

FIELD DAY REPORT - 1993

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BEDDING PLANT PACK AND GARDEN TRIALS FOR EAST TEXAS

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Current Information. Several hundred thousand East Texas consumers support the \$50 million bedding plant industry that is centered in Cherokee County. The number of varieties that exist for greenhouse bedding plant production and sales can be bewildering to producer and consumer alike. Regional trials are important for providing the information needed for both groups to make informed decisions about production and home garden use. However, garden trial data are very limited in the south-central U.S., and pack trials for assessing greenhouse production performance is virtually non-existent. In order to provide greenhouse and garden performance information for East Texas producers and consumers of bedding plants, trials were initiated at the Overton Center.

Eight seed companies provided seed for the 1993 bedding plant pack and garden trial. To keep the size of the trial manageable, entries were limited to petunia and vinca varieties (see Table 1). Seed was germinated in plug trays (406) and finished in jumbo packs to approximate industry practices in East Texas.

Recommendation. The pack trial will be on view in the greenhouse area during field day. The garden area has been prepared for the garden trial which will be planted during the first week of June.

Application. Evaluations of both pack and garden trials will be available at a later date.

Acknowledgement. Companies that participated in the spring 1993 trial were: American Takii Inc., Ball Seed Co., Goldsmith Seeds Inc., Pan American Seed, Sakata Seed America Inc., Sluis and Groot, Vaughan's, and Waller Flowerseed Company. This trial was supported in part by entry fees paid by the participating companies. The authors gratefully acknowledge the help and support of Powell Plant Farm, the Cherokee County Greenhouse Committee, and Dr. Harvey Lang - Texas A&M University.

Table 1. Varieties in the Spring 1993 Bedding Plant Pack and Garden Trial.

PETUNIA

Petunia grandiflora and Petunia multiflora

Flash Series:

Rose
Salmon
Purple and White
Pink Centre
Coral

Polo Series:

Salmon
Rose Flare
Orchid Veined

Merlin Series:

Picotee mixed
Pink
White
Red
Blue
Rose
Cherry Red
Salmon

Highlight Series:

Mixed

Falcon Series:

Mixed

Spring Fever Series:

White
Salmon
Pink
Blue
Pink Veined
Red

Ultra Series:

White
Red
Burgundy
Blue
Rose

Madness Series:

Pink
Plum
Red
Rose
Lilac
Sheer
White
Pastel
Just
Summer
Double Sheer
Double Rose and White
Double
Sugar
Silver Shades
Total
Midnight
Orchid
Simply
Spring

Primetime Series:

Red Frost
Red
Pink Veined
Pink
Mixture

Carnival Series:

Coral
Red Star
Scarlet
Rose
Salmon
Violet
White
Purple

Dream Series:

Midnight
Pink
Salmon
Red
White
Mixture

VINCA

Catharanthus rosea

Tropicana series:

Blush
Pink
Rose
Bright Eye

Little Series:

Blanche
Pinkie
Delicata
Linda
Rosie
Parasol
Bright Eye

Cooler Series:

Orchid
Peppermint
Grape
Blush