

1965

GARDEN FLOWER VARIETY

TRIALS IN KENTUCKY

By J. W. Buxton and T. E. Pope

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There has been a rapid increase in the use of garden annuals during the last 20 years. The trial gardens at the University of Kentucky offer the opportunity for interested persons to compare the numerous varieties of garden annuals, growing side by side and under Kentucky's climatic and soil conditions.

The seeds used were supplied by seed companies who are interested in the results of these trials. The seeds were sown the first of April except for marigolds and zinnias which were sown near the middle of April. Seeds were sown in flats filled with vermiculite and were then covered with a fine layer of peat moss. Black polyethylene plastic was placed over the seed flats to prevent excessive moisture loss, until germination. Flats were placed over a heating cable with the thermostat set at 70°F throughout the germination period. When the seedlings had developed two true leaves, they were transplanted into 2-1/4-inch peat pots. Beginning in mid-May, the plants were transplanted into the test garden. Plants were placed in 6- x 5-foot plots, laid out in rows, with a 5-foot walkway between rows. Generally, 30 plants were placed in each plot; however, some plots had more or fewer plants, depending on the growth characteristics of the variety. Water was applied by a sprinkler system, as necessary, and a 20-20-20 soluble fertilizer was applied twice during the summer.

The varieties were evaluated on July 30, 1965. Most varieties were at their best at this time. Each variety was given a rating of E-Excellent, G-Good, F-Fair, or P-Poor, based on uniformity, general appeal, flower size and number, and disease resistance.

VARIETIES TESTED

AGERATUM

Blue Blazer (B)*	G	Height 7"; rich mid-blue
Blue Mist (B)	G	Height 6"; darker blue than Blue Blazer
Moonbeam (M)	F	Height 6"; silvery white

AMARANTHUS

Early Splendor (S)	P	Height 2½-3'; mixed red and deep red foliage; poor disease resistance
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BALSAM

Double Camellia (BP)	F	Height 2-3'; double blooms; mixture
Color Parade (B)	P	Large double blooms; mixture
Ext. Dwarf Tom Thumb (S)	P	Height 10"; double blooms; mixture

BASIL

Dark Opal Orn'l. (V)	E	Dark purplish-bronze foliage
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CELOSIA

Cockscomb

Cristata Nana Dwf. Coral Garden Mixed (S)	G	Mixture
Empress Imp (S)	G	Crimson red
Fireglow (G)	G	Cardinal red
Kardinal Imp (S)	F	Red
Rose Empress (M)	E	Bright rose

Plumosa

Fiery Feather (V)	E	Fiery-red
Golden Feather (B)	E	Golden yellow
Forest Fire Imp (S)	E	Fiery orange scarlet with bronzy red foliage

*Seed companies supplying seed for these trials:

- (B) George J. Ball Company
- (BP) W. Atlee Burpee Company
- (G) Fred C. Gloeckner Company, Inc.
- (M) Henry F. Michell Company
- (S) T. Sakata and Company
- (V) Vaughan's Seed Company
- (AAS) All-American Selection Trials

COLEUS

Red Monarch (S)	G	Scarlet red; large leaves
Master Blends Rainbow, Super-Fine Rainbow (S)	G	Mixture
Volcano (S)	E	Scarlet red

DAHLIA

Coltness Single (BP)	G	Mixture; dwarf, single flowers
Extra Dwarf Double (B)	E	Mixture; double and semi-double flowers
Mignon Mixed (G)	G	Mixture; double flowers
Pompon (BP)	F	Mixture; double and semi-double flowers
Univin Dwarf (BP)	E	Mixture; double and semi-double flowers

DIANTHUS

Baby Doll (B)	G	Mixture of reds, pinks and whites
Bravo (V)	P	Brilliant red

DUSTY MILLER (BP)

E Silvery gray foliage

MARIGOLD

Best Dwarf Mixture (B)	E	Height 12"; mixture
Brittany (G)	G	Height 12"; deep mahogany with golden yellow tip
Brownie Scout (G)	E	Height 8"; golden yellow with flecks of reddish brown
Color Magic (B)	F	Height 10"; yellow and orange marked with dark red
Crackerjack (V)	F	Height 2'; shades of orange, gold and yellow
Cupid Mixture (B)	F	Height 10"; yellow orange to creamy yellow
Double Eagle (G)	E	Height 2½'; deep orange, double flowers
Dwarf French Double Mixture (B)	G	Height 1'; mixture
Dwarf Master Blend (V)	G	Height 1'; mixture
Gold Coin Mixture (B)	G	Height 2½'; yellow orange, gold
Gt. Mixed (BP)	G	Height 2½'-3'; mixture

MARIGOLD

Gypsy (BP)	E	Height 8"; mixture
Petite Mixture (B)	G	Height 10"; mixture of oranges and yellows
Red and Gold (BP)	G	Height 2'; solid red to combination of red and gold
Spry (BP)	G	Height 10"; golden yellow centers with mahogany guard petals
Spun Gold (M)	G	Height 12"; bright golden yellow
Yellow Pygmy (BP)	E	Height 8"; lemon yellow
Improved Rusty Red	G	Height 13"; rust red
Sparky (G)	E	Height 10"; light golden yellow to mahogany
Yellow Nugget (BP)	G	

PETUNIA

Alaska (M)	F	White; ruffled edges; Grandiflora
Appleblossom (AAS)	G	Light to intense salmon pink; Grandiflora
Blue Magic (B)	G	Medium deep violet blue; ruffled edges; Grandiflora
Blue Mantle (S)	F	Violet blue; Grandiflora
Bonfire (S)	F	Deep salmon scarlet with golden throat; Grandiflora
Brass Band (V)	E	Creamy-yellow; Multiflora
Capri (B)	G	Deep blue; Grandiflora
Cardinal (B)	P	Bright scarlet red; Multiflora
Cavalier (B)	G	Rich salmon and white; Grandiflora
Cherry Tart (B)	E	Cherry-rose and white; double; Multiflora
Cleopatra Imp. (S)	G	Scarlet; Multiflora
Color Parade (S)	G	Mixture; Grandiflora
Coral Satin (M)	E	Coral rose; Multiflora
Dawn Satin (V)	E	Light rose pink; Multiflora
Dorothy Favorite (G)	G	Salmon rose; double; Grandiflora
Dreamland (S)	P	Deep crimson and white bicolor; Grandiflora
Fire Bird (S)	G	Orange red with gold throat; Multiflora
Flirt (S)	F	Light salmon pink; Grandiflora
Glitters (M)	E	Bright red with white stripes; Multiflora

PETUNIA

Hawaii (M)	F	Soft salmon pink; Grandiflora
Hi-Fi (M)	G	Bright deep rose; Grandiflora
Highlight (S)	P	Deep salmon; Grandiflora
Honey Bunch (B)	E	Salmon; double; Multiflora
Lytic (V)	G	Salmon pink; double; Grandiflora
Meteor (B)	G	Scarlet and white; Multiflora
Paleface (B)	E	Pure white with small cream throat; Multiflora
Pink Cascade (V)	G	Bright clear pink; ruffled edges; Grandiflora
Pink Cheeks (M)	E	White throat with pink edges; Grandiflora
Pink Mascot (S)	G	Rich rose pink with light throat; Grandiflora
Pink Profusion (S)	G	Pink to rose; Multiflora
Pink Velvet (B)	E	Rose-pink; Multiflora
Plum Double (G)	E	Orchid pink penciled and shaded a rich orchid purple; double; Multiflora
Popcorn (B)	P	White; Grandiflora
Red Ensign (M)	F	Scarlet red; Grandiflora
Red Satin (G)	G	Scarlet; Multiflora
Sabre Dance (G)	F	Deep burgundy crimson with white throat; Grandiflora
Snow Cap Imp. (S)	F	White; ruffled edges; Grandiflora
Starfire (B)	G	Scarlet red and white; Multiflora
Star Trophy (G)	F	White stars on blue; Multiflora
Sugar Pink (G)	E	Light pink veined with deep pink; Multiflora
Sunburst (B)	F	Deep creamy yellow; Grandiflora
Sungleam (S)	F	Scarlet red; Grandiflora
Touche (B)	E	Deep rose; ruffled edges; Grandiflora
Velvet Queen (S)	G	Purple crimson; Grandiflora
Vesuvius (S)	G	Deep rose red; ruffled edges; Grandiflora
White Cascade (V)	F	White; ruffled edges; Grandiflora
White Magic (G)	F	White; ruffled; Grandiflora
White Satin (V)	E	White; Multiflora

PORTULACA

Double Flowering Mixture (M)	E	Mixture; double
Double Mixed (V)	E	Mixture; double
Double Mixture (B)	E	Mixture; double

SALVIA

Brazier (G)	E	Height 6-8"; scarlet red
Evening Glow (H)	E	Height 10"; lavender rose
Fireball Imp. (S)	G	Height 10"; scarlet red
St. John's Fire (B)	G	Height 12-15"; scarlet red
Rose Wonder	G	Height 12-15"; rose red

SNAPDRAGON

Bright Butterflies (AAS)	G	Height 2-2½'; mixture; open faced flower
Color Guard (BP)	G	Height 2-2½'; mixture
Floral Carpet (M)	G	Height 8"; mixture
Floral Carpet Rose (BP)	E	Height 8"; rose
Knee High (B)	G	Height 1½-2'; mixture
Magic Carpet (M)	F	Height 8-12"; mixture
Redstone Rocket (B)	G	Height 2½-3'; red
Rocket (B)	G	Height 2½-3'; mixture
Topper (BP)	G	Height 3'; mixture
Bronze Carpet (S)	E	Height 8"; bronze
Formula Mixed (S)	G	Height 2-2½'; mixture

VERBENA

Amethyst (AAS)	G	Medium blue
Dwarf Master Blend (V)	G	Mixture
Ideal Florist Mixture (B)	G	Mixture
Michell's Exhibition (M)	P	Mixture

ZINNIA *

Bonanza (AAS)	E	Height 30"; golden yellow
Cupid Mixture (B)	E	Height 12"; mixture
Firecracker (H)	E	Height 30"; scarlet red
Lilliput Formula Mixture (B)	G	Height 18"; mixture
Lilliput Mixture (M)	E	Height 18"; mixture

*All zinnias were planted through black plastic to facilitate the weeding problem.

ZINNIA

Old Mexico (B)	G	Height 18"; deep mahogany red edged with bright gold shades
Pink Buttons (AAS)	P	Height 12"; rose pink and salmon
Red Man (B)	E	Height 30"; scarlet red
State Fair Mixture (B)	E	Height 30"; mixture
Thumbelina (M)	G	Height 6"; mixture
Tiny Cupid Mixed (BP)	E	Height 12"; mixture
Yellow Zenith (AAS)	E	Height 30"; clear yellow