

Dakota Goldrush™ and Dakota Sunspot™

New Potentillas for Prairie Landscapes

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The Department of Horticulture and Forestry announces the release of two new potentilla varieties adapted for the upper midwest and prairie states. *Potentilla fruticosa* 'Absaraka' Dakota Goldrush™ and *Potentilla fruticosa* 'Fargo' Dakota Sunspot™ were selected from a population of open pollinated seedlings. The seed was harvested from the potentilla collection at the Horticultural Research Farm near Absaraka. The seedlings were grown in the greenhouse and transplanted to the field in 1986. Selections were made for long bloom periods, dwarf growth habit and freedom from insects and disease.

The woody potentillas or bush cinquefoils are native to the northern hemisphere and are found growing under harsh environmental conditions. Their durability and hardiness makes them ideally suited as subjects for northern prairie landscapes. Although a large number of cultivars are available in the nursery trade, many of them are prone to injury from iron chlorosis, powdery mildew and spider mites. These maladies detract from the ornamental value of these shrubs at the end of the summer. The two varieties described in this release appear to be free from these problems and well adapted to the prairie climate.

Dakota Goldrush™ potentilla is a compact shrub that will mature at 3-3½ feet tall with a spread of 4-5 feet. It has deep blue-green, 1-inch leaves that retain their color throughout the growing season. The flowers are profuse, yellow-gold and 1-1½ inches across. Dakota Goldrush continues to flower until killing frosts occur. Dakota Goldrush is similar to the variety 'Jackmanii'

but appears to be more dwarf and to flower more profusely at the end of the season.

Dakota Sunspot™ potentilla is a compact shrub that will mature at 2½-3 feet tall and have a spread of 3-4 feet. Its leaves are a bright green and are very small. The half-inch wide leaves are distributed the full length of the branches. It flowers very profusely from late spring until killing frosts in the fall. The flowers are less than 1 inch across and are a deep golden color. Dakota Sunspot is most like the variety 'Hurstbourne' but is more dwarf and has larger flowers.

Dakota Goldrush™ and Dakota Sunspot™ potentillas will be released to the nursery trade under a propagation agreement. The names will be trade mark protected. For other information, please contact the senior author at the Department of Horticulture and Forestry.

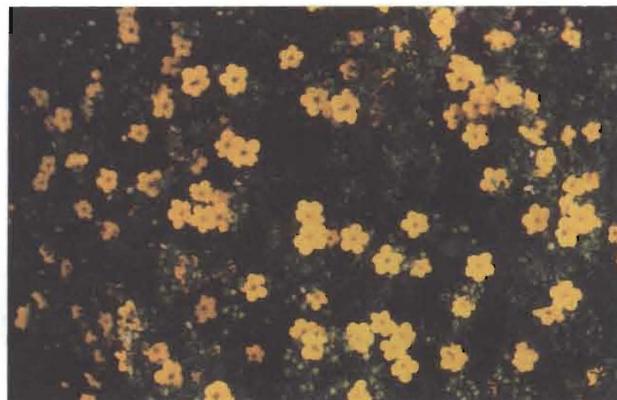
Height and spread of potentilla cultivars and selections after four growing seasons.

Cultivar	Height (in.)	Spread (in.)
Jackmani	32*	43*
Snowbird	30	37
Hurstbourne	30	46
Dakota Sunspot™	20	36
Dakota Goldrush™	26	42

*Average of four plants.



Dakota Goldrush™ potentilla.



Dakota Sunspot™ potentilla.

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