

The Prairie Garden Award For Excellence 2007

The Prairie Garden Award for Excellence for 2007 was presented to the Southwest Farm Women's Network Garden Tour at a luncheon, Tuesday, August 28, 2007 at Breezy Bend Country Club, Winnipeg, MB. This is the eighth year the Award will be given by The Prairie Garden Committee (a group of volunteers which publishes an annual gardening book).



Southwest Farm Women's Network Garden Tour (l-r) Hazel Lamont, Sandra Armitage, Collette Pierce and Kathy Heaman

The Prairie Garden Award for Excellence is awarded to an individual or group making a significant contribution to the advancement and/or promotion of horticulture on the Northern Great Plains. Areas of involvement may include community activity, plant introduction or breeding, preservation of horticultural sites, teaching, research, extension or photography.

The Southwest Farm Women's Network, which began in 1989, represents women in all areas of the agriculture industry; farmers, full-time mothers, retired individuals, and professionals of the southwest regions' MAFRI (Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives) offices. The Mission Statement of the Southwest Farm Women's Network is: To address challenges farm & rural women face within their families, communities, and the agriculture industry through education, support, and sharing.

Specifically the nomination for The Prairie Garden Award for Excellence stated: "One of the of the sub-committees and projects that this group has undertaken for the last four years has

been to organize a summer yard and garden tour. It has included farm yards as well as some town yards. Some of these farm yards are examples of landscaping that has been started 40 (or more) years ago, with shelterbelts, vegetable gardens, and flowers and shrubs. Some are new farm yards, with just beginning gardens.

Participants on these tours can expect to see areas of their province in detail that they would not otherwise have an opportunity to explore. They learn about the particular challenges in growing in that area, see a huge variety of plants, shrubs, and trees, ranging from heritage varieties to the newest promotions."

Look for a detailed story about The Southwest Farm Women's Network in the "2008 Prairie Garden" which should be in your local bookstore or garden centre by mid-December 2007.

Nominations will be accepted for the 2008 award in the spring of 2008, and may be sent to: The Prairie Garden Awards Board, P.O. Box 517, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2J3. More information about the award and previous winners can be seen on our Web site: www.theprairiegarden.ca.