

2026 AAS Demonstration Trial

University of Connecticut 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. Travis Clark, Andrew Hoagland, Mark Oliver, and Charlie Krasnow planted the trial beds. UConn seniors Abigail Redline and Gwendolyn Hardee weeded, fertilized, and evaluated 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. Data taken included flower counts and plant size measurements. Flower cultivars were provided from local and national companies and All America Selections.

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. No insecticides or fungicides were applied to the gardens.

The selections are based on entries from companies. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide growers, landscapers, and homeowners with potential plant selection for Connecticut conditions.

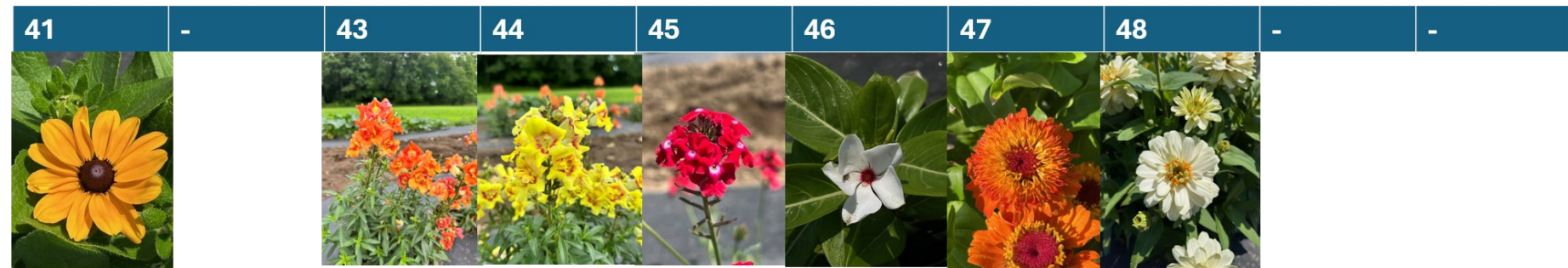
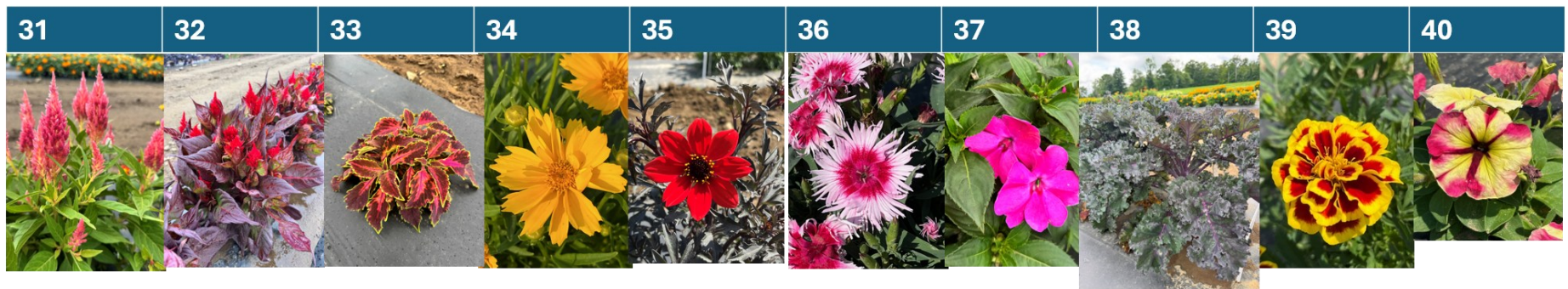
On August 10th, an open house event was held to showcase the gardens with 20 in attendance.



Digitalis and potted sunflower cultivar trial

Two separate trials to evaluate digitalis cultivars and potted sunflower cultivars were conducted at the PSLA Research Farm. Transplants were planted on 25-May into 2-gal pots. All pots contained ProMix BX potting mix and 25g Osmocote and weekly application of 19-19-19 liquid feed (Jacks). Germination for the digitalis was very low, and only about half of the seeded varieties were transplanted. All plants received a spray of Conserve and Flagship to limit insect damage on 15-Jun.







1	Antirrhinum majus F1	Sweet Duet™ Appleblossom		
2	Antirrhinum majus F1	Sweet Duet™ Citrus		
3	Antirrhinum majus F1	Sweet Duet™ Orange Deep		
4	Antirrhinum majus F1	Sweet Duet™ Red Deep		
5	Antirrhinum majus	Sweet Duet™ Mix		
6	Antirrhinum majus F1	Sweet Duet™ Peach		
7	Antirrhinum majus F1	Sweet Duet™ Shades Rose		
8	Catharanthus roseus F1	Blockbuster™ Blackberry Crush		
9	Catharanthus roseus F1	Blockbuster™ Blue		
10	Catharanthus roseus F1	Blockbuster™ Blueberry Crush		
11	Catharanthus roseus F1	Blockbuster™ Papaya Crush		
12	Catharanthus roseus F1	Blockbuster™ Raspberry Crush		
13	Catharanthus roseus F1	Blockbuster™ Dark Red		
14	Catharanthus roseus F1	Blockbuster™ White		
15	Celosia plumosa	Bright Sparks™ Red Bronze Leaf Bright		
16	Celosia plumosa	Bright Sparks™ Burgundy		
17	Celosia plumosa	Bright Sparks™ Formula Mix		
18	Celosia plumosa	Bright Sparks™ Pink		
19	Celosia plumosa	Bright Sparks™ Yellow		
20	Helianthus annuus F1	Sunfinity® Yellow Dark Center		
21	Helianthus annuus F1	Sunfinity® Bicolor YellowRed		
22	Zinnia marylandica	Zydeco™ CherrySatin Coat KS		
23	Zinnia marylandica	Zydeco™ DeepYellow Satin Coat		
24	Zinnia marylandica	Zydeco™ FireSatin Coat KS		
25	Zinnia marylandica	Zydeco™ GoldSatin Coat KS		
26	Zinnia marylandica	Zydeco™ WhiteSatin Coat KS		
27	Tropaeolum minus	Baby Gold		
28	Tropaeolum minus	Baby Red		
29	Tropaeolum minus	Baby Yellow		
30	Echinacea x hybrida	Artisan™ Yellow Ombre F1		
31	Celosia	Flamma Pink		
32	Celosia Embers			
33	Coleus Premium Sun Coral	Candy		
34	Coreopsis Sunglobe			
35	Dahlia Black ruby			
36	Dianthus Supra	Cherry Picotee		
37	Impatiens Pink Jewel			
38	Kale Rubybor			
39	Marigold MangoTango			
40	Petunia Raspberry			
41	Rudbeckia ClaireOrange			
42	Sedum Spectacular			
43	Snapdragon Doubleshot™	Orange Bicolor F1		
44	Snapdragon Doubleshot™	Yellow		
45	Verbena Kiss			
46	Vinca Sphere	Polkadot		
47	Zinnia CrestarMix			
48	Zinnia Profusion	White		
49	Zinnia ZydecoFire			



No.	Cultivar
1	Milk Chocolate
2	Large Yellow
3	Giant Yellow Herold
4	Snow Thimble
5	Strawberry
6	Pantaloons
7	Purple Carousel
8	Silver Cub
9	Camelot Cream
10	Camelot Lavender
11	Camelot White
12	Dalmatian Rose
13	Dalmatian White
14	Dalmatian Purple Hybrid
15	Dalmatian Crème Hybrid
16	Dalmatian Peach Hybrid
17	Apricot Beauty
18	Camelot Lavender
19	Camelot Rose
20	Dottie Cream
21	Dottie Peach
22	Dottie Purple
23	Dottie Rose Warm
24	Dottie White
25	Hanabee Pink
26	Hanabee Rose
27	Hanabee White
28	Panther

Potted sunflowers numbers 1 to 5 (top row) and 6 to 11 (bottom row)

Cultivar	
1 Miss Sunshine	
2 Sunspot	
3 Big Smile	
4 Firecracker	
5 Orange Hobbit	
6 Teddy Bear	
7 LEMON CUTIE	
8 LITTLE BECKA	
9 LITTLE TIGER	
10 SMILEY	
11 Sunfinity BYR	
12 Sunfinity YDC	

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).