



**Ohio State University Extension**  
**2013 Herbaceous Ornamental Field Trial Results**  
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**County**



## 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 2013 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 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 2013. 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

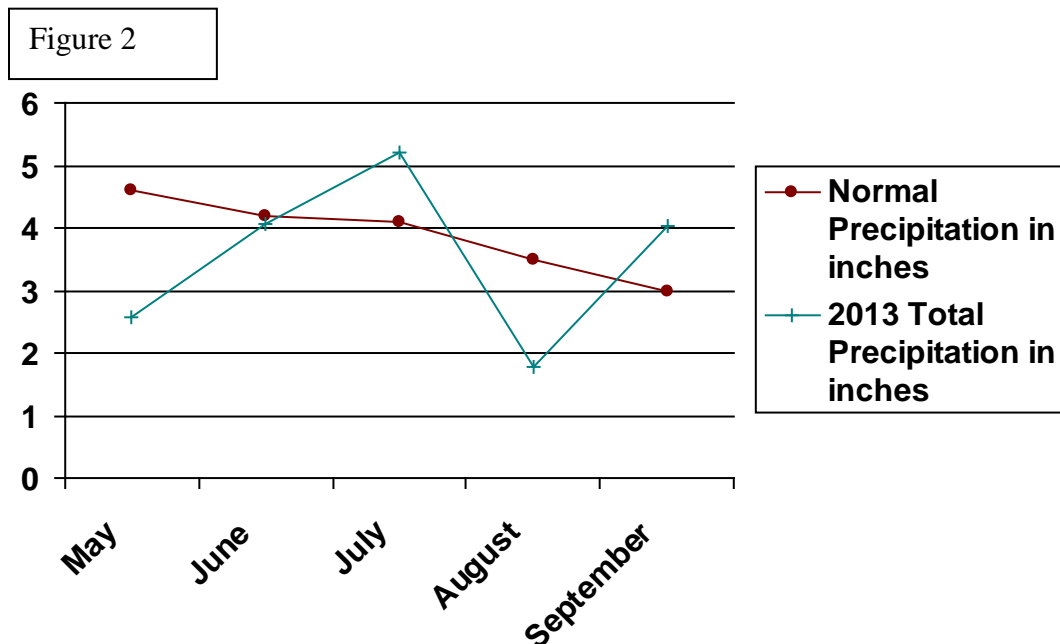
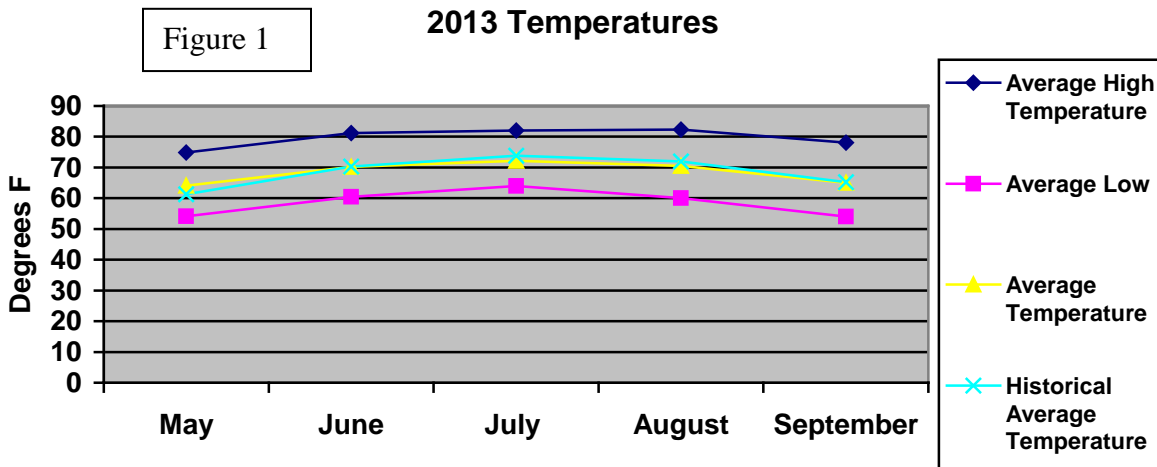
The plants were started from seeds or plugs, depending on the species, according to the recommended starting dates. They were planted in the plots on May 23, 2013. Rows were spaced 2' apart with 6 plants of each variety in a row; the plants in each row were spaced 1.5' apart. Trailing or vining plants 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. Hand weeding was completed as needed. Treflan (e.g. trifluralin) was incorporated in between the rows 6 weeks after planting. Plants were grown in full sun, unless otherwise indicated. All *Calibrachoa* cultivars were planted in 18" diameter containers, six plants per pot. 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 with the exception of geraniums.***

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 final rating for each variety.

## Weather Information

Precipitation at planting time in May was below normal and average temperatures were 3°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 July and again in August 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 a little above normal. August average temperatures were a little below HAT and rainfall was a little over 2" below normal. In September, the average temperature was a little below the HAT and rainfall was above the normal range. In 2013 there were 7 days that temperatures reached above 90°F. This compares to 27 days in 2012, 31 days in 2011, and 21 days above 90°F in 2010. This growing season started out dry in May, normal in June, a little above normal in July, dry in August and above 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 2013 field trials and their monthly ratings and final 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 Final Rating from highest to lowest. A rating of 5 is the highest; a rating of 1 is the lowest.

| Genus/Common Name                         | Series            | Cultivar              | Company | June | July | Aug  | Sep  | Final Rating |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|---------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| <i>Begonia</i>                            | Surefire™         | Red                   | PW      | 4.67 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.92         |
| <i>Begonia</i>                            | Surefire™         | Rose                  | PW      | 4.67 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.92         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Supertunia®       | Vista Bubblegum       | PW      | 4.67 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.92         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Supertunia®       | Vista Silverberry     | PW      | 4.67 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.92         |
| <i>Lobularia/Alyssum</i>                  |                   | Blushing Princess™    | PW      | 4.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.83         |
| <i>Lobularia/Alyssum</i>                  |                   | Snow Princess®        | PW      | 4.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.83         |
| <i>Pennisetum/Pearl Millet</i>            | Graceful Grasses® | Vertigo®              | PW      | 4.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.83         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Supertunia®       | Flamingo              | PW      | 4.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.83         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Supertunia®       | White Improved        | PW      | 4.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.83         |
| <i>Solenostemon/Coleus</i>                | Kong Jr.          | Scarlet               | BI      | 4.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.75         |
| <i>Solenostemon/Coleus</i>                |                   | Mighty Mosaic         | PAS     | 4.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.67 | 4.67         |
| <i>Oxalis vulcanicola</i>                 |                   | Molten Lava™          | PW      | 4.33 | 4.67 | 4.67 | 5.00 | 4.67         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Supertunia®       | Indigo Charm          | PW      | 4.00 | 4.67 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.67         |
| <i>Pennisetum/Fountain Grass</i>          | Graceful Grasses® | Fireworks®            | PW      | 3.67 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.67         |
| <i>Cleome/Spider Plant</i>                |                   | Senorita Rosalita®    | PW      | 3.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.58         |
| <i>Solenostemon/Coleus</i>                | Kong Jr.          | Lime Vein             | BI      | 3.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.58         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Supertunia®       | Pink Charm            | PW      | 3.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.58         |
| <i>Catharanthus/Vinca</i>                 | Titan             | Rose Halo             | PAS     | 4.00 | 4.67 | 5.00 | 4.67 | 4.58         |
| <i>Catharanthus/Vinca</i>                 | Titan             | Burgundy Improved     | PAS     | 4.33 | 4.67 | 4.67 | 4.67 | 4.58         |
| <i>Solenostemon/Coleus</i>                |                   | Limon Blush           | PW      | 4.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.58         |
| <i>Angelonia/Summer Snapdragon</i>        | AngelMist®        | Spreading Dark Purple | BFP     | 4.33 | 4.33 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.50         |
| <i>Thunbergia/Black-Eyed Susan Vine</i>   |                   | Lemon A-Peel®         | PW      | 3.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.67 | 4.50         |
| <i>Cleome/Spider Plant</i>                |                   | Senorita Blanca™      | PW      | 3.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.42         |
| <i>Solenostemon/Coleus</i>                | Kong Jr.          | Rose                  | BI      | 3.33 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.42         |
| <i>Solenostemon/Coleus</i>                | Kong Jr.          | Green Halo            | BI      | 3.67 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.00 | 4.42         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Supertunia®       | Sangria Charm         | PW      | 4.00 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 5.00 | 4.42         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Supertunia®       | Watermelon Charm      | PW      | 4.00 | 4.33 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.42         |
| <i>Zinnia</i>                             | Zahara            | Sunburst              | PAS     | 3.67 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.00 | 4.42         |
| <i>Gomphrena haageana/Globe Amaranthe</i> | Forest            | Carmine               | PW      | 3.33 | 4.33 | 4.67 | 5.00 | 4.33         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Supertunia®       | Orchid Charm          | PW      | 3.33 | 4.67 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.33         |
| <i>Petunia</i>                            | Flash Mob         | Bluerific             | BHG     | 4.33 | 4.67 | 4.33 | 4.00 | 4.33         |
| <i>Lantana</i>                            | Little Lucky™     | Hot Pink              | BFP     | 3.00 | 4.67 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.25         |
| <i>Lobularia/Alyssum</i>                  |                   | Frosty Knight™        | PW      | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.67 | 4.33 | 4.25         |

|                                     |               |                         |     |      |      |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Boldy™        | Scarlet Fire            | PW  | 3.00 | 4.67 | 4.67 | 4.33 | 4.17 |
| <i>Portulaca</i>                    | Mojave        | Tangerine               | PW  | 3.00 | 4.67 | 4.67 | 4.33 | 4.17 |
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Boldly™       | Burgundy                | PW  | 3.00 | 4.33 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.17 |
| <i>Lantana</i>                      | Little Lucky™ | Red                     | BFP | 3.33 | 4.67 | 4.33 | 4.00 | 4.08 |
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Timeless™     | Deep Red                | PW  | 2.67 | 4.67 | 4.67 | 4.33 | 4.08 |
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Boldy™        | Lavender Rose           | PW  | 2.33 | 4.67 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.08 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *                | Cabaret™      | Deep Yellow             | BFP | 4.67 | 4.67 | 4.00 | 2.67 | 4.00 |
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Boldy™        | Dark Red                | PW  | 2.67 | 4.67 | 5.00 | 3.67 | 4.00 |
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Boldy™        | Hot Pink                | PW  | 2.33 | 4.33 | 5.00 | 4.33 | 4.00 |
| <i>Lobularia</i> /Alyssum           |               | White Knight®           | PW  | 4.00 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 3.33 | 4.00 |
| <i>Zinnia</i>                       | UpTown        | Grape                   | BHG | 3.67 | 5.00 | 4.67 | 2.67 | 4.00 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *                | Superbells®   | Lemon Slice             | PW  | 4.33 | 5.00 | 3.67 | 2.67 | 3.92 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *                | Superbells®   | Spicy                   | PW  | 4.00 | 4.33 | 3.67 | 3.67 | 3.92 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *                | Superbells®   | Pomegranate Punch       | PW  | 4.33 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.83 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *                | MiniFamous™   | Double White            | S   | 4.33 | 5.00 | 3.33 | 2.33 | 3.75 |
| <i>Osteospermum</i> /Cape Daisy     |               | White Lightning         | BHG | 3.33 | 2.67 | 4.33 | 4.67 | 3.75 |
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Timeless™     | Orange                  | PW  | 2.33 | 4.33 | 4.00 | 4.33 | 3.75 |
| <i>Petunia</i>                      | Suncatcher™   | Vintage Rose            | BFP | 3.67 | 4.33 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.75 |
| <i>Torenia</i>                      | Catalina®     | Midnight Blue           | PW  | 3.67 | 3.67 | 3.67 | 4.00 | 3.75 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                      | Superbena®    | Royale Chambray         | PW  | 3.00 | 4.67 | 4.67 | 2.67 | 3.75 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                      | Superbena®    | Violet Ice              | PW  | 3.33 | 4.67 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.75 |
| <i>Zinnia</i>                       | Zahara        | Cherry                  | PAS | 3.67 | 4.00 | 4.67 | 2.67 | 3.75 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *                | Cabaret™      | Bright Red              | BFP | 4.33 | 3.67 | 3.00 | 3.67 | 3.67 |
| <i>Torenia</i>                      | Catalina®     | Grape-o-licious         | PW  | 2.67 | 4.00 | 4.33 | 3.67 | 3.67 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                      | Superbena®    | Royale Plum Wine        | PW  | 3.00 | 4.33 | 4.67 | 2.67 | 3.67 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *                | MiniFamous™   | Double Blue             | S   | 4.00 | 3.67 | 3.33 | 3.33 | 3.58 |
| <i>Celosia</i>                      | First Flame   | Red                     | PAS | 3.33 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 2.33 | 3.58 |
| <i>Echinacea</i> /Coneflower        |               | Cheyenne Spirit         | K   | 2.67 | 3.00 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 3.58 |
| <i>Evolvulus</i>                    |               | Blue My Mind™           | PW  | 2.33 | 3.33 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 3.58 |
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Timeless™     | Lavender                | PW  | 2.33 | 4.33 | 3.33 | 4.33 | 3.58 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                      | Superbena®    | Royale Iced Cherry      | PW  | 3.33 | 4.33 | 4.67 | 2.00 | 3.58 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                      | Superbena®    | Royale Whitecap         | PW  | 3.33 | 3.67 | 4.33 | 3.00 | 3.58 |
| <i>Angelonia</i> /Summer Snapdragon | Angelface®    | Wedgewood Blue Improved | PW  | 3.33 | 4.67 | 3.67 | 2.33 | 3.50 |
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Timeless™     | Pink                    | PW  | 2.33 | 4.67 | 3.67 | 3.33 | 3.50 |
| <i>Petunia</i>                      | Cha-ching     | Cherry                  | BFP | 3.67 | 4.33 | 3.33 | 2.67 | 3.50 |
| <i>Angelonia</i> /Summer Snapdragon | Angelface®    | White                   | PW  | 3.33 | 4.67 | 3.33 | 2.33 | 3.42 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *                | Superbells®   | Dreamsicle              | PW  | 4.33 | 4.33 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.42 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                      | Enduro        | Purple                  | BFP | 3.67 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.42 |
| <i>Torenia</i>                      | Catalina®     | Pink                    | PW  | 2.33 | 3.67 | 4.00 | 3.33 | 3.33 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                      | Superbena®    | Royale Peachy Keen      | PW  | 2.67 | 3.00 | 4.33 | 3.33 | 3.33 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *                | Can-Can™      | Hot Pink Star           | BFP | 4.33 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.33 |
| <i>Pelargonium</i> /Geranium        | Timeless™     | Rose                    | PW  | 2.33 | 4.33 | 3.67 | 3.00 | 3.33 |
| <i>Petunia</i>                      | Flash Mob     | Redtastic               | BHG | 3.67 | 3.33 | 3.67 | 2.67 | 3.33 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                      | Superbena®    | Royale Silverdust       | PW  | 2.00 | 3.67 | 4.67 | 2.67 | 3.25 |
| <i>Celosia</i>                      | First Flame   | Yellow                  | PAS | 3.67 | 4.00 | 3.33 | 1.33 | 3.08 |
| <i>Penstemon</i> /Beard-Tongue      | Carillo       | Red                     | K   | 2.00 | 4.67 | 3.33 | 2.33 | 3.08 |
| <i>Angelonia</i> /Summer Snapdragon | Angelface®    | Pink                    | PW  | 2.67 | 4.33 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 |

|                                 |                |              |     |      |      |      |      |      |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *            | MiniFamous™    | Double Red   | S   | 4.33 | 3.33 | 1.67 | 2.33 | 2.92 |
| <i>Petunia</i>                  | Rose and Shine |              | BFP | 3.33 | 3.67 | 2.33 | 1.67 | 2.75 |
| <i>Bracteantha</i> /Strawflower | Sundaze®       | Blaze        |     | 2.33 | 1.67 | 3.33 | 3.33 | 2.67 |
| <i>Calibrachoa</i> *            | Superbells®    | Cherry Star  | PW  | 3.67 | 4.00 | 1.67 | 1.33 | 2.67 |
| <i>Gazania</i>                  | New Day        | Red Shades   | PAS | 3.33 | 1.67 | 2.67 | 3.00 | 2.67 |
| <i>Isotoma</i> /Star Flower     |                | Beth's Blue® | PW  | 2.33 | 1.67 | 2.67 | 2.33 | 2.25 |
| <i>Petunia</i>                  | Sun Spun®      | Purple Star  | BFP | 3.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.67 | 2.17 |
| <i>Celosia</i>                  | First Flame    | Orange       | PAS | 1.00 | 3.33 | 3.67 | 1.33 | 2.33 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                  | Enduro         | White Blush  | BFP | 4.00 | 2.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| <i>Verbena</i>                  | Enduro         | Rose         | BFP | 2.33 | 2.00 | 1.00 | 1.33 | 1.67 |

### Seed Companies

Ball FloraPlant = BFP

Ball Ingenuity = BI

Burpee Home Garden = BHG

Kieft = K

PanAmerican Seed Company = PAS

Proven Winners = PW

Selecta = S