



ISU Congress 2012

When Floriade is organized in Holland, it is time for the ISU Congress in the lowlands. So about 1 ½ year before the congress a committee was formed to organize this event. The most important part of the congress should be “looking at plants”, as one of the members of the committee said. So visiting nurseries had to be a fact. Of course Floriade had to be a part of the program and something had to be done with New Plants Trial. The Gardens of Appeltern got involved because of the National Perennial Gardens which are situated there already. Well over 200 new plants were planted there, as you have seen.

The Green City

Because “The Green City” is based on the concept that plants can bring a lot of benefits, the committee decided to use that title for the congress and to try to make a program based on The Green City. That’s why the city of Arnhem was part of the program, since they got a good few awards for the way the town council colours the city green. Besides, the idea was to visit the so called “hidden gardens” in Rotterdam City. It was a pity for us and for the participants that that part of the program could not be realised. However prof. doctor Agnes van den Berg gave a lecture about health and perennials. So it became clear that plants are very important for people and people’s health.

Nurseries

Because of the Floriade in the south of Holland and the busy roads during rush hours, the committee decided to find good accommodation in the middle of the country, with a lot of “green”. Then the growers were asked if the participants of the congress were welcome to visit their nurseries. No problem there, as the participants experienced. So Hessenhof Ede, Florensis Zwijndrecht, Heemskerk Noordwijk, Lucassen Afferden, Decker Jacobs Heythuysen and Alkemade Lisserbroek were the places to go to and to be. Thanks to all of them.

Something else

On request the committee organized the Catwalk to show the participants other possibilities with perennials. Many photos were made that evening. Of course, being in Rotterdam visiting Trompenburg Gardens & Arboretum, a trip through Rotterdam harbour had to be part of the congress. It was a pity that the speakers didn’t produce any sound on that boat. The organizing committee is very sorry about that.

Finally

It was a pleasure to organize the congress, even though it cost a lot of time. The organizing committee likes to thank all the participants, the growers and the sponsors for their cooperation. Just to get some information for the committee in Switzerland, a form with some questions was sent to the participants. The answers will be sent to the board of the ISU and to the Swiss delegation to be some help for any next congresses.

Stichting ISU Congress 2012

J. Hein de Boer secretary.

