

**2019**

**NORTH CENTRAL TRIAL GARDEN**

The North Central Trial Garden did see another year despite a policy change last year for the U of MN Landscape Arboretum that affected recruitment of volunteers for Trial Garden maintenance and possibly its' existence. The garden was planted May 25<sup>th</sup> and flourished into the best garden we've had in many years. All but one of 29 entries grew and were judged. Our co-directors have been moving into a fertilizer phase for the garden with resulting growth and bloom surpassing any we've ever seen here before. An interesting result of this was the lack of tuber growth. Historically the garden has produced humungous tubers. The buffers, however, were not fertilized and produced the usual huge tuber clumps. Near record amounts of rain this year meant little watering with rancid swamp water which was probably another factor working in our favor. The judges' wrap-up day was held Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> resulting in approximately 85% of the entries passing.

**Top-scoring dahlias in NCTG:**

**Clearview Sarah** BB SC WH Parshall 90.5; **Clearview Blaze** M FD FL Parshall 90.38; **Lo-Lipstick** MS DB Lobaugh 90.31; **Lo-Raspberry** MS RD Lobaugh 89.58; **Skipley Snoho Bill** MB PR Williams 89.58; **RaeAnn's Volunteer** OT WH Lobaugh 88.95; **Hollyhill Yellow Girl** BB SC YL Kennedy 88.75; **Clearview Maize** A SC YL Parshall 88.6; **Kelsey Spirit** MCO DR Walker 88.2; **Skipley Road Jan** BB FD DP 88.13 Williams