

2022

NORTH CENTRAL TRIAL GARDEN



The North Central Trial Garden is under new management! Meet Heidi Zierdt, our new Trial Garden Director. She has been a member of the MN Dahlia Society since 1980, having attended her first meeting at age 3 and has literally been in the TG from that age on. She is an ADS Senior judge, MDS judge-training co-instructor, on the MDS Accreditation Committee and currently a member of the ADS Curriculum and Test Committees.

Heidi is totally committed to the trial garden operation and its contribution to our ever-evolving dahlia culture. She is in her element growing, evaluating and discussing the fine points of each new seedling entry that hybridizers have entrusted to our care. Her enthusiastic leadership enticed many new members to join the trial garden experience and created a small army of volunteer ‘water gnomes’ to help keep the garden irrigated during this summer of drought. Heidi feels communication is the key for getting and keeping both members and hybridizers excited about our TG so she weekly posted entertaining updates & pictures to the MDS & ADS Facebook sites about garden team activities. Hope you saw them!

The garden was planted with 19 entries on May 28. On June 27 our work team supported each plant with heavy-duty tomato cages—a first for our garden. They were definitely worth the investment! Many man-hours were saved in tedious tying that enabled us to focus on pruning, trimming and final lateral selection. Our Judging Team Kickoff was Aug 27 with *all* entries in bloom. The garden was put to bed Oct. 26 with dreams of what we might see next year!

Grandpa’s Gift (A ID V) was this year’s fan favorite with its size and interesting coloration. One visitor described it as “eye candy for the garden”. It was also the favorite of a local television reporter’s TG interview you may have seen on the ADS website. Take a look. Other top-scoring dahlias in our garden were Clearview Pataha-89.28; Hollyhill Letitia-88.4; Skipley Reboot-88.3; SB’s Buttercream-88.2