



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WEST CENTRAL
RESEARCH AND OUTREACH CENTER



THE 2015 TOP TEN



PERFORMING ANNUAL FLOWERS



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University of Minnesota
West Central Research and Outreach Center
2015 Top Ten Performing Annual Flowers

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One of the largest and most impressive displays of annual flower varieties and cultivars in the Upper Midwest can be found at the University of Minnesota (U of MN) West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) Horticulture Display Garden in Morris, MN. Voted as the Best Public Display Garden in MN by WCCO/CBS Minnesota in August 2015, the Garden features annual flower cultivars from plant breeding companies around the world.

Annual flowers are evaluated on unique characteristics, exceptional performance, color and vigor under regional conditions. A visual evaluation and score was given three times during the 2015 growing season. Only the highest rated cultivars earn the distinction of a Top Ten Performing Annual. The goal of evaluating this vast array of cultivars is to develop recommendations for Minnesota.

Even though the annual flowers are under evaluation, the plants are placed into an aesthetically pleasing design. All flowers are labeled, allowing visitors to take note of top performing cultivars under regional conditions.

The WCROC Garden is also an All-America Selections (AAS) Display Garden and Trial Grounds. This Garden provides the public an opportunity to view the newest superior performers recognized by AAS judges. The Horticulture Display Garden is open daily from dawn until dusk; admission is free. For a complete list of all trial results, please refer to www.wcroc.cfans.umn.edu/flower-research-results.

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* On the front cover: Begonia tuberhybrida Nonstop™ JOY Yellow (top left), Vinca Cora® Cascade Strawberry (top center), Scaevola Paper Doll™ Top Model (top right), Bacopa Big Falls™ Dark Blue (middle right), and Impatiens Interspecific Big Bounce™ series (bottom).

Begonia x benariensis **BIG® Red Green Leaf** If looking for a quick-blooming vigorous begonia, it's hard to beat **BIG Red Green Leaf**. Although the fire-engine bright crimson red flowers are exceptional, the combination of the glossy green foliage is outstanding. **BIG Red Green Leaf** grows well in partial shade and is perfect for a mass planting or very large containers.

Height = up to 24 inches

Spread = 20 inches

Bloom Time = Early Summer to Fall

Exposure = Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture = Moist, Well Drained



Begonia x benariensis BIG® Red Green Leaf

Begonia *Solenia*[®] *Apricot* produces large blossoms of three-inch peach frilly flowers with amazing long season color from mid-spring to early fall. This Begonia is a hybrid cross between a tuberous begonia and a wax begonia. *Solenia*[®] *Apricot* requires dead-heading to keep it looking nice. Deer don't particularly care for this plant, and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier plants.

Height = 12 inches

Spread = 16 inches

Bloom Time = Mid Spring - Fall

Exposure = Full Sun to Partial Shade

Soil Moisture = Moist



Calibrachoa *Superbells*[®] *Garden Rose* has abundant, small petunia-like flowers all season long. *Superbells*[®] *Garden Rose* features distinctive, shiny, striking flowers that don't fade in the summer heat. This variety has long, trailing branches cascading over the sides of hanging baskets. *Superbells*[®] *Garden Rose* is a low-maintenance compact plant with no necessary deadheading and perks back up after a rain.

Height = 8 inches

Spread = 36 inches

Bloom Time = Planting to Hard Frost

Exposure = Part Sun to Sun

Soil Moisture = Good Drainage



Calibrachoa *Superbells*[®] *Garden Rose*

Coleus *Broad Street* features burgundy leaves with a lime green edge and was an outstanding performer in our 2015 display garden. Grown in partial shade in a garden bed, *Broad Street* is extremely compact and uniform.

In general, coleus is a durable plant with significant gardening potential for a wide range of gardeners. Coleus has a long history of use as a foliage plant; its ease of establishment after planting combined with a wide range of selections has made coleus a popular favorite for gardens and containers. Coleus was the annual selected as the National Garden Bureau's Annual of the Year for 2015.

Height = 30 inches

Spread = 20 inches

Exposure = Partial Shade

Soil Moisture = Well Drained



Coleus *Broad Street*

Dahlia *Hypnotica*® *Lavender* This outstanding dahlia blooms profusely from planting into early fall. The beauty of *Hypnotica*® *Lavender* is its vigorous plant habit, clean foliage and large flowers that were real eye catchers in our garden beds. The lavender blooms compliment many other planting companions. Requires occasional deadheading for a neat appearance.

Height = 26 inches

Spread = 24 inches

Bloom Time = Summer until Frost

Exposure = Full Sun to Partial Shade

Soil Moisture = Moist, Well Drained

Dahlia Hypnotica® *Lavender*



Dianthus *Jolt™ Pink* is a 2015 All-America Selections bedding plant award winner. This dianthus has large, showy flower heads on strong stems that perform extremely well all summer long. *Jolt™ Pink* has bright pink-fringed flowers, and is an easy to grow and trouble-free annual for the gardener looking for neat and tidy low-maintenance flower varieties.

Height = 22 inches

Spread = 18 inches

Bloom Time = Late Spring - Fall

Exposure = Full Sun

Soil Moisture = Well Drained



Geranium *Pinto™ Premium Lavender Rose* A seed type geranium from the Pinto series, *Premium Lavender Rose* is a great garden performer with uniform plant habit and early flowering. Its most appealing feature is the disease-free clean foliage all season long. *Premium Lavender Rose* is an outstanding seed geranium; perhaps the best we've trialed at the U of MN.

Height = 20 inches

Spread = 20 inches

Bloom Time = Early Spring to Fall

Exposure = Partial to Full Sun

Soil Moisture = Moderate

Geranium Pinto™ Premium Lavender Rose



Impatiens *walleriana Lollipop™ Fruit Punch Rose* is an outstanding impatiens from greenhouse to garden with exceptional uniform plant habit, growth and vigor. The rose flowers provide an intense pop of color throughout the entire growing season. The *Lollipop™* series also comes in other colors including Orange, Raspberry Violet, Cherry Red, Pomegranate Carmine, Coconut White and Peach Salmon.

Height = 20 inches

Spread = 22 inches

Bloom Time = June to Fall

Exposure = Partial Shade

Soil Moisture = Moist



Impatiens walleriana *Lollipop™ Fruit Punch Rose*

Petunia *Surfinia*® *Sumo*™ *Pink* offers a vigorous, full mounding habit of hot pink flowers in a landscape bed. Buds open continuously from the center and all along the stems, so there are no "flat-topped" or empty-centered plants as the season progresses. *Surfinia*® *Sumo*™ *Pink* is perfect for large containers and hanging baskets because its unique habit changes from mounding to trailing.

Height = 16 inches

Spread = 35-55 inches

Bloom Time = Late Spring until Frost

Exposure = Full Sun

Soil Moisture = Well Drained

Petunia Surfinia® *Sumo*™ *Pink*



Portulaca *Mojave*[®] *Tangerine* This durable and colorful flowering succulent blooms profusely all summer long without deadheading. The flowers of Portulaca close at night and reopen with sunlight. *Mojave*[®] *Tangerine* performed well for us in a block wall planter next to an asphalt parking lot with limited moisture. *Mojave*[®] *Tangerine* is a great plant choice for warm climates and poor, drier soils.

Height = 7 inches

Spread = 12-16 inches

Bloom Time = Spring to Late Summer

Exposure = Sun

Soil Moisture = Average



Portulaca *Mojave*[®] *Tangerine*

Honorable Mentions

Variety Name	Height	Spread	Bloom Time	Exposure
Begonia boliviensis Santa Cruz™	15"	Trails up to 24"	Late Spring to Fall	Full to Partial Sun
Bidens Campfire™ Fireburst	10"	Trails up to 18"	Spring to Fall	Full Sun
Calibrachoa Aloha Grape Cartwheel	8"	30"	Planting to Hard Frost	Part Sun to Sun
Calibrachoa Can-Can® Pink Splash	10"	32"	Planting to Hard Frost	Part Sun to Sun
Calibrachoa Can-Can® Red Splash	9"	28"	Planting to Hard Frost	Part Sun to Sun
Calibrachoa Hula Godiva	9"	30"	Planting to Hard Frost	Part Sun to Sun
Calibrachoa Kabloom® Deep Pink	7"	30"	Planting to Hard Frost	Part Sun to Sun
Calibrachoa Kabloom® White	8"	32"	Planting to Hard Frost	Part Sun to Sun
Calibrachoa Superbells® Evening Star	8"	24"	Planting to Hard Frost	Part Sun to Sun
Cleome Senorita Blanca™ (Imp)	44"	22"	Spring to Fall	Full Sun
Cuphea Sriracha™ Violet	18"	16"	Late Spring to Summer	Full Sun
Euphorbia Glamour	20"	18"	Spring to Fall	Full Sun to Partial Shade
Impatiens Rockapulco® Wisteria	18"	20"	Spring to Early Fall	Part Shade to Shade
Lantana Luscious® Pink-berry Blend	20"	36"	Late Spring to Fall	Full Sun
Lobularia Yolo Lavender	6"	24"	Spring to Fall	Sun to Partial Shade

Honorable Mentions

Variety Name	Height	Spread	Bloom Time	Exposure
Marigold patula Colossus	19"	20"	Spring to Early Fall	Full Sun
New Guinea Impatiens Sun-patiens® Spreading Shell Pink	18"	20"	Early Spring to Fall	Sun or Shade
Petunia Surfinia® Summer Double™ Salmon	10"	26"	Spring to Mid-fall	Full Sun
Petunia Potunia Plus Red	7"	26"	Mid-spring to Late Summer	Full Sun
Petunia Sun Spun® Salmon	8"	20"	Spring to Fall	Full Sun
Petunia Supertunia® Morning Glory Charm	10"	27"	Spring to Fall	Part Sun to Sun
Petunia Supertunia® Vista Bubblegum	16"	46"	Spring to Fall	Full Sun
Petunia Surfinia® Trailing Deep Red	7"	28"	Spring to Mid-fall	Full Sun
Petunia TriTunia™ Salmon	7"	18"	Spring to Fall	Full Sun
Verbena bonariensis Meteor Shower™	26"	22"	Spring to Fall	Part Sun to Sun
Vinca Cora® Cascade Strawberry	6"	Trails up to 23"	Spring to Fall	Full Sun



The Horticulture Display Garden is a participating garden in the [National Plant Trials Database](#), which is a central repository for trial



plant data. Participating gardens adopt standardized trialing protocol along with evaluation criteria. At the conclusion of each

growing season, trial managers upload trial data into the database making cultivar evaluations available to industry professionals. For more information on annual flower research at the WCROC, please visit our website at wcroc.cfans.umn.edu.

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