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DALLAS, TX - The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, 8525 Garland Road, hosted the 9th annual Plant Trials Field Day, Wednesday, June 23, 2010. Over 400 industry attendees from 18 states came to learn about the best new plants on the market.

The Dallas Arboretum Trial program is internationally known as one of the premiere places to test plants for extreme weather conditions, especially high heat and humidity. "The unique climate of north Texas really puts plants to the test," says Jimmy Turner. "Our tagline 'Trial by Flower--If we can't kill it, no one can!' started as a tongue-in-cheek comment, but really resonated with people who have experienced the weather of North Texas. Only the best-scoring heat-tolerant varieties are presented the coveted "FlameProof Plant" award by Turner and his staff each year. This information is then made available to local nurseries and a great service the community and local gardeners.

Jimmy Turner, Dallas Arboretum's Senior Director of Gardens, and Jenny Wegley, Research and Greenhouse Manager, discussed the highest scoring plants in the Trial Gardens. In addition, the 2009 FlameProof Plant Awards were presented. Mr. Turner also spoke about the plants that will be promoted in the upcoming years via articles, web, and presentations. Dr. Brent Pemberton of the Texas A&M Agrilife Research & Extension facility in Overton, Texas joined the lecture with a presentation on the North Texas Winner's Circle winners that are a collaborative trial between the two sites. The lectures were concluded after a select few of the breeding companies presented their new 2010 introductions to the industry attendees. The Field Day continued with a tour of the Trial Gardens, a tradeshow, and dinner under the canopy of trees in the gardens. The Dallas Arboretum Trial Program annually tests over 4,000 entries including annuals, bulbs, perennials, shrubs, trees, and groundcovers in search of the toughest plants alive. "No plant, new or old, is excluded from our scope. We are not only looking for the newest and neatest, but also for the best of the old varieties," says Mr. Turner. The Plant Trials program provides trials for over 300

plant breeders from across the globe and is supported by funds from the local and national plant industry. Additionally, the All America Selections program, the largest and oldest independent national testing program, utilizes the Dallas Arboretum as its only Texas test site.

Home gardeners can find out more information about the Dallas Arboretum's Trial Program and plant promotions by visiting the plant trials website at www.DallasPlantTrials.org or www.FlameProofPlants.org.

You can view the PowerPoint presentations and handouts from all of the speakers by visiting <http://www.dallasplanttrials.org/20102.htm>.

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society, Inc. is located on the Southeastern shore of White Rock Lake at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, Texas 75218. The Arboretum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors 65 and older, \$7 for children 3 -12, and is free for Arboretum members and children two and under. On-site parking is \$7. The Arboretum is wheelchair accessible and tram service is available for the mobility impaired. Group discounts of twenty or more are available with advance registration. For more information and other events, call (214) 515-6500, or visit the Arboretum's website at www.dallasarboretum.org.

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