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NGTC to offer more perennials at Spring Plant Sale  

Perennials, particularly native grasses and flowering shrubs, will be plentiful at North Georgia Technical College’s Spring Plant Sale this year.  

“We listen and take note of requests made by those who come to our plant sales,” said NGTC Horticulture Instructor Craig Thurmond. “Based on what they told us, this year we are providing a wider variety of perennials and heirloom plants from the area.  We have really focused this sale around community requests. We won’t be able to have every requested plant, but we have worked to provide a wide variety that will please many.”  

Also known as “pass along plants,” several of the heirloom plants are grown from roots or cuttings that are passed from friend to friend and typically not found for sale in nurseries. For example, the Confederate Roses were carefully rooted throughout the winter months and were a particular favorite of the students in the Horticulture program. A member of the hibiscus family, the Confederate Rose blooms white, then turns pink and finally red, creating quite a spectacular flowering event.  

“Last year we offered more annuals than perennials by about fifty percent,” said NGTC Horticulture Lab Assistant John Mather. “This year the perennials will dominate about 75% of what we have to offer. We’ve been working to cultivate a variety of heirloom native flora including pink and yellow Angel Trumpets.”  

Several other new perennials to be offered this year include Wand Flower, Yarrow, Ice Plant, Coreopsis, and Beard’s Tongue. Also, Wall Flower, named because it thrives well in well-drained areas including niches in walls, will be available in a variety of colors.  

The greenhouse is also full of the always popular vegetables including ten varieties of tomatoes, some of which were grown from heirloom seeds. Also squash, zucchini, cucumber, and okra will be on hand along with herbs including basil, oregano, dill, cilantro, chamomile, and more.  

Additional old fashioned Southern favorites such as Red Hot Poker, Lantana, Tri-color Yucca, and Boltonia will be available.  

The NGTC Spring Plant Sale will be held in the greenhouses on the Clarkesville Campus Monday through Thursday, April 20-23, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day. Cash or check only.  

For more information on the Spring Plant Sale at North Georgia Technical College, contact cthurmond@northgatech.edu or visit www.northgatech.edu.  

Photo: Cary Galloway of Clayton getting ready for the Spring Plant Sale.