2025 AAS Demonstration Trial

UConn Agronomy Farm, Storrs CT

The AAS Trial Gardens at the University of Connecticut are located on campus at the PSLA Research Farm. Faculty and staff worked to implement the trials. UConn research farm staff were responsible for growing the plants and working to manage the trials. Shelley Durocher and Madison Sajkowicz planted seeds and plugs, Travis Clark, Andrew Hoagland, Mark Oliver, and Charlie Krasnow planted the trial beds, and UConn sophomore Alex Jeziorski weeded and assisted with the evaluation of the plots. The objective of the trials is to observe the performance of new and recently introduced annual cultivars under the environmental conditions of Connecticut.

The plots have a loamy Paxton soil that is rocky with high water holding capacity. The beds were tilled before planting, 15-15-15 was broadcast at 80 lb N/a and disc incorporated, and covered with plastic mulch. Each row was 10 ft on 4 ft centers with 12-18 in. between plants. Irrigation and a 19-19-19 liquid feed (Jacks) were provided weekly.

The shade house is covered with 40% shade cloth and all pots contained ProMix BX potting mix. Transplants were planted on 27-May. The plants received 50g of Osmocote per the label, and no supplemental feed. All plants received a spray of Conserve and Flagship to limit insect damage on 15-Jun.

The selection is based on entries from companies. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide growers, landscapers, and homeowners with a tool for plant selection for Connecticut as well as to provide performance data to breeders.

ColeusPremium Sun Coral Candy

BegoniaViking™ Explorer Rose On Green

CelosiaEmbers

ImpatiensPink Jewl

Vinca Cora Cascade

CelosiaFlamma Orange

Petunia hybrida Dekko™ Maxx™ Pink

Scaevola Fanatix™ Dark Blue

Dahlia Ruby

Dahlia Sonic

Pelargonium interspecific Caliente® Hot Pink

MarigoldSiam Gold F1

Scaevola Fanatix™ Dark Blue

Verbena spp. Kiss

Marigold Gold

MarigoldSiam Gold F1

ToreniaSummery Love Pure White F1

PetuniaDamask Pink

Vinca Cora Cascade

CelosiaEmbers

ZinniaSatain Coat

ZinniaBenary Mix

About the UConn Research farm: The UConn Research Farm is located on Route 195, approximately two miles south of UConn's campus in Storrs, Connecticut. The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA), within the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences, manages the farm. The facility has supported the teaching, research, and public outreach responsibilities for PSLA for more than 95 years and is the sole field research site for all plant-related research in the college.

The 153-acre facility is partially wooded with slightly less than 39 acres under active cultivation. The facility includes two teaching classrooms; the Hicks-Burr teaching nursery for woody ornamental crops; three greenhouses; and several barns and buildings used for program support, staff, equipment maintenance, and storage. The university has invested in the necessary physical support infrastructure, including irrigation systems, access roads, deer exclusion fencing, and buildings.

The facility's teaching, research, and outreach activities are conducted in the areas of ecology, entomology, floriculture, forages, soils, sustainable agriculture, vegetables, weed ecology and control, turfgrass and athletic field management, and woody and herbaceous ornamental crops. Courses taught at the facility allow students to gain hands-on practical experience and discipline-specific skills used in commercial trade. In a typical year, the facility hosts a number of educational events that address the needs of both the general public and agricultural commodity groups (e.g., Connecticut Master Gardeners, Connecticut Nursery and Landscape industry).