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Saratoga Horticultural Research Endowment 2020 Progress Report

Expanding user-friendly access to research-based information on actual plant water needs for climate appropriate landscapes

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Progress toward goals

Goal 1: Fill out the UC Landscape Plants Irrigation Trials website with photos and cultural info.

We hired a student and began training her in August. She has added to the website photos, cultural information, and quick access to growth charts and ratings tables for 154 taxa. She is finishing up the early trials information which is in a different format than later reports. Because of her fast and efficient work pace, she has exceeded our expectations and will be able to add links from the Awards pages to the plant profile pages as well. This will greatly enhance the functionality of the website. Before our final report, we will conduct outreach to announce site improvements on our Facebook page and through our other outlets and track any increase in website users for the final report.

Goal 2: Compare our data with WUCOLS recommendations for updating the database.

Extensive review of our data from 2007 to 2019 vis-à-vis current WUCOLS information was conducted by J. Sisneroz and K. Reid. We formatted our results in cooperation with Dave Fujino for updating, editing, and adding 68 new cultivars with cultural information and photos to the WUCOLS database.

J. Sisneroz and K. Reid finalized data collection of the 2018-2020 trial, and after organizing the data, we had our initial 1-hour consultation with UC Davis Stas Lab. In preparation for our next consultation, J. Sisneroz is now formatting the data for the software "R". We will have our next appointment for consultation scheduled before the last week of January. The advice we are receiving will allow us to standardize our results to a high level of confidence.

Obstacles and Expectations: The only obstacles we have encountered have been due to pandemic restrictions that have slowed our projected timeline by about one month. However, we expect to complete the project's objectives well before the grant funding period ends.