

2018 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 Linda McCann and Cathy Zernehel were the 2018 project leaders and were responsible for growing the plants in the greenhouse. The trials are located in the Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum (1900 Snyder Park Street) in Springfield, Ohio. More than 2,100 people visited this site in 2018. 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 7.4. The current plots were established in the spring of 2015. The beds were tilled to a depth of 8" in both the sun and 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 to heavy shade).

The selection of plants to be trialed in the garden varies from year to year. The selection is based on entries from 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 2018. 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 ground plots on May 15, 2018. There were six plants of each variety in a block; plants were spaced on two foot centers in the blocks. Trailing or vining plants were planted on four foot centers in the block. All *Calibrachoa* cultivars were planted in 18" diameter containers, six plants per container, in a soilless mix.

A 14-14-14 slow release fertilizer was incorporated into the soil as well as the containers prior to planting at the labeled rate (one tablespoon per four inch plant). 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 plants at six weeks after planting.

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 again in 2018 on the Cannas. An insecticide was used on the Cannas two times. ***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 one to five. A rating of five was considered to be excellent and a rating of one was poor. The five 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 in the normal range for the month with ideal planting conditions; the trials received 2.5" of rain in May after planting. The average temperature however, was 8.6F above the historical average temperatures (HAT) for this time period. After planting, there were seven days with temperatures above 95F; additional irrigation was necessary for establishment. Irrigation was supplied in June sparingly because rainfall amounts were close to normal. Average temperature was slightly above the HAT for the month with five days 90F or above. July average

temperatures were similar to the normal average. Rainfall was just slightly above normal average rainfall; supplemental irrigation was minimal. There were seven days 90F or greater. August average temperature was slightly below the HAT; precipitation was near normal average precipitation. There were four days 90F or above. In September, the average temperature was slightly higher than the HAT and rainfall was 3.18" above the normal range. There were six days with temperatures 90F or above in September and the early part of the month was extremely warm. For the 2018 growing season, there were a total of 22 days with temperatures 90F or above; this compares to four days in 2017 and 17 days in 2016 that were above 90F. *Figure 1 indicates temperature conditions and Figure 2 indicates rainfall amounts for this growing season.*

Figure 1

2018 Temperatures

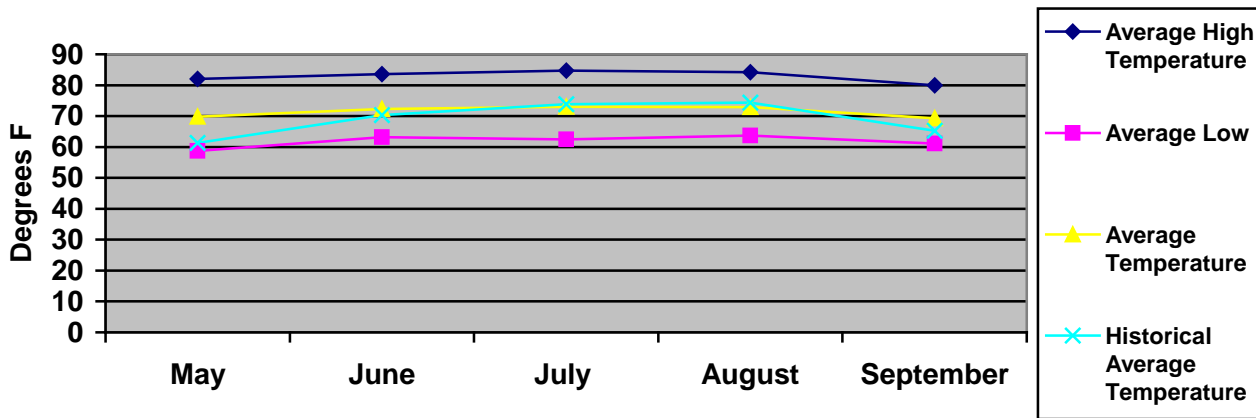
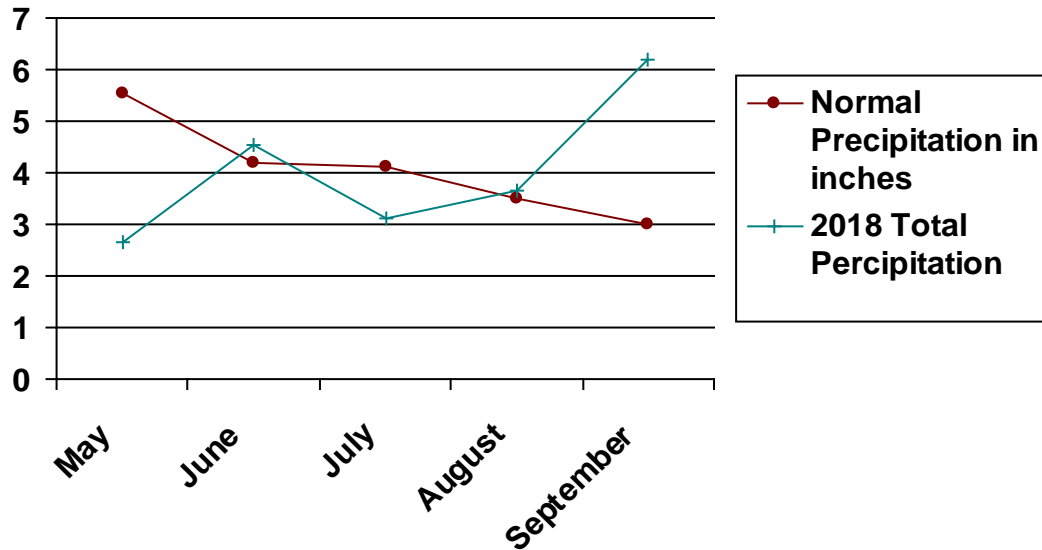


Figure 2



Results

Following are the varieties in the 2018 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 Genus/Common Name were grown in containers, six 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 five is the highest; a rating of one is the lowest.

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	August	Sept	End of Season Average
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Torchlight™	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Hypoestes	Hippo®	Pink	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.86	4.96
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Sedona Sunset™	PW	5.00	5.00	4.86	5.00	4.96
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Rediculous™	PW	4.86	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.96
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Strawberry Drop	PW	5.00	4.86	5.00	5.00	4.96
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Chocolate Drop	PW	5.00	4.86	5.00	5.00	4.96
Hypoestes	Hippo®	Pink	PW	4.86	5.00	5.00	4.86	4.93
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Golden Dreams™	PW	4.71	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.93
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Royale Cherry Brandy™	PW	4.86	4.86	5.00	5.00	4.93
Solenostemon	Main Street	Ocean Drive	DO	4.86	5.00	4.86	5.00	4.93
Hypoestes	Hippo™	White	PW	5.00	4.71	5.00	4.86	4.89
Euphorbia		Diamond Mountain™	PW	4.57	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.89
Capiscum	Ornamental Pepper	Onyx Red™	AAS	4.86	4.86	4.86	5.00	4.89
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Torchlight™	PW	4.86	4.86	4.86	5.00	4.89
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Sedona Sunset™	PW	5.00	4.86	4.71	4.86	4.86
Hypoestes	Hippo™	White	PW	4.57	5.00	5.00	4.86	4.86
Solenostemon	Main Street	Sunset Boulevard™	DO	4.86	4.86	5.00	4.71	4.86
Gomphrena		Truffula™ Pink	PW	4.29	5.00	5.00	4.86	4.79
Solenostemon	Main Street	La Rambla	DO	4.86	4.86	4.57	4.86	4.79
Solenostemon	Main Street	Sunset Blvd Truffula™	DO	5.00	4.71	4.29	5.00	4.75
Solenostemon		Wall Street	DO	4.86	5.00	4.29	4.86	4.75
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Golden Dreams™	PW	4.43	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.75
Lantana	Luscious®	Citrus Blend Improved	PW	4.14	5.00	4.86	5.00	4.75
Petunia	Supertunia Vista®	Bubblegum	PW	4.86	5.00	4.86	4.29	4.75
Solenostemon	Main Street	Chartres Street	DO	4.57	5.00	4.86	4.57	4.75
Solenostemon	Main Street	Chartres Street	DO	4.71	4.86	4.57	4.86	4.75
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Rediculous™	PW	4.86	4.57	4.86	4.71	4.75
Salvia	Rockin'®	Deep Purple	PW	4.14	5.00	5.00	4.71	4.71
Salvia	Rockin'®	Fuchsia	PW	4.29	4.86	5.00	4.71	4.71
Solenostemon	Main Street	Ocean Drive	DO	4.29	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.71
New Guinea Impatien	SunStanding	Orange Aurora	DO	4.71	4.86	4.43	4.86	4.71
Ipomoea	Sweet Caroline	Kiwi™	PW	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.29	4.71
Ocimum		Amazel™	PW	4.86	4.43	4.57	4.71	4.64

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	August	Sept	End of Season Average
Petunia	Supertunia®	White Charm	PW	4.71	4.86	4.86	4.00	4.61
Angelonia	Angelface®	Blue Improved	PW	4.00	5.00	5.00	4.29	4.57
Petunia	Supertunia Vista®	Paradise	PW	4.57	4.86	4.86	4.00	4.57
Solenostemon		Wall Street	DO	4.71	4.71	4.43	4.43	4.57
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Strawberry Drop	PW	4.86	4.43	4.29	4.29	4.46
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Royale Cherry Brandy™	PW	4.43	4.57	4.29	4.14	4.36
Solenostemon	ColorBlaze®	Chocolate Drop	PW	5.00	4.29	3.57	4.29	4.29
Angelonia	Angelface®	Steel Blue	PW	4.14	5.00	4.71	3.29	4.29
Begonia		Surefire® Red	PW	4.43	3.71	4.57	3.86	4.14
Petunia	Supertunia®	Blue Skies	PW	4.29	4.86	4.86	2.43	4.11
Verbena	Superbena®	Red	PW	4.71	3.86	3.29	4.00	3.96
Lycopersicon		Garden Treasure	PW	4.57	5.00	4.29	2.00	3.96
Begonia		Big™ Red Bronze	PW	3.71	5.00	5.00	1.86	3.89
Angelonia	Angelface®	Cascade Blue	PW	3.43	4.43	4.29	3.43	3.89
Begonia		Surefire® Red	PW	3.86	4.86	4.86	2.00	3.89
Marigold		Super Hero™ Spry	AAS	4.71	4.43	3.71	2.57	3.86
Verbena	Empress™	Sun Violet	DO	4.86	4.14	3.57	2.57	3.79
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Evening Star Improved	PW	4.29	4.00	4.00	2.86	3.79
Verbena	Superbena®	Scarlet Star	PW	4.57	4.00	4.14	2.29	3.75
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Holy Cow!™	PW	3.57	4.29	3.57	3.43	3.71
Lycopersicon		Garden Gem	PW	3.86	4.86	4.14	2.00	3.71
Canna	South Pacific™	Orange	AAS	3.57	4.00	3.43	3.71	3.68
Euphorbia		Diamond Frost®	PW	3.00	3.29	3.86	4.43	3.64
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Holy Smokes!™	PW	4.71	3.71	3.29	2.71	3.61
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Tangerine Punch™	PW	4.86	3.86	2.86	2.86	3.61
Fragaria	Berried Treasure™	Red	PW	4.14	4.14	3.29	2.29	3.46
Angelonia	Angelface®	Wedgwood Blue Improved	PW	2.86	4.86	3.14	3.00	3.46
Angelonia	Angelface®	Cascade White	PW	3.14	4.71	3.57	2.14	3.39
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Cardinal Star	PW	4.86	4.00	1.71	3.00	3.39
Verbena	Empress™	Sun Pink	DO	4.14	3.57	3.00	2.71	3.36
Verbena	Superbena®	Raspberry	PW	4.57	2.86	3.14	2.43	3.25
Fragaria	Berried Treasure™	Pink	PW	4.00	3.43	3.00	2.57	3.25
Angelonia	Angelface®	Cascade Pink	PW	2.86	4.00	3.14	3.00	3.25
Calibrachoa*	Superbells® Doublette	Love Swept™	PW	4.29	2.86	2.86	2.57	3.14
Verbena	Empress™	Sun Cherry	DO	4.57	2.43	3.00	2.29	3.07
Osteospermum	Bright Lights®	Pink	PW	2.71	3.86	2.86	2.43	2.96

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	August	Sept	End of Season Average
Verbena	Empress™	Sun Lavender Charm	DO	4.29	2.43	2.57	2.43	2.93
Zinnia		Queenly Lime Orange	AAS	4.14	3.71	2.14	1.43	2.86
Verbena	Superbena®	Whiteout	PW	3.57	2.14	2.29	2.43	2.61
Pelargonium interspecific		EEZE Foxy Flamingo	DO	2.00	3.00	3.29	1.86	2.54
Calibrachoa*	Superbells® Double	Chiffon	PW	1.71	3.29	2.29	1.29	2.14
Gypsophila		White Improved	AAS	3.14	1.29	1.29	1.14	1.71
Petunia	Sweetunia™	Johnny Flame	DO	2.43	1.29	1.29	1.14	1.54
Petunia	Sweetunia™	Miss Marvelous	DO	2.43	1.29	1.14	1.14	1.50
Petunia	Sweetunia™	Suzie Storm	DO	2.43	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.36

Seed Companies

AAS = All America Selection

DO = Dümme Orange

PW = Proven Winners



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