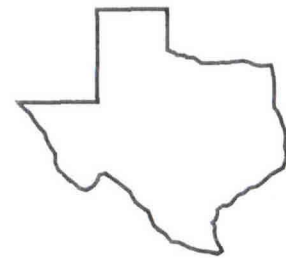
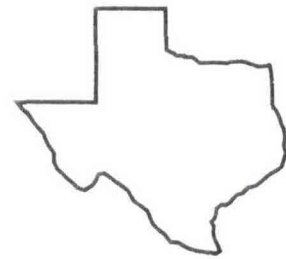
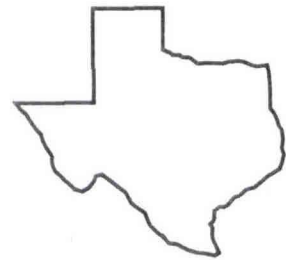
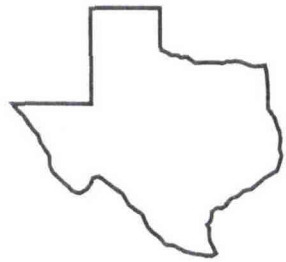


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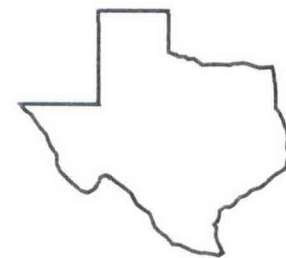
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Overton Field Day Report - 1994



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**PETUNIA AND BEGONIA PACK AND GARDEN TRIALS FOR EAST TEXAS:
SPRING 1994**

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Background. Fibrous begonia and petunia were selected to be included in the Spring 1994 pack and garden performance trial. Recent breeding efforts in begonia have resulted in varieties that are reportedly more heat resistant than those grown in the past. Improved flower habit and plant form have made begonia a favorite bedding out plant among the landscape industry and homeowners. Petunia trials last year were somewhat compromised because of a late start and inclement weather which seriously affected the garden evaluation of petunia. Therefore, it was decided to repeat the petunia pack and garden trial in 1994.

Current Information. Five seed companies have entered the spring trial which includes 43 varieties of begonia and 39 varieties of petunia (see Table 1) to be evaluated for greenhouse production and garden performance. Begonia were sown on 1 February 1994 and petunia were sown on 1 March 1994. Seed were germinated in "406" plug flats and transplanted into "Jumbo" six-pack cells for finishing. This approximates local commercial production practices. Greenhouse evaluation will consist of flowering dates, pack height, uniformity, and flower diameters. Garden performance will be monitored during the summer months.

Recommendation. The greenhouse evaluation will be available for inspection during field day. The garden performance trial area will be available for viewing, but the first results of the Spring 1994 trial can be best seen about 1 June. Information gained through these pack and garden evaluations will allow producers and consumers to choose varieties adapted to East Texas production systems and climate.

Acknowledgement. Companies that participated in the spring 1994 begonia and petunia pack trials were: Ball Seed Company, Benary Samenzucht GmbH. (Germany), Daehnfeldt, Inc., Goldsmith Seeds Inc., and Pan American Seed Company. The authors would also like to thank Powell Plant Farm and Dr. Harvey Lang for their support of the pack trials.

Table 1. Varieties in the Spring 1994 begonia and petunia pack and garden evaluation trial for East Texas.

Fibrous Begonia Varieties (Begonia semperflorens)

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Vision Series</u> | <u>Party Series</u> | <u>Miscellaneous Varieties</u> |
| Rote | Partyboy | Viva |
| Rosa | Partygirl | Linda |
| Tiefrosa | Partydress | Scarletta |
| Lachs | Partyflirt | Scarlanda |
| Weisse | Partylove | Allround Mix |
| | Partyfun | Fancy Mix |
| | Partyfriend | |
| | | |
| <u>Ambassador Series</u> | <u>Espresso Series</u> | <u>Prelude Series</u> |
| White | Rose | White |
| S-Pink | Scarlet | Bicolor |
| Scarlet | | Scarlet |
| Bicolor | <u>Encore Series</u> | Rose |
| T-Pink | Red | Coral |
| Coral | White | Pink |
| Salmon | Pink | <u>Victory Series</u> |
| | Red/Bronze | White |
| | Lt Pink | Pink |
| | Pink Bronze | Rose |
| | | Scarlet |

Petunia Varieties (Petunia x sp.)

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Dreams Series</u> | <u>Carpet Series</u> | <u>Primetime Series</u> |
| Midnight | Blue | Blue |
| Pink | Buttercream | White |
| Red | Lilac | Pink |
| Salmon | Rose | Salmon |
| White | Sky Blue | Red |
| | | Light Blue |
| | | Pink Veined |
| | | |
| <u>Ultra Series</u> | <u>Miscellaneous Series</u> | <u>Merlin Series</u> |
| White | Velvet | Red |
| Pink | True Blue | White |
| Burgundy | Purple Wave | Blue |
| Blue | Supercascade | Salmon |
| Sky Blue | Rose Pirouette | Rose |
| Scarlet | Purple Pirouette | Cherry Rose |
| | Falcon Mix | Picotee Mix |
| | Hulahoop Mix | |
| | Highlight Mix | |
