



Ohio State University Extension
2012 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. MGV Marilyn Hinderer was the 2012 project chair. 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 was added every 3 years with the last addition occurring in the fall of 2009. 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 2012. 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

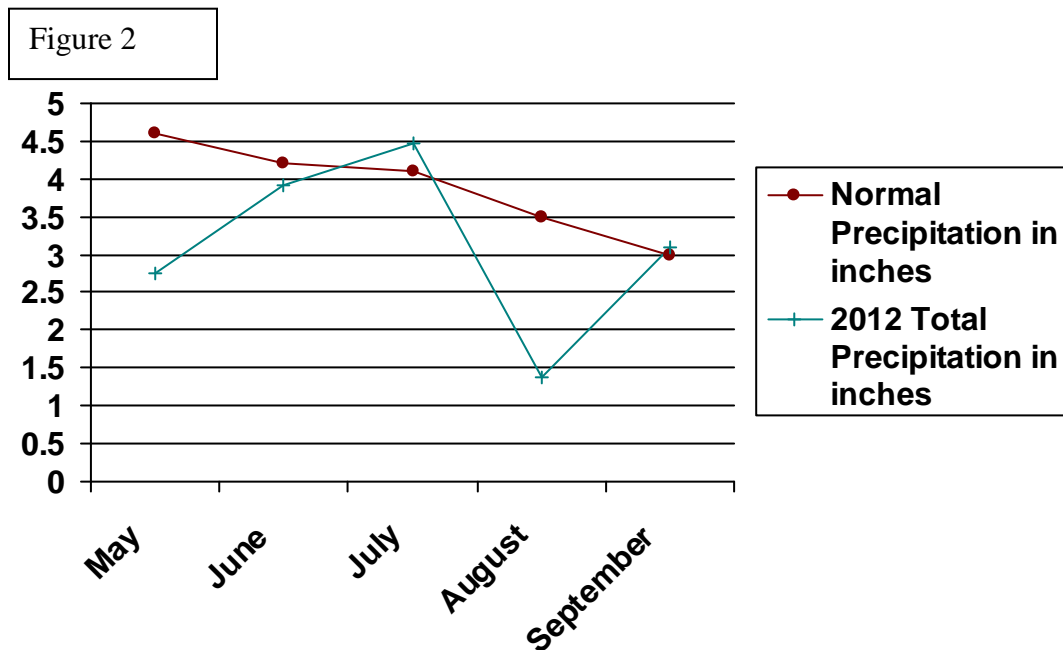
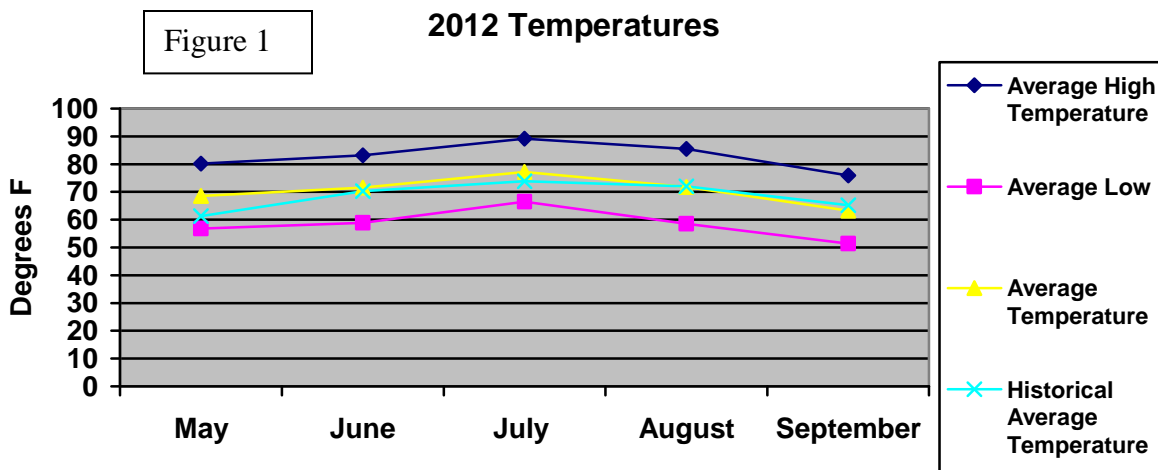
The plants were started from seeds or plugs, depending on the species, according to the recommended starting dates. They were planted in the plots on May 24, 2012. Rows were spaced 2' apart with 6 plants of each variety in a row; the plants in each row were spaced 1.5' apart. Trailing or vining plants 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 application of fertilizer was 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. The material for the shade house provided a 70% shade. (Note: the plants in the shaded gray rows in the list below were those in the shade house). 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. A rating of 5 was considered to be excellent and a rating of 1 was 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 7°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 and in July because of hot, dry 90°F days. Average temperatures in June were close to HAT and rainfall was close to normal. July average temperatures were close to the HAT and rainfall for the month was also close to normal. August average temperatures were similar to the HAT and rainfall was a little over 2" below normal. In September, the average temperature was a little below the HAT and rainfall was in the normal range. In 2012 there were 27 days that temperatures reached above 90°F. This compares to 31 days in 2011, and 21 days above 90°F in 2010. This growing season started out dry in May, a little dry in June, normal in July, dry in August, and normal 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 2012 field trials and their monthly ratings and overall rating. The plants listed that are shaded gray are those varieties that were grown under the shade house (70% shade cloth). The plants with an * after the Common Name were grown in containers, 6 plants per container.

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
Lobularia		Snow Princess®	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Lobularia		Blushing Princess™	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.92
Begonia		Gryphon	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Marooned™	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Cyperus	Graceful Grasses®	King Tut®	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Petunia	Supertunia®	Pink Charm	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Solenostemon		Vino	BFP	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Ipomoea	Illusion®	Emerald Lace	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Ipomoea	Illusion®	Midnight Lace	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Sedum		Lemon Coral™	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.75
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Alligator Tears™	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.75
Lobularia		Frosty Knight™	PW	4.67	5.00	4.00	5.00	4.67
Begonia		Fire Balls	BI	4.67	4.33	4.67	5.00	4.67
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Velvet Mocha	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.33	4.67
Scaevola	Whirlwind®	White Imp.	PW	4.00	4.67	4.67	5.00	4.58
Vinca	Jams 'N Jellies	Blackberry	PAS	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.00	4.58
Cleome		Senorita Blanca™	PW	4.33	4.67	5.00	4.00	4.50
Cleome		Senorita Rosalita®	PW	4.33	4.67	5.00	4.00	4.50
Petunia	Supertunia®	Pretty Much Picasso	PW	3.67	4.67	5.00	4.67	4.50
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Bubblegum	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	3.33	4.50
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Fuschia	PW	3.67	5.00	4.67	4.67	4.50
Petunia	Pop Rocks	White	BHG	4.00	5.00	5.00	4.00	4.50
Evolvulus		Blue My Mind™	PW	3.33	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.50
Euphorbia		Diamond Frost®	PW	3.33	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.50
Lantana		Lucky Flame Imp.	BFP	3.67	5.00	4.33	5.00	4.50
Salvia elegans		Golden Delicious™	PW	3.67	4.67	5.00	4.67	4.50
Scaevola	Whirlwind®	Blue	PW	3.67	4.67	4.33	5.00	4.42
Petunia	Supertunia®	Indigo Charm	PW	3.67	4.67	5.00	4.33	4.42
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Silverberry	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	3.00	4.42
Mecardonia		Gold Dust™	PW	3.67	4.33	4.67	5.00	4.42
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Lemon Slice	PW	4.00	5.00	5.00	3.67	4.42
Lantana	Luscious®	Citrus Blend	PW	2.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.42
Petunia	Supertunia®	Watermelon Charm	PW	4.33	4.67	5.00	3.33	4.33
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Dreamsicle	PW	4.33	4.67	3.67	4.67	4.33
Petunia	Supertunia®	Raspberry Blast	PW	2.67	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.25
Penta		Butterfly Red	PW	4.00	4.33	4.67	4.00	4.25
Petunia	Supertunia®	Picasso in Pink™	PW	4.00	4.67	4.00	4.33	4.25

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Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Saffron	PW	4.33	4.67	4.00	4.00	4.25
Petunia	Supertunia®	Sangria Charm	PW	4.00	4.00	4.67	4.00	4.17
Lantana	Luscious®	Berry Blend™	PW	3.67	4.67	3.67	4.67	4.17
Lantana	Luscious®	Lemonade	PW	2.67	5.00	4.33	4.67	4.17
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Yellow Chiffon	PW	4.00	4.67	3.67	4.33	4.17
Lantana	Luscious®	Pina Colada	PW	3.00	5.00	3.67	5.00	4.17
Gaura		Dauphin	PW	3.00	3.67	4.67	5.00	4.08
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Grape Punch	PW	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.33	4.08
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Sweet Tart	PW	4.33	4.00	3.67	4.33	4.08
Salvia splendens	Lighthouse	Purple	PAS	3.33	4.67	4.00	4.00	4.00
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Coralberry Punch	PW	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Cherry Star	PW	4.00	4.00	3.67	4.33	4.00
Lantana	Luscious®	Tropical Fruit	PW	2.67	5.00	3.33	4.67	3.92
Impatiens	Dazzler	Salmon Splash	PAS	4.00	4.33	3.67	3.67	3.92
Salvia splendens	Lighthouse	Red	PAS	2.33	4.00	4.33	4.67	3.83
Bidens		Goldilocks Rocks®	PW	3.00	4.67	4.33	3.33	3.83
Solenostemon		Honey Crisp	BFP	3.67	4.33	4.33	3.00	3.83
Phlox	Intensia	Blueberry	PW	3.33	3.67	3.67	4.33	3.75
Petunia	Supertunia®	Bordeaux	PW	3.33	3.33	4.67	3.33	3.67
Impatiens	Divine	Orange	PAS	3.00	4.67	3.67	3.33	3.67
Angelonia	Serenita	Raspberry	PAS	3.33	4.67	5.00	1.33	3.58
Petunia	Shock Wave	Deep Purple	PAS	3.00	4.33	4.67	2.33	3.58
Angelonia	Archangel	Raspberry Imp.	BFP	3.33	4.67	4.67	1.33	3.50
Petunia	Pop Rocks	Coral	BHG	3.00	3.67	4.33	3.00	3.50
Impatiens	Patchwork	Cosmic Burgundy	BFP	3.00	4.33	3.67	3.00	3.50
Impatiens	Patchwork	Cosmic Orange	BFP	4.33	3.33	3.33	3.00	3.50
Impatiens	Patchwork	Pink Ice	BFP	3.33	4.67	3.33	2.67	3.50
Dahlia	Dalina® Grande	Zarco	PW	3.67	3.33	4.33	2.33	3.42
Angelonia	Serenita	Purple	PAS	3.00	4.33	5.00	1.33	3.42
Verbena	Superbena®	Coral Red Imp.	PW	2.67	5.00	4.67	1.33	3.42
Verbena	Superbena®	Royale Iced Cherry	PW	3.67	3.67	4.33	1.33	3.25
Zinnia		Bridesmaid	BHG	4.00	4.67	3.00	1.00	3.17
Portulaca	Happy Trails	Deep Red	PAS	3.67	4.33	2.33	2.33	3.17
Dahlia	Dalina® Grande	Romero	PW	3.33	3.00	3.67	2.67	3.17
Petunia	Pop Rocks	Lavender	BHG	3.00	3.33	3.67	2.67	3.17
Portulaca	Happy Trails	Fuschia	PAS	3.33	4.33	2.67	2.33	3.17
Portulaca	Happy Trails	Yellow	PAS	3.33	4.33	2.33	2.67	3.17
Dahlia	Dalina® Grande	Castillo	PW	2.33	3.33	4.33	2.33	3.08
Zinnia	Dbl. Zahara	Strawberry	PAS	3.33	4.33	3.33	1.33	3.08
Verbena	Tukana	Scarlet Star	PW	4.00	3.33	3.67	1.33	3.08
Verbena	Lascar	Big Eye Red Rose	S	3.00	4.67	3.33	1.33	3.08
Verbena	Lascar	Big Eye Raspberry	S	4.00	4.00	3.00	1.00	3.00
Verbena	Superbena®	Royale Chambray	PW	2.67	3.33	4.33	1.33	2.92
Impatiens		Center Stage	BFP	3.33	3.67	2.67	1.67	2.83
Verbena	Aztec™	Violet Wink	BFP	4.00	3.33	2.00	1.67	2.75
Begonia	Baby Wing	White Bronze Fol	PAS	1.00	3.00	3.33	3.67	2.75
Dahlia	Dalina® Grande	Bonita	PW	2.33	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.58

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Verbena	Superbena®	Royale Peachy Keen	PW	2.00	2.67	3.67	1.67	2.50
Dahlia	Dalina® Grande	Emilio	PW	3.00	2.67	1.67	2.33	2.42
Verbena	Aztec™	Burgundy Wink	BFP	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.00	2.00

Seed Companies

Ball FloraPlant = BFP

Ball Ingenuity = BI

Burpee Home Garden

PanAmerican Seed Company = PAS

Proven Winners = PW

Selecta = S