

2008 Long Island Trial Garden Season Review

Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center

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A total of 190 cultivars were submitted to the 2008 Long Island Annual Trial Garden. Plants were submitted by Ball Seed and FloraPlant, Danziger “Dan” Flower Farm, Syngenta Flowers, and Proven Winners. Rooted cuttings were received throughout April, transplanted into 4-inch pots, and maintained in the greenhouse until planted outdoors at the end of May. While in the greenhouse, plants were sub-irrigated and fertilized with a constant feed of 125 ppm of 20-10-20. In the greenhouse, pests were managed as problems arose: on May 22, abamectin (Avid, 4 oz/100gal) was applied to manage mites. During the last week of May, plants were planted in containers outside using a peat-based mix from a commercial grower. For each cultivar, three 12-inch containers were planted with three 4-inch potted plants each and were drip irrigated. Plants were fertilized with 20-4-8 Osmocote Pro and supplemented with 20-10-20 as needed. This season, there was no need for chemical management of pests in the field.

Plants were evaluated in late June, late July, and late August by three individuals – the Floriculture Specialist and the Community and Environmental Horticulture Specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County and a student intern in the Horticulture Program at Farmingdale State College. Flower display, foliage quality, uniformity of plot, and overall impact were rated on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = lowest rating) and averaged to determine the plant rating. The flower display rating was omitted for foliage plants (coleus, eucalyptus, juncus, ornamental pepper, and sedum). An average plant rating was determined from the plant ratings of the three evaluators, and a season-long average rating was determined.

Top performing plants in this year’s trial are listed below. Based on the season-long average, the top performing plants throughout the season were selected. For plants for which more than three cultivars were submitted the top performer for each plant was selected, and for plants for which more than ten cultivars were submitted the top three performers were selected. In addition, since many local growers are interested in early- and late-season performance in addition to season-long performance, the top early-season and late-season performers are also listed; the top early-season performers were chosen based on the June evaluations, and the top late-season performers were chosen based on the August evaluations. In addition to the

evaluations mentioned above, 'consumer' evaluations were completed. Numerous gardener volunteers voted for their favorite five varieties on July 30, 2008. The plants with the most votes are listed.

Thanks to all who supported the trial: the participating companies who provided plants and support for the trial, the generous assistance and growing media donation from Ivy Acres, Caroline Kiang who assisted with plant evaluations, Andrea Clark who assisted with evaluations and who provided invaluable assistance in maintaining the trial, Cornell Cooperative Extension and LIHREC staff who helped with the general maintenance of the trials, and the numerous gardener volunteers who donated their time, assistance, and valuable opinions.

Season-Long Top Performers (190 cultivars submitted)

Coleus 'Henna' (Ball)
Coleus 'Indian Summer' (Ball)
Coleus 'Mint Mocha' (Ball)
Eucalyptus 'Silver Drop' (Proven Winners)
Juncus 'Blue Arrows' (Ball)
Juncus 'Blue Dart' (Ball)
Lantana 'Bandana Cherry Sunrise' (Syngenta)
Pepper 'Black Pearl' (Ball)
Pepper 'Calico' (Ball)
Pepper 'Purple Flash' (Ball)
Petunia 'Cascadias Grape' (Danziger)
Petunia 'Jamboree Burgundy' (Syngenta)
Petunia 'Littletonia Sweet Pink' (Danziger)
Petunia 'Petitunia Grape Dream' (Danziger)
Portulaca 'Pazazz Salmon Glow' (Danziger)
Portulaca 'Pazazz Vivid Yellow' (Danziger)
Vinca 'Nirvana Red' (Syngenta)
Vinca 'Nirvana Rose' (Syngenta)

Early Season Top Performers (* Indicates the cultivar was also a season-long top performer.)

Bacopa 'Gulliver White' (Danziger)

Calibrachoa 'Callie Bright Red' (Syngenta)

Calibrachoa 'Callie Gold w/ Red Eye' (Syngenta)

Calibrachoa 'Callie Peach' (Syngenta)

Coleus 'Dark Chocolate' (Ball)

*Coleus 'Henna' (Ball)

*Coleus 'Indian Summer' (Ball)

*Coleus 'Mint Mocha' (Ball)

Diascia 'Darla Light Pink' (Syngenta)

Diascia 'Darla Rose 08' (Syngenta)

*Juncus 'Blue Arrows' (Ball)

Lobelia 'Anabel Bicolor Blue' (Danziger)

Lobelia 'Anabel Blue River' (Danziger)

Lobelia 'Anabel Brilliant Blue' (Danziger)

Lobelia 'Techno Heat Electric Blue' (Syngenta)

Lobelia 'Techno Heat Upright Light Blue' (Syngenta)

Lobelia 'Techno Heat White' (Syngenta)

*Pepper 'Black Pearl' (Ball)

*Pepper 'Calico' (Ball)

*Pepper 'Purple Flash' (Ball)

Petunia 'Cascadias Bicolor Cabernet' (Danziger)

*Petunia 'Cascadias Grape' (Danziger)

Petunia 'Doupetunia Dark Pink' (Danziger)

Petunia 'Doupetunia Pink Delight' (Danziger)

*Petunia 'Littletonia Sweet Pink' (Danziger)

Petunia 'Petitunia Crystal Violet Dream' (Danziger)

Petunia 'Sunray' (Danziger)

Petunia 'Supertunia Vista Silverberry' (Proven Winners)

*Portulaca 'Pazazz Vivid Yellow' (Danziger)

Salvia 'Sallyfun White' (Danziger)

Verbena 'Veralena Fancy Lavender' (Danziger)

Late Season Top Performers (* Indicates the cultivar was also a season-long top performer.)

- *Coleus 'Henna' (Ball)
- *Coleus 'Indian Summer' (Ball)
- *Coleus 'Mint Mocha' (Ball)
- *Eucalyptus 'Silver Drop' (Proven Winners)
- Geranium 'Rocky Mountain Coral' (Syngenta)
- Geranium 'Rocky Mountain Dark Red' (Syngenta)
- Heliotrope 'Incense' (Proven Winners)
- Ivy geranium 'Caliente Coral' (Syngenta)
- Ivy geranium 'Caliente Rose' (Syngenta)
- *Juncus 'Blue Arrows' (Ball)
- *Juncus 'Blue Dart' (Ball)
- *Lantana 'Bandana Cherry Sunrise' (Syngenta)
- Lantana 'Landmark Pink Glow' (Ball)
- *Pepper 'Black Pearl' (Ball)
- *Pepper 'Calico' (Ball)
- *Pepper 'Purple Flash' (Ball)
- *Petunia 'Cascadias Grape' (Danziger)
- Petunia 'Cascadias Imperial Blue' (Danziger)
- *Petunia 'Jamboree Burgundy' (Syngenta)
- Petunia 'Jamboree Light Blue' (Syngenta)
- Petunia 'Littletonia Red' (Danziger)
- Petunia 'Littletonia Red Star' (Danziger)
- *Petunia 'Littletonia Sweet Pink' (Danziger)
- *Petunia 'Petitunia Grape Dream' (Danziger)
- Petunia 'Purple Ray' (Danziger)
- Petunia 'Saguna Vanilla' (Syngenta)
- Petunia 'Supertunia Mini Blue Imp.' (Proven Winners)
- *Portulaca 'Pazazz Salmon Glow' (Danziger)
- Portulaca 'Pazazz Ultra Pink' (Danziger)
- *Portulaca 'Pazazz Vivid Yellow' (Danziger)
- Salvia 'Sallyfun White' (Danziger)
- Scaevola 'Bombay Blue' (Syngenta)
- *Vinca 'Nirvana Red' (Syngenta)
- *Vinca 'Nirvana Rose' (Syngenta)
- Zinnia 'Solcito' (Ball)

Consumer Favorites (* Indicates the cultivar was also a season-long top performer.)

Calibrachoa 'Callie Peach' (Syngenta)
Calibrachoa 'Callie Scarlet Red' (Syngenta)
Coleus 'Dark Chocolate' (Ball)
*Coleus 'Henna' (Ball)
*Coleus 'Indian Summer' (Ball)
*Coleus 'Mint Mocha' (Ball)
*Eucalyptus 'Silver Drop' (Proven Winners)
*Lantana 'Bandana Cherry Sunrise' (Syngenta)
Lantana 'Luscious Citrus Blend' (Proven Winners)
Lobelia 'Techno Heat Upright Light Blue' (Syngenta)
Nemesia 'Nesia Lavender' (Danziger)
*Pepper 'Black Pearl' (Ball)
*Pepper 'Calico' (Ball)
Portulaca 'Pazazz Ultra Pink' (Danziger)
Salvia 'Sallyfun Blue Emotion' (Danziger)
Zinnia 'Zahara Scarlet' (Ball)