2025 MULTI-SITE BEDDING PLANT TRIAL

Research Bulletin 1260 • September 2026

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTE TO USER

This Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Bulletin is a summary of research. It is intended for colleagues, cooperators, and sponsors. The interpretation of data presented in this report may change after additional experimentation. Information included is not to be construed as a recommendation for use or as an endorsement of a specific product by Mississippi State University or the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

This report contains data generated as part of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station research program. Trade names of commercial products used in this report are included only for clarity and understanding.

2025 Multi-Site Bedding Plant Trial

DR. SHAUN BRODERICK
Associate Extension/Research Professor
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
MAFES Truck Crops Branch
Central Mississippi Research
and Extension Center

DR. PATRICIA KNIGHT
Research Professor, Director of Coastal
Horticulture Research
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
MAFES South Mississippi Branch
Coastal Research and Extension Center

SCOTT LANGLOIS
Senior Research Associate
MAFES South Mississippi Branch
Coastal Research and Extension Center
Mississippi State University

ERIKA SWEETEN
Research Associate I
MAFES Truck Crops Branch
Central Mississippi Research
and Extension Center

DR. JEFFREY WILSON
Assistant Professor
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
North Mississippi Research
and Extension Center

SUSAN WORTHEY
Research Associate III
MAFES Northeast Mississippi Branch
North Mississippi Research
and Extension Center

This document was approved for publication as Bulletin 1260 of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. It was published by Agricultural and Natural Resources Marketing.

2025 Multi-Site Bedding Plant Trial

ABSTRACT

Spring and Summer ornamental plant trials were conducted at the MAFES Northeast Mississippi Branch (NM), MAFES South Mississippi Branch (SM), and MAFES Truck Crops Branch (TC) to evaluate 43 cultivar entries in 2025. Normal high and low temperatures followed typical patterns; however, portions of spring were a little warmer than average, and rainfall was higher in May for TC and SM. Entries included a mixture of annuals, perennials, and shade and sun-loving plants. Each entry was evaluated for its health, flower coverage (flowering), and landscape impact and was assigned a rating of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score. Twenty-five entries (58.1%) received an overall rating score of 3.5 or higher, and 14 entries (32.6%) received a score of at least 4.0. None of the entries earned a 5.0 rating. Except for five, all entries experienced a decline during the summer portion of the trial.

INTRODUCTION

Plant trials are essential for assessing plant performance in specific local environments. Each year, plant breeding companies and horticultural suppliers introduce new cultivars. It is important to evaluate these new plants locally before they are adopted by local suppliers, enhancing the likelihood of customer success. Furthermore, superior cultivars can replace lower-performing cultivars, thereby improving the gardening experience for landscapers and homeowners.

New plants often exhibit new characteristics, such as improved disease resistance, increased flowering, or novel attributes, such as altered plant architecture or flower shape. While companies trial plants before releasing them to the marketplace, local performance evaluation is critical, especially for companies that may not regularly trial plant material in the southeastern U.S. Environmental factors highly influence plant performance. Regional trials provide useful information to commercial producers and plant breeders to aid plant selection of annuals and perennials. Trials also help introduce new plant materials to consumers by providing examples of their performance in a local landscape.

Independent trialing is also important for providing information on plant performance to horticultural professionals, educators, and home gardeners in Mississippi and surrounding areas in the southeastern U.S. This ornamental trial evaluates the performance of various bedding and garden plants in three locations in Mississippi to create recommendations for the top-performing plants for this region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An ornamental plant trial of 43 cultivars was conducted at three locations in Mississippi: The MAFES Truck Crops Branch in Crystal Springs (USDA Zone 8b), the MAFES Northeast Mississippi Branch in Verona (Zone 8a), and the MAFES South Mississippi Branch in Poplarville (Zone 9a). All entries were supplied by Proven Winners as liners in April (week 11). Each liner was transplanted into 10-cm containers with soilless media (Pro-Mix BX; Premier Tech, Ltd.) and grown for two weeks before transplanting in the greenhouse. Fertilizer protocols during production were crop specific and based on recommended grower guidelines (Hamrick 2003). The trial entries were planted in 20 cm-tall, raised boxes filled with native, local soil. Irrigation was supplied, typically weekly, through drip tape as needed. No herbicides were applied; weeds were pulled manually. Pesticides were used at the recommended label rates as needed, such as granular bait applications for fire ant control. Except for the three *Coleus* shade entries that were trialed only at the NM and TC, all entries were trialed across all three locations.

Weather data (daily high and low temperatures and precipitation amounts) were collected at on-site weather stations at each location. Normal (i.e., historical) weather data for these areas were obtained from the National Weather Service (weather.gov).

Semi-monthly ratings were based on a 1-5 scale, with 5 representing the best rating (beginning and ending dates). Criteria for the ratings included flower coverage (flowering), plant health (health), and landscape impact. Ratings were expressed as percentages. For example, a flower coverage rating of 5 indicates that at least 90% of the plant's terminal buds were in flower. A leaf health rating of 5 indicates that at least 90% of the foliage is free of disease symptoms. Landscape ratings were assigned based on how much an entry stands out visually in a landscape, such as size or color. During the semi-monthly ratings, poor and unacceptable ratings (scores of 1 to 2) for each characteristic were given when plants suffered significant leaf necrosis or went out of flower and would detract from the landscape's presence by appearing unsightly. Ratings were based on trial criteria for each cultivar, not on comparisons between cultivars (Table 1). Photos were taken at the time of ratings at the TC location. Local weather data were collected during the trial (Figure 1).

To determine the early and late seasonal performance of entries, May scores were combined with June's (early), and July's were combined with August's (late) to determine the average score for early and late season performance, and the difference between their scores was calculated.

Table 1. Trial evaluation rating scale

Score	Description
5	Excellent – 90%+
4	Good – 75%+
3	Fair – 50+
2	Poor – 25%+
1	Unacceptable – <25%

MATERIALS AND METHODS

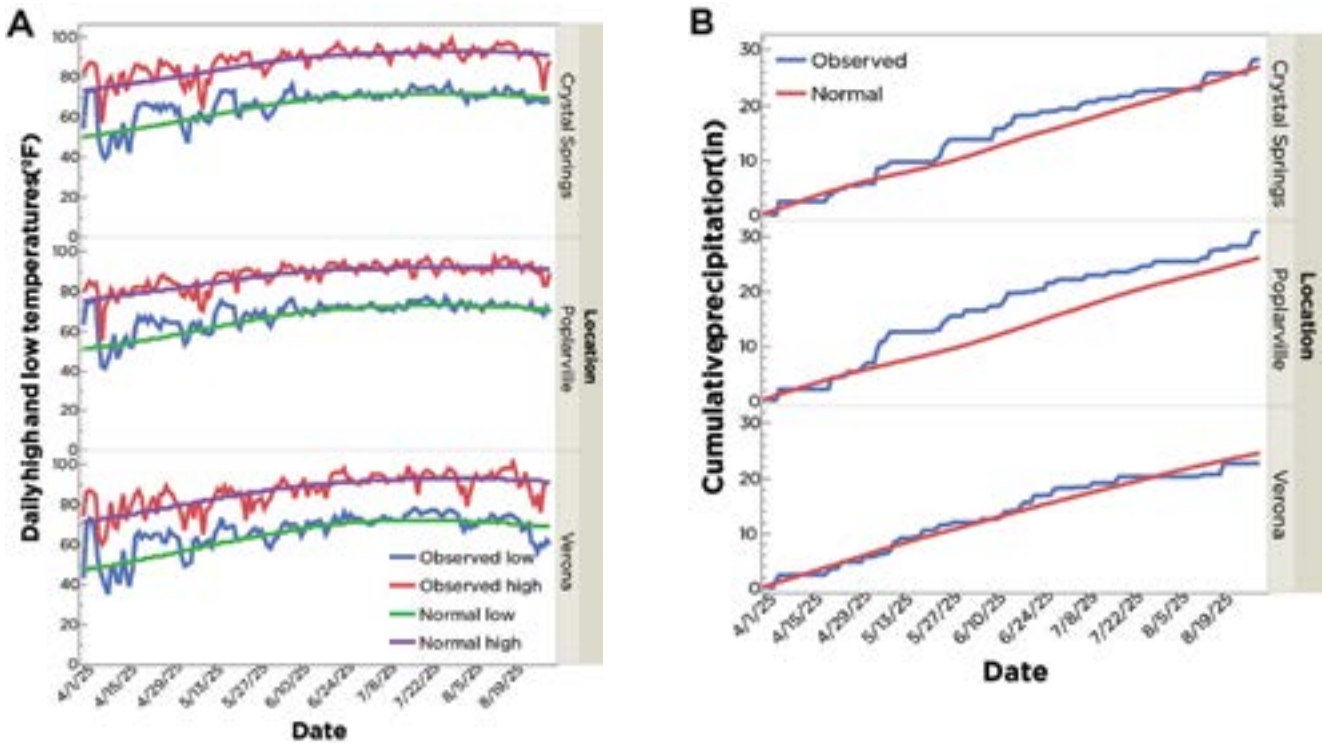

Figure 1. Local weather at trial sites during the trial: (A) daily observed highs (red) and lows (blue) as well as normal highs (purple) and lows (green), and (B) cumulative rainfall during the trialing period.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This season's weather was within normal ranges, with a few exceptions. Each trial site (i.e., location) had above-average high and low temperatures in parts of early April and May, including the beginning of April and mid-April to early May. Precipitation was higher in early May at Crystal Springs and Poplarville, while Verona's precipitation followed normal trends (Figure 1).

Most entries (>90%) performed well overall across all trial sites, receiving a score of at least 3.0. Across all trial sites, 25 entries (58.1%) received a 3.5 or higher rating and performed well throughout the trial period, and of those, 14 entries (32.6%) received a score of at least 4.0 (Table 2). The top 10 highest-performing entries across all locations received an overall score of at least 4.14.

Coleus ColorBlaze® Royale Pineapple Brandy™ and *Coleus* ColorBlaze® Wicked Witch™ were the only cultivars found in the top 10 entries across all three locations (Tables 3-5).

Begonia Surefire Cascade™ Red, *Begonia* Surefire® Rose, *Coleus* ColorBlaze® El Brighto™, *Lantana* Luscious® Basket Tangeglow® , and *Lantana* Luscious® Royale Red Zone™ were among the top 10 highest performers at NM and TC (Tables 3 & 4). *Cleome* Señorita Rosalita™ and *Ipomoea* Sweet Caroline Medusa™ Green were among the top 10 performing entries at SM and TC (Tables 4 & 5).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2. Criteria scoring averages for all 2025 trial entries.

Cultivar	Type	Health	Flowering	Landscape Impact	Average
Coleus Colorblaze® Royale Pineapple Brandy™	sun annual	4.83	N/A	4.74	4.79
Coleus Colorblaze® Wicked Witch™	sun annual	4.78	4.16	4.69	4.60
Cleome Señorita Rosalita®	sun annual	4.26	4.46	4.44	4.39
Coleus Colorblaze® El Brighto™	sun annual	4.78	3.48	4.63	4.39
Lantana Luscious® Basket Tangeglow®	sun perennial Y1*	4.61	4.22	4.19	4.34
Ipomoea Sweet Caroline Medusa™ Green	sun annual	4.33	N/A	4.20	4.27
Scaevola Whirlwind® White (Imp)	sun annual	4.33	4.11	4.17	4.20
Begonia Surefire® Cascade Red™	shade annual	4.30	4.17	4.04	4.17
Begonia Surefire® Rose™	shade annual	4.31	4.06	4.06	4.14
Helianthus Suncredible® Yellow	sun annual	4.50	3.90	4.06	4.14
Lantana Luscious® Royale Red™ Zone	sun perennial Y1	4.61	3.78	3.93	4.10
Petunia Supertunia Vista® Bubblegum®	sun annual	4.14	4.09	3.98	4.07
Begonia Surefire® Red™	shade annual	4.17	3.94	3.96	4.02
Begonia Surefire® White™	shade annual	4.06	4.04	3.96	4.02
Scaevola Stardiva® Blue™	sun annual	4.11	3.93	3.91	3.98
Agastache Maestro™ Coral	sun annual	4.17	3.93	3.63	3.91
Agastache Maestro™ Gold	sun annual	4.06	3.92	3.74	3.90
Petunia Supertunia Mini Vista® Pink Cloud™	sun annual	3.80	4.00	3.70	3.83
Bidens Campfire® Marshmallow™	sun annual	3.79	3.81	3.75	3.78
Oenothera Superlophus™ Sunglow	sun perennial Y1	4.03	3.63	3.56	3.74
Petunia Supertunia Vista® Jazzberry®	sun annual	3.69	3.80	3.67	3.72
Calibrachoa Superbells® Double Smitten Pink™	sun basket	3.81	3.67	3.61	3.70
Petunia Supertunia Vista® Cool Jazz®	sun annual	3.90	3.52	3.61	3.68
Petunia Supertunia Mini Vista® Yellow	sun annual	3.66	3.68	3.50	3.61
Calibrachoa Superbells Magic® Double Grapefruit™	sun basket	4.09	3.26	3.46	3.60
Lobelia Laguna® Royale Azure™	sun annual	3.49	3.59	3.38	3.49
Lobularia White Knight® (Imp)	sun annual	3.48	3.48	3.43	3.46
Petunia Supertunia Hoopla® Vivid Orchid™	sun annual	3.34	3.43	3.36	3.38
Jamesbrittenia Safari® Dawn™	sun basket	3.63	3.17	3.31	3.37
Heliotropium Aromagica™ Purple	sun annual	3.64	3.30	3.24	3.33
Scaevola Stardiva® Pink™	sun annual	3.31	3.35	3.33	3.33
Calibrachoa Superbells® Double Vintage Coral™	sun basket	3.80	3.13	3.06	3.31

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2. Criteria scoring averages for all 2025 trial entries.					
Cultivar	**Type**	**Health**	**Flowering**	**Landscape Impact**	**Average**
Lobelia Laguna® Royale Pink	sun annual	3.33	3.31	3.31	3.31
Phlox Southern Blaze™ White	sun annual	3.20	3.42	3.26	3.29
Jamesbrittenia Safari® Dusk™	sun basket	3.67	2.81	3.19	3.22
Bidens Campfire® Red Ember™	sun annual	3.26	3.11	3.04	3.14
Jamesbrittenia Safari® Lava Flow™	sun basket	3.35	2.98	3.06	3.13
Phlox Southern Blaze™ Bright Pink	sun annual	3.13	3.13	3.06	3.10
Phlox Southern Blaze™ Red Hot	sun annual	2.83	3.21	3.00	3.01
Lobelia Laguna® Royale Blue Pearl	sun annual	2.97	3.10	2.85	2.97
Lobelia Laguna® Royale Lilac	sun annual	2.74	2.96	2.78	2.83
Phlox Southern Blaze™ Blueberry	sun annual	2.78	2.76	2.72	2.75
Didelta Silver River™	sun perennial Y1	2.61	N/A	2.46	2.53
*Y1 = first year in multi-year perennial trial					

Table 3. Top 10 trial entries at NM (USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 8a).	
Cultivar	**Overall Mean Score**
1. *Coleus* Colorblaze® Royale Pineapple Brandy™	4.56
2. *Coleus* Colorblaze® El Brighto™	4.52
3. *Coleus* Colorblaze® Wicked Witch™	4.46
4. *Petunia* Supertunia Vista® Cool Jazz™	4.26
5. *Begonia* Surefire® Cascade Red™	4.24
6. *Lantana* Luscious® Royale Red Zone™	4.17
7. *Lantana* Luscious® Basket Tangeglow®	4.15
8. *Petunia* Supertunia Mini Vista® Yellow	4.11
9. *Begonia* Surefire® Rose™	4.11
10. *Begonia* Surefire® Red™	4.07

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 4. Top 10 trial entries at SM (USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9a).	
Cultivar	**Overall Mean Score**
1. *Coleus* Colorblaze® Royale Pineapple Brandy™	4.86
2. *Cleome* Señorita Rosalita®	4.78
3. *Lantana* Luscious® Basket Tangeglow®	4.67
4. *Coleus* Colorblaze® Wicked Witch™	4.63
5. *Ipomoea* Sweet Caroline Medusa™ Green	4.50
6. *Coleus* Colorblaze® El Brighto™	4.43
7. *Lantana* Luscious® Royale Red Zone™	4.22
8. *Begonia* Surefire® Rose™	4.13
9. *Begonia* Surefire® Cascade Red™	4.11
10. *Heliotropium* Aromagica™ Purple	4.09

Table 5. Top 10 trial entries at TC (USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 8b).	
Cultivar	**Overall Mean Score**
1. *Coleus* Colorblaze® Royale Pineapple Brandy™	4.94
2. *Ipomoea* Sweet Caroline Medusa™ Green	4.94
3. *Coleus* Colorblaze® Wicked Witch™	4.72
4. *Cleome* Señorita Rosalita®	4.57
5. *Scaevola* Stardiva® Blue™	4.56
6. *Scaevola* Whirlwind® White (Imp)	4.56
7. *Helianthus* Suncredible® Yellow	4.50
8. *Oenothera* Superlophus™ Sunglow	4.46
9. *Bidens* Campfire® Marshmallow™	4.26
10. *Begonia* Surefire® White™	4.24

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sun Annuals

Of the 35 sun annual entries (including in-ground and basket) across all three locations, eight received an average overall score of at least 4.0 across all locations, and 18 received an overall score above 3.0. The top performing annual was *Coleus* ColorBlaze® Royale Pineapple Brandy™, with an overall rating of 4.79. It was not only the top-performing annual but also the top-performing cultivar across the entire trial. It did not flower at any point during the trial. *Coleus* ColorBlaze® Wicked Witch™ and *Coleus* ColorBlaze® El Brighto™ also performed well (overall scores of 4.60 and 4.39, respectively). Among these, *Coleus* cv. El Brighto flowered first and produced the most flowers, followed by cv. Wicked Witch. Another entry grown primarily for its foliage, *Ipomoea* Sweet Caroline Medusa™ Green, also performed well and received an overall score of 4.27 (Figure 2).

Figure 2A

Figure 2B

Figure 2C

Figure 2D

Figure 2. Top performing in-ground foliage annuals. (A) *Coleus* ColorBlaze® Royale Pineapple Brandy™, photo taken on 05/16/2025, overall score 4.79; (B) *Coleus* ColorBlaze® Wicked Witch™, 05/16/2025, 4.60; (C) *Coleus* ColorBlaze® El Brighto™, 05/16/2025, 4.39; (D) *Ipomoea* Sweet Caroline Medusa™ Green, 05/16/2025, 4.27.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The top performing (receiving a score of at least 4.0) annuals grown for color (flowering) were *Cleome* Señorita Rosalita®, with an overall score of 4.39, *Scaevola* Whirlwind® White (imp) (4.20), *Helianthus* Suncredible® Yellow (4.14), and *Petunia* Supertunia Vista® Bubblegum® (4.07) (Figure 3). The *Cleome* and *Scaevola* handled the heat especially well into the summer. While *Petunia* cv. Bubblegum had reduced flowering later in the trial, it was still the top-performing *Petunia* among the trialed cultivars. While they did not receive a rating of at least 4.0, the Stardiva series also performed well. They were more compact than the Whirlwind series and exhibited a different flower shape from the fan shape of the Whirlwind series.

Figure 3A

Figure 3B

Figure 3C

Figure 3D

Figure 3. Top-performing flowering annuals (A) *Cleome* Señorita Rosalita®, photo taken on 06/13/2025, with an overall score of 4.39; (B) *Scaevola* Whirlwind® White (imp), 07/25/2025, 4.20; (C) *Petunia* Supertunia Vista® Bubblegum®, 06/10/2025, 4.07; (D) *Helianthus* Suncredible® Yellow, 06/23/2025, 4.14.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Shade Annuals

The shade annual entries all received a score of at least 4.0. Entries included *Begonia* Surefire® Cascade Red™ (4.17), *Begonia* Surefire® Rose™ (4.14), and *Begonia* Surefire® Red™, along with *Begonia* Surefire® White™, which both received a score of 4.02. They bloomed well throughout the season, with little decline as it progressed (Figure 4).

Figure 4A

Figure 4B

Figure 4C

Figure 4D

Figure 4. Top performing shade annuals (A) *Begonia* Surefire® Cascade Red™, photo taken on 06/13/2025, overall score 4.17; (B) *Begonia* Surefire® Rose™, 06/13/2025, 4.14; (C) *Begonia* Surefire® Red™, 06/13/2025, 4.02; (D) *Begonia* Surefire® White™, 06/27/2025, 4.02.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Perennials

Of the four perennial entries, two received a score of at least 4.0: *Lantana* Luscious® Basket Tangeglow® (overall score of 4.34) and *Lantana* Luscious® Royale Red Zone™ (4.10). These bloomed heavily throughout the season (Figure 5). While this trialing period did not span winter, both varieties have survived multiple winters in past trials at TC.

Figure 5A

Figure 5B

Figure 5. Top-performing sun perennials. (A) *Lantana* Luscious® Basket Tangeglow®, photo taken on 06/13/2025, with an overall score of 4.34; (B) *Lantana* Luscious® Royale Red Zone™, 06/13/2025, 4.10.

Early vs. Late Season Entry Performance

Not all plants perform well throughout the season, but some entries performed well during the spring, and others performed better in the fall. During design planning, it is often necessary to tailor plantings to spring and summer to optimize the landscape appearance throughout the seasons. Generally, most cultivars showed a late-season decline, performing better in the spring than in the summer, while a few showed improved performance throughout the season. Only five entries scored higher in the summer than in the spring on average across all locations. For example, *Bidens* Campfire® Red Ember™ performed very well in spring, but experienced a 2.38-point drop in the summer. *Bidens* Campfire® Marshmallow™ performed better in the summer with a 1.64-point drop in the summer. In contrast, *Lobularia* White Knight® (Imp) performed better in the summer than in the spring but only experienced a 0.54-point gain.

In addition to *Bidens* declining during the summer, *Lobelia* and *Phlox* experienced a decline in summer performance, but not equally among cultivars. For example, *Phlox* Southern Blaze™ White declined by 0.54, while Blueberry, Bright Pink, and Red Hot of the same series declined by 1.42 to 1.59 points. For the *Lobelia* Royale Series, Azure and Pink experienced declines between 1.50 and 1.59, while Blue Pearl and Lilac Blue declined by 2.19 to 2.23 points. Together, these data demonstrate that most entries experience some summer decline in performance compared to spring.

Table 6. Early (May-Jun) to late (Jul-Aug) season shifts in cultivar performance in leaf health, flowering, landscape impact, and overall scores.

	Health			Flowering			Landscape Impact			Overall				
Cultivar	**Early**	**Late**	Δ(L-E)	**Early**	**Late**	Δ(L-E)	**Early**	**Late**	Δ(L-E)	**Early**	**Late**	Δ(L-E)	**Full Season**	**Rank**
Agastache Maestro™ Coral	4.37	3.92	-0.45	4.23	3.54	-0.69	3.77	3.46	-031	4.12	3.64	-0.48	3.91	16
Agastache Maestro™ Gold	4.33	3.71	-0.63	4.36	3.42	-0.94	4.20	3.17	-1.03	4.28	3.43	-0.85	3.90	17
Begonia Surefire® Cascade Red™	4.67	3.83	-0.83	4.33	3.96	-0.38	4.20	3.83	-0.37	4.40	3.88	-0.52	4.17	8
Begonia Surefire® Red™	4.40	3.88	-0.53	4.23	3.58	-0.65	4.27	3.58	-0.68	4.30	3.68	-0.62	4.02	13
Begonia Surefire® Rose™	4.67	3.88	-0.79	4.13	3.96	-0.18	4.23	3.83	-0.40	4.34	3.89	-0.46	4.14	9
Begonia Surefire® White™	4.13	3.96	-0.18	4.20	3.83	-0.37	4.10	3.79	-0.31	4.14	3.86	-0.28	4.02	14
Bidens Campfire® Marshmallow™	4.57	2.50	-2.07	4.27	3.06	-1.21	4.37	2.72	-1.64	4.40	2.76	-1.64	3.78	19
Bidens Campfire® Red Ember™	4.20	1.50	-2.70	3.83	1.75	-2.08	3.87	1.50	-2.37	3.97	1.58	-2.38	3.14	36
Calibrachoa Superbells® Magic Double Grapefruit™	4.17	4.00	-0.17	3.07	3.50	0.43	3.27	3.71	0.44	3.50	3.74	0.24	3.60	25
Calibrachoa Superbells® Double Smitten Pink™	4.17	3.38	-0.79	4.17	3.04	-1.13	4.17	2.92	-1.25	4.17	3.11	-1.06	3.70	22
Calibrachoa Superbells® Double Vintage Coral™	4.17	3.33	-0.83	3.33	2.86	-0.47	3.40	2.63	-0.78	3.63	2.90	-0.73	3.31	32
Cleome Señorita Rosalita®	4.33	4.17	-0.17	4.30	4.67	0.37	4.27	4.67	0.40	4.30	4.50	0.20	4.39	3
Coleus Colorblaze® El Brighto™	4.87	4.67	-0.20	4.17	2.96	-1.21	4.73	4.50	-0.23	4.67	4.04	-0.62	4.39	4
Coleus Colorblaze® Royale Pineapple Brandy™	4.83	4.83	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.67	4.83	0.17	4.75	4.83	0.08	4.79	1
Coleus Colorblaze® Wicked Witch™	4.87	4.67	-0.20	4.36	4.00	-0.36	4.73	4.6	-0.11	4.70	4.49	-0.21	4.60	2
Didelta Silver River™	2.80	1.67	-1.13	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.68	1.33	-1.35	2.74	1.50	-1.24	2.53	43
Helianthus Suncredible® Yellow	4.73	4.21	-0.53	3.64	4.21	0.57	4.00	4.13	0.13	4.11	4.18	0.07	4.14	10
Heliotropium Aromagica™ Purple	4.08	3.08	-1.00	3.88	2.60	-1.28	3.67	2.71	-0.96	3.78	2.76	-1.02	3.33	30
Ipomoea Sweet Caroline Medusa™ Green	4.50	4.13	-0.38	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.40	3.96	-0.44	4.45	4.04	-0.41	4.27	6
Jamesbrittenia Safari® Dawn™	3.97	3.21	-0.76	3.73	2.46	-1.28	3.80	2.71	-1.09	3.83	2.79	-1.04	3.37	29
Jamesbrittenia Safari® Dusk™	3.93	3.33	-0.60	3.27	2.25	-1.02	3.50	2.79	-0.71	3.57	2.79	-0.78	3.22	35
Jamesbrittenia Safari® Lava Flow™	3.60	3.04	-0.56	3.30	2.58	-0.72	3.37	2.67	-0.70	3.42	2.76	-0.66	3.13	37
Lantana Luscious® Basket Tangeglow®	4.67	4.54	-0.13	4.43	3.96	-0.48	4.37	3.96	-0.41	4.49	4.15	-0.34	4.34	5
Lantana Luscious® Royale Red Zone™	4.57	4.67	0.10	4.10	3.38	-0.73	4.13	3.67	-0.47	4.27	3.90	-0.36	4.10	11
Lobelia Laguna® Royale Azure™	4.03	2.75	-1.28	4.30	2.61	-1.69	4.03	2.50	-1.53	4.12	2.62	-1.50	3.49	26
Lobelia Laguna® Royale Blue Pearl	3.77	1.47	-2.30	3.83	1.72	-2.11	3.60	1.44	-2.16	3.73	1.54	-2.19	2.97	40
Lobelia Laguna® Royale Lilac	3.40	1.64	-1.76	3.93	1.33	-2.60	3.65	1.33	-2.32	3.66	1.44	-2.23	2.83	41

Table 6 (continued)**.** Early (May-Jun) to late (Jul-Aug) season shifts in cultivar performance in leaf health, flowering, landscape impact, and overall scores.

	Health			Flowering			Landscape Impact			Overall				
Cultivar	**Early**	**Late**	**Δ(L-E)**	**Early**	**Late**	**Δ(L-E)**	**Early**	**Late**	**Δ(L-E)**	**Early**	**Late**	**Δ(L-E)**	**Full Season**	**Rank**
Lobelia Laguna® Royale Pink	3.97	2.45	-1.51	3.93	2.45	-1.48	4.07	2.27	-1.79	3.99	2.39	-1.59	3.31	33
Lobularia White Knight® (Imp)	3.30	3.71	0.41	3.17	3.88	0.71	3.20	3.71	0.51	3.22	3.76	0.54	3.46	27
Oenothera Superlophus™ Sunglow	4.40	3.42	-0.98	4.00	3.00	-1.00	3.90	3.00	-0.90	4.10	3.14	-0.96	3.74	20
Petunia Supertunia Hoopla® Vivid Orchid™	3.61	2.88	-0.73	3.61	3.13	-0.48	3.61	2.94	-0.67	3.61	2.98	-0.63	3.38	28
Petunia Supertunia Mini Vista® Pink Cloud™	4.37	3.08	-1.28	4.30	3.63	-0.68	4.13	3.17	-0.97	4.27	3.29	-0.98	3.83	18
Petunia Supertunia Mini Vista® Yellow	4.10	3.00	-1.10	3.93	3.30	-0.63	3.87	2.95	-0.92	3.97	3.08	-0.88	3.61	24
Petunia Supertunia Vista® Bubblegum®	4.63	3.52	-1.11	4.37	3.75	-0.62	4.37	3.50	-0.87	4.46	3.59	-0.87	4.07	12
Petunia Supertunia Vista® Cool Jazz®	4.35	3.33	-1.02	3.93	3.00	-0.93	4.03	3.08	-0.95	4.11	3.41	-0.97	3.68	23
Petunia Supertunia Vista® Jazzberry®	4.27	2.96	-1.31	4.07	3.46	-0.61	4.13	3.08	-1.05	4.16	3.71	-0.99	3.72	21
Phlox Southern Blaze™ Blueberry	3.20	2.15	-1.05	3.43	1.75	-1.68	3.33	1.80	-1.53	3.32	1.90	-1.42	2.75	42
Phlox Southern Blaze™ Bright Pink	3.67	2.22	-1.44	3.70	2.17	-1.53	3.60	2.17	-1.43	3.66	2.19	-1.47	3.10	38
Phlox Southern Blaze™ Red Hot	3.40	1.89	-1.51	3.77	2.28	-1.49	3.67	1.89	-1.78	3.61	2.02	-1.59	3.01	39
Phlox Southern Blaze™ White	3.40	2.90	-0.50	3.67	3.05	-0.62	3.47	2.95	-0.52	3.51	2.97	-0.54	3.29	34
Scaevola Stardiva® Blue™	4.13	4.08	-0.05	3.97	3.88	-0.09	3.97	3.83	-0.13	4.02	3.93	-0.09	3.98	15
Scaevola Stardiva® Pink™	3.90	2.33	-1.57	3.73	2.72	-1.01	3.87	2.44	-1.42	3.83	2.50	-1.33	3.33	31
Scaevola Whirlwind® White (Imp)	4.43	4.21	-0.23	4.17	4.04	-0.13	4.13	4.21	0.07	4.24	4.15	-0.09	4.20	7

CONCLUSION

Some of the top-performing genera for 2025 were from *Coleus, Cleome, Lantana, Ipomoea, Scaevola, Begonia*, and *Helianthus*. Breeding work has significantly improved these genera to flower continuously, have better branch architecture, and perform well in the heat, either through improved heat tolerance, better disease resistance, or a combination of these traits. Landscapers, Master Gardeners, and homeowners can use these data to plan landscapes, and growers and producers can use them to aid their selection of appropriate plant material for this region.

REFERENCES

CAMERON R, & HITCHMOUGH J. 2016. Environmental horticulture: Science and management of green landscapes. Cabi.

HAMRICK D. 2003. Ball Redbook, crop production, Volume: 2. Batavia Ball Publishing.

HENTIG W. 1998. Strategies of evaluation and introduction of "new ornamental plants," 65–80. Acta Horticulturae. International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), Leuven, Belgium. https://doi.org/10.17660/ActaHortic.1998.454.6.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

The mission of the Mississippi Agricultural And Forestry Experiment Station and the College Of Agriculture And Life Sciences is to advance agriculture and natural resources through teaching and learning, research and discovery, service and engagement which will enhance economic prosperity and environmental stewardship, to build stronger communities and improve the health and well-being of families, and to serve people of the state, the region, and the world.

Scott Willard, Director

mafes.msstate.edu