

Annual and Perennial Herb

Evaluations 2005

by The Herb Bunch Volunteers

Fragrance Garden

J. Dee King, Heather Robertson, and Maggie Waite

Culinary Garden

Barbara Fay, Celese Hansen, and Moira Nutter

All Sage Garden

Virginia Damron, Barbara Rondine,
and George Wilson

What's New?

Barbara Fay, Phyllis Haggland, and Olga Cook

Perennial Herb Garden

Marsha Munsell and Barbara Fay

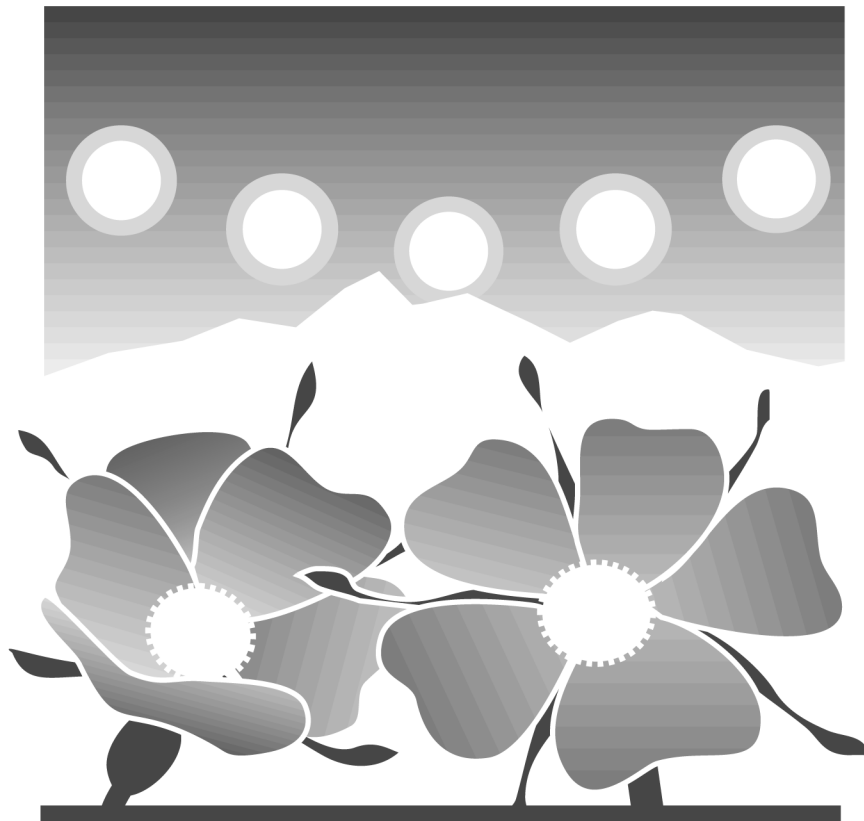
and by

Patricia Holloway, Professor of Horticulture

Grant Matheke, Horticulturist

Etta Gardiner, Greenhouse Specialist

Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station
School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences



GEORGESON
BOTANICAL GARDEN



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 the community volunteer group, the Herb Bunch, since 2003. It 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 amended with 3 in (7.6 cm) of garden compost then fertilized with 3 lb per 100 ft² (147g per m²) 10-20-20S on 2 June. All amendments were broadcast spread. If the area was not planted yet, amendments were tilled into the top 6 inches using a mini tiller. Beds were planted between 23 May and 1 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 third

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 475ft (145m), located approximately 350ft (100m) west of the garden. The summer was long, hot and dry, similar to the previous growing season (Tables 1 and 2). The last frost occurred in early May leading to one of the longest growing seasons in recent years. A typical drop in temperatures the first week of September ended the season for most annual herbs. The summer was smoky from forest fires. Like 2004, the extra warmth provided one of the best growing seasons in the Interior especially for warm-season herbs such as thyme and basil (Table 3). Local growers and homeowners grew spectacular gardens as long as they had access to irrigation. Some herbs, especially signet marigolds grown as edible flowers and Hamburg root parsley, were damaged significantly by a large population of voles. The parsley was repeatedly devoured to the point where no usable stems or roots could be harvested. Many other herbs showed damage but not sufficient to prevent harvest.

Table 1. Weather data from the U.S. Weather Service station located just west of the garden for years 1995 - 2005.

| Season | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Average temperature: (°F) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May | 52 | 44 | 48 | 49 | 46 | 44 | 45 | 50 | 44 | 52 | 56 |
| June | 59 | 57 | 61 | 58 | 61 | 59 | 57 | 58 | 61 | 66 | 67 |
| July | 62 | 62 | 64 | 62 | 61 | 59 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 65 | 63 |
| Aug | 56 | 52 | 57 | 52 | 58 | 52 | 57 | 54 | 55 | 62 | 58 |
| Sep. | 51 | 41 | 50 | 46 | 45 | 41 | 49 | 47 | 41 | 38 | 46 |
| Maximum temperature (°F) | 85 | 82 | 87 | 87 | 91 | 83 | 95 | 85 | 82 | 90 | 85 |
| Growing season: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last frost | May 22 | June 5 | May 25 | May 13 | May 29 | May 15 | May 13 | May 12 | May 24 | May 8 | May 5 |
| First frost | Sep 4 | Aug 27 | Aug 19 | Sep 13 | Sep 11 | Sep 16 | Sep 24 | Sep 2 | Sep 13 | Sep 4 | Sep 2 |
| Frost free days | 105 | 83 | 86 | 123 | 105 | 124 | 134 | 113 | 112 | 119 | 120 |
| Thaw degree days* | 3677 | 2811 | 3656 | 3278 | 3383 | 2943 | 3439 | 2980 | 3123 | 3751 | 3767 |
| Rainfall (inches) | 10.15 | 8.73 | 5.86 | 9.87 | 8.66 | 8.55 | 5.80 | 9.35 | 9.91 | 5.6 | 10.59 |
| Previous winter season: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum temperature (°F) | -48 | -48 | -54 | -48 | -54 | -50 | -27 | -36.3 | -34.6 | -44.4 | -49.6 |
| Snowfall (inches) | 69 | 47.8 | 38.4 | 30.6 | 31.6 | 62.2 | 39.9 | 39.7 | 33.2 | 51.7 | 70.9 |

Table 2. Weather data summaries for growing season years 2003 - 2005.

| Temperature °F | May | | | June | | | July | | | August | | | September | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|-----------|------|------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Average daily maximum | 55 | 64 | 68 | 74 | 80 | 73 | 70 | 76 | 74 | 66 | 75 | 69 | 50 | 47 | 54 |
| Monthly high | 74 | 76 | 77 | 82 | 90 | 84 | 88 | 89 | 81 | 76 | 84 | 85 | 66 | 61 | 66 |
| Average daily minimum | 33 | 40 | 43 | 48 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 53 | 51 | 44 | 49 | 46 | 31 | 30 | 38 |
| Monthly low | 27 | 30 | 31 | 40 | 42 | 43 | 41 | 44 | 39 | 39 | 35 | 33 | 17 | 26 | 28 |
| Rainfall (inches) | 0.48 | 1.67 | 1.66 | 0.85 | 0.42 | 2.97 | 5.12 | 1.21 | 4.09 | 1.86 | 0.50 | .39 | 1.73 | 1.26 | 1.48 |

Table 3. 2005 herb results

| Common Name | Cultivar | first harvest | max. veg. ht. | max. spread | flower color | foliage color | A ¹ | F ² | P ³ | O ⁴ | W ⁵ | Comments |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Fragrance Herb Garden | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anise Hyssop | | 8 Jul | 20 | 10 | purple | green | | | | | | Some insect damage to foliage late in the season |
| Feverfew | | | 10 | 9 | white w/ yellow centers | medium green | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | Bushy plants with tiny daisy-like flowers |
| Lavender | Lady | 19 Jul | 7 | 7 | lavender | bluegreen | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | Poor transplant condition upon arrival, plants never recovered fully |
| Lemon Balm | Citronella | | 10 | 12 | | green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | | Trimmed to 10 inches in height, strong lemon scent, advertised with double the oil content of other cultivars |
| Marigold, Signet | Red Gem | 5 Jul | 16 | 15 | red w/yellow centers & tips | green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | Medium-sized bushy plants covered with dark red blooms, very showy |
| Rosemary | | | 9.5 | 10 | | yellow green | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | Plug transplants arrived in poor condition, plants never recovered and grew slowly all season |
| Sage, Golden | Aurea | | 10 | 10 | | variegated yellow & green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | Plants filled in nicely, very consistent growth pattern |
| Sage, Pineapple | | | 20 | 32 | | | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Moderate growth in outdoor raised beds, outstanding pineapple scent on leaves, also recommended for containers |
| Sweet Marjoram | | | 10 | 12 | white | green | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Filled in nicely after pruning early in season |
| Sweet Pinks | Rainbow Loveliness | | 15 | 10 | | bluegreen | 3 | | 2 | 2 | | Scraggly appearance all season, pruned early in season and did not bloom |
| Thyme, Lemon | | 20 Jul | 7 | 8 | pink | medium green | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | | Formed nice, thick carpet |
| Viola | Sorbet Blueberry Cream | 1 Jun | 7 | 7 | lavender & cream | light green | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Mounds of color all summer even through frost, abundant blooms for show and harvest |
| Viola | Sorbet French Vanilla | 1 Jun | 7 | 7 | cream | light green | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Attractive single color viola, abundant blooms for ornamental and culinary uses |

1= Aroma, 2= Flavor, 3= Production, 4= Over all, and 5= Winter survival of perennials with 1 being the worst and 4 being the best

Table 3. 2005 herb results, cont.

| Common Name | Cultivar | first harvest | max. veg. ht. | max. spread | flower color | foliage color | A ¹ | F ² | P ³ | O ⁴ | W ⁵ | Comments |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Culinary Herb Garden | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anise Hyssop | | | 29 | 24 | purple | green | | | | | | Self seeded all over |
| Basil | Purple Ruffles | 23 Jul | 10 | 9 | light purple | deep purple | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | Very attractive ruffled leaves with deep purple color all season, All America Selections winner; highly recommended |
| Basil | Marseillais Bush | 23 Jul | 10.5 | 12 | white | green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | Very compact bush type basil, very productive and flavorful |
| Basil | Genovese | 23 Jul | 16.5 | 23 | white | green | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | One of the standard culinary basil, good productivity and flavor all season |
| Calendula | Bon Bon Yellow | 10 Jul | 16 | 19 | yellow | green | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | Good as a colorful addition to salads and garnishes; not very flavorful |
| Chervil, Curled | Crispum | 20 Jul | 21 | 15 | white | green | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | First planting died, replanted end of June, curled leaves used similarly to parsley, not very robust or productive |
| Chives | | | | | lavender pink, purple | dark green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | Reliable perennial herb, useful leaves fresh or dried nearly all summer |
| Dill | Fernleaf | 10 Jul | 25 | 23 | yellow | green | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | Avoid crowding plants, the dwarf plants are quickly overgrown by nearby plants, All America Selections winner 1992, finely dissected leaves great for fresh dill weed |
| Fennel | Berfena | 10 Jul | 36 | 24 | yellow | green | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | Avoid crowding plants, they are quickly overgrown by nearby plants |
| Fennel, Bronze | Rubrum | 10 Jul | 34 | 13 | yellow | bronze | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | Ornamental feathery reddish foliage, not as vigorous as the green fennel types |
| Lovage | | | 19 | 9 | pale yellow | green | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2004 plants overwintered with no injury, but were replaced with smaller plants in mid-June, excellent survival and growth during the season, reliable perennial |
| Marigold, Signet | Lemon Gem | 10 Jul | 14 | 21 | yellow | green | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Nice mounding cultivar loaded with blooms, showy and reliable all season until frost |
| Oregano, Greek | | 1 Jul | 13 | 17 | white | dark green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | True oregano from mountains of Greece, strong flavor, excellent productivity all season |
| Parsley, Italian | | 10 Jul | 19 | 36 | | dark green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | | Very productive large glossy leaves, strong flavor |
| Parsley, Moss Curled | | 10 Jul | 14 | 23 | | green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | Finely dissected leaves, standard curled type of parsley for garnishes and flavoring, very productive |
| Rosemary | Gorizia | 3 Aug | 16 | 5 | | dark green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | Robust plant, excellent growth and productivity |
| Sage, Garden | | 12 Jul | 16 | 28 | pale blue | gray-green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | Standard, bushy garden sage, very productive |
| Savory, Lemon | | 3 Aug | 10 | 7 | | green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | Intense lemon scent and flavor, small plants, fair productivity |
| Sorrel, Garden | Blonde de Lyon | 10 Jul | 18 | 27 | | green | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | | Large, slightly acidic leaves produced in abundance all summer, used as annual but also overwinters |
| Tarragon, French | | 12 Jul | 33 | 32 | | yellow green | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | Excellent growth and productivity from cuttings, the best type of tarragon for cooking |
| Thyme, English | | 12 Jul | 11 | 11 | light purple | dark green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | Low growing, tiny leaves |
| Thyme, Lemon | | 3 Aug | 7 | 12 | | variegated yellow & green | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | Planted very late resulting in poor productivity |

1= Aroma, 2= Flavor, 3= Production, 4= Over all, and 5= Winter survival of perennials with 1 being the worst and 4 being the best

Table 3. 2005 herb results, cont.

| Common Name | Cultivar | first harvest | max. veg. ht. | max. spread | flower color | foliage color | A ¹ | F ² | P ³ | O ⁴ | W ⁵ | Comments |
|----------------|----------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Verbena, Lemon | | 3 Aug | 20 | 21 | white | green | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Strong lemony scent but only fair growth in garden |

All Sage Herb Garden

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------|----|----|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Autumn, Salvia | Cherry Chief | 2 Jul | | | scarlet | light green | 3 | | 4 | 4 | | Beautiful prolific foliage and flowers, ornamental salvia native to Texas and Mexico, fruit-scented leaves are edible as are the flowers |
| Sage | Berggarten | 2 Jul | 12 | 18 | | blue-grey silvery | 3 | | 4 | 4 | | Productive, large, slightly bitter leaves |
| Sage, Fruit | | 2 Jul | 17 | 22 | | green | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | Very large fragrant fruity leaves with soft velvety texture, difficult to resist rubbing the leaves, killed by light frosts |
| Sage, Gold | Gold | 2 Jul | 10 | 18 | | variegated yellow & green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | Smaller leaves than other sage cultivars, good flavor |
| Sage, Golden | Aurea | 2 Jul | 8 | 10 | | variegated yellow & green | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | Smaller plants and leaves than other gold sages, poor leaf productivity; excellent flavor |
| Sage, Honey Melon | | 2 Jul | 14 | 20 | | green | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | Medium-sized plant, wonderful flavor and fruity melon scent, try in containers for greater productivity |
| Sage, Purple | Purpurea | 2 Jul | 5 | 18 | | variegated purple & green | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | Small plant size and leaves, okay production but great culinary qualities |
| Sage, Tangerine | | 2 Jul | 19 | 30 | red | green | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | | Beautiful, plant with slight citrus aroma, good flavor, not frost tolerant |
| Sage, Tricolor | | 2 Jul | 9 | 18 | red buds | variegated green/white/pink | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Small plant and leaves, very ornamental, good flavor and aroma |

5

What's New Herb Garden

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--|----|----|--------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Basil | Blue Spice | | 21 | 37 | lavender | green | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | Not the best flavor for culinary uses, would make great ornamental, spicy fragrance, flowers on tall spikes above foliage, tiny leaves |
| Basil | Gecofure | | 16 | 19 | white | green | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | Fair productivity but flavor not as good as other basil, dwarf cultivar recommended for container growing |
| Basil | Indian | | 19 | 15 | light purple | green | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | | Not recommended as a culinary herb, tall spikes of flowers above tiny foliage, may have value as ornamental, described as having meter-high foliage, ours was a dwarf mound |
| Basil | Medinette | | 11 | 10 | white | green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | Medium-sized leaves with good flavor; slow to bolt, recommended for containers |
| Basil, Lettuce leaf | Napoletano | | 12 | 11 | white | green | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | Large, ribbed leaves with strong flavor, fair productivity |
| Celery, Curled | Zwolsche Krul | | 21 | 28 | | bright green | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | Very strong flavor, unpleasant to some but recommended by others, looks like curled parsley, has the same culinary uses |

1= Aroma, 2= Flavor, 3= Production, 4= Over all, and 5= Winter survival of perennials with 1 being the worst and 4 being the best

Table 3. 2005 herb results, cont.

| Common Name | Cultivar | first harvest | max. veg. ht. | max. spread | flower color | foliage color | A ¹ | F ² | P ³ | O ⁴ | W ⁵ | Comments |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Java citronella | Bio 13 | | 15 | 3 | | green | 3 | | 3 | 3 | | Crowded by adjacent plants, main source for citronella used as insect repellent, Bio 13 is said to be the highest-yielding cultivar for citronella, also recommended as container plant |
| Oregano | Zorba White | | 14 | 9 | white | green | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Possible uses as ornamental; good flavor and productivity |
| Oregano | Zorba Red | | 16 | 10 | red & white | dark green | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | Not the best oregano for flavor, has possibilities as an ornamental with tiny balls of red and white flower clusters |
| Pennyroyal | Snowcones White | | 15 | 25 | white | green | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | Bushy plant with white balls of flowers along the stem, only fair minty aroma and flavor |
| Pennyroyal | Snowcones Purple | | 12 | 22 | lavender | green | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | Similar in growth and performance as Snowcones White, not much to brag about as an herb |
| Pepper | Tabasco | | 14 | 8 | | green | | | 0 | 0 | | Did not set fruit, a total failure as culinary herb |
| Savory | Midget | | 10 | 10 | | green | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | Nice bushy compact plant unlike regular leggy, floppy summer savory, recommended for containers and as ornamental |
| Scullcap | Oriental Blue | | 24 | 25 | | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Bloomed in containers before transplanting, bloomed again July 21 |
| Thyme, Lemon | Magic Carpet | | 3 | 31 | purple | medium green | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | Advertised as the lowest-growing carpet thyme, only lemon thyme grown from seeds, grew and spread well in garden forming creeping green mats covered with tiny purple flowers, survived one winter |
| Toronjil | Morado | | 40 | 34 | red/purple | green | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Showy red flowers make it a good ornamental, intense lemon leaves good for tea, used in Mexico as medicinal plant |
| Yarrow, Mongolian | | | 31 | 35 | | | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Average growth, not as productive as the native yarrow |

Perennial Herb Garden

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------|----|-----|-----------------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Angelica | | | 43 | | yellow green | medium green | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Biennial, large thick impressive stems with huge flower heads and coarse foliage, needs staking in second season, unknown insect eating leaves |
| Bergamont | | | 23 | 44 | | medium green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Spreading growth from 6 to 24 inches, did not bloom this season |
| Black Currant | Melalathi | 10 Sep | 36 | 102 | yellow-green | dark green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Vigorous growth, recumbent branches, fruit hangs beneath leaves, strong smell to leaves and fruit, excellent productivity |
| Black Currant | Erkheikki VII | 10 Sep | 49 | 160 | yellow green | dark green | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | Vigorous growth, spreads widely, poor fruit productivity this season compared to other black currants |
| Black Currant | Nikkala XI | 10 Sep | 34 | 84 | blue green | dark green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Spreading branches covered with large black fruit, very productive, strong flavor |
| Chives, Chinese Garlic | | | 30 | 63 | pinkish white | blue-green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Flat-leaved plants with hint of garlic, used like chives, very productive, spreads well, also use as ornamental |
| Chives | Grande | 9 Jul | 30 | 96+ | lavender pink, purple | dark green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Extra-large leaves, mild flavor, very productive, spreads vegetatively as well as by self seeding |
| Chocolate Lily | | | 18 | 6 | purplish brown | medium green | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | Blooms early with aromatic flowers, edible bulbs were not harvested, produced at least two stems, dieback by late August |

1= Aroma, 2= Flavor, 3= Production, 4= Over all, and 5= Winter survival of perennials with 1 being the worst and 4 being the best

Table 3. 2005 herb results, cont.

| Common Name | Cultivar | first harvest | max. veg. ht. | max. spread | flower color | foliage color | A ¹ | F ² | P ³ | O ⁴ | W ⁵ | Comments |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Cicely, Sweet | | 9 Jul | 42 | 65 | white | medium green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Tall bushy plant with fern-like foliage and tiny flowers, very productive |
| Costmary | | 26 Jun | 68 | 63 | white | medium green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Very productive with hundreds of oblong leaves, spreading rapidly, needs thinning to keep under control |
| Egyptian Walking Onion | Proliferum Group | | 32.5 | 24 | | light green | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | Very large bulbs and excellent production of aerial bulbs |
| European Dwarf Cherry | | | 40 | 60 | white green | glossy | | | | 3 | 4 | Short bushy shrub, spreading by rhizomes, no fruit yet |
| Germander | | | 7.5 | 16 | purple | medium green | | | 4 | 4 | 4 | Slow growing, bushy; responds well to pruning. Leaves used in teas, medicinal teas |
| Green's Mountain Ash | | | 43 | 33 | | medium green | | | 4 | 4 | 4 | Excellent vegetative growth in second year after planting, some branching but most growth was in height |
| Kinnikinnick | | | 3.5 | 12 | pale pink | yellow green | | | | 3 | 4 | Evergreen ground cover with edible fruit used with fish and in pemmican, grew well in 2005 and began to spread, no flowers or fruit |
| Labrador Tea | | | 25 | 18 | white | yellow green | | | 3 | 3 | 4 | Sparsely-leaved bush, flowered in mid- to late May, well established in second year |
| Lingonberry | Gilmore | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | Single plant died in first winter |
| Lovage | Magnus | | 89 | 58 | yellow | green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Foliage eaten by unknown tiny worm in midsummer |
| Mint, Chocolate | | | 25 | 48 | burgundy | dark green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Nice peppermint aroma when leaves are crushed, could not discern the "chocolate", however. |
| Mint, Ginger | Variegata | | 28 | 54 | purple | variegated green/yellow | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Very productive, plants grown in plastic tubs to confine spread, slight spicy ginger flavor with mint |
| Nettle, Stinging | Max | | 79 | 74 | | dark green | | | 4 | 4 | 4 | Max spread is for 6 plants, grew very bushy and tall, crowded by shrubs, native to coastal Alaska, used in teas and medicines |
| Northern Bedstraw | | | 16.5 | 44 | white | yellow green | 4 | | 4 | 3 | 4 | Native bedstraw, spreading by rhizomes, very fragrant, used as medicinal plant and for potpourri |
| Onion, Altai | | | 31 | 74 | white | dark green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | Large round edible stems, biting flavor, attracts many pollinators, spreads mostly by self sowing, remove seed heads to control spreading, mild bulbs, spicy leaves |
| Onion, Flat-leaved | | Jun 15 | 21 | 37 | white | medium green | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Flat leaves look like daffodil, mild flavor, attracts insect pollinators, flowers late, no viable seeds produced, ornamental as well as edible |
| Onion, Welsh | Gribovski | Jun 15 | 29 | 80 | white | dark green | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Large tubular leaves, spicy flavor, mild bulbs like green onions only larger, spreads well from rhizomes, self sows prolifically, fragrant balls of flowers attract insect pollinators |
| Parsley | Hamburg Rooted | | 5 | 4 | | | | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | Roots decimated by voles, no harvest |
| Red Gooseberry | | Aug 15 | 36 | 48 | yellow | dark green | | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Small reddish-pink fruit hang on older branches, inside of the bush, easy to miss, very light yield in this second year |

1= Aroma, 2= Flavor, 3= Production, 4= Over all, and 5= Winter survival of perennials with 1 being the worst and 4 being the best

Table 3. 2005 herb results, cont.

| Common Name | Cultivar | first harvest | max. veg. ht. | max. spread | flower color | foliage color | A ¹ | F ² | P ³ | O ⁴ | W ⁵ | Comments |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Roseroot | | | 6 | 7 | yellow | light green | | 3 | 3 | 3 | | Native plant with edible roots and medicinal properties, also used as ornamental in rock gardens |
| Saskatoon | Martin | Jul 30 | 106 | 84 | white | dark green | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | Largest fruit of saskatoons tested, juicy, sweet, chewy seeds, very ornamental white flowers in spring |
| Saskatoon | Smoky | Jul 30 | 90 | 61 | white | dark green | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | Small fruit, not as productive as Martin |
| Silver Mound Artemisia | Nana | | | | | | | | | | | 4 Compact, rounded mound of silvery foliage, neat appearance, overwintered well |
| Sorrel | Blonde de Lyon | Aug 1 | 28 | 56 | | green w/ red edges & veins | | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | Popular sorrel grown for soups, excellent flavor of young leaves, may be harvested very early as soon as shoots emerge, cut back older leaves to encourage growth |
| Sorrel, Garden | Rhubarb Pie | | | | | | | | | | 0 | Grew poorly the first year and died in winter |
| Sorrel, Profusion | Æ | Aug 25 | 14 | 31 | | dark green | | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Abundant tender slightly acid leaves all summer, recovers well after cutting, may be harvested early in spring as soon as leaves expand |
| Stinkweed | | | 13 | 12 | | yellow green | | | | | | Seedlings planted in midsummer, good growth and establishment in first year, leaves a traditional Alaska medicine |
| Sweet Woodruff | | | 8 | 18 | white | light green | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | Low creeping perennial, spreads slowly from rhizomes, sparse coverage. |
| Tarragon, Russian | | | 23.5 | 13 | | light green | | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | Poor flavor compared to French Tarragon |
| Tarragon, French | | Sep 4 | 48 | 24 | | dark green | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | Bushy perennial with oblong toothed leaves, very productive, tarragon of choice for cooking. |
| Wild Potato (sweetvetch) | Alaska native | | 12 | 27 | pink | green | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | Plants affected by unknown disease, leaves mottled and yellow, no similar symptoms in native roadside plants, very few flowers |
| Wild Strawberry | Alaska native | | 12 | 69 | white | medium green | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | No fruit in second year, spread rapidly throughout the perennial bed |
| Yarrow | Cerise Queen | | 34.5 | 18 | red | yellow-green | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | Large, bushy plants grew well in the second year, three plants had a 60-inch spread, attractive red color, ornamental |
| Yarrow, Mace | | | 13.5 | 22 | white | light green | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | Nice bushy growth this second season, some flowers, not harvested |

1= Aroma, 2= Flavor, 3= Production, 4= Over all, and 5= Winter survival of perennials with 1 being the worst and 4 being the best

Scientific Names of Herbs in the Trial Garden

| | |
|---|---|
| Angelica - <i>Angelica archangelica</i> | Oregano, Greek - <i>Origanum vulgare hirtum</i> |
| Anise Hyssop - <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> | Parsley, Curled - <i>Petroselinum crispum crispum</i> |
| Artemisia 'Silver Mound' - <i>Artemisia schmidtiana</i> | Parsley, Italian - <i>Petroselinum crispum neapolitanum</i> |
| Balm, Lemon - <i>Melissa officinalis</i> | Parsley, Moss Curled - <i>Petroselinum crispum crispum</i> |
| Basil - <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> | Parsley, Hamburg rooted - <i>Petroselinum crispum tuberosum</i> |
| Bedstraw, Northern - <i>Galium boreale</i> | Pennyroyal - <i>Mentha pulegium</i> |
| Bergamot, Wild - <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> | Pepper, Tabasco - <i>Capsicum anuum</i> 'Tabasco' |
| Calendula - <i>Calendula officinalis</i> | Pinks, Sweet - <i>Dianthus x hybrida</i> 'Rainbow Liveliness' |
| Celery, Curled - <i>Apium graveolens</i> | Rosemary - <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> |
| Chervil, Curled - <i>Anthriscus cerefolium</i> | Roseroot - <i>Rhodiola rosea</i> |
| Chives - <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> | Sage, Garden - <i>Salvia officinalis</i> |
| Chives, Chinese Garlic - <i>Allium tuberosum</i> | Sage, Gold - <i>Salvia officinalis</i> 'Gold' |
| Chives, Garlic - <i>Allium tuberosum</i> | Sage, Golden - <i>Salvia officinalis</i> 'Aurea' |
| Chocolate Lily - <i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i> | Sage, Fruit - <i>Salvia dorisiana</i> |
| Cicely, Sweet - <i>Myrrhis odorata</i> | Sage, Honeydew Melon - <i>Salvia elegans</i> 'Honey Melon' |
| Citronella, Java - <i>Cymbopogon winterianus</i> | Sage, Pineapple - <i>Salvia elegans</i> |
| Costmary - <i>Chrysanthemum balsamita</i> | Sage, Purple - <i>Salvia officinalis</i> 'Purpurea' |
| Currant, Black - <i>Ribes nigrum</i> | Sage, Tangerine - <i>Salvia elegans</i> |
| Dill - <i>Anethum graveolens</i> | Sage, Tricolor - <i>Salvia officinalis</i> 'Tricolor' |
| Fennel, Sweet - <i>Foeniculum vulgare dulce</i> | Salvia, Autumn - <i>Salvia greggii</i> |
| Fennel, Bronze - <i>Foeniculum vulgare dulce</i> | Saskatoon - <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> |
| Germander - <i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> | Savory, Lemon - <i>Micromeria biflora</i> |
| Gooseberry, Red - <i>Ribes grossularia</i> | Savory, Summer - <i>Satureja hortensis</i> |
| Kinnikinnick - <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> | Scullcap - <i>Scutellaria baicalensis</i> |
| Labrador Tea, - <i>Ledum groenlandicum</i> | Sorrel, Garden - <i>Rumex acetosa</i> |
| Lavender, English - <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> | Stinkweed - <i>Artemisia tilesii</i> |
| Lingonberry - <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> ssp. <i>minus</i> | Tarragon, French - <i>Artemisia dracunculus</i> |
| Lovage - <i>Levisticum officinalis</i> | Tarragon, Russian - <i>Artemisia dracunculus dracunculoides</i> |
| Marigold, Signet - <i>Tagetes tenuifolia</i> | Thyme, English - <i>Thymus vulgaris</i> |
| Marjoram, Sweet - <i>Origanum majorana</i> | Thyme, Lemon - <i>Thymus x citriodorus</i> |
| Mint, Chocolate - <i>Mentha x piperita</i> var. <i>piperita</i> | Toronjil Morado - <i>Agastache mexicana</i> |
| Mint, Ginger - <i>Mentha arvensis</i> | Verbena, Lemon - <i>Aloysia triphylla</i> |
| Mountain Ash, Green's - <i>Sorbus scopulina</i> | Viola - <i>Viola</i> sp. |
| Nettle, Stinging - <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Wild Potato - <i>Hedysarum alpinum</i> subsp. <i>americanum</i> |
| Onion, Altai - <i>Allium altaicum</i> | Wild Strawberry - <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> |
| Onion, Egyptian walking - <i>Allium x proliferum</i> | Yarrow, Mongolian - <i>Achillea asiatica</i> |
| Onion, Flat-leaved - <i>Allium senescens</i> | Yarrow, 'Cerise Queen' - <i>Achillea millefolium</i> 'Cerise Queen' |
| Onion, Welsh - <i>Allium fistulosum</i> | Yarrow, Mace' - <i>Achillea decolorans</i> |
| Oregano, Golden - <i>Origanum vulgare</i> | |

Acknowledgements

Without our dedicated volunteers, continued growth and success of the Georgeson Botanical Garden would not be possible. A big thank you to our 2005 volunteers! *To become a volunteer, call Jan Hanscom at 474-6921*

The Herb Bunch: The Herb Bunch is an organized group of local herb enthusiasts who meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 PM for fun and educational programs throughout the year. They design, plant and maintain the herb beds at the Georgeson Botanical Garden. Member Information: Dues: \$10/year. Contact Dee King at 488-7692

Special thanks to our business partners who support the Garden with seeds and other plants.

All America Selections, Flower and Vegetable Seeds
Goldsmith Seeds, Flower seeds
PanAmerican seeds, Flower seeds
Plant Kingdom, Rooted cuttings and plugs
Risse Greenhouses, Plants and supply discounts
USDA Plant Introduction Stations, NC7, Iowa State Univ., Plants and seeds
Joanne Klumb, Dahlia
Susie Zimmerman, Dahlias

NOTE: Circulars are published by the Alaska Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station to provide information summarizing research, and are usually written for a specific lay audience. Circulars often present information about ongoing or inconclusive applied research and experiments, such as variety trials. They may consist of secondary information or be a bulletin or journal article summary.

To simplify terminology, we may use product or equipment trade names. We are not endorsing products or firms mentioned. Publication material may be reprinted provided no endorsement of a commercial product is stated or implied. Please credit the researchers involved, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Commission on Colleges and Universities of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution.

Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

University of Alaska Fairbanks
AFES Publications Office
P.O. Box 757200
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7200
fynrpub@uaf.edu • www.uaf.edu/snras
907.474.6923 or 907.474.5042
fax: 907.474.6184