



**Ohio State University Extension**  
**2010 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. MGVs Barbara Brown and Sally Day co-chaired the project. The field trial plots are located in the Gateway Learning Gardens and 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 is added every 3 years with the 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 2010. 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

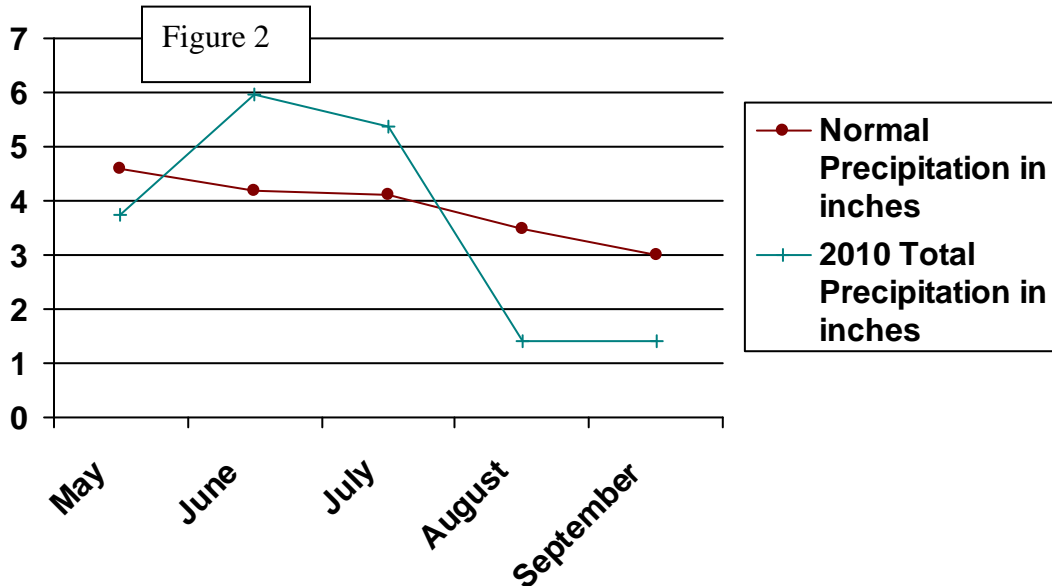
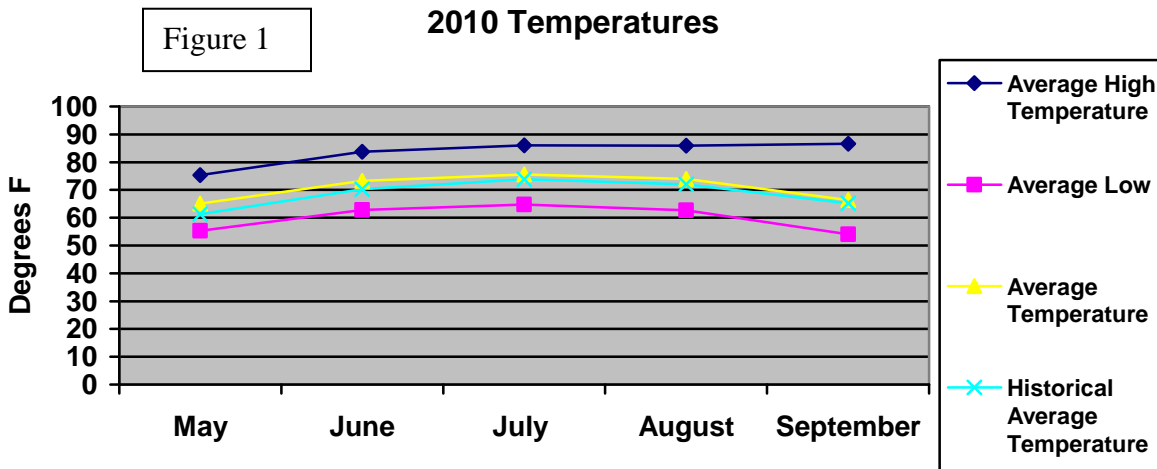
The plants were started from seeds or plugs, depending on the species, according to the recommended starting dates. They were planted in the plots on May 27, 2010. Rows were spaced 2' apart with 6 plants of each variety in a row; the plants in each row were spaced 1.5' apart. Trailing or vining plants 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 applications of fertilizer were 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. (Note, the plants in **BOLD** in the list below were those in the shade house). The material for the shade house provided a 70% shade. 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. If there were less than 3 plants remaining in one row at any time during the evaluation, the variety was dropped from the trials and the result is listed as "dead." A rating of 5 was considered to be excellent and a rating of 1 was considered to be 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 15°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 not supplied until it turned dry in August. Average temperatures in June were still above HAT and rainfall was well above normal. July average temperatures were above the HAT and rainfall for the month was also above normal. August average temperatures were still above the HAT and rainfall was below normal. In September, the average temperature was well above the HAT and rainfall was well below average. In 2010 there were 21 days with temperatures above 90°F. This compares to 0 days above 90°F in 2009, 8 days in 2000, 23 days 2007, 24 days in 2006, and 26 days in 2005. This growing season started out somewhat dry in May, wet in June and July, dry 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 2010 field trials and their monthly ratings and overall rating. The plants listed in **BOLD** are those varieties that were grown under the shade structure (70% shade cloth).

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
Juncus		Blue Mohawk	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline	Purple	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline	Sweetheart Red	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Fountain Grass	Graceful Grasses™	Fireworks	PW	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.92
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Bubblegum	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Sweet Potato Vine	Desana™	Compact Red	SUN	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
Coleus		Limon Blush	PW	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.83
Fountain Grass	Graceful Grasses™	Vertigo	PW	4.67	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.83
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Fuschia	PW	4.67	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.83
Sweet Potato Vine	Illusion™	Midnight Lace	PW	4.67	5.00	4.67	5.00	4.83
Cyperus	Graceful Grasses™	King Tut™	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline	Light Green	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Petunia	Supertunia®	Vista Silverberry	PW	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Sweet Potato Vine	Desana™	Maple	SUN	4.67	5.00	4.67	4.67	4.75
Cyperus	Graceful Grasses™	Baby Tut™	PW	4.67	4.67	4.67	5.00	4.75
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline	Red	PW	4.33	5.00	4.67	5.00	4.75
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline	Sweetheart Bronze	PW	4.33	4.67	5.00	5.00	4.75
Euphorbia		Diamond Frost®	PW	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75
Petunia	Supertunia®	Indigo Charm	PW	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75
Petunia	Supertunia®	Lavender Skies	PW	4.67	4.67	5.00	4.67	4.75
Sweet Potato Vine	Illusion™	Emerald Lace	PW	4.33	5.00	4.67	5.00	4.75
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline	Bewitched	PW	4.67	5.00	4.33	5.00	4.75
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline	Green Yellow	PW	4.33	5.00	4.67	5.00	4.75
Alyssum		Snow Princess™	PW	4.00	5.00	4.67	5.00	4.67
Coleus	Color Blaze™	Alligator's Tears	PW	4.67	4.67	5.00	4.33	4.67
Petunia	Shock Wave®	Coconut	PAS	3.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.67
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline	Sweetheart Purple	PW	4.33	5.00	4.33	5.00	4.67
Sweet Potato Vine	Sweet Caroline	Sweetheart Light Green	PW	4.33	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.58
Petunia	Simply Beautiful®	Black Velvet	BFP	4.67	4.67	4.33	4.67	4.58
Zinnia	Zahara	Yellow	PW	4.00	4.67	5.00	4.67	4.58
Scaveola	Surdiva®	Blue	SUN	4.33	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.58
Zinnia	Zahara	Scarlet	PW	4.00	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.58
Angelonia	Angelface®	Blue Improved	PW	4.00	5.00	4.67	4.33	4.50
Zinnia	Zahara	Fire	PW	3.67	4.67	5.00	4.67	4.50
Verbena	Tapien®	Purple	SUN	5.00	5.00	3.00	5.00	4.50
Verbena	Superbena® Royale	Chambray	PW	4.33	4.33	4.33	5.00	4.50
Petunia	Easy Wave®	Pink Dawn	PAS	3.67	4.33	5.00	5.00	4.50
Petunia	Supertunia®	Pretty Much Picasso™	PW	4.67	4.33	4.00	4.67	4.42
Zinnia	Double Zahara	Fire	PAS	4.33	4.33	4.33	4.67	4.42
Petunia	Supertunia®	Sangria Charm	PW	4.00	4.33	4.33	5.00	4.42

Common Name	Series	Cultivar	Company	June	July	Aug	Sep	Final Rating
Vinca	Titan™	Icy Pink	PAS	4.67	5.00	3.00	4.67	4.33
Petunia	Simply Beautiful®	Pinstripe	BFP	4.67	4.67	4.00	3.67	4.25
Petunia	Easy Wave®	Red Improved	PAS	3.33	4.67	4.33	4.67	4.25
Vinca	Titan™	Dark Red	PAS	4.00	5.00	3.00	4.67	4.17
Mecardonia		Gold Dust	PW	4.67	5.00	2.33	4.67	4.17
Petunia	Simply Beautiful®	Phantom	BFP	3.67	4.67	4.33	4.00	4.17
Lobelia	Lucia™	Dark Blue	PW	5.00	5.00	3.33	3.33	4.17
Petunia	Easy Wave®	Neon Rose	PAS	3.33	4.00	4.33	5.00	4.17
Vinca	Mediterranean XP	Cherry Halo	PAS	4.33	5.00	3.00	4.33	4.17
Nierembergia	Augusta™	Blue Skies	PW	4.00	3.67	4.00	5.00	4.17
Vinca	Titan™	Apricot	PAS	4.00	4.67	3.00	4.67	4.08
Verbena	Tapien®	Blue Violet	SUN	4.00	4.67	3.00	4.67	4.08
Scaveola	Surdiva®	White	SUN	4.67	4.67	3.00	4.00	4.08
Impatiens	Super Elfin® XP	Lilac	PAS	4.67	4.67	2.67	4.33	4.08
Impatiens	Super Elfin® XP	Violet Starburst	PAS	4.00	4.33	4.00	4.00	4.08
Vinca	Pacifica XP	Orange	PAS	3.33	4.67	3.33	4.67	4.00
Zinnia	Double Zahara	Cherry	PAS	3.33	4.00	4.33	4.33	4.00
Petunia	Surfinia®	Patio Coral Pink	SUN	4.33	3.33	4.00	4.33	4.00
Angelonia	AngelMist	Spreading Purple Improved	BFP	4.33	4.00	3.67	4.00	4.00
Torenia	Summer Wave®	Large Silver	SUN	3.67	4.33	3.33	4.33	3.92
Petunia	Surfinia®	Rose Veined	SUN	4.00	4.00	3.67	4.00	3.92
Torenia	Summer Wave®	Large Violet	SUN	4.00	3.67	3.67	4.33	3.92
Vinca	Mediterranean XP	Rose Halo	PAS	3.67	4.67	3.00	4.00	3.83
Heliotropium	Simply Scentsational		PW	3.00	4.67	4.00	3.67	3.83
Torenia	Summer Wave®	Large Blue	SUN	4.00	4.33	3.67	3.33	3.83
Lobelia	Lucia™	Lavender Blush	PW	5.00	4.67	2.33	3.00	3.75
Petunia	Easy Wave®	Mystic Pink Improved	PAS	3.33	3.33	4.00	4.00	3.67
Petunia	Surfinia®	Blue Veined	SUN	3.00	3.33	3.67	4.33	3.58
Anisodonteia		Slightly Strawberry™	PW	3.67	3.33	3.67	3.33	3.50
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Lavender	PW	4.00	4.00	3.67	2.33	3.50
Dahlia	Dahlia Grande	Colima	PW	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.50
Impatiens	Patchwork	Pink Shades	BFP	4.00	4.33	3.00	2.67	3.50
Bidens		Goldilocks Rocks	PW	3.67	4.33	3.33	2.33	3.42
Calibrachoa	Million Bells®	Trailing Blue	SUN	3.67	4.33	3.00	2.67	3.42
Calibrachoa	Million Bells®	Trailing Magenta	SUN	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.67	3.42
Impatiens	Super Elfin® XP	Red Starburst	PAS	4.33	3.67	3.00	2.67	3.42
Petunia	Surfinia®	Patio Yellow	SUN	3.67	2.67	3.33	4.00	3.42
Verbena	Aztec™	Blue Velvet	BFP	3.00	3.67	3.33	3.33	3.33
Petunia	Wave®	Purple Improved	PAS	2.67	3.00	3.67	4.00	3.33
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Yellow	PW	3.67	3.33	3.33	2.67	3.25
Dahlia	Dahlia Grande	Toluca	PW	3.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.25
Impatiens	Super Elfin® XP	Rose Starburst	PAS	3.67	4.33	3.33	1.33	3.17
Dahlia	Dahlia Grande	Topia	PW	2.67	3.67	3.33	3.00	3.17
Phlox	Intensia®	Blueberry	PW	3.33	4.00	2.67	2.67	3.17
Dahlia	Dahlia Grande	Tampico	PW	3.00	3.67	3.00	2.67	3.08
Nemesia	Sunsatia®	Lemon Improved	PW	5.00	3.00	1.33	2.67	3.00
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Coralberry Punch	PW	4.00	2.67	2.33	2.67	2.92
Calibrachoa	Million Bells®	Trailing Yellow	SUN	3.67	3.67	2.33	2.00	2.92
Dahlia	Dahlia Grande	Morelia	PW	3.00	3.33	2.00	2.33	2.67
Impatiens	Super Elfin® XP	Cherry Splash	PAS	4.00	3.33	1.33	2.00	2.67

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Final Rating</b>
Bracteantha	Dreamtime™	Jumbo Pure White	BFP	4.00	2.67	2.33	1.67	2.67
Nemesia	Sunsatia®	Cranberry Improved	PW	5.00	3.67	1.00	1.00	2.67
Bracteantha	Dreamtime™	Jumbo Light Pink	BFP	4.33	2.33	1.67	1.33	2.42
Bracteantha	Dreamtime™	Jumbo Red Ember	BFP	4.33	2.33	1.67	1.33	2.42
Impatiens	Patchwork	Peach Prism	BFP	4.67	2.33	1.33	1.00	2.33
Calibrachoa	Superbells®	Blackberry Punch	PW	3.33	2.00	1.67	2.00	2.25
Calibrachoa	Million Bells®	Cherry Pink	SUN	3.00	2.67	2.00	1.33	2.25
Nemesia	Sunsatia®	Coconut Improved	PW	3.33	3.33	1.00	1.00	2.17
Calibrachoa	Million Bells®	Brilliant Pink	SUN	3.67	1.00			dead

### **Seed Companies**

Ball FloraPlant = BFP

PanAmerican Seed Company = PAS

Proven Winners = PW

Suntory Flowers Ltd. = SUN