

# **PUBLICATIONS**

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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