

# 2024 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 oversaw the volunteers working on the trials. MGVs Theresa Gregory, Linda McCann, Karen Parsons, and Rosalind Soles were the 2024 project leaders and were responsible for growing the plants in the greenhouse. MGV Jo Brown managed the data. 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. Visitors to the trials were residents, those from out of town who were familiar with the trials or were touring the gardens, green industry employees, and those who visited the gardens for other reasons.

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 2024 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 the containers on May 14, 2024. 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* cultivars were planted in 18" diameter containers with six plants per container, and in a soilless mix. There were a few other plants in containers as noted below.

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 plant). 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 in between the plants 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<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup>, and September 18<sup>th</sup>. The entire block of plants received a visual rating from one to five. A rating of five was excellent and a

rating of one was poor. The individual evaluation ratings were averaged for the monthly rating figure. The monthly evaluations (June-August) were averaged for the overall rating for each variety.

The plants were rated in September\*\*\*, but the September rating was not included in the final average due to the drought. The September rating is provided and indicates how these plants performed through an extreme drought. Plants were rated based on their appearance after going through the drought.

**Weather Information**

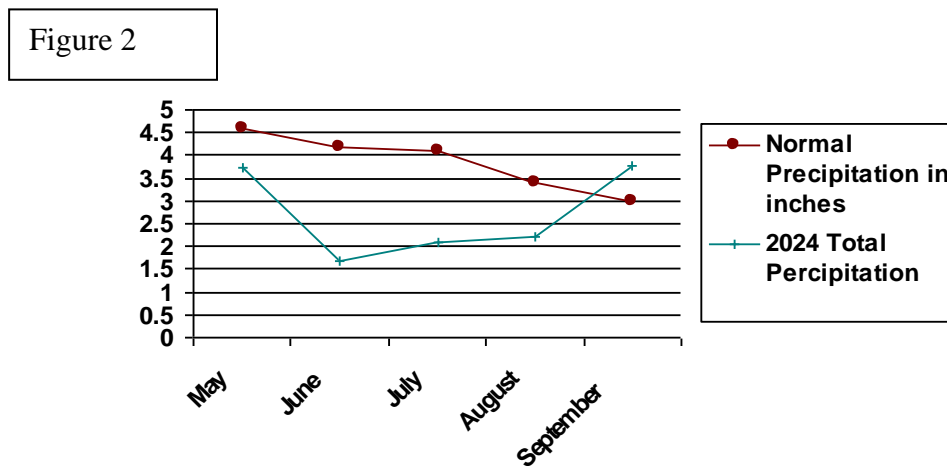
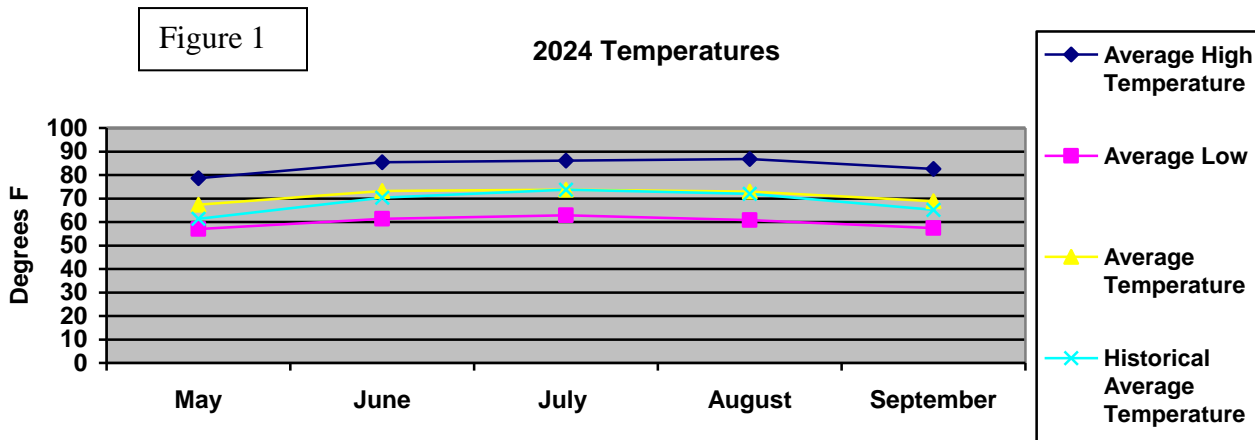
The information below was obtained from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences weather station close to Springfield, Ohio. More details can be found at:

<https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/stationinfo.asp?id=13>

Plants were installed under perfect planting conditions on May 14<sup>th</sup>. May precipitation was below normal, with June and July being exceptionally dry and August dry. Both trial locations experienced severe drought during the season.

Temperatures were slightly above the historical average temperature. There were 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.



## Results

Following are the varieties in the 2024 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 companies. 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

\*\*\* = September rating = not included in the overall rating due to extreme drought conditions

Shaded row = grown in shade

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June	July	August	Overall Average	September***
Ageratum		Monarch Magic	BFP	4.86	4.64	4.64	<b>4.79</b>	5.00
Impatiens X hybrida	SunPatiens®	Vigorous Purple Elite	SAK	4.50	4.64	4.64	<b>4.68</b>	4.93
Lantana	Shamrock™	Red	BFP	4.64	4.64	4.43	<b>4.68</b>	5.00
Dahlia	Virtuoso™	Vibrant Violet™	PW	4.50	4.50	4.57	<b>4.64</b>	5.00
Angelonia	Guardian Angel™	Blue	BFP	4.93	4.57	4.64	<b>4.63</b>	4.36
Celosia argentea plumosa nana		Burning Embers	SAK	4.86	4.64	4.57	<b>4.63</b>	4.43
Impatiens X hybrida	SunPatiens®	Vigorous Orchid	SAK	4.21	4.64	4.64	<b>4.63</b>	5.00
Coleus	Premium Sun	Crimson Gold	PAS	5.00	4.50	4.50	<b>4.61</b>	4.43
Impatiens X hybrida	SunPatiens®	Vigorous Red	SAK	4.71	4.57	4.57	<b>4.61</b>	4.57
Dahlia	Virtuoso™	Classy Carmine™	PW	4.79	4.43	4.50	<b>4.59</b>	4.64
Gomphrena		Fireworks	PAS	4.36	4.57	4.43	<b>4.57</b>	4.93
Impatiens	Beacon®	Violet Shade	PAS	4.57	4.29	4.57	<b>4.54</b>	4.71
Petunia	Supertunia Mini Vista®	Yellow	PW	4.79	4.64	4.64	<b>4.52</b>	4.00
Impatiens X hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Purple Candy	SAK	3.79	4.57	4.64	<b>4.50</b>	5.00
Spreading Petunia	Easy Wave®	Navy Velour	PAS	4.79	4.57	4.57	<b>4.50</b>	4.07
Coleus	ColorBlaze®	Lime Time	PW	4.43	4.64	4.57	<b>4.46</b>	4.21
Petunia	Supertunia Mini Vista®	Plum Veined	PW	4.86	4.64	4.50	<b>4.46</b>	3.86

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June	July	August	Overall Average	September***
Dichondra		Silver Falls	PAS	3.86	4.43	4.57	<b>4.45</b>	4.93
Petunia	Supertunia Tiara™	Pink	PW	5.00	4.64	4.43	<b>4.45</b>	3.71
Begonia	Space Age™	Europa™	PW	4.21	4.50	4.43	<b>4.41</b>	4.50
Cuphea		Vermillionaire®	PW	3.86	4.29	4.57	<b>4.41</b>	4.93
Petunia	Supertunia Tiara™	Blue	PW	4.57	4.50	4.57	<b>4.39</b>	3.93
Coleus	ColorBlaze®	Mini Me™ Chartreuse	PW	4.50	4.36	4.29	<b>4.38</b>	4.36
Impatiens	Beacon®	Rose	PAS	4.36	4.14	4.50	<b>4.38</b>	4.50
Scaevola	Whirlwind®	White	PW	3.71	4.43	4.57	<b>4.38</b>	4.79
Interspecific Impatiens	Solarscape™ XL	Pink Jewel	PAS	4.64	4.57	4.64	<b>4.36</b>	3.57
Impatiens**	SunPatians®	Compact Lavender, Classic White, Rose Glow	SAK	4.64	4.50	4.14	<b>4.36</b>	4.14
Interspecific Impatiens	Solarscape™ XL	Lilac Spark	PAS	4.43	4.43	4.57	<b>4.34</b>	3.93
Lantana		PassionFruit	BFP	3.71	4.57	4.21	<b>4.34</b>	4.86
Portulaca	Mojave®	Yellow	PW	4.50	4.50	4.29	<b>4.34</b>	4.07
Salvia	Unplugged®	White	PW	4.07	4.50	4.43	<b>4.32</b>	4.29
Alternanthea		Purple Prince	PAS	4.57	4.64	3.93	<b>4.30</b>	4.07
Herb Basil		Everleaf Lemon	BH	4.86	4.50	4.43	<b>4.30</b>	3.43
Scaevola	Whirlwind®	Blue	PW	3.43	4.29	4.57	<b>4.30</b>	4.93
Portulaca	Mojave®	Mango	PW	4.57	4.43	4.29	<b>4.30</b>	3.93
Begonia X hybrida	Viking	White on Green	SAK	4.36	4.36	4.29	<b>4.27</b>	4.07
Coleus	ColorBlaze®	Mini Me™ Watermelon	PW	4.57	4.36	4.07	<b>4.27</b>	4.07
Angelonia	Angelface®	Blue	PW	4.50	4.64	4.57	<b>4.25</b>	3.29
Begonia	Megawatt	Red Green Leaf	PAS	4.29	4.43	4.43	<b>4.21</b>	3.71
Tomato		Wonderstar Red	PAS	4.79	4.21	3.57	<b>4.21</b>	4.29
Spreading Petunia	E3 Easy Wave®	Rose Morn	PAS	4.57	4.57	4.21	<b>4.20</b>	3.43
Zinnia	Belize	Double Yellow	AT	4.43	4.50	4.21	<b>4.20</b>	3.64
Begonia	Megawatt	Red Bronze Leaf Improved	PAS	4.07	4.14	4.29	<b>4.18</b>	4.21
Impatiens X hybrida	SunPatians®	Compact Lavendar Elite	SAK	3.86	4.07	4.21	<b>4.14</b>	4.43
Canna	F1 Cannova	Gold Leopard	AT	4.14	4.21	4.43	<b>4.13</b>	3.71
Impatiens	Rockapulco®	Appleblossom (Imp)	PW	4.29	3.86	4.21	<b>4.13</b>	4.14
Helianthus	Suncredible®	Yellow	PW	4.43	4.50	4.50	<b>4.11</b>	3.00
Spreading Petunia	Easy Wave®	Rose	PAS	5.00	4.43	4.00	<b>4.11</b>	3.00

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June	July	August	Overall Average	September***
Spreading Petunia	Easy Wave®	Pink Passion	PAS	4.43	4.64	4.36	<b>4.11</b>	3.00
Dahlia	Virtuoso™	Pinkerific™	PW	4.07	4.00	4.36	<b>4.11</b>	4.00
Angelonia	AngelFlare™	White (Imp)	BFP	4.57	4.21	4.14	<b>4.09</b>	3.43
Cuphea	Totally Tempted™	Watermelon Wine™	PW	4.43	4.29	4.00	<b>4.07</b>	3.57
Spreading Petunia	Easy Wave®	Burgundy Velour	PAS	4.57	4.29	4.21	<b>4.05</b>	3.14
Zinnia	Belize	Double Pink Bicolor	AT	4.14	4.21	4.29	<b>4.05</b>	3.57
Portulaca	Mojave®	Pink	PW	3.64	4.07	4.21	<b>4.05</b>	4.29
Begonia	Megawatt	Pink Green Leaf	PAS	3.57	4.50	4.36	<b>4.04</b>	3.71
Begonia Viking Explorer Rose on Green**	and	Helichrysum Licorice Silver	SAK	4.79	4.21	4.07	<b>4.04</b>	3.07
Cuphea	Totally Tempted™	Frosted Violets	PW	4.29	4.29	3.93	<b>4.04</b>	3.64
Spreading Petunia	Easy Wave®	Neon Rose	PAS	4.79	4.07	4.00	<b>4.04</b>	3.29
Impatiens X hybrida**	SunPatiens®	Compact Hot Coral, Classic White, Red Candy	SAK	4.50	4.36	3.71	<b>4.02</b>	3.50
Impatiens X hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Red Candy	SAK	3.21	3.79	4.07	<b>3.96</b>	4.79
Salvia	Unplugged®	So Blue™	PW	3.07	4.50	3.57	<b>3.96</b>	4.71
Zinnia	Belize	Double Scarlett	AT	4.50	4.43	3.86	<b>3.91</b>	2.86
Heliotropium	Augusta®	Lavender	PW	4.21	4.64	3.14	<b>3.91</b>	3.64
Petunia	Supertunia®	Bermuda Beach (Imp)	PW	4.79	4.29	3.79	<b>3.89</b>	2.71
Begonia	Megawatt	Pink Bronze Leaf	PAS	4.14	4.36	4.07	<b>3.89</b>	3.00
Portulaca	Mojave®	Fuschia (Imp)	PW	4.14	3.57	3.79	<b>3.88</b>	4.00
Scaevola	Whirlwind®	Pink	PW	2.86	4.07	4.29	<b>3.86</b>	4.21
Ornamental Millet		Jade Princess	PAS	4.86	4.50	3.43	<b>3.86</b>	2.64
Achillea	New Vintage	Terracotta	DP	2.93	3.79	4.36	<b>3.86</b>	4.36
Portulaca	Mojave®	Red	PW	3.79	3.93	4.14	<b>3.84</b>	3.50
Dahlia	Virtuoso™	Dayglo Yellow™	PW	4.29	3.57	3.14	<b>3.80</b>	4.21
Impatiens	Rockapulco®	Rose (Imp)	PW	3.86	4.00	3.50	<b>3.80</b>	3.86
Impatiens	Beacon®	White	PAS	4.07	3.50	3.86	<b>3.80</b>	3.79
Impatiens	Beacon®	Salmon	PAS	3.86	3.50	3.86	<b>3.80</b>	4.00
Cuphea	Enchantia™	White	BFP	2.71	3.86	4.36	<b>3.79</b>	4.21
Spreading Petunia	Easy Wave®	Red Velour	PAS	4.43	4.14	3.86	<b>3.77</b>	2.64
Calibrachoa*	Cha-Cha™	Frosty Lemon	BFP	5.00	4.50	2.64	<b>3.77</b>	2.93

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June	July	August	Overall Average	September***
Spreading Petunia	E3 Easy Wave®	Mix Peppermint	PAS	4.57	4.21	3.71	<b>3.77</b>	2.57
Spreading Begonia	Hula	Pink	PAS	3.93	3.79	3.71	<b>3.77</b>	3.64
Spreading Petunia	E3 Easy Wave®	Mix Red White Blue	PAS	4.50	3.93	3.79	<b>3.73</b>	2.71
Veronica	Sky	Lilac Spark		2.43	4.00	4.43	<b>3.70</b>	3.93
Salvia	Unplugged®	Red	PW	3.43	4.00	3.64	<b>3.68</b>	3.64
Coleus	Premium Sun	Coral Candy	PAS	4.21	4.21	3.50	<b>3.66</b>	2.71
Celosia argentea plumosa nana**	Flamma	Golden, Orange, Red	SAK	4.71	4.07	3.50	<b>3.64</b>	2.29
Begonia	Space Age™	Black Hole™	PW	3.57	3.79	3.64	<b>3.63</b>	3.50
Coreopsis	UpTick	Gold	BH	2.64	4.50	4.07	<b>3.63</b>	3.29
Nepeta	Junior Walker		BH	3.00	3.43	3.86	<b>3.61</b>	4.14
Scaevola	Stardiva™	White	PW	4.14	3.50	3.14	<b>3.61</b>	3.64
Spreading Begonia	Hula	Red	PAS	3.86	3.57	3.57	<b>3.61</b>	3.43
Achillea	New Vintage	Violet	DP	2.64	2.79	4.21	<b>3.61</b>	4.79
Dahlia		Black Forest Ruby	AT	3.64	3.93	3.86	<b>3.59</b>	2.93
Echinacea	Artisan	Orange Soft	DP	2.14	3.50	3.79	<b>3.57</b>	4.86
Digitalis	Arctic Fox	Lemon	DP	2.29	3.07	4.36	<b>3.55</b>	4.50
Spreading Begonia	Hula	Mix Red White	PAS	3.57	3.64	3.50	<b>3.55</b>	3.50
Scaevola	Stardiva™	Blue	PW	3.64	3.29	3.21	<b>3.55</b>	4.07
Begonia	Space Age™	Triton™	PW	3.36	3.29	3.50	<b>3.54</b>	4.00
Portulaca	Mojave®	Tangerine (Imp)	PW	4.07	3.50	3.57	<b>3.54</b>	3.00
Calibrachoa*	Cha-Cha™	Diva Apricot	BFP	5.00	4.43	2.07	<b>3.50</b>	2.50
Petchoa	SuperCal Premium®	Bordeaux,Purple Dawn, Rose Pink (sub Pink Mist)	SAK	4.93	3.86	3.14	<b>3.46</b>	1.93
Angelonia	AngelFlare™	Orchid Pink	BFP	3.93	3.29	2.71	<b>3.46</b>	3.93
Buddleia	Chrysalis	Steele Blue	BH	2.93	2.64	3.79	<b>3.45</b>	4.43
Achillea	Flowerburst	Fruitbowl	SAH	2.86	2.71	3.93	<b>3.43</b>	4.21
Impatiens	Beacon®	Red Bright	PAS	3.86	2.50	3.64	<b>3.43</b>	3.71
Angelonia	Angelface®	Wedgwood Blue	PW	3.71	3.93	3.43	<b>3.41</b>	2.57
Buddleia	Chrysalis	Pink	BH	2.00	3.57	3.64	<b>3.41</b>	4.43
Impatiens	Beacon®	Mix Otway	PAS	4.00	2.86	3.50	<b>3.41</b>	3.29
Petchoa SuperCal Premium® Red Maple**	and	Gypsophila muralis Gypsy White	SAK	3.86	3.64	3.64	<b>3.39</b>	2.43
Impatiens	Beacon®	Coral Improved	PAS	3.86	3.14	3.43	<b>3.38</b>	3.07

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June	July	August	Overall Average	September***
Petunia	F1 Trilogy	Rose Vein	AT	4.93	4.29	2.57	<b>3.38</b>	1.71
Petunia	F1 Trilogy	Blue Vein	AT	4.43	3.64	3.29	<b>3.36</b>	2.07
Zinnia	Belize	Lemon	AT	4.21	4.00	2.64	<b>3.34</b>	2.50
Scaevola	Whirlwind®	Pink	PW	3.93	3.14	2.79	<b>3.30</b>	3.36
Petunia	F1 Trilogy	Red Gen 2	AT	4.14	4.00	3.21	<b>3.27</b>	1.71
Nemesia		Bluebird (Imp)	PW	3.64	2.71	2.00	<b>3.23</b>	4.57
Rudbeckia	Minibeckia Flame		EH	3.21	4.57	3.43	<b>3.21</b>	1.64
Impatiens	Beacon®	Mix Chicago	PAS	3.93	2.71	2.86	<b>3.16</b>	3.14
Digitalis	Arctic Fox	Rose	DP	1.93	2.43	3.64	<b>3.14</b>	4.57
Leucanthemum	Flower Power		BH	1.93	3.36	4.29	<b>3.14</b>	3.00
Osteospermum	Akila™	Mix Hawaii Sunset	PAS	3.07	2.50	3.21	<b>3.13</b>	3.71
Petchoa**	SuperCal Premium®	Pearl White, Rose Pink	SAK	4.21	3.36	3.14	<b>3.13</b>	1.79
Rudbeckia	Minibeckia Fire		EH	3.50	4.50	3.14	<b>3.13</b>	1.36
Salvia nemorosa	Veronica	Seaside		1.50	2.93	4.14	<b>3.11</b>	3.86
Agastache	Summerlong	Magenta	DP	1.79	2.50	3.07	<b>3.02</b>	4.71
Agastache	Summerlong	Lemon	DP	1.57	2.50	3.36	<b>3.00</b>	4.57
Angelonia	Angelface®	Wedgwood Pink	PW	4.07	3.86	2.14	<b>2.95</b>	1.71
Impatiens	Rockapulco®	Red (Imp)	PW	2.64	3.07	2.57	<b>2.93</b>	3.43
Angelonia	Angelface®	Perfectly Pink	PW	4.50	3.93	2.43	<b>2.91</b>	0.79
Lavendar	Superblue		BH	3.00	3.36	2.14	<b>2.88</b>	3.00
Impatiens	Beacon®	Orange	PAS	3.64	1.93	2.79	<b>2.82</b>	2.93
Rudbeckia	F1	Orange	AT	4.57	4.36	2.00	<b>2.80</b>	0.29
Heliotropium	Aromagica™	Purple	PW	4.00	3.64	1.29	<b>2.73</b>	2.00
Agastache	Summerlong	Coral	DP	1.21	2.71	2.93	<b>2.68</b>	3.86
Lavendar	Annett		BH	2.86	3.29	2.36	<b>2.64</b>	2.07
Centaurea	The Bride		SAH	3.14	3.50	3.00	<b>2.63</b>	0.86
Angelonia	Angelface®	Cranberry	PW	3.14	3.00	1.57	<b>2.46</b>	2.14
Petunia	F1 Trilogy	Purple Gen 2	AT	3.93	2.64	1.43	<b>2.45</b>	1.79
Zinnia	Belize	Double Yellow Gen 2	AT	3.64	3.71	1.64	<b>2.45</b>	0.79
Impatiens	Beacon®	Lipstick	PAS	2.71	1.86	2.14	<b>2.30</b>	2.50
Zinnia	Belize	Double Yellow Antique Bicolor	AT	3.14	3.71	1.64	<b>2.27</b>	0.57
Limonium			SAH	3.50	2.57	1.43	<b>2.13</b>	1.00
Begonia semper florens	Senator IQ	Pink Improved	SAK	3.50	1.86	1.21	<b>2.09</b>	1.79
Delosperma hybrid	Ocean Sunset	Violet Flare	BH	2.00	2.50	1.64	<b>1.88</b>	1.36
Armeria	Dremearia	Hypnotic Dreams	DP	1.43	1.79	1.29	<b>1.55</b>	1.71
Petchoa	Caliburst™	Yellow	PAS	2.93	2.07	0.50	<b>1.52</b>	0.57

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June	July	August	Overall Average	September***
Sedum cauticola	Shamrock™		SAK	2.14	2.36	0.57	<b>1.36</b>	0.36
Rudbeckia	Minibeckia Double Flame		EH	0.93	0.93	1.21	<b>0.93</b>	0.64
Scabiosa	Paper Moon		SAH	0.29	0.29	0.21	<b>0.27</b>	0.29

## Companies

AT = American Takii  
 BFP = Ball FloraPlant  
 BH = Ball Horticulture  
 DP = Darwin Perennials  
 EH = Eason Horticulture  
 OPGC = Ohio Plant Germplasm Center  
 PAS = PanAmerican Seed  
 PW = Proven Winners  
 SAH = Sahin  
 SAK = Sakata

## Thank You

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## More Information

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