



Elite Performer Trial *by FloraStar*

A greenhouse performance competition for ornamental garden plants

What is the Elite Performer Trial?

FloraStar in cooperation with the University of Florida has developed a greenhouse trial designed to evaluate how well a variety performs for the grower. The program focuses on vegetative annuals, spring crops and specialty seed items.

This Year's Crops:

1. Bacopa
2. Vegetative Petunia
3. Scaevola
4. Vegetative Verbena

Last Year's Crops:

1. Double Impatiens
2. Calibrachoa

Each crop is grown according to general production guidelines for the crop. Judging is based on specific characteristics important to that particular crop, such as time to flower, growth habit, number and/or size of flowers and marketability.

Program Objectives:

- Compare and evaluate varieties in a production format
- Identify varieties that perform best
- Communicate information to growers

Awards Given:

Elite Performer Award - varieties that are the easiest to grow, have excellent marketability and perform well in different situations and container sizes.

Merit Award - second group of varieties that also have many good characteristics and are very good choices for growers.

Varieties Tested:

The trials are not designed to test all varieties of a crop. Plant breeders submit specific varieties that they think are the best for greenhouse production.

Benefit to the Grower:

Growers can use the information from this trial in selecting varieties to try in their own operations with confidence that they have been subjected to stringent evaluation.

Where are the Varieties Tried?

The production trials are conducted at the University of Florida and the entrees are included in the landscape trials at North Carolina State University, Pennsylvania State University, and Colorado State University.