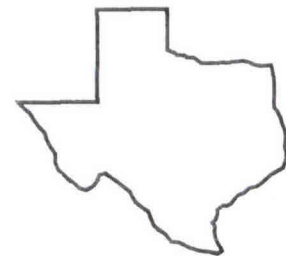
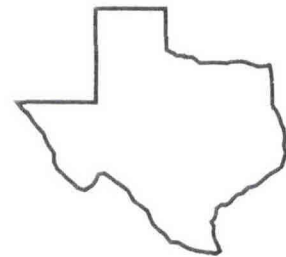
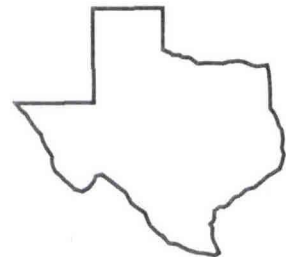
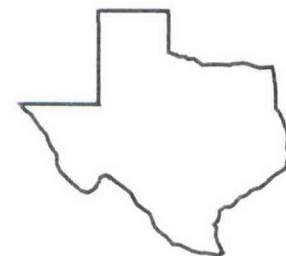




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**PETUNIA AND BEGONIA PACK AND GARDEN TRIALS FOR EAST TEXAS:  
SPRING 1994**

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**Background.** Fibrous begonia and petunia were selected to be included in the Spring 1994 pack and garden performance trial. Recent breeding efforts in begonia have resulted in varieties that are reportedly more heat resistant than those grown in the past. Improved flower habit and plant form have made begonia a favorite bedding out plant among the landscape industry and homeowners. Petunia trials last year were somewhat compromised because of a late start and inclement weather which seriously affected the garden evaluation of petunia. Therefore, it was decided to repeat the petunia pack and garden trial in 1994.

**Current Information.** Five seed companies have entered the spring trial which includes 43 varieties of begonia and 39 varieties of petunia (see Table 1) to be evaluated for greenhouse production and garden performance. Begonia were sown on 1 February 1994 and petunia were sown on 1 March 1994. Seed were germinated in "406" plug flats and transplanted into "Jumbo" six-pack cells for finishing. This approximates local commercial production practices. Greenhouse evaluation will consist of flowering dates, pack height, uniformity, and flower diameters. Garden performance will be monitored during the summer months.

**Recommendation.** The greenhouse evaluation will be available for inspection during field day. The garden performance trial area will be available for viewing, but the first results of the Spring 1994 trial can be best seen about 1 June. Information gained through these pack and garden evaluations will allow producers and consumers to choose varieties adapted to East Texas production systems and climate.

**Acknowledgement.** Companies that participated in the spring 1994 begonia and petunia pack trials were: Ball Seed Company, Benary Samenzucht GmbH. (Germany), Daehnfeldt, Inc., Goldsmith Seeds Inc., and Pan American Seed Company. The authors would also like to thank Powell Plant Farm and Dr. Harvey Lang for their support of the pack trials.

Table 1. Varieties in the Spring 1994 begonia and petunia pack and garden evaluation trial for East Texas.

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Fibrous Begonia Varieties (Begonia semperflorens)

<u>Vision Series</u>	<u>Party Series</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Varieties</u>
Rote	Partyboy	Viva
Rosa	Partygirl	Linda
Tiefrosa	Partydress	Scarletta
Lachs	Partyflirt	Scarlanda
Weisse	Partylove	Allround Mix
	Partyfun	Fancy Mix
	Partyfriend	
<u>Ambassador Series</u>	<u>Espresso Series</u>	<u>Prelude Series</u>
White	Rose	White
S-Pink	Scarlet	Bicolor
Scarlet		Scarlet
Bicolor	<u>Encore Series</u>	Rose
T-Pink	Red	Coral
Coral	White	Pink
Salmon	Pink	<u>Victory Series</u>
	Red/Bronze	White
	Lt Pink	Pink
	Pink Bronze	Rose
		Scarlet

Petunia Varieties (Petunia x sp.)

<u>Dreams Series</u>	<u>Carpet Series</u>	<u>Primetime Series</u>
Midnight	Blue	Blue
Pink	Buttercream	White
Red	Lilac	Pink
Salmon	Rose	Salmon
White	Sky Blue	Red
		Light Blue
		Pink Veined
<u>Ultra Series</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Series</u>	<u>Merlin Series</u>
White	Velvet	Red
Pink	True Blue	White
Burgundy	Purple Wave	Blue
Blue	Supercascade	Salmon
Sky Blue	Rose Pirouette	Rose
Scarlet	Purple Pirouette	Cherry Rose
	Falcon Mix	Picotee Mix
	Hulahoop Mix	
	Highlight Mix	

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