

Ohio State University Extension
2009 Herbaceous Ornamental Field Trial Results
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Introduction

Annual field trials have been conducted by Clark County Extension staff and Master Gardener volunteers in Springfield, Ohio since 1995. Master Gardener Volunteers Barbara Brown, Nancy Best and Sally Day co-chaired the project. The field trial plots are located in the Gateway Learning Gardens and are planted and maintained by volunteers. Approximately 40 volunteers work on this project, starting plugs and seeds in the greenhouse, planting the trials, and weeding the plots.

The plots are typical of the west-central Ohio area; the soil is predominantly clay with a pH of 7.3. The current plots were established in the fall of 1996. The beds were tilled to a depth of 14" and 2" of compost was added. Compost was added when new beds were established; additional compost is added every 3 years. It was last added to all beds in the spring of 2006. There is approximately 5000 square feet of bed space in full sun and approximately 1000 square feet in shade.

The selection of plants to be trialed in the garden varies from year to year. The selection is based on entries from seed companies, performance in prior years, on current trends, and on industry recommendations. The results of performance for the plants are based on the data collected at the plots. The data reflects the growing conditions of 2009. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide growers, landscapers, and homeowners a guide for plant selection for Ohio as well as to provide performance data to the breeders and seed companies.

Method

The plants were started from seeds or plugs, depending on the species, according to the recommended starting dates. They were planted in the plots on May 21, 2009. Rows were spaced 1.5' apart with 6

plants of each variety in a row. Trailing or vining plants were spaced 1.5' apart in the row with 4' between rows.

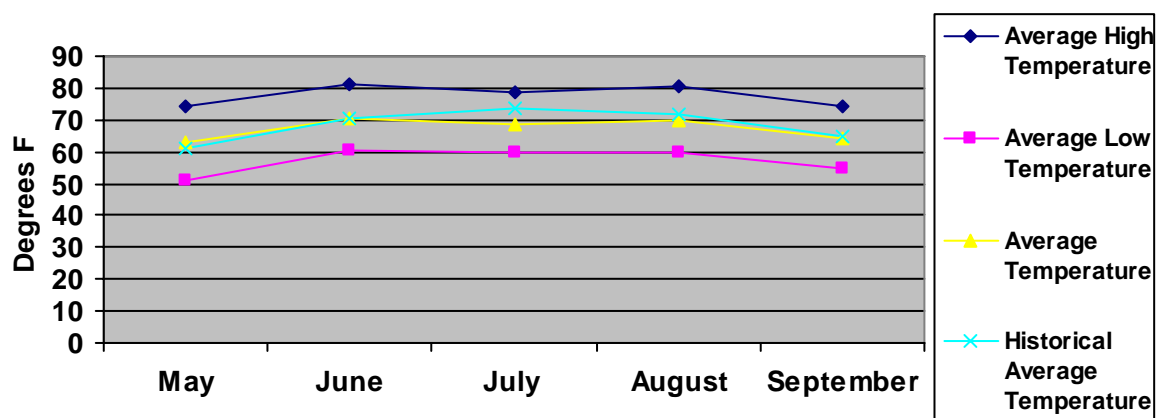
Osmocote™ (14-14-14) fertilizer was incorporated into the soil prior to planting at the labeled rate. No additional applications of fertilizer were made. Irrigation was applied during dry periods in order to prevent wilt. See the weather information below for details. No mulch was used; Treflan (e.g. trifluralin) was incorporated in between the rows 6 weeks after planting. Hand weeding was completed as needed. Plants were grown in full sun, unless otherwise indicated. (Note, the plants in **BOLD** in the list below were those in the shade house). The material for the shade house provided a 70% shade. No insecticides or fungicides were applied. *The plants were not deadheaded or pruned during the growing season.*

Three people conducted visual evaluations in June, July, August, and September. The entire row was given a visual rating from 1 to 5. If there were less than 3 plants remaining in one row at any time during the evaluation, the variety was dropped from the trials and the result is listed as “dead.” A rating of 5 was considered to be excellent and a rating of 1 was considered to be poor. The 3 individual evaluation ratings were averaged for the monthly rating figure. The monthly evaluations (June-September) were averaged for the overall rating for each variety.

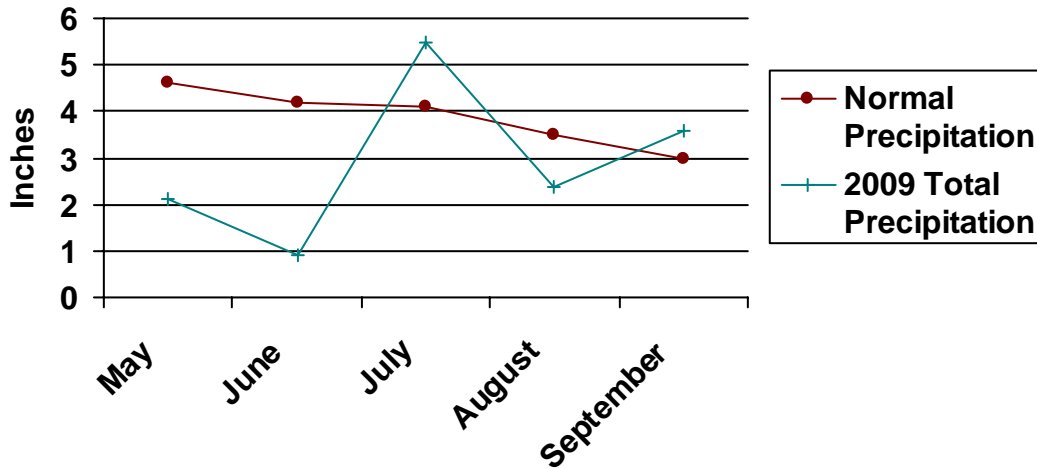
Weather Information

Precipitation at planting time in May was below normal and average temperatures were slightly above the historical average temperature (HAT). The annuals were planted under good soil conditions; plants were irrigated in the first weeks in order to establish a good root system. Average temperatures in June were comparable to the HAT and rainfall was well below normal. July average temperatures were below the HAT and rainfall for the month was above normal. August average temperatures were slightly below the HAT and rainfall was below normal. In September, the average temperature was slightly below the HAT and rainfall was slightly above average. In 2009 there were no days with above 90°F, in 2008 8 days were over 90°F compared to 23 days 2007, 24 days in 2006, and 26 days in 2005. This growing season started out somewhat dry in May and June, slightly wet in July, slightly dry in August and close to normal in September in terms of soil moisture. *Figure 1 indicates temperature conditions and Figure 2 indicates rainfall amounts for this growing season.*

2009 Temperatures



2009 Rainfall



Results

Following are the varieties in the 2008 field trials and their monthly ratings and overall rating. The plants listed in **BOLD** are those varieties that were grown under the shade structure (70% shade cloth).

The supplier for each variety is listed in the table; the supplier key is at the end. The plants are listed in order of Overall Rating from highest to lowest. A rating of 5 is the highest; a rating of 1 is the lowest.

5.00 – 4.50 | 4.49 – 4.00 | 3.99 – 3.00 | 2.99 – 1.50 | 1.49 - Dead

2009 Field Trial Results OSUE Clark County

Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	August	September	Final Rating
Coleus	Versa	Burgundy to Green	PAS	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Coleus	ColorBlaze™	Royal Glissade™	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.83
Impatiens	Super Elfin XP®	Rose Imp.	PAS	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.33	4.83
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Bubblegum	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Coleus		Trusty Rusty	PAS	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Silverberry	PW	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75
Euphorbia		Diamond Frost®	PW	4.33	4.63	5.00	5.00	4.74
Sweet Potato Vine	Chillin™	Blackberry Heart	PS	4.67	4.33	4.67	5.00	4.67
Sweet Potato Vine	Desana	Compact Red	JP	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67
Cyperus papyrus	Graceful Grasses™	King Tut®	PW	4.00	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.67
Euphorbia	Breathless	White	PAS	3.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.67
Cleome	Senorita™	Rosalita	PW	3.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.58
Carex	Graceful Grasses™	Toffee Twist	PW	3.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.58
Elephant Ear		Heart of the Jungle	PS	3.67	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.58
Petunia	Supertunia®	Lavender Skies	PW	3.67	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.58

Cyperus involucretes	Graceful Grasses™	Baby Tut™	PW	4.00	5.00	4.33	5.00	4.58
Euphorbia	Breathless	Blush	PAS	3.33	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.50
Coleus	Versa	Crimson Gold	PAS	4.33	4.67	4.33	4.67	4.50
Sweet Potato Vine	Illusion	Midnight Lace	PW	4.33	4.00	4.67	5.00	4.50
Coleus		Red Head	PAS	3.67	4.33	4.67	5.00	4.42
Sweet Potato Vine	Chillin™	Limeade	PS	4.00	4.33	4.67	4.67	4.42
Fountain Grass	Graceful Grasses™	Red Riding Hood	PW	3.00	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.42
Gomphrena		Fireworks	PAS	2.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.42
Talinum		Verde	PAS	2.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.33
Zinnia	Zahara	Starlight Rose	PAS	2.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.33
Sweet Alyssum		Snow Princess	PW	3.67	3.67	5.00	5.00	4.33
Lobelia	Laguna™	Heavenly Lilac	PW	4.33	5.00	4.00	4.00	4.33
Sweet Potato Vine	Desana	Maple	JP	4.33	4.00	4.33	4.67	4.33
Millet	Jade	Princess	PAS	3.67	5.00	4.67	4.00	4.33
Dracaena	Cordylena	Bloodstone	PS	3.67	4.67	4.00	4.67	4.25
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Scarlet	PW	3.67	4.00	4.33	5.00	4.25
Nierembergia	Augusta	Blue Skies	PW	3.00	4.33	5.00	4.67	4.25
Sweet Potato Vine	Chillin™	Blackberry Star	PS	4.67	3.33	4.33	4.67	4.25
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Yellow Chiffon	PW	4.00	4.67	4.33	3.67	4.17
Sweet Potato Vine	Illusion	Emerald Lace	PW	3.33	4.00	4.67	4.67	4.17
Dahlia	Dalina®	Toluca	PS	3.33	4.67	4.33	4.33	4.17
Coleus	ColorBlaze™	Dipt in Wine	PW	4.33	3.67	4.33	4.33	4.17
Dahlia	Dalina®	Tampico	PS	3.00	4.67	3.67	5.00	4.08
Dahlia	Dalina®	Colima	PS	3.33	4.67	3.67	4.67	4.08
Nierembergia	Summer Splash	Light Blue	JP	3.67	4.33	4.00	4.33	4.08
Petunia		Pretty Much Picasso	PW	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.33	4.08
Vinca	Pacific XP	Cranberry	PAS	2.33	4.67	4.33	4.67	4.00
Calibrachoa	Super Bells®	Lavender	PW	4.33	5.00	3.33	3.33	4.00
Petunia	Easy Wave®	Burgundy Star	PAS	2.67	4.67	4.67	4.00	4.00
Verbena	Temari	Cherry Red	JP	3.67	4.33	5.00	3.00	4.00
Sweet Potato	Desana	Bronze	JP	4.33	3.67	3.67	4.33	4.00
Petunia	Easy Wave®	Plum Vein	PAS	3.33	4.67	4.33	3.33	3.92
Coleus	ColorBlaze™	Sedona	PW	4.67	3.67	4.33	2.33	3.75
Geranium	Daredevil™	Rosita	PW	2.33	5.00	3.00	4.67	3.75
Nierembergia	Summer Splash	White	JP	3.00	4.67	3.67	3.67	3.75
Coleus	ColorBlaze™	Lifeline	PW	4.00	4.00	3.33	3.67	3.75
Coleus	Versa	Lime	PAS	3.33	4.33	3.67	3.67	3.75
Coleus	ColorBlaze™	Dark Star	PW	3.67	3.33	3.67	4.00	3.67
Coleus	ColorBlaze™	Kingswood Torch	PW	4.33	3.67	3.00	3.67	3.67
Gaillardia	Mesa	Yellow	PAS	2.33	4.00	3.33	4.67	3.58
Calibrachoa	Super Bells®	Yellow	PW	4.00	4.00	3.33	3.00	3.58
Petunia	Shock Wave™	Denim	PAS	3.00	3.67	4.33	3.33	3.58
Verbena	Superbena®	Pink Parfait	PW	2.67	4.67	5.00	2.00	3.58
Verbena	Superbena®	Coral Red Imp.	PW	2.33	5.00	5.00	2.00	3.58
Chrysocephalum	Flambe™	Orange	PW	2.00	3.67	4.00	4.67	3.58
Torenia	Summer Wave	White	JP	2.67	4.00	2.67	5.00	3.58
Zinnia	Zahara	Fire	PAS	2.33	4.67	3.67	3.67	3.58
Geranium	Daredevil™	Salmon	PW	3.00	3.67	2.67	4.67	3.50
Geranium	Daredevil™	Claret	PW	3.33	3.67	2.67	4.33	3.50
Petunia	Easy Wave®	White Imp.	PAS	3.00	4.67	3.67	2.67	3.50
Marigold	African Taishan	Gold	PAS	3.67	4.67	3.00	2.33	3.42
Marigold	African Taishan	Orange	PAS	3.67	4.67	3.00	2.33	3.42
Laurentia		Beth's Blue	PS	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.33	3.33
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Saffron	PW	3.33	3.00	4.00	3.00	3.33

Coleus	Versa	Rose to Lime	PAS	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33
Torenia	Summer Wave	Pale Lilac	JP	3.00	3.67	2.33	4.33	3.33
Chrysocephalum	Flambe™	Yellow	PW	3.33	3.67	3.67	2.33	3.25
Geranium	Daredevil™	Orchid Splash	PW	2.00	3.67	3.00	4.33	3.25
Crassula		Shark's Tooth	BFP	3.00	2.33	3.33	4.00	3.17
Torenia	Summer Wave	Large Silver	JP	2.33	4.00	2.33	4.00	3.17
Dianthus	Bouquet™	Rose	PAS	3.00	5.00	2.67	2.00	3.17
Petunia	Sun Spun	Burgundy	PAS	3.33	2.33	3.67	3.00	3.08
Oenothera		Lemon Dry®	PW	2.67	4.33	3.33	1.67	3.00
Marigold	African Taishan	Yellow	PAS	3.67	3.67	2.33	2.33	3.00
Flowering Tobacco	Starmaker	Deep Lime	PAS	4.00	4.33	1.67	2.00	3.00
Twinspur	Flirtation	Orange	PW	4.00	3.33	1.33	3.00	2.92
Scirpus	Graceful Grasses™	Fiber Optic Grasses	PW	4.33	3.67	2.33	1.33	2.92
Calibrachoa		Cabaret Red	BFP	3.33	3.67	2.67	2.00	2.92
Torenia	Summer Wave	Silver	JP	2.67	3.33	2.00	3.67	2.92
Million Bells		Magenta Pink	JP	3.00	3.67	3.33	1.33	2.83
Dianthus	Pizzazz	Pink	PS	3.67	3.33	2.67	1.67	2.83
Lantana	Lucky	Pure Gold	BFP	2.33	2.00	2.67	4.33	2.83
Geranium	Daredevil™	Fire	PW	3.33	3.00	1.67	3.00	2.75
Flowering Tobacco	Starmaker	Bight Red	PAS	3.67	4.00	1.33	1.67	2.67
Geranium	Daredevil™	Snow	PW	2.67	2.67	2.00	3.33	2.67
Verbena	Temari	Violet	JP	2.67	3.00	3.33	1.67	2.67
Coleus	Versa	Watermelon	PAS	2.00	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.75
Delphinium	Diamonds	Blue	PAS	1.33	1.00	1.00	3.00	1.58
Cuphea		Totally Tempted™	PW	2.33	2.33	0.67	dead	dead
Osteospermum	Voltage	Yellow	PAS	2.00	2.33	1.33	dead	dead
Flowering Tobacco	Starmaker	White	PAS	4.00	3.33	1.33	dead	dead
Flowering Tobacco	Starmaker	Rose	PAS	4.67	3.33	1.33	dead	dead
Flowering Tobacco	Starmaker	Pink Picotee	PAS	4.00	3.00	1.33	dead	dead
Flowering Tobacco	Starmaker	Appleblossum	PAS	2.67	2.33	1.00	dead	dead
Million Bells		White	JP	3.00	4.00	3.33	dead	dead
Million Bells	Terra	Red	JP	3.00	2.00	2.33	dead	dead
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Dreamsicle	PW	4.00	4.67	3.33	dead	dead
Calibrachoa	Can Can	Strawberry	BFP	2.67	3.00	2.00	dead	dead
Calibrachoa	Can Can	Apricot	BFP	2.67	3.00	3.00	dead	dead
Bacopa	Snowstorm®	Blue	PW	3.00	2.33	1.00	dead	dead
Bacopa	Snowstorm®	Pink Imp.	PW	3.33	3.00	1.00	dead	dead
Petunia	Sun Spun	Yellow	PAS	1.67	1.00	1.67	dead	dead
Petunia	Sophistica	Blue Morn	PAS	2.00	2.67	2.67	dead	dead
Petunia	Sophistica	Lime Bicolor	PAS	3.67	4.00	2.67	dead	dead
Petunia	Sophistica	Antique Shades	PAS	3.33	4.67	2.67	dead	dead
Petunia	Dreams	Coral Morn	PAS	3.67	4.00	1.67	dead	dead
Petunia	Debonair	Lime Green	PAS	3.00	4.67	1.67	dead	dead
Petunia	Debonair	Dusty Rose	PAS	3.33	5.00	3.67	dead	dead
Calibrachoa	Can Can	Orange	BFP	3.33	2.33	dead	dead	dead
Lobelia	Laguna™	Sky Blue	PW	4.33	3.33	dead	dead	dead
Helichrysum	Silver Leaf	Yellow	JP	1.00	1.33	dead	dead	dead
Viola	Violina	Cobalt Blue	JP	1.00	1.00	dead	dead	dead
Phlox	Intensia®	White Imp.	PW	1.67	dead	dead	dead	dead
Phlox	Intensia®	Orchid Blast	PW	1.67	dead	dead	dead	dead

Suppliers:

PAS - Pan American Seed – (<http://www.panamseed.com>)
PW - Proven Winners – (<http://www.provenwinners.com>)
PS - Proven Selections – (<http://www.provenselections.com>)
BFP - Ball Flora Plant – (<http://www.ballfloraplant.com>)
JP - Jackson Perkins/Suntory – (<http://www.suntorycollection.net>)
JP - Jackson Perkins/D.S. Cole – (<http://www.dscolegrowers.com>)
Danziger Dan – (<http://www.danziger.co.il>)
Fides N.A. – (<http://www.fidesnorthamerica.com>)
Goldsmith Seeds – (<http://www.goldsmithseeds.com>)