

**SOIL TREATMENT EVALUATIONS ON PERENNIALS
SUMMER 1999 AT THE CENTER FOR APPLIED NURSERY RESEARCH**

**Wayne J. McLaurin
Department of Horticulture
University of Georgia**

Five soil mixes were tested using eight perennials to test a wide range of growth patterns and root types.

The soil mixes were:

McCorkle's standard mix
McCorkle's standard mix plus 15% kenaf
McCorkle's standard mix plus 30% kenaf
Fafard's custom container mix
Fafard's custom perennial mix
Pinebark plus fertilizer

The plants tested were:

Anemone "Margarete"
Aster demosus Winston Churchill
Buddleia Harlequin
Dendranthema weyrichii "White Bomb"
Dendranthemum grandiflora "Sheffield"
Dianthus "Bath's Pink"
Golden Fleece *Solidago*
Salvia leucantha

Over all plants tested Fafard's Custom Perennial Mix (FCPM) produced the most dry matter in seven out of the eight plants tested. However, McCorkle's Standard Mix (MSM), MSM plus 15% kenaf and (FCPM) were in 0.6 grams of each other. MSM was second in plant dry weight produced in six of the eight plants grown. It ranked fourth in growth of *Dianthus* "Bath's Pink" and third in Golden Fleece *Solidago*.

Fafard's Custom Container Mix (FCCM) and the Pinebark plus fertilizer (PB) consistently ranked 5 and/or sixth with the exception of FCCM producing the fourth highest dry weight of *Salvia leucantha*. Fafard's Custom Container Mix (FCCM) was the only mix to show extreme yellowing of plants (*Anemone* "Margarete", *Aster demosus* Winston Churchill, *Buddleia* Harlequin, *Dianthus* "Bath's Pink", and *Salvia leucantha*).

The MSM plus kenaf treatments were in the mid-range of plant growth in relation to the soil mixes. The MSM plus 15% and 30% kenaf were very close in dry weight percentages with the exception of *Aster demosus* Winston Churchill. One thing occurred with the kenaf pots that was not expected. Weeds were a major problem in these pots due to the kenaf being harvested close to the ground by a machine that cut everything including mature weeds with seed heads. At the present time and due to this problem, kenaf products should be tested for weed seed prior to incorporating in mixes.

**SOIL TREATMENT EVALUATIONS ON PERENNIALS
SUMMER 1999 CANR**

	PLANT TREATMENTS							
SOIL TREATMENTS	1 Anemone "Margarete"	2 Aster demosus Winston Churchill	3 Buddleia Harlequin	4 Dendranthema weyrichii "White Bomb"	5 Dendranthemum grandiflora "Sheffield"	6 Dianthus "Bath's Pink"	7 Golden Fleece Solidago	8 Salvia leucantha
1 MCCORKLES STANDARD MIX (MSM)	14.25 *	8.29	15.61	5.66	9.18	18.85	7.24	25.03
2 MSM PLUS 15% KENAF	8.41	8.85	13.16	4.99	6.78	24.70	11.53	20.53
3 MSM PLUS 30% KENAF	8.80	6.50	14.69	5.60	5.66	19.56	5.83	15.50
4 FAFARD CUSTOM CONTAINER MIX	5.76	4.04	3.44	3.81	3.98	14.34	2.34	12.56
5 FAFARD CUSTOM PERENNIAL MIX	14.96	8.21	18.27	6.88	15.15	32.95	16.34	31.43
6 PINEBARK PLUS FERTILIZER	2.74	3.24	5.46	2.60	2.35	8.69	1.93	9.34

* Number is a dry weight average of eight plants.