

Alberta Breeder in the News

In mid-September, the Edmonton Journal did an article on COPF member and grant recipient, Cathy Knoblauch of McLeod Valley Greenhouses. It was called "Alberta grower sets begonia world abuzz - New species would be first since 1950s". In Vancouver, The Province also ran the story.

Cathy Knoblauch has successfully crossed begonias resulting in a new hybrid. It's been kept under wraps while being tested in North America and Europe. The new series won't be released for a year or two. McLeod Valley has received several thousand dollars in grants from COPF in recent years to support this important breakthrough. Dr. Mohyuddin Mirza, a greenhouse industry specialist with Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Research Council have been instrumental in furthering Cathy's breeding work which also includes petunias.

Marketing and patent protection are being handled by Planthaven, in consultation with COPF.



Cathy and her husband Grant have been running their retail outlet, a couple of hours northwest of Edmonton, since 1979. She is a native of Dawson Creek, British Columbia and comes from a family with a long growing tradition.