

# University of Tennessee Gardens - Jackson

## 2019 Best & Beautiful Report

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### This and the full trial results are available at:

[west.tennessee.edu/ornamentals/](http://west.tennessee.edu/ornamentals/)

The University of Tennessee Gardens in Jackson trialed more than 190 varieties of annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs in 2019. Trials were planted during the month of May, and data was taken June - September. Overall, the growing season was good. We had 65 days, from June through September 20<sup>th</sup> at or above 90°F, which is above average. Nightly low temperatures were above average. Rainfall totals for June and August were slightly above average. In July we had over 11 inches and no rain in September. Supplemental overhead and drip irrigation were used as needed.

### Top Performers:

**Angelonia angustifolia 'Serenita White'** (PanAmerican Seed) – Masses of pure white flowers make it a standout in the garden. The seed grown Serenita series has always outperformed the cutting grown selection in the garden. A 2014 All American Selection Winner.

**Calibrachoa Superbells® Dreamsicle** (Proven Winners) – As with the rest of the Superbells® series, this plant is dependable with a vigorous and uniform growth pattern. Performing well in pots these plants are sure to provide attractive foliage with reliable blooms that are sunset orange with dark veins.

**Jalapeño 'Emerald Fire'** (All American Selection) – A jalapeño in every way, this plant is a prolific producer of large 3" peppers with plenty of jalapeño heat. If left on the plant, the peppers will turn a beautiful, bright red. The plant also features attractive, dark-green foliage.

**Cuphea 'Honeybells'** (Ball FloraPlant) – Small tubular bicolor rose flowers are tipped with light yellow and were produced in great abundance all summer. Plants reached 10-12" tall and 14-16" wide. It was a good performer in the ground but with its semi-trailing habit looks great hanging over the side of a pot.

**Helianthus Suncredible™ Yellow** (Proven Winners) – A bright sunflower that produces a profusion of 3" flowers that continue all summer. The plants reach 3' x 3' and make a delightful addition to the garden.

**New Guinea Impatiens Bounce™ and Big Bounce™** (Selecta) – We were happy to have this series of proven performers in the garden again this year. **Big Bounce Cherry, Lilac, and Lavender Flame, Bounce Bright Coral and Pink Flame** were standouts amongst them all.

**Petunia Supertunia® Sharon** (Proven Winners) – A medium-sized, double flower are produced on mounding plants throughout the summer. With white and fuchsia striped flowers, this plant is a vast improvement over past doubles.

**Portulaca Mojave® Red Improved** (Proven Winners) – This plant grew vigorously from the beginning making a nice ground cover, and produced a nonstop display of eye-popping electric-pink blooms all summer.

**Nemesia Aromance™ Pink** (Proven Winners) – As charming as its name this plant features a fragrant bloom that draws your attention with its soft lavender pink petals. This is the first Nemesia we have grown that has lived past July, producing flowers all season. We recommend growing it in morning sun and afternoon shade.

**Coleus FlameThrower™ Salsa Verde** (Ball FloraPlant) – Bright chartreuse foliage on a dense, compact plant will stand out in the garden. The plants did not set flower.

### **Best in Show:**

**Calibrachoa Superbells® Blackcurrant Punch** (Proven Winners) – These plants are appropriately named as they feature a rich fuchsia flower with blackcurrant eye. Grown in pots these plants thrived all season long adding brilliant color to the garden.

**Pepper ‘Mad Hatter’** (All American Selection) – This pepper is a favorite for its incredibly uniquely lobed-bell shape, which is sure to draw attention. The flavor of these peppers is usually sweet but you will occasionally find mild heat close to the seeds.

**Gaillardia Heat it Up™ Red** (Proven Winners) – Reaching a height of 1’, old flower heads were masked by new ones. These plants produce a profusion of densely grown blooms with yellow-tipped, scarlet petals all summer with no deadheading.

**Pentas Sunstar™ Lavender** (Proven Winners) – While the Sunstar™ series were slow to start flowering, these plants should not be counted out. Their soft lavender clusters of flowers made these plants a favorite.

**Salvia farinacea Unplugged™ So Blue** (Proven Winners) – This salvia, which reached 18” tall, had upright flower spikes with dense lavender-blue flowers and two-toned silver grey and lavender-blue calyx.

**Scaevola Whirlwind® Blue Improved** (Proven Winners) - The mass of purple-blue flowers looked great spilling over the edge of our mixed pots. This Australian native did not skip a beat in the heat of summer.

**Sweet Potato Vine Sweet Caroline™ Red Hawk** (Proven Winners) – We love how the new growth starts out chartreuse, contrasting beautifully with the mature maroon foliage on plants that grow vigorously.

**Coleus FlameThrower™ Salsa Serrano** (Ball FloraPlant) - Plants display small serrated yellow leaves with bright red centers and veins on 18” plants. The contrast between the maroon and yellow edge is striking. The plants begin to flower in late September.

**Marigold ‘Big Duck Gold’** (All American Selection) – The plants reached 2’ tall and were well-branched with deep green foliage and impressive, vibrant-yellow 2-3” flowers. Plants began to lodge in September, but continue to produce large quantities of beautiful flowers.

**Zinnia 'Holi Scarlet'** (All American Selection) – These are well-branched, bushy 24" plants with a profusion of brilliant, red 3" flowers. While they developed powdery mildew late in the season, the gorgeous blooms and overall longevity of the plants warrant it as a favorite.

## Consumer Favorites:

**Calibrachoa Superbells® Double Amber** (Proven Winners) – A unique double bloom that is larger than other cultivars in the series. The pale orange color of the blooms has made this plant a favorite.

**Sweet Pepper 'Just Sweet'** (All American Selection) – These plants produce an abundance of peppers that had reached 4' tall by September. The fruit is an elongated bell pepper shape with four lobes that can be up to 5" long and ripen to a beautiful yellow-orange. As the name describes, these peppers are super sweet and tasty enough to eat by themselves.

**Gaillardia Heat it Up™ Yellow** (Proven Winners) – This cultivar provides dependable color in the garden with bright yellow flowers produced en masse all season with no deadheading. Reaching a height of 1', old flower heads were masked by new ones

**Lantana Luscious® Goldengate™** (Proven Winners) - Warm golden yellow blooms on a full, sprawling plant reaching 2' x 2' by September. The plants grew vigorously through the season.

**Tomato 'Artemis'** (PanAmerican Seed) – This bite-sized tomato produces delicious, cherry red fruit, beginning early and continuing to give a steady crop through the end of the season.

**Basil 'Everleaf Emerald Towers'** (PanAmerican Seed) – All basil lovers will find these plants perfect for any recipe. It will also add texture variation to the garden with its large smooth leaves. Growing to twice as tall as wide, it forms a pillar in the garden.

**Geranium Galaxy™ Pink** (Ball FloraPlant) – A mound of hot pink flowers on plants that surprised us by producing consistent blooms all summer long. We recommend growing it in morning sun and afternoon shade.

**Salvia interspecific 'Big Blue'** (PanAmerican Seed) – Upright, long, 5-8" blue flower spikes are held on strong stems above clean blue-grey leaves. Plants are very uniform and make good cut flowers. Very impressive performance, especially to have been grown from seed. Great for pollinators!

**Coleus ColorBlaze® Wicked Witch** (Proven Winners) – Eye-catching burgundy foliage with crisp, chartreuse, ruffled border on a plant that reaches 3' is stunning. Adding to its beautiful color presentation, these plants did not bloom, helping it to maintain its beautiful leaves.

**Zinnia Zesty™** (Ball Ingenuity) – The series produced large, bright, and consistent flowers and looked wonderful in the garden. Two of our favorite colors in the series **Fuchsia** and **White**. The **Fuchsia** plants were slightly taller than the rest in the series and the **White** plants produced larger flowers than the other colors. While they developed powdery mildew, late in the season the large flowers on a compact plant warrants it as a favorite.

## **University of Tennessee Gardens – Jackson Events**

UT Gardens Jackson /Master Gardener Plant Sale – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7am-noon

Summer Celebration - July 9<sup>th</sup> 8-4pm

Fall Plant Sale and Lectures with Susan Martin of Gardener Sue's News – Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 1-8pm  
Sale 3-6:30 Lectures 1:00 and 7:00

All events take place at 605 Airways Blvd. Jackson, TN 38301

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