Good afternoon and thanks for joining us; I am Judy Simpson. It's the time of year when we're deciding on the annual flowers that we will buy and plant in our gardens. With literally hundreds of choices on the market we called on our expert from UVM Extension to give us some guidance. It's a pleasure to welcome back horticulturalist Leonard Perry. Each year Leonard trials new flowers and this afternoon Leonard you have some gorgeous pictures to show us and make some recommendations.

Leonard.: I've got quite a few Judy; it's great to be back.

Judy.: OK tell me a little bit about the trials.

Leonard.: Okay we have a flower display garden we've had since 1995 down at Burlington’s Waterfront Park. Its open 24 hours it's a joint program with Burlington Parks and Recreation for people to come down and see some of the best of the new flowers. I thought it would be fun to start with a picture here from last year being a dry year this year to show how high the lake was. It was the first year we weren't able to plant until later in June. Then if you look later--that's what it looks like in August. Just amazing how these things can come along. One of our front beds only second year in this. If you look in the front part and notice from June to August how that alyssum grew and will take a look at how that grew it's just amazing what gets soil preparation good compost again another corner of that same bed and you look a couple months later and it really is amazing to see how all these flowers just grow in. This one in particular some petunias in the foreground you don't even see behind them and then there's a tall dark leaf ornamental millet which is the All American Selection winner in this garden. We have signs on all the flowers which is great we also have these display gardens signs and last year we actually put a QR code on that so if you have a smart phone you can scan it and come up with a list that we will tell you about the end.

Judy.: As in the past you've had a lot of photos to show us the summer new flowers some show flower combinations and then you have some overall gardens.

Leonard.: We do, and one of the things as I've mentioned this is an All-America Selection garden. These are the best of the new seed introductions. Now most of the flowers we have are from cuttings that we will call vegetative we will look at those but first let's take a look at some of the seed-grown plants the All-America winners of the best of the new varieties. We have about five years on display starting with this Moon Song deep orange marigold which was a winner in 2010, a real nice large-flower of marigold. This was a winner for this past year ornamental kale, Glamour Red. This is great like most of the kales lasts well into the fall and turns out really nice red color so it's very ornamental. A lot of new Vincas on the market which are great and the olden times they're used to like heat. These do quite well up and this one has done quite well. Pacifica burgundy halo this was a winner in 2007. Another All America winner of petunia: opera supreme pink morn from 2006. Just a really pretty pink petunia that lasts well and flowers well. This dianthus is fun because we had this in over winter. This was actually perennial forested down there. That about ½ foot tall real pretty purplish color all season. The salvia is a scarlet sage it’s not the old fashioned type salvia of a little taller one. This is a new winner summer jewel red and pink
winner for this year that we will have. As you can see the close up of the flower is great for hummingbirds just really nice flower spikes that last again right through the season. There's been several celosia winners coxcomb fresh look gold was a winner in 2007 about 1½ foot tall, a really pretty cold color plume type celosia. Gaillardia there are several types of Gaillardia and sometimes this can be a perennial too. It was in my own garden and home the 2010 winner. This is a lower one, about less than a foot high but are all really pretty yellow flower right through the season. There have been some zinnia winners there's a whole new series called the zahara series. This is zahara fire this is one of my favorites last year just brilliant colors like this all season. This is a lower zinnia compared to another winner which is been around for a few years zowie yellow flame. This one's a couple feet tall and has a red and yellow mix of flowers. These are all All-America winners of recent years.

Judy: Amazing. How many of the flowers from cuttings do you trial?

Leonard: OK as I mentioned a lot of these flowers do come from cuttings and there are probably about two 3rd 3/4 of the ones that most of the flowers you buy from stores are from cuttings now. Have a lot of these All American ones you might have to get seeds and order them from kind of hard to see. You get them from a couple of greenhouses in New Hampshire wholesale whole growers DS Cole and Pleasant View. We have a lot coming this year too but will take a look at some of the best ones that we saw last year and again there's a whole host of them. Try to have a mix of a lot of different things starting with lantana this of course is a shrub and the far south. It used to take a lot of heat some of the newer varieties do quite well including this one the citrus bowl and just a pretty mix of different colors as most lantanas have in fact. Again you can see their low about a foot high and spread this has pink and some yellow and it called cherry sunrise again another beautiful lantana. A lot of these we call 1,000,000 bells or trailing petunia or the calibrachoa is how you say that and this one is one that did quite well. A lot of them don't do too well for us they don't have any flowers and their kind of sparse but the super bells cherry star not only is a pretty flower but had a fair amount of flowers to the season. This is a really different one it's a fusion series called double vision. You can see not only different colors put different flower types with doubles maybe the size of 1/4 it's not real big but a low plant good for containers hanging baskets as well. Cali deep yellow is probably one of the top ones as last year a lot of flowers compared to most of them again a good trailing petunia. There have been a couple of torenias in recent years a really nice wishbone flower this Catalina gilded grape a real pretty grape color with the yellow on the front part of the flowers is great in hanging baskets as is this one biden namid compact yellow. This one's probably about under a foot or so high and spreads maybe a couple of feet. A lot a pretty yellow flowers right through the season. As of this one lobelia. There are several of lobelias out there again all these were looking at come from cuttings you can buy. This techno blue you can see just a vibrant blue color compared to those Coleus on both sides I love the contrast. It really stands out. New Guinea impatiens are the ones they like the sun compared to the regular shade impatiens so if you look for New Guinea impatiens and sunsations obviously from the name it says sun. This was in the front of the bed we saw earlier just really made out well through last season. This was on the other corner of the bed we saw earlier that just totally took off and grew. Sweet alyssum lobularia has the typical alyssum fragrance that some people like I tend to hate it. I don't usually plant this at home.

You can see some of the salvia poking up through a real nice contrast inter-planted that way. We try to do inter planting last year. Euphorbia; there's several of the sparges is which are actually related to poinsettia believe that or not. Breathless white there's others like diamond frost but it equally well. Just little white flowers you see their mixed in it's a good filler for a lot of plants. It's one of my favorites over the last few years. It's been a great introduction. Gaura is just another one that's really nice the stratosphere white with the Coleus velvet mocha. So the white against the dark again a nice contrast there sometimes whirling butterfly is one of the original Gauras it just looks like moths flitting about in the garden up on the stocks. The salvia there's several of the salvia mealy cups sage which again is a different species then we saw before. This has a hairy mealy type stems on it and again call spikes blue flowers usually like Sally fun blue here that contrast that to the osteosperum the African daisy in the background we will look at in a minute. Diascia twinspur again there are several that have come out. There's an all-America winner that is pretty well but this flying colors coral is one that's been one of the best and you can see its covered with flowers right through the season. Again these were all taken at the end of the summer. Here's another one portulaca there's just a lot of different portulacas. Again they tend to like more heat a little bit more succulent leaves probably don't like it wet, but PortoGrande Scarlet is a real pretty color. Another one that likes a little bit more on the dry side is the straw flower. It's a great dried flower as well. This is a little bit lower plant
more for bedding the Sun daze flame just a real pretty color combination here. We saw the osteospermum also South African daisy if you can't say that but Zion copper amethyst is some great color. A lot of these for me have not done that well up here because they really like lives in South Africa a lot warmer climate and a lot drier but this to do well for us and I love the color on that again with the euphorbia a nice contrast. The cleome or spider flower named because the flowers look like little spiders. Senorita rosalita a great name on that and this one is a little bit lower than some of the old fashioned types maybe 3 to 4 foot and this may only be a couple foot high in contrast with the blue salvia in the background. Again a nice color contrast. This is a basil and yes you can probably use it for cooking. It's more ornamental the African blue shows you close up it also has more flowers and more attractive flowers than a lot of the ones you see. You can see it makes a really nice mass grown and mass. Then an agastache those have been very popular, anise hyssop Spires steel blue contrast it with the Coreopsis. The common name is tick seed which doesn't attract ticks at all but the Coreopsis just again a very pretty color combination contrast. The Coreopsis and agastache and a couple others that did well and just to show you plant several of these together you can really have a nice affect with all these contrasting colors as you see there.

Judy.: When you talk about color you have to think of petunias and I didn't see any petunias so far.

Leonard.: So far-- OK but I brought some. Each year we feature one are two groups in particular and this last year we had petunias I think this year hopefully if we get all the requesting done live a lot more petunias but a lot of new petunias do really well. Of course they like sun but their what you call self-cleaning. The flowers fall off and you don't have to pinch them back like you used to with the old fashioned ones. Take a look at some of the newer ones here starting with this one purple ray right in the corner bed. It's a real pretty vibrant color shocking compared to the orange marigold. Here's double wave blue the wave series it's one of the most popular series. If you want a good petunia just look for the wave series and you probably can't go wrong. This is a double one a dark bluish color too. Last year several new ones came out this one is called pinstripe, almost a black color with the striping and that and then phantom which is a mix of the yellow and the black again a real attractive plant. If you want something different this one's almost all black with that little bit of yellow in the middle of each petal of the black velvet again three very different new petunias. We had patio lemon another good one for containers or baskets as a smaller one with a little bit more clumping hence the name patio good on patios. That's a short nice one. This is a real pretty too, the Supertunia was a whole series, White Russian. Kind of a brownish the first flower can call it has a brown and it. This was one of my favorites this is Cascadia Violet skirt. Compared to the white there it picks up the white and the violet script petunia. I love this name bubble gum this is the bubble gum and a really kind of looks like that bubble gum color and if you compare it to the newmasia which we haven't seen yet in the background and the euphorbia on the right just a real pretty combination of all these going in together.

Judy.: I've known in the past years you featured some plants just because of their foliage which is nice.

Leonard.: This is true there a lot of plants you can put just for foliage whether the grass like plants or grasses or ones like the Coleus which again if you're getting Coleus now they're probably sun coleus all new Coleus do well and sun you have to really look for some of those in the shade. Put some new ones in the shade they don't do too well so why don't we take a look at some of these starting with this Dusty Miller which is a common one. In the past you have lower ones you this is a taller one has and has a fan flower which we haven't seen yet those are popular again a nice combination there. Then we have a whole bunch of ornamentals sweet potato. Those really spread watch where you put these, they can take over a bed and crowd of other things. Than a couple of these for affect last these spiky things there actually cabbage palm called cordyline a very nice contrast with the Coleus as you see there. This alternanthera ruby red creeps very low amongst other plants again good for containers and baskets. Juncus is actually an ornamental rush, and as you can see here this is actually a perennial for us a Blue Mohawk lasted over winter which I was very surprised that. Those as well as this one King Tut Cyperus is a great one for water gardens as well amazing plants they grow in dry they grow in water as well. This true grass is a foytall grass pennisetum red riding hood a lower one with reddish in the leaves and here's a combination of the guara grass and Coleus that has a nice affect combining these.

Judy.: Combinations are great. What are some of the best conditions in care to have success?
Leonard.: The first thing is to look for personal preference, you can mass these or combine them if you want and the right conditions of sun, water and fertilizer. They really like the sun unless it says otherwise a lot of these newer ones like fertilizer too.

Judy.: How often should you fertilize?

Leonard.: That depends if you have a slow release you just put a lot on there. Liquid Lawn maybe every watering home once a week.

Judy.: Thanks Leonard of course lots of ideas on your web page.

Leonard.: There are and if you want to go on to perrysperennials.info and look under the research section you'll see a link to the Waterfront Park and there's a list right there.

Judy.: I am ready to plant; thanks Leonard. That's our program for today. I'm Judy Simpson we will see you again next time on Across the Fence.

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