

GARDEN FLOWER VARIETY

TEST IN KENTUCKY

1964

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More and more garden annuals are used in home and industrial plantings each year. Thus, it is increasingly important to provide needed information to commercial producers and consumers about the many varieties and how these varieties perform under local regional conditions. The trial gardens at the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station offer opportunities to interested persons to compare the many varieties.

Seed, supplied by seed companies interested in trial results, was sown during the first part of April 1964. The seed was sown in flats filled with vermiculite and was covered with a fine layer of peat moss. Black polyethylene plastic was placed over the seed flats to hold in moisture until germination. When the seedlings had developed two true leaves, 48 of them were transplanted into flats. Starting the middle of May, the plants were transplanted to the prepared garden where trial plots 5 feet square were laid out in rows with a 5-foot walkway between rows. Fifteen to 25 plants were placed in each plot, depending on the growth characteristic of each variety. Water was applied by a sprinkler system as necessary throughout the summer. After the plants had become established ammonium nitrate fertilizer was applied.

Varieties were evaluated on two different dates during the summer of 1964. The first date was July 17. At this time almost all of the flowers were in full bloom. Another evaluation was made on September 23. By then the flowers had been in full bloom for two months. This second evaluation gives a good idea of how long the plants give a good display. A good bedding plant should be appealing for at least 2 months during the summer. Each variety was given a rating of "excellent," "very good," "fair," or "poor" based on its usefulness, uniformity and general appeal.

VARIETIES TESTED

<u>Ageratum</u>	July 17	Sept. 23	<u>Comments*</u>
Fairy Pink	Good plant, starting to flower	fair	Shades of lavender-pink, irregular sizes
Snow Carpet	Good plant, starting to flower	fair	Dwarf with excellent uniformity
Ping Pong	Good plant, no flowers	fair	White, powder blue
Blue Mink	Good plant, no flowers	good	Powder blue large flowers on vigorous 6-8" plant
<u>Alyssum</u>			
Carpet of Snow	Excellent; covers all of area	very good	Small white flowers on 4" tall spreading plant
Royal Carpet	Good	fair	Violet-purple 10" spread border plant
<u>Aster</u>			
Burpee Rose	Good plant, no flowers	poor	Flowers resemble quills - rose
Perfection Mix	Good plant, no flowers	fair	3½" double flower
Dwarf Queen Mix	Fair	fair	Intermediate in habit
<u>Balsam</u>			
Tom Thumb Mix	Good-excellent	poor	Dwarf and compact with large double flowers
Color Parade Mix	Excellent	poor	Large double flowers
<u>Basil</u>			
Dark Opal	Excellent	very good	Dark purplish-bronze foliage
<u>Celosia</u>			
Golden Feather	Good plant	poor	Golden yellow spines
Fiery Feather	Very good-excellent	fair	Pyramid formed flowers with red fiery spines
Fireglow	Good	good	Big globular, cardinal red flower heads
<u>Centaurea</u>			
Dusty Miller	Very good	very good	Fine-cut silvery foliage
Blue Boy	Good	poor	Very large, deep blue flowers

Dahlia

Early Bird Mixed	Good	fair	Many colors, double and semi-double
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Dianthus

Baby Doll	Good	poor	Large bloom; extra dwarf
Red Monarch	Poor	fair	Red
Brave	Good	fair	Brilliant red flowers

Impatiens

Dwarf Baby Mixture	Fair, few flowers	very good	Uniform plants with red, orange and pink flowers
Delicate Rose	Fair, few flowers	very good	Unusual rose-pink
Orange Jewel	Fair, few flowers	very good	Deep vivid orange
Pink Jewel	Fair, few flowers	very good	Clear pink dwarf

Lobelia

Heavenly	Good	fair	Very vigorous and free flowering
Blue Stone	Very good	fair	Fine bright blue

Marigold

Alaska	Good	fair	Light primrose on 2' plant
Brownie Scout	Excellent	good	Golden yellow with flecks of red
Red and Gold	Good	very good	Double
Dolly	Good plant, few flowers	fair	Large fully double flowers; mixture of orange, yellow and primrose
Double Eagle	Good plant, few flowers	very good	Lemony yellow
Dwarf Master Blend	Very good	very good	Dwarf, early flowering, range of colors
Doubloon	Good plant, few flowers	fair-good	Light yellow cutflowers
Geraldine	Good plant, few flowers	fair	Large fluffy, deep-orange flowers
Golden Climax	Good plant, few flowers	fair	Golden yellow for garden or cutting
Gypsy	Good	good	Blend of extra double, range of color
Hawaii	Good plant	fair	Rich orange

Mary Helen	Good plant, few flowers	fair	Brilliant yellow, carnation shaped
Mr. Sam	Good plant, few flowers	fair	Chrysanthemum-type, canary yellow
Naughty Marietta	Good plant, few flowers	fair	Golden yellow with mahogany
Penn State	Good plant, few flowers	poor	Golden color
Primrose Climax	Good plant, few flowers	poor	Primrose up to 5" across
Pygmy Primrose	Very good	good	Primrose with red base when young
Sovereign	Good plant, few flowers	fair	Golden-yellow
Sparky	Good	good	Gold with edges and marks of red
Toreador	Good plant, few flowers	fair	Mid-orange
Yellow Climax	Good plant, few flowers	fair	Bright yellow globular blooms
<u>Nemesia</u>			
Fire King	Poor	poor	Brilliant red
Triumph Mixture	Poor	poor	Wide color orange on 6-8" plants
<u>Nierembergia</u>			
Purple Robe	Good	fair	Non-fading, deep-violet purple
<u>Petunia</u>			
<u>Grandiflora</u>			
Appleblossom	Good	very good	Light to intense salmon pink
Bingo Imp.	Very good	fair	Continuous bloom of wine, red and white
Calypso	Good	good	Scarlet and white fringed flowers
Cavalier	Very good	very good	Rich salmon and white
Coral Magic	Very good	very good	Deep salmon-rose
Fandango	Good	good	Blue and white flowers
Hi-Fi	Very good	good	Bright deep rose
Pink Cascade	Good	very good	Pink
Pink Cheeks	Very good	very good	White throat with pink edge
Pink Magic	Very good	very good	Smooth bright pink flowers
Popcorn	Good	very good	White

Red Cascade	Good	good	Scarlet red
Red Ensign	Very good	very good	Plain edge scarlet-red
Rhapsody	Fair	fair	Fringed double flowers of deep burgundy
Rose Desire	Poor	poor	Rose
Scarlet Desire	Good	good	Vivid scarlet with small gold throat
Sky Magic	Good	fair	Silvery, sky blue
Snow Lady	Fair	--	Giant pure white flowers on dwarf plant
Snow Magic	Fair	--	White large flowered
White Cascade	Good	good	Glistening white ruffled flowers
White Giant	Good	fair	Large flower pure white
White Magic	Very good	good	Early, ruffled white blooms

Petunia

Multiflora

Brass Band	Very good	excellent	Creamy-yellow
Cardinal	Good	very good	Double red
Comanche Improved	Good	good	Scarlet
Coral Satin	Very good	excellent	Coral-rose on dwarf plant
Honey Bunch	Good	good	Salmon doubles
Meteor	Good	good	Sharply defined scarlet and white
Paleface	Very good	very good	Pure white with small cream throat
Peaches N' Cream	Fair	fair	Light creamy-yellow changing to salmon-rose on edge
Peppermint	Fair	good	Lacey rose-pink veins on soft pink flowers
Pink Velvet	Excellent	very good	Rose-pink
Plum Dandy	Excellent	excellent	Fuchsia color
Red Satin	Fair	very good	Non-fading scarlet
Star Trophy	Very good	good	White stars on blue
Sugar Plum	Excellent	excellent	Orchid flower with wine-red veins
Torchlight	Fair	good	Soft pastels with throat

Phlox

Choice Mixed	Very good	good	Soft pastels with throat
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Dwarf Master Blend	Excellent	poor	Bright flowers begin when plants are small
Globe Mixture	Good	fair	Mature plants domed shaped
Radiant Mixture	Excellent	poor	Most compact, especially for pots
Twinkles Starred Mixture	Very good	poor	Dwarfs with mixed colors and pointed petals
<u>Portulaca</u>			
Grandiflora Mixed	Excellent	fair, few flowers	Free flowering with distinct colors
Double Finest Mixed	Excellent	fair	Free flowering with distinct colors
<u>Salvia</u>			
America	Good plant, few flowers	good	Fine red dwarf, bushy, compact growth
Cardinal	Good plant, few flowers	very good	Intense red with dark foliage
Royal Blue	Very good	good	Deep blue 3' tall
St. John's Fire	Good	excellent	Only 12" tall, deep red
Evening Glow	Good	good	Bushy with 10" lavender-rose spikes
<u>Snapdragon</u>			
Choice Mixture	Poor	fair	Huge florets attractively ruffled
Rocket Mixed	Good	very good	Long, tapered, compact spikes
Floral Carpet	Good	fair	Bushy plant with mass of short spikes
Floral Carpet Rose	Very good	very good	Rose, bushy plant with mass of short spikes
Knee High Mixed	Very good	very good	Mix of solid colors
Scarlet Sentinel	Very good	very good	18-24"
Sunrise Formula Mixed	Good	good	Rich colored, 2-3 weeks earlier than most
Topper	Very good	very good	Long stems, many flowers
<u>Talinum</u>			
Jewels of Opar	Fair	good	Loose cluster of luminous pink flowers

Verbena

Dwarf Master Blend	Very good	fair	Very compact, blooms entire season
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Vinca

Mixture	Fair	good	Heat tolerant pinks and whites
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Zinnia

Bonanza	Good	**	Golden-yellow
Firecracker	Good	**	Scarlet-red, quilled cactus type petals
Old Mexico	Good	**	Deep mahogany red edged with bright gold shades
Persian Carpet	Good	**	Bi-color flowers with pointed petals, range of colors
Pink Buttons	Very good	**	Rose-pink and salmon, small flowers
Princess	Good	**	Soft salmon-pink flowers
Red Man	Very good	**	Giant Scarlet flowers
River of Gold	Fair	**	Low spreading plants
Thumbelina	Good	**	6" plants with double and semi-double flowers, range of colors
Yellow Zenith	Good	**	Large cactus-type blooms, clear yellow

* Comments as given by seed companies

** Infested badly with mildew