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#### CURRENT ISSUE



News this week sponsored by: **Aris**

## Colorado Grower/Retailer Named First Sustainable Garden Center Nationally

August 24, 2009

Tagawa Gardens in Centennial, Colo. (near Denver) is the first U.S. retail grower and garden center to attain [VeriFlora](#) sustainability certification. The company recently received a certificate of "Sustainably Produced" by Scientific Certification Systems, in compliance with the Veriflora standard.

To attain certification, growers must meet leading-edge environmental protection requirements addressing such issues as pest management, media fertility, production yields, energy efficiency, carbon footprints, integrated waste management, water conservation and ecosystem protection.

Tagawa Gardens participates in a number of retail sustainability programs such as a garden plastic recycling program for the public (in conjunction with [Garden Centers of Colorado](#)), an in-house logo for "Earth & Paw Friendly" fertilizers and insecticides, and a wide array of locally produced, USDA Certified Organic plant materials.

VeriFlora certification also requires a commitment to people: "Promoting a healthy, equitable workplace that supports farmers, workers, their families and the community." With this in mind, Tagawa also strives to employ effective business production and retailing methods and maintain the highest standards for employee benefits and community outreach. The garden center offers classes and guest lecturers, most of which is free to the public. The company supports local nonprofits with outreach ambassadors, elementary-school tours of the facilities to providing fundraising opportunities to garden clubs throughout the city.

For more information, visit Tagawa Gardens' website at [www.tagawagardens.com](http://www.tagawagardens.com).