



Ohio State University Extension
2011 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 (MGV) in Springfield, Ohio since 1995. MGVs Sally Day and Marilyn Hinderer were co-chairs of the project. The field trial plots are located in the Gateway Learning Gardens in Springfield, Ohio. Approximately 40 volunteers work on this project, starting plugs and seeds in the greenhouse, planting the trials, and weeding the plots.

The plots have soil that is typical of the west-central Ohio area, 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 3" of compost added. Three inches of additional compost is added every 3 years with the addition occurring in the fall of 2009 and another one will be made in fall 2012. 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 2011. 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 26, 2011. Rows were spaced 2' apart with 6 plants of each variety in a row; the plants in each row were spaced 1.5' apart. Trailing or vining plants were spaced 1.5' apart in the row with 4' between rows.

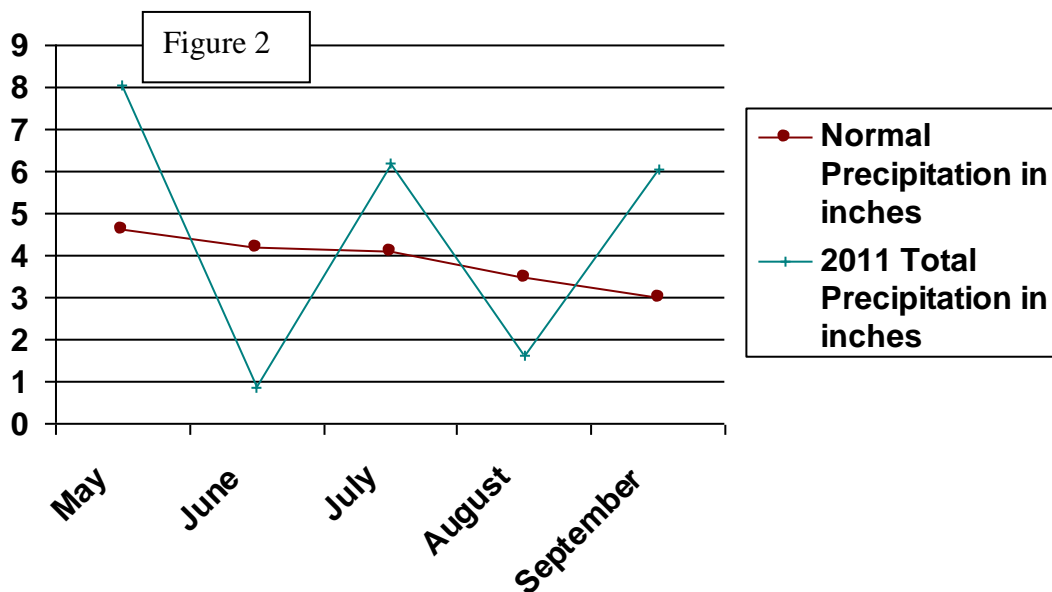
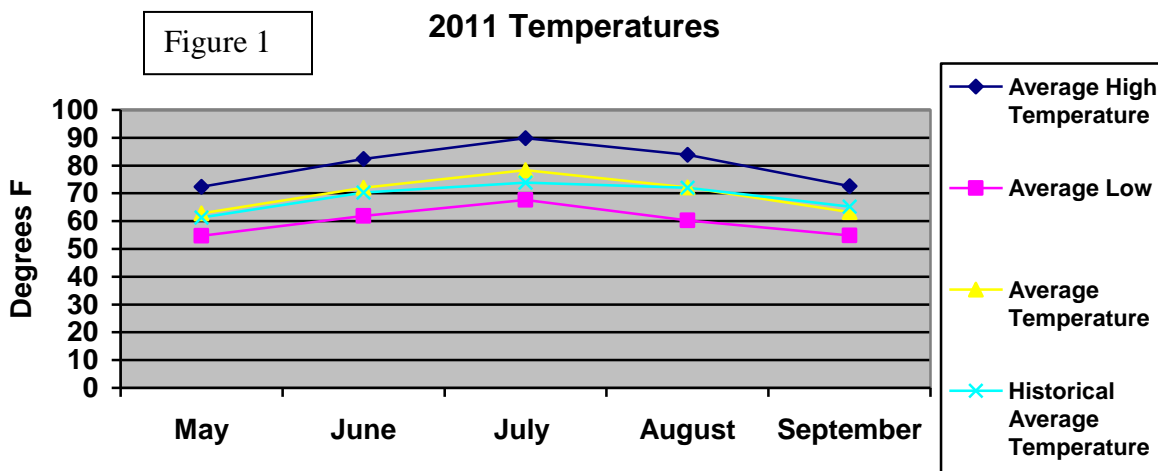
Osmocote™ (14-14-14) fertilizer was incorporated into the soil prior to planting at the labeled rate. No additional applications of fertilizer were made. Irrigation was applied during dry periods in order to prevent wilt. See the weather information below for details. No mulch was used. Treflan (e.g. 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 above normal and average temperatures were 9°F above the historical average temperature (HAT) for this time period. The annuals were planted under good soil conditions; plants were irrigated in the first weeks in order to establish the root system. Additional irrigation was supplied in June, late July and in August because of hot, dry 90°F days. Average temperatures in June were still above HAT and rainfall was well below normal. July average temperatures were well above the HAT and rainfall for the month was also above normal. August average temperatures were still above the HAT and rainfall was below normal. In September, the average temperature was well above the HAT and rainfall was well above average. In 2011 there were 31 days with temperatures above 90°F. This compares to 21 days above 90°F in 2010, 0 days in 2009, 8 days 2008, and 22 days in 2007. This growing season started out wet in May, dry in June, wet in July, dry in August, and wet in September in terms of soil moisture. *Figure 1 indicates temperature conditions and Figure 2 indicates rainfall amounts for this growing season.*



Results

Following are the varieties in the 2011 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.

Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	Aug	Sep	Final Rating
Petunia	Blanket™	Purple	MVG	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sweet Potato Vine	Illusion™	Midnight Lace	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline™	Raven	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline™	Bronze	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Fountain Grass	Graceful Grasses™	Vertigo	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Euphorbia		Diamond Frost®	PW	5.00	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.92
Sweet Potato Vine	Illusion™	Garnet Lace	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Silverberry	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Petunia	Blanket™	Zinfandel	MVG	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.83
Sweet Potato Vine	Illusion™	Emerald Lace	PW	4.67	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.83
Cyperus	Graceful Grasses™	Baby Tut™	PW	4.67	5.00	4.67	5.00	4.83
Alyssum		Snow Princess®	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Bubblegum	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Lobelia		Blue Hope	MVG	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.33	4.75
Plectranthus		Cervasa n' Lime	PW	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75
Euphorbia		Hip Hop	MVG	5.00	5.00	4.00	5.00	4.75
Petunia	Surfinia®	Blue Vein	MVG	4.33	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.75
Lantana	Athens	Rose	MVG	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75
Petunia	Surfinia®	Magenta	MVG	4.33	4.67	4.67	5.00	4.67
Petunia	Supertunia®	Sangria Charm	PW	4.67	4.33	4.67	5.00	4.67
Petunia	Blanket™	White	MVG	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.33	4.67
Coleus	ColorBlaze™	Alligator Tears	PW	4.33	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.67
Hibiscus		Mahogany Splendor	PAS	3.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.67
Nierembergia	Augusta®	Blue Skies	PW	3.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.58
Juncus	Graceful Grasses™	Blue Mohawk	PW	3.67	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.58
Cleome		Senorita Rosalita	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	3.33	4.50
Coleus	ColorBlaze™	Mocha Velvet	PW	4.67	4.33	4.67	4.33	4.50
Angelonia	Archangel™	Pink	BFP	4.33	3.67	5.00	5.00	4.50
Angelonia	Serena™	Blue	PAS	5.00	3.00	5.00	5.00	4.50
Cyperus	Graceful Grasses™	King Tut™	PW	3.33	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.42
Lantana	Luscious®	Citrus Blend	PW	3.67	4.00	5.00	5.00	4.42
Dichondra		Silver Falls	MVG	4.00	4.33	5.00	4.33	4.42
Petunia	Surfinia®	White	MVG	4.67	4.67	4.00	4.00	4.33
Angelonia	Archangel™	White	BFP	4.67	2.67	5.00	5.00	4.33
Nierembergia	Augusta®	Blue Skies	PW	2.67	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.33
Coleus		Wasabi	BFP	5.00	4.33	4.33	3.67	4.33
New Guinea Impatiens	Harmony®	Orange	MVG	4.33	5.00	4.00	4.00	4.33
Petunia	Supertunia®	Raspberry Blast	PW	4.00	4.67	4.33	4.33	4.33
Petunia	Supertunia®	White Russian	PW	4.00	4.33	4.33	4.67	4.33

Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	Aug	Sep	Final Rating
Petunia	Blanket™	Rose	MVG	4.33	5.00	4.67	3.00	4.25
Gaillardia	Mesa™	Bright Bicolor	PAS	3.00	5.00	4.67	4.33	4.25
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Miss Lilac	PW	3.00	5.00	4.67	4.33	4.25
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Cherry Star	PW	4.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	4.25
Lantana	Luscious®	Lemonade	PW	4.00	3.00	5.00	5.00	4.25
Coleus		Sultana	BFP	4.33	4.00	4.67	3.67	4.17
Impatiens	Dazzler®	Coral Splash	PAS	3.33	4.33	4.33	4.67	4.17
Impatiens	Patchwork™	Lavender	BFP	4.00	4.33	3.67	4.67	4.17
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Coralberry Punch	PW	4.00	3.67	4.67	4.00	4.08
Angelonia	Archangel™	Purple	BFP	4.00	2.67	4.67	5.00	4.08
Mecardonia		GoldDust™	PW	4.33	2.33	4.67	5.00	4.08
Impatiens	Rockapulco®	Coral Reef	PW	3.67	4.00	4.00	4.67	4.08
Impatiens	Super Elfin®	Salmon Splash XP	PAS	3.33	4.33	4.00	4.67	4.08
Lantana	Luscious®	Tropical Fruit	PW	3.67	3.00	4.67	5.00	4.08
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Tequila Sunrise Imp.	PW	4.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	4.00
Calibrachoa	Noa®	Blue Legend	MVG	4.33	5.00	3.67	3.00	4.00
New Guinea Impatiens	Harmony®	Raspberry Cream	MVG	4.00	4.00	3.33	4.33	3.92
Lantana	Luscious®	Grape	PW	3.67	2.67	4.33	5.00	3.92
Marigold	Bonanza	Deep Orange	PAS	3.67	4.00	4.33	3.33	3.83
New Guinea Impatiens	Infinity®	Electric Cherry	PW	3.33	3.00	4.00	5.00	3.83
Lantana		Berry Blend	MVG	3.33	2.00	5.00	5.00	3.83
Dahlia	Dalina®	Grande Toluca	PW	3.00	5.00	3.67	3.67	3.83
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Apricot Punch	PW	4.00	4.33	3.67	3.33	3.83
Calibrachoa	Noa®	Yellow	MVG	4.00	4.67	3.33	3.00	3.75
Petunia	Suncatcher™	Pink Lemonade	BFP	4.33	4.67	3.33	2.67	3.75
Angelonia	Angelface®	Pink	PW	4.00	2.00	4.00	5.00	3.75
Verbena	Superbena®	Burgundy	PW	2.67	2.33	4.67	5.00	3.67
Angelonia	Archangel™	Raspberry	BFP	4.00	2.67	3.33	4.67	3.67
Verbena	Temari®	Red	MVG	3.67	2.33	5.00	3.67	3.67
Petunia	Surfinia®	Red	MVG	3.33	4.33	4.00	3.00	3.67
New Guinea Impatiens	Harmony®	Dark Red	MVG	3.33	3.33	3.67	4.00	3.58
Lantana	Lucky™	Lemon Glow	BFP	2.67	2.33	4.33	5.00	3.58
Dahlia	Dalina®	Grande Colima	PW	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.50
Petunia	Shock Wave®	Red	PAS	3.33	4.33	3.33	2.67	3.42
New Guinea Impatiens	Harmony®	White	MVG	4.00	3.67	3.33	2.67	3.42
Incarvillea		Chevron Pink	PAS	3.00	2.67	4.33	3.67	3.42
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Blackberry Punch	PW	3.00	4.33	3.33	3.00	3.42
Zea Mays	Zea	Field of Dreams	FN	3.67	4.67	4.33	0.67	3.33
Dahlia	Dalina®	Mariana	PW	3.00	4.00	3.67	2.67	3.33
Dahlia	Dalina®	Grande Tampico	PW	3.00	3.67	4.00	2.67	3.33
Geranium	Frenza™	Fire	BFP	3.00	2.33	5.00	2.67	3.25
Torenia		Summer Wave®	MVG	2.33	2.33	4.00	4.33	3.25
Laurentia		Beth's Blue®	PW	2.67	2.33	4.33	3.50	3.21
Moss Rose	Happy Hour	Banana	PAS	3.00	3.00	4.00	2.67	3.17
Moss Rose	Happy Hour	Peppermint	PAS	3.00	3.00	4.00	2.67	3.17
Moss Rose	Happy Hour	Fuchsia	PAS	3.00	3.00	4.00	2.67	3.17
Verbena	Superbena®	Large Lilac Blue	PW	2.33	1.67	5.00	3.67	3.17

Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	Aug	Sep	Final Rating
Verbena	Superbena®	Royale Chambray	PW	3.00	1.33	4.33	3.67	3.08
New Guinea Impatiens	Infinity®	Electric Coral	PW	3.33	3.33	3.00	2.33	3.00
New Guinea Impatiens	Infinity®	Salmon Bisque	PW	3.00	3.00	3.67	2.33	3.00
Scaevola	Surdiva®	Blue	MVG	3.00	3.00	2.33	3.67	3.00
Leycesteria		Jealousy	PAS	3.00	2.67	2.67	3.67	3.00
Moss Rose	Happy Hour	Coconut	PAS	3.00	3.33	3.00	2.33	2.92
Geranium	Frenza™	Dark Red	BFP	3.00	2.00	3.67	3.00	2.92
Dahlia	Dalina®	Midi Fiji	PW	2.67	3.67	2.67	2.33	2.83
Moss Rose	Happy Hour	Orange	PAS	3.33	2.33	3.33	2.33	2.83
Dahlia	Dalina®	Sumatra Midi	PW	3.00	4.33	2.33	1.67	2.83
Verbena	Tukana®	Scarlet Star	PW	2.67	1.67	4.00	3.00	2.83
Moss Rose	Happy Hour	Deep Red	PAS	2.67	2.33	3.67	2.67	2.83
Verbena	Superbena®	Coral Red	PW	2.67	1.67	3.00	4.00	2.83
New Guinea Impatiens	Infinity®	Lavender Improved	PW	3.33	2.67	2.67	2.33	2.75
Geranium	Frenza™	Hot Coral	BFP	3.00	2.00	4.00	1.67	2.67
Torenia	Kauai	White	PAS	2.33	2.00	3.00	3.00	2.58
Moss Rose	Happy Hour	Lemon	PAS	3.00	2.00	2.67	2.67	2.58
Moss Rose	Happy Hour	Rosita	PAS	3.00	1.67	2.67	2.67	2.50
Verbena	Aztec®	Burgundy	BFP	2.67	1.00	3.00	3.33	2.50
Torenia		Grape-O-Licious®	PW	1.33	1.33	3.00	4.00	2.42
Verbena	Superbena®	Royale Peachy Keen	PW	2.00	1.33	3.00	2.67	2.25
Torenia	Kauai	Rose	PAS	2.00	2.33	3.00	0.67	2.00
Torenia	Kauai	Burgundy	PAS	1.33	1.67	3.00	1.67	1.92
Torenia	Kauai	Magenta	PAS	2.00	2.33	3.00	0.33	1.92
Torenia	Kauai	Deep Blue	PAS	1.33	1.33	3.00	1.67	1.83
Torenia	Kauai	Lemon Drop	PAS	1.33	1.00	3.00	1.33	1.67

Seed Companies

BFP = BFP

PanAmerican Seed Company = PAS

PW = PW

Suntory Flowers Ltd. = SUN

Flornova = FN

Plants donated by Meadowview Growers = MVG