 Parks Hwy, PO Box 313, Nenana AK 99760, www.woodlandfarmsalaska.com

COMMERCIAL WHOLESALE AND RESEARCH SOURCES (SEEDS AND PLANTS NOT SOLD DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC)

All American Selections, 1311 Butterfield Rd Suite 310, Downer's Grove IL 60515, www.all-americanselections.org
 Ball Seed Co., PO Box 335, West Chicago IL 60185 (wholesale only), www.ballseed.com
 EuroAmerican Propagators (Proven Winners), PO Box 289, Bonsall CA 92003, www.euroamprop.com
 Fischer USA, 6899 Winchester Circle Suite 102, Boulder CO 80301, www.fischerusa.com
 Goldsmith, PO Box 1349, Gilroy CA 95021, www.goldsmithseeds.com
 Green Leaf (Yoder Bros.) 2369 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster PA 17602, www.green-leaf-ent.com
 Kieft Pro Seeds Holland, PO Box 63 1606 ZH, Venhuizen Holland, www.kieftseeds.com
 Lawyer Nursery, 950 Hwy 200 W, Plains MT 59859, www.lawyer nursery.com

Oglevee Ltd., 152 Oglevee Ln, Connellsville PA 15425, www.oglevee.com
PanAmerican Seeds, PO Box 438, West Chicago IL 60186, www.panamseed.com
The Flower Fields (Yoder Bros & Ecke Ranch) Carlsbad CA 92008, www.theflowerfields.com
USDA Plant Introduction Stations NC7, Ames IA 50011, www.ars-grin.gov/ars/MidWest/Ames

GARDEN SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH SEED EXCHANGES AND SALES FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Alaska Native Plant Society, PO Box 141613, Anchorage AK 99514, www.aknps.org
American Horticultural Society, PO Box 6118, Alexandria VA 22308, www.ahs.org
North American Rock Garden Society, PO Box 67, Millwood NY 10546, www.nargs.org
Hardy Fern Foundation, Box 60034, Richmond Beach WA 98160, www.hardyferns.org
New England Wildflower Society, 180 Hemenway Rd, Framingham MA 01701, www.newfs.org

RETAIL SOURCES OF PLANTS/SEEDS

Agway, Inc. Seed Plant, 1225 Zeager Rd, Elizabethtown PA 17022
Alberta Nurseries & Seeds Ltd., PO Box 20, Bowden AB TOM 0K0 Canada, www.gardenersweb.ca
Applewood Seed Co., 5380 Vivian St, Aruada CO 80002, www.applewoodseed.com
B&D Lilies, PO Box 2007, Port Townsend WA 98368, www.bdlilies.com
Bear Creek Nursery, PO Box 411, Northport WA 99157, www.BearCreekNursery.com
Bluebird Nursery, Inc., PO Box 460, Clarkson NE 68629, www.bluebirdnursery.com
Carolina Seeds, PO Box 2658 Hwy 105 Bypass, Boone NC 28607, www.carolinaseeds.com
Clause Seed, 100 Breen Rd, San Juan Bautista CA 95045, www.clausezieer.com
Connell's Dahlias, 10616 Waller Rd E, Tacoma WA 98446, www.connells-dahlias.com
Cook's Garden, PO Box 535, Londonderry VT 05148, www.cooksgarden.com
Daehnfeldt, PO Box 947, Albany OR 97321, www.daehnfeldt.com
Dutch Gardens, Inc., PO Box 2037, Lakewood NJ 08701, www.dutchgardens.nl
F.W. Schumacher Co., Inc., 36 Spring Hill Rd, Sandwich MA 02563, www.treeshrubseed.com
Farmer Seed & Nursery Co., 818 NW 4th St, Fairbault MN 55021, www.farmerseed.com
Ferry-Morse Seed Co., PO Box 4938, Modesto CA 95352, www.ferry-morse.com
Fred C. Gloeckner & Co., Inc., 15 E 26th St, New York NY 10010, www.fredgloeckner.com
Gardens North, 5984 Third Line Rd N, North Gower ON K0A 2TO Canada, www.gardensnorth.com
Germania Seed Co., 5978 N Northwest Hwy, Chicago IL 60631, www.germaniaseed.com
Gilbert H. Wild & Sons, P O Box 338, Sarcoxie MO 64862, www.gilberthwild.com
H.G. German Seeds, Inc., PO Box 398, Smethport PA 16749
Harris Seeds, PO Box 24966, Rochester NY 14624-0966, www.harrisseed.com

Henry Field's Seed and Nursery Co., 415 N Burnett, Shenandoah IA 51602, www.HenryFields.com
Home Harvest Seeds, 3807 Bank St, Baltimore MD 21224, www.homeharvestseeds.com
Irish Eyes & Garden City Seeds, PO Box 307, Thorp WA 98946, www.irish-eyes.com
J.L. Hudson, PO Box 1058H, Redwood City CA 94064, www.jlhudsonseeds.net
Jackson & Perkins, PO Box 1028, Medford OR 97501, www.jacksonandperkins.com
John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds, PO Box 638, Bantam CT 06750, www.kitchengardenseeds.com
Johnny's Selected Seeds, 955 Benton Avenue, Winslow ME 04910, www.johnnyseeds.com
Jung Quality Seeds, 335 S High St, Randolph WI 53957, www.jungseed.com
K. Van Bourgondien & Sons, Inc., PO Box 1000, Babylon NY 11702, www.dutchbulbs.com
McClure & Zimmerman, PO Box 368, Friesland WI 53935, www.mzbulb.com
Milk Ranch Specialty Potatoes LLC, 20094 Hwy 149, Powderhorn CO 81243, www.milkbranch.com
Nichols Garden Nursery, 1190 N Pacific Hwy, Albany OR 97321, www.gardennursery.com
Nourse Farms, Inc., Box 485 RFD, South Deerfield MA 01373, www.noursefarms.com
Park Seeds, 2 Parkton Ave, Greenwood SC 29649, www.parkseed.com
Peter de Jager Bulb Co., PO Box 2010, So Hamilton MA 01982
Pinetree Garden Seeds, PO Box 300, New Gloucester ME 04260, www.superseeds.com
Richters, 357 Highway 47, Goodwood ON LOC 1A0 Canada, www.richters.com
R.H. Shumway's Seeds, 334 W. Stoud St, Randolph WI 53956-1274, www.rhshumway.com
Roseraie at Bayfields, Box R, Waldoboro ME 04572, www.roseraie.com
Royal Sluis, Inc., 1293 Harkins Rd, Salinas CA 93901
Rupp Seeds, Inc., 17919 County Rd B, Wauseon OH 43567, www.ruppseeds.com
Seeds of Change, PO Box 15700, Santa Fe NM 87501, www.seedsofchange.com
Seeds of Distinction, PO Box 86 Station A, Toronto ON M9C 4V2 Canada, www.seedsofdistinction.com
Seedway, Inc., PO Box 250, Hall NY 14463, www.seedway.com
Select Seeds, 180 Stickney Hill Rd, Union CT 06076, www.selectseeds.com
Seymour's Selected Seeds, PO Box 1346, Randolph WI 53956, www.seymourseeduk.com
Shepherd's Garden Seeds, 30 Irene St, Torrington CT 06790, www.shepherdseeds.com
Song Sparrow Perennial Farm, 13101 East Rye Rd, Avalon WI 53505, www.songsparrow.com
Stokes Seeds, PO Box 548, Buffalo NY 14240, www.stokeseeds.com
T & T Seeds, Ltd., Box 1710, Winnipeg MB R3C 3P6 Canada, www.ttseeds.mb.ca
Territorial Seed Co., PO Box 157, Cottage Grove OR 97424, www.territorial-seed.com
Thompson & Morgan Seed Co., Box 1308, Jackson NJ 08527, www.thompson-morgan.com
Twilley Seeds, 121 Gary Rd, Hodges SC 29653, www.twilleyseed.com

Valley Nursery, Box 4845, Helena MT 59604

Van Bloem USA, Inc., 500 Pendley Industrial Park, Cumming GA 30130, www.vanbloem.com

Vaughan's Seed Co., 5300 Kattrine Ave, Downers Grove IL 60515

Vermont Bean Seed Co., Garden Ln, Fair Haven VT 05743, www.vermontbean.com

Vesey's Seeds, Ltd., PO Box 9000, Calais ME 04619-6102, www.veseys.com

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., 300 Park Ave, Warminster PA 18991, www.burpee.com

Waushara Gardens, N 5491 5th Dr, Plainfield WI 54966

16 Wayside Gardens, 1 Garden Ln, Hodges SC 29695, www.waysidegardens.com

West Coast Seeds, 3925 64 St, Delta BC V4K 3N2 Canada, www.westcoastseeds.com

White Flower Farm, PO Box 50, Litchfield CT 06759, www.whiteflowerfarm.com

Wildseed, Inc., PO Box 308, Eagle Lake TX 77434

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Helianthus annuus, or sunflowers, growing in the Georgeson Botanical Garden.

—AFES file photo.

About the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

The federal Hatch Act of 1887 authorized establishment of agricultural experiment stations in the U.S. and its territories to provide science-based research information to farmers. The Morrill Act established the land-grant colleges in 1862. The Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station was not originally part of the Alaska land-grant college system. In 1898, the station was established in Sitka, also the site of Alaska's first experiment farm. Subsequent branches were opened at Kodiak, Kenai, Rampart, Copper Center, Fairbanks, and Matanuska. The latter two remain as the Fairbanks Experiment Farm and the Matanuska Experiment Farm. The USDA established the Fairbanks experiment station in 1906 on a site that in 1915 provided land for a college. In 1931, the experiment station was transferred from federal ownership to the college, and in 1935 the college was renamed the University of Alaska. Early experiment station researchers developed adapted cultivars of grains, grasses, potatoes, and berries, and introduced many vegetable cultivars appropriate to Alaska. Animal and poultry management was also important. This work continues, as does research in soils and revegetation, forest ecology and management, and rural and economic development. As the state faces new challenges in agriculture and resource management, the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station continues to bring state-of-the-art research information to the people of Alaska.