

SHORT REPORT FROM THE NORWEGIAN HARDY-PLANT GROUP:

The Norwegian Hardy-Plant group had their annual meeting in Fredrikstad, in the far south-east of Norway, the 2nd and 3rd of September. About 10 of 13 growers had found their way to the meeting.

We started our gathering at Universitet for Miljø og Biovitenskap (Norwegian University of Life Sciences) at Ås, where Associate Professor Eva Vike showed us the latest projects with trials of ornamental grasses and perennial-plants for landscaping.

- The ornamental-grass trial: http://fagus.no/system/files/publikasjoner/2011-planter-norsk-klima-staudeprosjekter-ved-umb_0.pdf

- “Staubølgen” (“The hardy-plant wave”):

http://www.planterfornorskklima.no/bilder/Staubølgen%20umb%202007_103129.pdf

The event continued 15 km south, at Ramme Gaard at Hvitsten in Vestby. Ramme Gaard is a show-garden in addition to being a center for ecological horti- and agriculture. It is also a venue for culture and events, like concerts, exhibitions and every summer they arrange their own Shakespeare-festival in a outdoor amfi-theatre. <http://www.rammegaard.no/hagedager> We had a very interesting guided tour with the head gardener Tommy Ahnby who originally is a plant-nurseryman from Bohuslän in Sweden about 150 km further south. Considerable architectural resources has been spent in the process of developing and designing this garden with the creation of water features, an amfi-theatre, sculptures, intimate rest-areas for serving of snacks and a unique plant collection! We could see Deinanthe, Trochodendron, Viburnum furcatum and a collection of Hydrangea-cultivars from the H. serrata specie. The tour made us all excited and we admired the fantastic collection of plants a favorable microclimate, good planning and professional plant-knowledge can provide even here in Norway.

At the end of our visit we had the opportunity to purchase special or rare plants that were left from the previous days plant market. We were fortunate to bring several new and rare plants home.

The annual meeting was held in the evening.

Topics on the agenda except from the regular formalities were:

-Participation in gardencentre-chains trade-fairs, and co-operation with these chains.

-”Perennial of the year”, (for 2013 Calamagrostis acutiflora ‘Overdam’) – and further planning.

-Our common internet-site is www.stauder.net. Growers are asked to update their stock-list before December

-Excursion 2013. We plan to arrange a visit to colleagues abroad in 2013. Several suggestions came up but no definite decisions were made. The board will decide during winter.

-Election of new trial-officer for the ISU-trials. Eva Vike decided to withdraw and Ole Lima was elected to replace her.

- Artsdatabanken (The Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre) have decided to make a list of unwanted plants for the Norwegian flora, the so-called “black-list”. Artsdatabanken suggests that several perennial-plants should be banned because they can compete and replace the native flora. Examples of these may be Aruncus, Lupinus, Vinca. The list is not definite yet, but we are waiting for their final conclusion to adjust our assortment.



September 3rd started with a guided tour in the old town of Fredrikstad which is designed as a fortified town.

Before each of us headed back home, we visited 3 roundabouts close to the neighbouring city Sarpsborg. These roundabouts are part of a co-operation project between the Statens Vegvesen (The Norwegian Public Road Administration), Norsk Gartnerforbund (The Norwegian Nurseryorganisation) and Norges Forskningsråd (The Research Council of Norway) and has gotten considerable attention in the media and from professionals since it was established in the fall 2009. The intention is to show a collection of low maintenance perennial-plants for the Norwegian climate. The roundabouts are considered large in a Norwegian scale and what is also special is that it allows plants taller than the usual limit of 60 cm for these conditions.

http://fagus.no/system/files/publikasjoner/2011-planter-norsk-klima-staudeprosjekter-ved-umb_0.pdf (Please enter the link and scroll down to see pictures 22 to 35)

All Norwegian perennial growers contribute to our common web-page with our individual stock-lists. This is an easy overview for our customers and architects to see who grows what. The list is updated in December and you are welcome to visit www.stauder.net to take a look at what is in our toolbox here.

Stavanger, November 2012
Ole Lima



photo's from Ole Lima and Torunn H.Ljone