

2016 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 Wendy May and Linda McCann were the 2016 project chairs and are responsible for growing the plants in the greenhouse. The trials are located in the Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum (1900 Snyder Park Rd.) in Springfield, Ohio. More than 1,000 people have visited this site this past season. Approximately 40 MGVs work on this project, starting plugs and seeds in the greenhouse, planting the trials, and weeding the plots.

The plots have loamy, well-drained soil with a pH of 7.5. The current plots were established in the spring of 2015. The beds were tilled to a depth of 8" in the sun plots and 3" in the shade plots. There is approximately 5000 square feet of bed space in full sun and approximately 1000 square feet in shade, under a shade tree (moderate 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 2016. 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

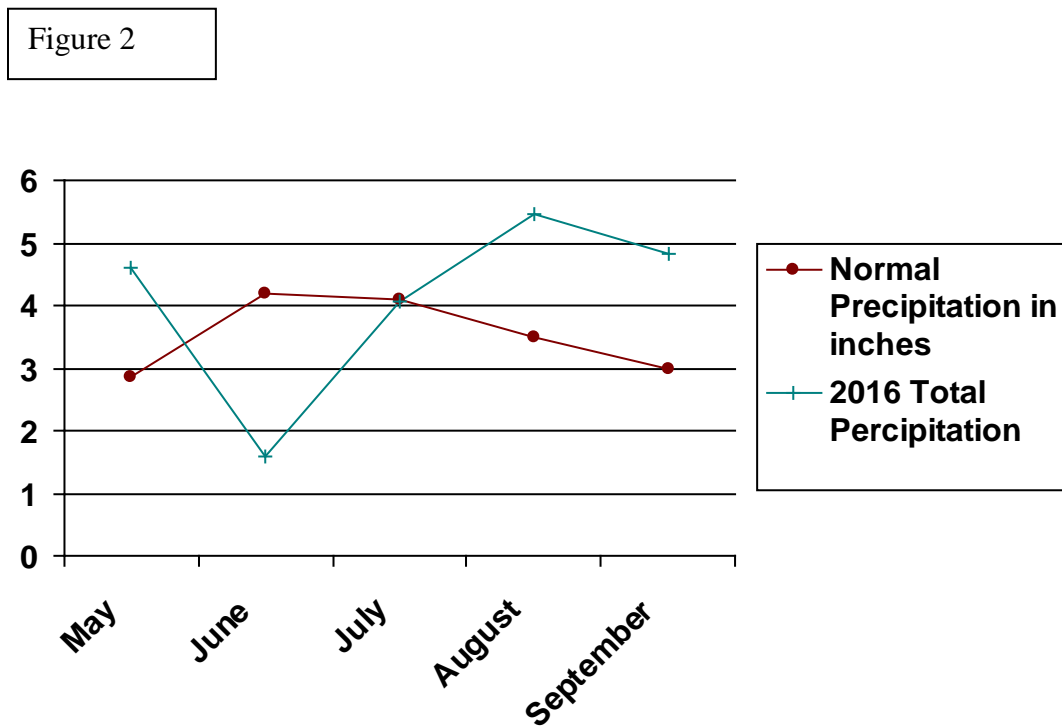
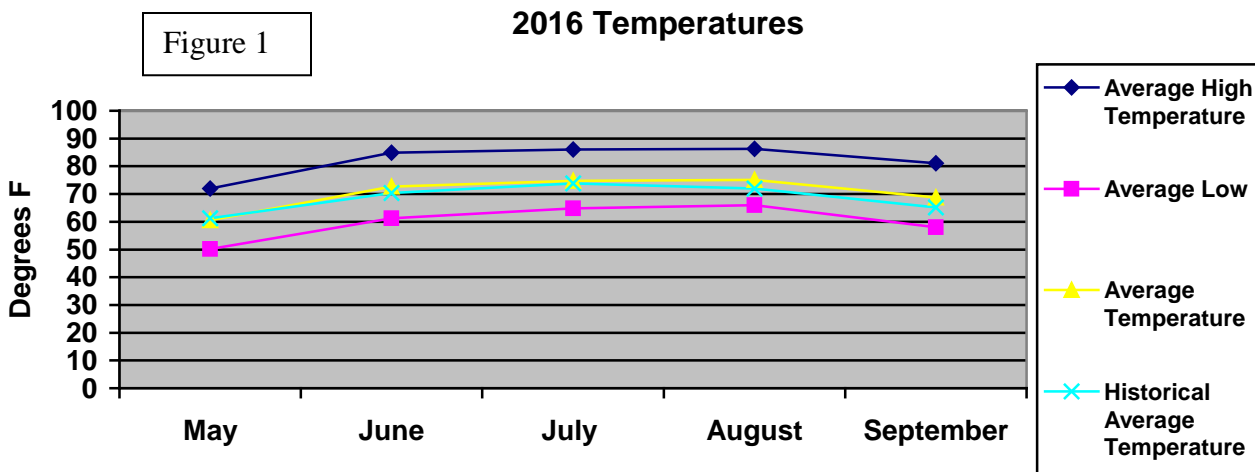
The plants were started from seeds or plugs, depending on the species, according to the recommended starting dates. They were planted in the plots on May 17, 2016. There were 6 plants of each variety in the rows; rows were spaced 2' apart. Trailing or vining plants were planted in rows that were 4' apart with the plants in the row spaced 2' apart.

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 wilting. 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. All *Calibrachoa* cultivars were planted in 18" diameter containers, six plants per pot. All plants were grown in full sun, unless otherwise indicated with a shaded row in the chart below. Normally no insecticides or fungicides are applied; however the Japanese beetle pressure was extremely heavy on the Cannas and the deer pressure was heavy on the sweet potato vines. Pesticides were used on both three times during the growing season. ***The plants were not deadheaded or pruned during the growing season.***

Five 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 5 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 close to 2" above normal and average temperatures were close to the historical average temperatures (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 because of extreme low rainfall amounts with average temperatures above HAT. July average temperatures were above the normal average and rainfall was close to normal. Irrigation was supplied to minimize the extremely high temperatures. August temperatures were also above the normal as was precipitation. In September, the average temperature was above the HAT and rainfall was above the normal range. There were 17 days with temperatures above the 90° in the growing season. This growing season started out wet in May, dry in June returning to normal in July and wet in August and 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 2016 field trials and their monthly ratings and final rating. The plants listed that are shaded gray are those varieties that were grown in shade. 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
Artemisia		Quicksilver™	PW	5.00	4.80	5.00	5.00	4.95
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Bubblegum	PW	5.00	5.00	4.00	4.60	4.65
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Pomegranate Punch	PW	4.60	4.80	4.60	4.20	4.55
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Yellow Improved	PW	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.40	4.55
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Silverberry	PW	4.80	4.60	4.20	4.40	4.50
Coleus	French Quarter		BFP	3.60	4.20	4.80	5.00	4.40
Cyperus	Graceful Grasses®	Prince Tut™	PW	2.60	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.40
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Grape Punch Improved	PW	4.60	4.60	3.80	4.40	4.35
Coleus	Inferno		BFP	3.40	4.60	4.60	4.80	4.35
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Coralina	PW	4.20	4.80	4.60	3.60	4.30
Cyperus	Graceful Grasses®	King Tut®	PW	2.60	5.00	4.80	4.80	4.30
Petunia	ColorRush™	Pink	BFP	5.00	4.80	3.40	3.80	4.25
Coleus	Ruby Slipper		BFP	3.40	4.20	4.80	4.40	4.20
Alternanthera		Purple Prince	PAS	4.20	5.00	3.60	3.80	4.15
Lantana	Lucky™	Red	BFP	3.00	5.00	4.60	3.80	4.10
Ipomoea	Sweet Caroline	Bewitched After Midnight	PW	3.40	3.60	4.20	4.80	4.00
Ipomoea	Sweet Caroline	Raven	PW	3.20	3.80	4.00	4.80	3.95
Ornamental Pepper	Sedona	Sun	PAS	1.80	4.00	5.00	5.00	3.95
Petunia	ColorRush™	Blue	BFP	4.40	5.00	3.60	2.80	3.95
Zinnia	Zahara XL	Fire Improved	PAS	3.60	5.00	3.40	3.60	3.90
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Evening Star	PW	4.60	4.80	2.60	3.60	3.90
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Tropical Sunrise	PW	4.40	4.40	3.00	3.60	3.85
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Red Improved	PW	4.60	4.40	2.60	3.80	3.85
Ornamental Pepper	Hot Pops	Purple	PAS	2.00	4.00	4.80	4.40	3.80
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Fuchsia Improved	PW	4.60	4.40	3.20	3.00	3.80
Vinca	Titan™	Blush Improved	PAS	3.20	5.00	3.80	3.20	3.80
Ipomoea	Sweet Caroline	Sweetheart Jet Black	PW	3.20	3.40	4.40	4.00	3.75
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Strawberry Punch	PW	4.60	4.00	4.00	2.20	3.70
Zinnia	Zahara XL	White Improved	PAS	3.60	4.80	3.20	3.20	3.70
Vinca	Valiant™	White Improved	PAS	2.40	4.60	4.20	3.60	3.70
Ipomoea	Sweet Caroline	Light Green	PW	3.00	3.80	3.20	4.60	3.65
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Coralberry Punch	PW	4.40	4.00	3.60	2.40	3.60
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Hollywood Star	PW	4.40	4.60	3.20	2.20	3.60
Pelargonium	Timeless™	Lavender Improved	PW	4.40	4.20	3.00	2.60	3.55
Petunia	Supertunia®	Picasso in Purple™	PW	4.80	5.00	2.60	1.80	3.55
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Morning Star	PW	4.80	4.20	2.20	3.00	3.55
Vinca	Valiant™	Lilac	PAS	2.60	4.60	3.40	3.20	3.45

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	Aug	Sep	Final Rating
Ipomoea	Sweet Caroline	Bewitched Green With Envy	PW	2.40	2.80	3.60	5.00	3.45
Vinca	Valiant™	Pinkish	PAS	2.60	4.60	3.20	3.40	3.45
Gaillardia	Mesa	Red Really	PAS	4.60	4.40	2.00	2.60	3.40
Zinnia	Zahara®	Double Mix Brilliant	PAS	3.60	4.60	2.40	3.00	3.40
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Cherry Star	PW	4.40	3.40	2.80	2.80	3.35
Canna	Toucan™	Red	PW	3.20	3.40	3.20	3.40	3.30
Gaillardia	Mesa	Peach	PAS	4.40	4.40	1.80	2.60	3.30
Vinca	Titan™	Red Really	PAS	2.80	4.40	3.40	2.60	3.30
Zinnia	Zahara XL	Pink	PAS	2.80	4.60	2.80	3.00	3.30
Coleus	Premium Sun	Pineapple Surprise	PAS	3.20	3.40	3.40	3.00	3.25
Canna	Toucan™	Scarlet	PW	3.20	3.40	3.00	3.20	3.20
Lamium		Pink Chablis®	PW	4.00	4.60	2.20	2.00	3.20
Gaillardia	Mesa	Yellow	PAS	3.80	4.60	1.80	2.20	3.10
Verbena	Endurascape™	Pink Bicolor	BFP	5.00	5.00	1.20	1.20	3.10
Gaillardia	Mesa	Bicolor Bright	PAS	4.00	4.40	2.00	1.80	3.05
Petunia	Supertunia®	Daybreak Charm	PW	4.80	4.60	1.60	1.20	3.05
Argyranthemum		Butterfly	PW	4.00	5.00	1.60	1.40	3.00
Argyranthemum		White Butterfly™	PW	4.40	5.00	1.20	1.40	3.00
Lamium		Purple Chablis™	PW	4.00	4.60	1.60	1.80	3.00
Ipomoea	Sweet Caroline	Sweetheart Lime	PW	3.00	2.60	2.80	3.60	3.00
Coreopsis		Sunkiss	PAS	4.00	3.60	2.20	2.00	2.95
Canna	Toucan™	Yellow	PW	2.80	3.00	2.80	3.00	2.90
Angelonia	Angelface®	Perfectly Pink	PW	2.20	4.80	3.00	1.20	2.80
Coleus	FlameThrower™	Habanero	BFP	1.40	2.80	3.00	4.00	2.80
Verbena	Endurascape™	Magenta	BFP	4.20	4.40	1.00	1.40	2.75
Verbena	Superbena®	Royale Red	PW	4.20	4.20	1.00	1.20	2.65
Impatiens	Infinity®	Lavender Improved	PW	3.60	2.60	2.20	1.80	2.55
Pansiola	Anytime™	Iris	PW	4.40	3.60	1.40	0.80	2.55
Verbena	Superbena®	Royale Whitecap	PW	3.60	4.40	1.00	1.20	2.55
Angelonia	Archangel™	Cherry Red	BFP	1.80	4.40	2.20	1.60	2.50
Canna	Toucan™	Rose	PW	2.60	2.40	2.60	2.40	2.50
Osteospermum	Bright Lights™	Yellow	PW	3.20	3.40	1.40	2.00	2.50
Petunia	Supertunia®	Really Red	PW	3.80	3.80	1.20	1.20	2.50
Verbena	Superbena®	Royale Romance	PW	3.60	4.00	1.00	1.20	2.45
Pansiola	Anytime™	Quartz Improved	PW	3.40	4.00	1.20	1.00	2.40
Verbena	Endurascape™	Purple Improved	BFP	3.40	3.80	1.00	1.40	2.40
Angelonia	Angelface®	Super Blue	PW	2.20	4.40	1.60	1.20	2.35
Impatiens	New Guinea	Divine™ Orchid	PAS	2.20	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.35
Pansiola	Anytime™	Sugarplum	PW	3.40	3.40	1.40	1.00	2.30
Verbena	Superbena®	Royale Peachy Keen	PW	2.40	4.00	1.20	1.20	2.20
Angelonia	Archangel™	Blue Bicolor	BFP	1.20	5.00	1.20	1.20	2.15
Angelonia	Angelface®	Super Pink	PW	1.20	5.00	1.20	1.20	2.15
Interspecific Impatiens	Bounce™	Violet 17	BFP	1.60	2.40	2.40	2.00	2.10
Sutera	Snowstorm®	Blue Improved	PW	4.60	1.60	1.00	1.20	2.10
Impatiens	New Guinea	Divine™ Lipstick	PAS	2.20	2.40	1.80	1.80	2.05

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	Aug	Sep	Final Rating
Interspecific Impatiens	Big Bounce™	Pink	BFP	1.40	2.40	2.20	1.60	1.90
Celosia	Dracula		PAS	2.00	1.40	1.40	2.60	1.85
Interspecific Impatiens	Big Bounce™	Bright Coral	BFP	1.40	2.00	2.00	1.60	1.75
Pansiola	Anytime™	Plum Good	PW	2.80	2.20	1.00	0.60	1.65
Petunia	Supertunia®	Pretty Much Picasso®	PW	1.80	2.20	1.00	0.80	1.45

Seed Companies

Ball Flora Plant = BFP

Ball Ingenuity = BI

Kieft = K

PanAmerican Seed Company = PAS

PW = PW

Selecta = S



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