2025 Herbaceous Cultivar Trial Results
Ohio State University, Springfield, OH
Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum

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Introduction

Cultivar trials have been conducted by Ohio State University faculty along with Clark County Extension staff and Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) in Springfield, Ohio since 1995. Program Assistant Beth Brooks oversees the volunteers working on the trials. Faculty and staff worked with Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers*** (MGV) to implement the trials, including planting, maintenance, and evaluating. The trials are in the Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum (1900 Snyder Park Street) in Springfield, Ohio. MGVs planted in the beds and containers, weeded, and assisted with the evaluation of the plots. The objective of the trials is to observe the performance of new and recently introduced annual cultivars under the environmental conditions of central Ohio.

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 the shade, under a shade tree (moderate to heavy shade, Norway maple). The plots are tilled in the spring before planting and in the fall after the removal of the annuals. Compost was added in fall of 2022.

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, current trends, and 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 2025 in Springfield, or west central Ohio. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide growers, landscapers, and homeowners with a tool for plant selection for Ohio, as well as to provide performance data to the breeders and companies.

Method

The plants were started in the greenhouse at the Ohio State University campus from seeds or plugs, depending on the species, according to the recommended starting dates. They were planted in the ground plots and in containers on May 20, 2025. There were six plants of each variety in a block; most plants were spaced on two-foot centers with the trailing/vining plants planted on four-foot centers in the block. *Calibrachoa* and mixed cultivars were planted in 18" diameter containers, six plants per container, and in a soilless mix (noted below with an *). There were a few other entries in containers as noted below, as requested by the entry company.

A 14-14-14 slow-release fertilizer was incorporated into the soil as well as the containers before planting at the labeled rate (one tablespoon per four-inch pot). No additional application of fertilizer was made to plants in the ground. Trials were irrigated as needed, and containers were watered regularly. See the weather information below for details. No mulch was used. Hand weeding was completed as needed. Treflan (e.g., trifluralin) was incorporated between the plants and rows six weeks after planting. All plants were grown in full sun unless otherwise indicated with a shaded row in the chart below. ***The plants were not deadheaded or pruned during the growing season.***

Faculty, staff, and volunteers conducted visual evaluations on June 26, July 24, August 21, and September 24. The entire block of plants received a visual rating from one to five. The rating of five was excellent, and the rating of one was poor. The individual evaluation ratings were averaged for the monthly rating figure. The

monthly evaluations (June-September) were averaged for the overall rating for each variety. If an entry doesn't show up in the table, it died over the course of the growing season.

Weather Information
The information below was obtained from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences weather station close to Springfield, Ohio. More details can be found at:
https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/stationinfo.asp?id=13

Plants were installed under perfect planting conditions on May 20. May precipitation was below normal, with June and July being exceptionally dry and August dry. Both trial locations experienced severe drought during the growing season.

Temperatures were slightly above the historical average temperature. There was a total of six days 90F or over compared to a total of 18 days of 90F or higher in 2024. This compares to six days in 2022, 21 days in 2020, 23 days in 2019, 22 days in 2018, and four days in 2017. Temperatures after planting were in the 80F range for eight straight days.

Figure 1 indicates temperature conditions and *Figure 2* indicates rainfall amounts for this growing season.

Figure 1

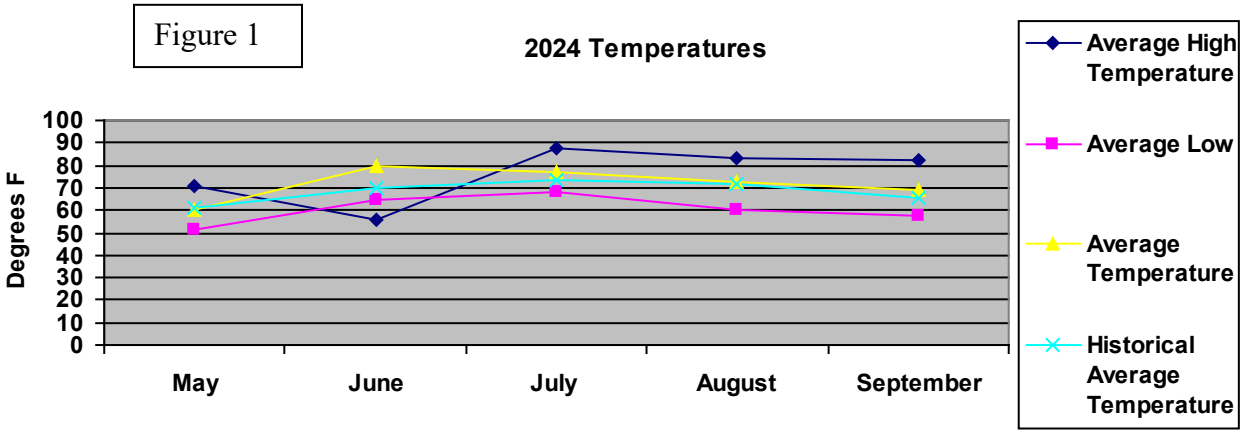
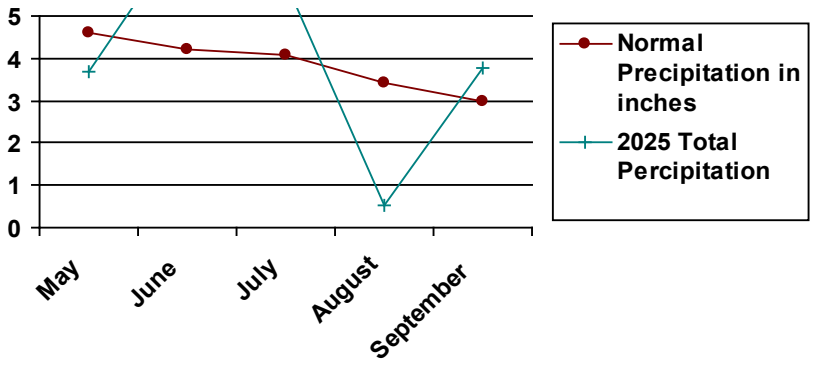


Figure 2



Results

The following are the varieties in the 2025 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 * (asterisk) after the Genus/Common Name were grown in containers with six plants per container.

The supplier for each variety is listed in the table; the supplier key is at the end under company. 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.

Key:

* = Grown in containers, one species
** = Grown in container, mixed species

Shaded cells = grown in shade

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June Average	July Average	August Average	September Average	Overall Average
Cleome hybrid	Señorita	Rosalita®	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Coleus scutellariodes	ColorBlaze®	Royale Pineapple Brandy	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Pink Flash	SAK	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.92
Ageratum		Monarch Delight	PW	4.67	5.00	4.67	5.00	4.83
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Classic White	SAK	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.83
Lantana camara	Luscious®	Tangeglow	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Petunia	Supertunia	Mini Vista Yellow	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.33	4.83
Petunia	Supertunia	Vista Bubblegum	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.33	4.83
Dahlia	Venti™	FireBurst	AT	4.33	5.00	4.67	5.00	4.75
Petchoa	SuperCal	Blue-eyed Rose	SAK	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.33	4.75
Coleus scutellariodes	ColorBlaze®	Wicked Witch™	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.00	4.67
Bidens ferulifolia	Campfire®	Marshmallow	PW	5.00	5.00	4.67	3.67	4.58
Solenostemon x hybrida	PartyTime™	Crimson	SAK	4.33	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.58
Heliotropium arborescens	Aromagica	Purple	PW	4.00	5.00	4.33	5.00	4.58
Petunia	Supertunia	Vista® Cool Jazz	PW	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.33	4.58
Coleus scutellariodes	ColorBlaze®	El Brighto	PW	3.67	4.67	5.00	4.67	4.50
Playlist Combo Alive**	SunPatiens Compact Rose Glow® and Electric Orange® Solenostemon PartyTime Crimson™		SAK	5.00	4.67	4.33	4.00	4.50

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June Average	July Average	August Average	September Average	Overall Average
Solenostemon x hybrida	PartyTime™	Royal Red	SAK	4.33	4.67	4.67	4.00	4.42
Dahlia	Dalaya®	Purple Lace	AT	5.00	4.67	4.00	3.67	4.33
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Pretty Pink	SAK	5.00	4.67	4.67	3.00	4.33
Lantana camara	Luscious®	Royale Red Zone™	PW	4.67	5.00	4.67	3.00	4.33
Lobularia maritima hybrid		White Knight® (Imp)	PW	4.67	4.33	4.00	4.33	4.33
Calibrachoa*	Superbells	Magic Double Grapefruit	PW	4.00	3.67	4.67	4.67	4.25
Helianthus hybrid	Suncredible®	Yellow	PW	4.67	4.33	4.00	3.67	4.17
Angelonia	Archangel	Fuschia	BH	4.67	4.67	3.33	3.67	4.08
Calibrachoa*	Superbells	Double Smitten Pink	SAK	4.00	4.33	4.00	4.00	4.08
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Lavendar	SAK	4.33	4.00	4.67	3.33	4.08
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Pink Flash	SAK	5.00	3.67	4.67	3.00	4.08
Calibrachoa*	Cha-Cha	Hot Pink Star	BH	5.00	4.00	3.67	3.33	4.00
Petunia	Supertunia	Mini Vista® Pink Cloud	PW	5.00	4.00	3.33	3.67	4.00
Petunia		Cherry Tartwheel	BH	4.67	4.67	3.67	3.00	4.00
Vinca	Pacifica XP	Pink	BH	2.67	4.33	4.67	4.33	4.00
MixMasters™	Flame On		BH	4.67	4.50	3.33	3.33	3.96
Begonia benariensis	Surefire®	White	PW	4.67	4.67	3.33	3.00	3.92
Playlist Combo Dream On**	SuperCal® Premium Rose Star and Yellow Sun Imp		SAK	4.33	4.67	3.33	3.33	3.92
Petunia	Trilogy	Blue Vein	PW	3.67	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.92
Calibrachoa**	Trixi®	Swirling Shuffle	BH	4.33	4.50	3.33	3.33	3.88
Jamesbrittenia hybrid	Safari®	Dusk	PW	4.67	4.00	3.33	3.33	3.83
MixMasters™	Happy Dance		BH	4.67	4.00	3.33	3.33	3.83
Petunia	Headliner™	Crystal Pink	BH	5.00	4.67	3.00	2.67	3.83
Dahlia	Venti™	PinkBurst	AT	4.33	3.67	3.67	3.67	3.83
Dahlia		Black Forest Ruby	AT	4.33	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.83
Impatiens	Beacon	Blue Pearl	BH	4.00	4.33	3.67	3.33	3.83
Begonia benariensis	Surefire Cascade™	Red	PW	4.33	4.33	3.00	3.33	3.75
Calibrachoa*	Superbells	Double Vintage Coral	PW	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.75

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June Average	July Average	August Average	September Average	Overall Average
Playlist Combo Friday I'm in Love**	SunPatiens® Compact Classic White and Red PartyTime Royal Red™		SAK	4.00	4.00	3.33	3.33	3.67
Begonia benariensis	Surefire®	Red	PW	4.33	4.33	3.00	3.00	3.67
Zonal Geranium	Moonlight	Dark Red 26	PW	4.33	4.00	3.33	3.00	3.67
Begonia benariensis	Surefire®	Rose	PW	4.33	4.33	3.33	2.33	3.58
Petunia	Supertunia	Hoopla Vivid Orchid	PW	4.33	3.67	2.67	3.67	3.58
Interspecific geranium	Solera	Purple +Big Eye	BH	4.00	3.33	3.67	3.00	3.50
Petchoa	Premium	Yellow Sun Imp	SAK	5.00	5.00	2.33	1.67	3.50
Zinnia	Belize	Double Bright Rose	AT	4.00	4.33	3.00	2.67	3.50
Calibrachoa*	Cabaret	Lavender Kiss	BH	4.67	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.42
Calibrachoa*	Bumble Bee	Pink 26	BH	5.00	3.33	2.67	2.67	3.42
Calibrachoa*	MiniFamous	Neo Rose Flash	BH	4.67	3.67	2.67	2.67	3.42
Petunia	Trilogy	Rose Vein	AT	3.00	4.00	4.00	2.67	3.42
Petchoa	Premium	Coral Star	SAK	4.67	4.00	2.33	2.33	3.33
Calibrachoa**	Trixi®	FunTopia Utopia	BH	4.00	3.33	3.00	3.00	3.33
Zinnia	Belize	Double Rose Gen 2	AT	5.00	4.00	2.00	2.33	3.33
Zinnia	Profusion	Double White Imp	SAK	5.00	4.67	2.00	1.67	3.33
Playlist Combo Two Tickets to Paradise**	Calibrachoa Calipetite® Blue Splash and Pink Splash		SAK	5.00	3.00	2.67	2.67	3.33
Scaevola aemula	Stardiva®	Blue	PW	4.00	3.00	2.67	3.67	3.33
Bidens ferulifolia	Campfire®	Red Ember	PW	4.33	2.67	2.33	3.67	3.25
Impatiens	Beacon	Light Pink	BH	3.67	4.33	2.67	2.33	3.25
Petunia	Trilogy	Rose Vein	AT	4.67	3.33	3.00	2.00	3.25
Petunia		Bees Knees	BH	3.33	3.33	3.67	2.67	3.25
Scaevola aemula	Whirlwind®	White (Imp)	PW	3.33	4.00	3.00	2.67	3.25
Petunia		Radiant Ruby	BH	4.67	3.33	2.33	2.33	3.17
Zinnia	Elegant™	Hot Mixture	BH	5.00	5.00	1.67	1.00	3.17
Calibrachoa**	Trixi®	Savoring Starfruit Mix	BH	4.00	3.67	2.33	2.33	3.08
Playlist Combo Spice Up Your Life**	Petchoa SuperCal® Premium Rose Star and Yellow Sun Improved, Coral Star and Pink Mist		SAK	3.67	4.33	3.33	1.00	3.08
Vinca	Pacifica XP	Red Halo	BH	1.00	3.00	4.67	3.67	3.08

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June Average	July Average	August Average	September Average	Overall Average
Playlist Combo Good Thing**	Petchoa SuperCal® Premium Purple Dawn, Red Maple, and Yellow Sun Improved		SAK	4.33	4.00	2.00	2.00	3.08
Scaevola aemula	Stardiva®	Pink	PW	3.33	2.67	2.67	3.33	3.00
Calibrachoa*	Cha-Cha	Diva Orange	BH	4.00	3.00	2.33	2.33	2.92
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Royal Magenta	SAK	3.67	3.33	2.67	2.00	2.92
Lobelia erinus	Laguna	Royale Azure	PW	5.00	3.67	2.00	1.00	2.92
Petunia	Headliner™	Strawberry Picotee	BH	4.00	3.67	2.00	2.00	2.92
Playlist Combo Fire in the Sky Imp.**	Petchoa SuperCal® Purple Dawn Red Maple and Yellow Sun Improved		SAK	3.67	3.67	2.00	2.33	2.92
Playlist Crimson and Clover**	Petchoa SuperCal® Premium Bordeaux, Purple Dawn, and Red Maple		SAK	4.00	3.67	2.00	2.00	2.92
Calibrachoa*	MiniFamous	Neo Coral Flash	BH	4.67	3.00	1.33	2.33	2.83
Calibrachoa*	MiniFamous	Neo Magenta Star	BH	3.67	3.00	2.33	2.33	2.83
Jamesbrittenia hybrid	Safari®	Dawn	PW	4.67	4.33	1.33	1.00	2.83
Zonal Geranium	Moonlight	Purple+Big Eye	PW	3.33	3.33	2.33	2.33	2.83
Petunia	Shock Wave®	Violet	BH	3.00	3.67	2.67	2.00	2.83
Petunia	Supertunia	Vista Jazzberry	PW	3.67	2.33	2.67	2.67	2.83
Phlox hybrid	Southern Blaze™	Bright Pink	PW	4.33	4.00	1.33	1.33	2.75
Calibrachoa*	Cabaret	Bright Orange	BH	3.00	2.33	2.33	2.33	2.50
Petunia	Easy Wave	Pink Pearl	BH	1.67	3.67	1.67	1.67	2.17
Phlox drummondii	Southern Blaze™	White	PW	4.00	2.67	1.00	1.00	2.17
Lobelia erinus	Laguna	Royale Pink	PW	3.33	2.67	1.33	1.00	2.08
Phlox drummondii	Southern Blaze™	Red Hot	PW	4.33	1.33	1.00	1.00	1.92
Lobelia erinus	Laguna	Royale Blue Pearl	AT	3.33	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.83
Phlox drummondii	Southern Blaze™	Blueberry	PW	2.33	2.67	1.00	1.00	1.75
Lobelia erinus	Laguna	Royale Lilac	PW	2.67	1.67	1.00	1.00	1.58
Jamesbrittenia hybrid	Safari®	Lava Flow	PW	2.33	1.33	1.00	1.00	1.42

Companies

AT = AT
BH = Ball Horticulture
PW = PW
SAK = SAK

Thank You
Thank you to all the companies who participated in the trials in 2025. A special thanks to our volunteers who assisted with a variety of tasks in these trials and contributed more than 1,000 hours to the project. Their dedication and hard work during the growing season kept the trials in excellent condition.

***The volunteers include **Theresa Gregory, Linda McCann, Karen Parsons, Rosalind Soles (project Chairs),** Jane Adams, Kim Bachman, Loretta Blazer, Jo Brown, Deb Brugger, Sally Day, Sue Ann Dill, Laura Foley, Mindy Hartley, Janet Heater, Marilyn Hinderer, Rebecca and Stephen Kapp, Celeste Kennedy, Dennis Latimer, Mary Martin, Kathy McConkey, Natheta Mercer, Connie Mitchell, Rita Lane, Christy Lockhart, Pat Martin, Fred Miller, Jan O'Neill, Marianne Ober, Lois O'Keefe, Terry Peter, Jill Pfister, Jean Rickards, Peggy Shank, Jane Skogstrom, Sara Suver, Karen Titone, Allison Volk, Joyce and Gary Watson, Gigi Wise, and Pam Young.

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More Information
Contact Pam Bennett, Professor with questions or comments: bennett.27@osu.edu or 937-398-7575.