2025 Herbaceous Cultivar Trial Results
Chadwick Arboretum
The Ohio State University, Columbus OH

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Introduction

The Cultivar Trials at The Ohio State University are located on the campus of the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences in the Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens. Faculty and staff worked with Chadwick volunteers and Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteers*** (MGV) to implement the trials, including growing them in the greenhouse, planting, maintenance, and evaluating. Staff and volunteers planted seeds and plugs and maintained plants in the greenhouse, planted the trial beds, 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 and have had compost added each year of the trial. The beds were tilled prior to planting. Shade plants were in raised beds containing a soilless mix.

The selection of plants to be trialed in the garden varies from year to year. The selection is based on entries from companies. 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 Columbus, Ohio. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide growers, landscapers, and homeowners with a tool for plant selection for the Midwest as well as to provide performance data to the breeders and companies.

Method

The plants were started in the greenhouse from seeds or plugs, depending on the species, according to the recommended starting dates. They were planted in the ground plots and the raised beds on May 23, 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 plant). Plants were mulched lightly, and additional fertilizer was applied in mid-July. Hand weeding was completed by volunteers as needed. Plants were also deadheaded as needed. See the weather information below for additional details. All plants were grown in full sun unless otherwise indicated with a shaded row in the chart below.

Faculty, staff, and volunteers conducted visual evaluations on June 26th, July 24th, August 21st, and September 24. The entire block of plants received a visual rating from one to five. The 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-September) were averaged for the final 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 in Columbus, Ohio. More details can be found at:
https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/stationinfo.asp?id=14

May had slightly above normal average temperatures, with perfect planting conditions. Average temperatures were slightly above historical average temperatures throughout the growing season. Precipitation was close to normal precipitation in May and July, with June, with a slight deficit in May but a significant deficit in August and September. The site was in a moderate drought through August and September.

In 2025, there were 22 days over 90F and there were 46 days between 85F and 90F. In 2024 there were 25 days of 90F or greater, and 7 days between 80.0 and 89.0F. In 2023 there were only three days of 90F or higher, in 2022 there were nine days which is comparable to the number of days above 90F in 2021. Overall, it was a warm and dry growing season.

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

Figure 1

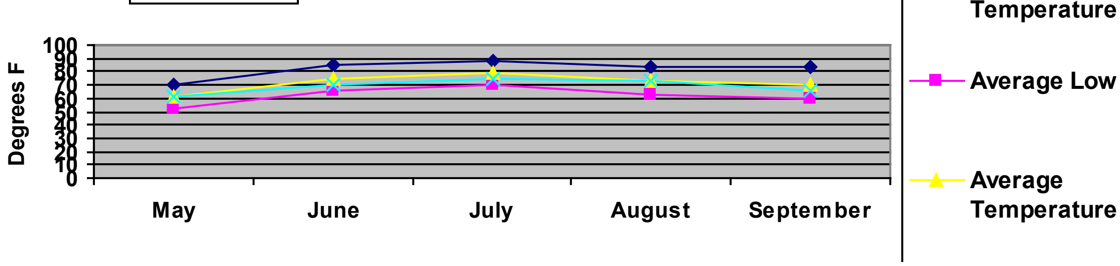
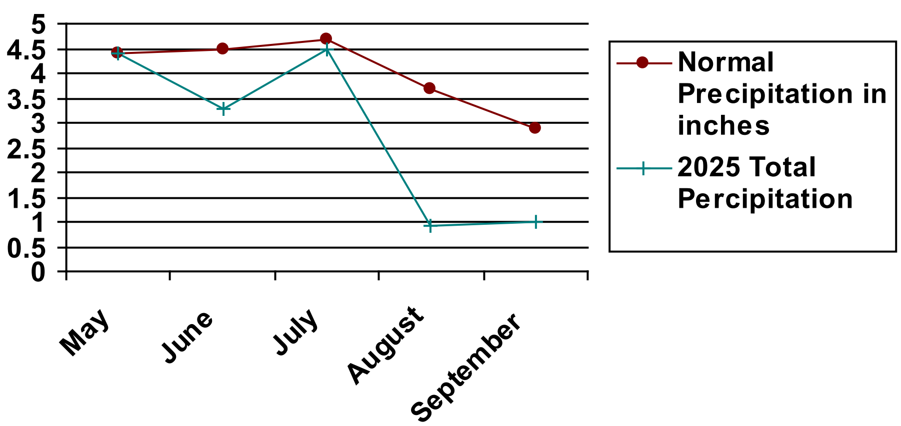


Figure 2



Results

The following are the varieties in the 2025 field trials, along with their monthly ratings and final ratings. The plants listed in gray are those varieties grown in shade. The plants with an * (asterisk) after the Genus/Common Name were grown in containers with six of the same species per container. The plants with a double ** were containers with mixed species.

The supplier for each variety is listed in the table below; 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

shaded gray cells = grown in the shade

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June Average	July Average	August Average	September Average	Overall Average
Petunia	Supertunia Vista®	Bubblegum®	PW	4.87	4.88	5.00	5.00	4.94
Cleome hybrid		Señorita Rosalita®	PW	4.80	5.00	4.94	5.00	4.94
Vinca	Pacifica XP	Red Halo	BH	4.47	4.94	5.00	4.93	4.83
Dahlia	Venti™	FireBurst	BH	4.60	4.81	4.88	5.00	4.82
Lantana camara	Luscious®	Basket Tangeglow®	PW	4.60	4.81	4.88	5.00	4.82
Lantana camara	Luscious®	Royale Red Zone™	PW	4.53	4.94	4.82	5.00	4.82
Begonia benariensis	Surefire®	Rose	PW	4.53	4.81	4.94	4.93	4.81
Vinca	Pacifica XP	Pink	BH	4.33	4.94	4.94	4.94	4.79
Petchoa	SuperCal	Blue-eyed Rose	SAK	4.67	4.67	4.94	4.87	4.79
Coleus scutellariodes	ColorBlaze®	Royale Pineapple Brandy	PW	4.40	4.75	4.94	5.00	4.77
Playlist Combo Friday I'm in Love**	SunPatiens® Compact Classic White and Red and PartyTime Royal Red™		SAK	4.67	4.94	4.71	4.73	4.76
Helianthus hybrid	Suncredible®	Yellow	PW	4.07	4.94	4.94	5.00	4.74
Begonia benariensis	Surefire®	White	PW	4.07	4.87	5.00	5.00	4.73
Solenostemon x hybrida	PartyTime™	Royal Red	SAK	4.27	5.00	4.82	4.80	4.72
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Classic White	SAK	4.27	4.94	4.76	4.87	4.71
Coleus scutellariodes	ColorBlaze®	El Brighto	PW	4.07	4.94	4.88	4.87	4.69
Coleus scutellariodes	ColorBlaze®	Wicked Witch™	PW	4.00	5.00	4.88	4.87	4.69
Playlist Combo Fire in the Sky Imp.**	Petchoa SuperCal® Red Maple and Yellow Sun Imp.		SAK	4.86	4.50	4.82	4.53	4.68
Calibrachoa*	Superbells Magic®	Double Grapefruit	PW	4.60	4.69	4.76	4.53	4.65
Playlist Combo Good Thing**	Petchoa SuperCal® Premium Purple Dawn Red Maple, and Yellow Sun Imp.		SAK	4.73	4.56	4.71	4.53	4.63
MixMasters™*	Happy Dance		BH	4.53	4.75	4.65	4.60	4.63
MixMasters™*	Flame On		BH	4.53	4.93	4.53	4.47	4.62
Petunia	Shock Wave®	Violet	BH	4.67	4.50	4.63	4.64	4.61
Petunia	Supertunia Mini Vista®	Yellow	PW	4.73	4.25	4.65	4.80	4.61

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June Average	July Average	August Average	September Average	Overall Average
Petunia	Supertunia®	Hoopla® Vivid Orchid	PW™	4.73	4.25	4.65	4.80	4.61
Zinnia	Elegant™	Hot Mixture	BH	4.67	4.88	4.53	4.33	4.60
Playlist Combo Dream On**	Petchoa SuperCal® Premium Rose Star and Yellow Sun Imp		SAK	4.80	4.75	4.18	4.60	4.58
Petunia	Supertunia Vista®	Cool Jazz™	PW	3.87	4.69	4.94	4.80	4.57
Solenostemon x hybrida	PartyTime™	Crimson	SAK	4.40	4.81	4.53	4.53	4.57
Begonia benariensis	Surefire Cascade™	Red	PW	4.00	4.81	4.71	4.73	4.56
Ageratum		Monarch Delight	PW	4.12	4.52	4.80	4.67	4.53
Petunia		Cherry Tartwheel	BH	4.80	3.75	4.88	4.67	4.52
Petunia	Headliner™	Crystal Pink	BH	4.80	3.56	5.00	4.73	4.52
Begonia benariensis	Surefire®	Red	PW	3.87	4.75	4.65	4.80	4.52
Calibrachoa*	Cabaret	Lavender Kiss	BH	4.53	4.69	4.41	4.40	4.51
Playlist Crimson and Clover	Petchoa SuperCal® Premium Bordeaux, Purple Dawn, and Red Maple		SAK	4.73	4.19	4.47	4.40	4.45
Lobularia maritima hybrid		White Knight® (Imp)	PW	4.07	4.63	4.65	4.40	4.43
Playlist Combo Alive**	SunPatiens Compact Rose Glow® and Electric Orange®, and Solenostemon PartyTime Crimson™		SAK	4.27	4.50	4.41	4.53	4.43
Dahlia	Dalaya®	Purple Lace	BH	4.40	4.38	4.24	4.53	4.39
Bidens ferulifolia	Campfire®	Marshmallow	PW	3.13	4.56	4.88	4.93	4.38
Zinnia	Belize	Double Bright Rose	AT	3.33	4.81	4.76	4.60	4.38
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Double Vintage Coral™	PW	4.33	4.69	4.12	4.20	4.33
Zinnia	Profusion	Double White Imp	SAK	3.67	4.63	4.47	4.53	4.32
Calibrachoa*	Superbells®	Double Smitten Pink™	SAK	4.13	3.88	4.59	4.47	4.27
Dahlia		Black Forest Ruby	AT	4.36	4.75	3.94	4.00	4.26
Calibrachoa**	Trixi®	FunTopia Utopia	BH	4.53	3.88	4.35	4.27	4.26
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Pink Flash	SAK	4.53	4.25	4.06	4.13	4.24
Petunia	Supertunia Vista®	Jazzberry®	PW	4.13	4.50	4.18	4.13	4.24
Zonal Geranium	Moonlight	Dark Red 26	PW	4.33	4.06	4.12	4.40	4.23
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Lavendar	SAK	3.67	4.88	4.18	4.07	4.20
Petunia	Trilogy	Rose Vein	AT	4.20	3.38	4.65	4.53	4.19

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June Average	July Average	August Average	September Average	Overall Average
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Royal Magenta	SAK	3.80	4.50	4.12	4.20	4.15
Playlist Combo Spice Up Your Life**	Petchoa SuperCal® Premium Rose Star and Yellow Sun Improved, Coral Star and Pink Mist		SAK	3.73	3.94	4.35	4.33	4.09
Angelonia	Archangel	Fuschia	BH	4.59	4.67	3.50	3.42	4.05
Interspecific Geranium	Solera	Purple	BH	4.20	3.56	4.18	4.13	4.02
Calibrachoa*	MiniFamous	Neo Rose Flash	BH	4.13	3.88	4.06	3.93	4.00
Calibrachoa**	Trixi®	Swirling Shuffle	BH	4.00	4.13	4.00	3.80	3.98
Calibrachoa*	Bumble Bee	Pink 26	BH	4.20	4.25	3.65	3.67	3.94
Calibrachoa*	Cha-Cha	Diva Orange	BH	4.67	3.75	3.65	3.67	3.93
Phlox drummondii	Southern Blaze™	Red Hot	PW	4.27	3.25	4.18	4.00	3.92
Dahlia	Venti™	PinkBurst	BH	3.93	4.13	3.65	3.87	3.89
Playlist Combo Two Tickets to Paradise**	Calibrachoa Calipetite® Blue Splash and Pink Splash		SAK	3.93	3.44	4.00	4.07	3.86
Petunia	Supertunia Mini Vista®	Pink Cloud™	PW	4.40	3.69	3.65	3.67	3.85
Calibrachoa*	MiniFamous	Neo Magenta Star	BH	4.00	4.06	3.65	3.67	3.84
Petchoa	SuperCal Premium	Savoring Starfruit mix	BH	4.33	3.63	3.71	3.67	3.83
Calibrachoa**	Trixi®		PW	4.33	3.38	3.71	3.80	3.80
Jamesbrittenia hybrid	Safari®	Dawn	PW	3.33	3.63	4.12	4.07	3.79
Phlox drummondii	Southern Blaze™	Bright Pink	PW	3.60	3.75	4.00	3.73	3.77
Petunia	Headliner™	Strawberry Picotee	BH	4.00	3.69	3.65	3.73	3.77
Petunia		Bees Knees	BH	3.40	3.81	3.94	3.87	3.76
Impatiens x hybrida	SunPatiens®	Compact Pretty Pink	SAK	4.07	4.63	3.06	3.20	3.74
Zinnia	Belize	Double Rose Gen 2	AT	3.67	4.06	3.59	3.60	3.73
Zonal Geranium	Moonlight	Purple + Big Eye	PW	3.33	3.38	3.88	4.13	3.68
Calibrachoa*	MiniFamous	Neo Coral Flash	BH	4.00	3.81	3.29	3.47	3.64
Calibrachoa*	Cabaret	Bright Orange	BH	2.07	3.63	4.06	4.13	3.47
Calibrachoa*	Cha-Cha	Hot Pink Star	BH	4.20	4.44	2.35	2.80	3.45
Petunia	Headliner™	Radiant Ruby	BH	3.40	3.25	3.47	3.43	3.39
Phlox drummondii	Southern Blaze™	White	PW	4.47	3.19	2.82	2.73	3.30

Genus/ Common Name	Series	Variety/Color	Company	June Average	July Average	August Average	September Average	Overall Average
Impatiens	Beacon	Light Pink	BH	3.00	3.63	3.29	3.20	3.28
Impatiens	Beacon	Blue Pearl	BH	2.93	3.69	3.29	3.20	3.28
Phlox drummondii	Southern Blaze™	Blueberry	PW	3.60	3.75	2.59	2.47	3.10
Bidens ferulifolia	Campfire®	Red Ember	PW	2.93	3.00	3.35	3.07	3.09
Scaevola aemula	Whirlwind®	White (Imp)	PW	2.80	2.94	3.18	3.33	3.06
Petunia	Easy Wave	Pink Pearl	BH	4.33	2.81	2.47	2.40	3.00
Petchoa	SuperCal Premium	Yellow Sun Imp	SAK	3.40	3.25	2.41	2.40	2.87
Jamesbrittenia hybrid	Safari®	Dusk™	PW	4.13	1.88	1.41	1.73	2.29
Jamesbrittenia hybrid	Safari®	Lava Flow	PW	2.80	1.75	1.71	1.80	2.01
Lobelia erinus	Laguna®	Royale Azure	PW	2.00	1.07	1.31	1.29	1.42
Lobelia erinus	Laguna®	Royale Blue Pearl	PW	1.93	1.00	1.25	1.36	1.39
Lobelia erinus	Laguna®	Royale Lilac	PW	1.60	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.28

Companies
AM = American Takii
Ball = Ball Horticulture (Includes Ball FloraPlant, Ball Ingenuity, PanAmerican Seed)
PW = Proven Winners
SAK = Sakata

Thank You
Thank you to all the companies who participated in the trials in 2025. Thank you to AmericanHort and Cultivate 25 staff for providing buses for attendees to visit the campus trials. More than 300 people attended the open house. A special thanks to our volunteers who assisted with a variety of tasks in these trials. Their dedication and hard work during the growing season kept the trials in excellent condition.

***Volunteers: Kathy Krantz, Lead Organizer, Ben Adams, Caye Aiello, Jill Alexander, Brenda Allinger, Jen Andon, Sukritee Bhattarai, Linda Bauer, Pamela Bergen, Margie Campbell, Alison Circle, Barb Dolce, Sandy Eberts, Debbie Farynowski, Denise Fields, Ben Gantz, Lynn Giljahn, John Glacken, Loretta Graham, Jeff Harriman, Maggie Harriman, Stephanie Harrison, Jennie Hayes, Marcella Hochwalt-King, Lori Kingston, Carole Kinkof, Jennifer Kuehn, Suzy Levine, Susie Maynard, Julie Mease, Patti Mikac, Laura Nice, Christine Osterman, Susan Peck, Lou Picknell, Anne Rauck, Marianne Robinson, Debbie Roshto, Gail Walter, Marjorie Ward, Kathy Watson, Gary Wearsch, Carol Williams, Beth Urban, and Cindy Utz.

More Information
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