

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum A Gateway to Great Gardens

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's mission is to "enrich lives through the beauty and wonder of plants."

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is a living museum where a collection of trees and other plants is assembled and maintained for education, research and enjoyment. Rather than bound to a single place, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is a remarkable network of arboretum sites, parks, historic properties and other public landscapes located in dozens of communities across the state.

Linked together and supported by the Arboretum office at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, this unique statewide network makes the Arboretum accessible and relevant to citizens across Nebraska.

Think of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum as a gateway to great gardens. Through their network of affiliate sites, along with a host of programs and membership benefits, they aim to make you successful in your gardening and landscaping efforts in Nebraska.

One of the Statewide Arboretum's programs is called "GreatPlants."

Each year the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the Nebraska Nursery & Landscape Association chooses a tree, shrub and perennial of the year. These are new or underutilized plants that merit wider use in Nebraska. Here are this year's selections.



Kentucky Coffeetree is a durable native tree. Female plants produce mahogany colored seed pods (left).

2002 Tree of the Year

Gymnocladus dioica —
Kentucky Coffeetree

This is a durable native tree with bold winter habit and handsome, ridged bark. The large, compound leaves are pink tinted when unfolding, developing a beautiful blue-green summer color and often turn clear yellow before falling. As a young tree, the shape is irregular and the texture is coarse. With age the habit becomes more uniform, producing a picturesque crown of rugged branches that form striking winter architecture. The handsome bark forms interesting scale-like ridges that add to the winter landscape. Adaptable to a wide range of conditions such as heavy clay, drought and city conditions, yet it is nowhere very common in the landscape. Female plants produce beautiful mahogany colored seed pods that persist through the winter. The seeds were used as



Kalm St. Jon's Wort is a small dense shrub with small buttercup yellow flowers.

a coffee substitute by the early settlers. The tree is 50'-60' tall and 40-50' wide. Hardy to zone 3b. A truly handsome tree!

2002 Shrub of the Year

Hypericum kalmianum—
Kalm St. John's Wort

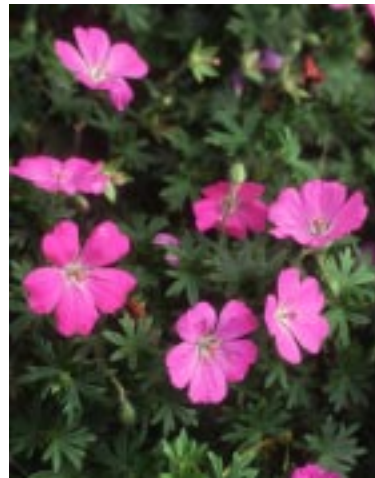
A small, dense, little shrub with stout erect stems that form a perfect mound. A handsome hardy plant, with small, bluish green summer foliage. The small, buttercup yellow flowers are a beautiful sight from July to August and the chocolate-brown seed heads add winter interest. The Hypericums will hold up well in heat and drought, and perform best in well-drained soils, while providing a colorful show late in the season. The Hypericums work well when massed in a sunny shrub border or used as a border plant in front of tall, leggy shrubs. Look into other excellent Hypericum varieties, such as Hypericum

frondosum 'Sunburst' and the Shrubby St. John's Wort, *Hypericum prolificum*. These cultivars have proven superior in the western part of Nebraska.

2002 Perennial of the Year

Geranium sanguineum —
Craine's Bill

The hardy Geraniums are considered by many to be one of the workhorses of the perennial border, forming decorative, long-lived, trouble-free colonies. This durable plant forms mounds of deeply cut foliage that turn blood red in the fall, hence the common name of Bloody Crane's-Bill. The leaf forms are often of greater decorative value in the garden than the flowers because of their texture and color. The bowl-shaped, magenta flowers cover the plant in late-spring to early-summer and will bloom sporadically throughout the summer if plants are sheared back after flowering. Plant Geraniums in full sun to light shade as specimens in front of the border or



Bloody Crane's Bill forms mounds of foliage that turn blood red in the fall.

massed to form a groundcover around upright, leggy plants. They also perform well in the dry conditions under trees in the garden. There is a Geranium for nearly every garden situation and many different varieties to choose from. Bloody Crane's-Bill grows up to 18" high and 2' wide and is hardy to zone 3.

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