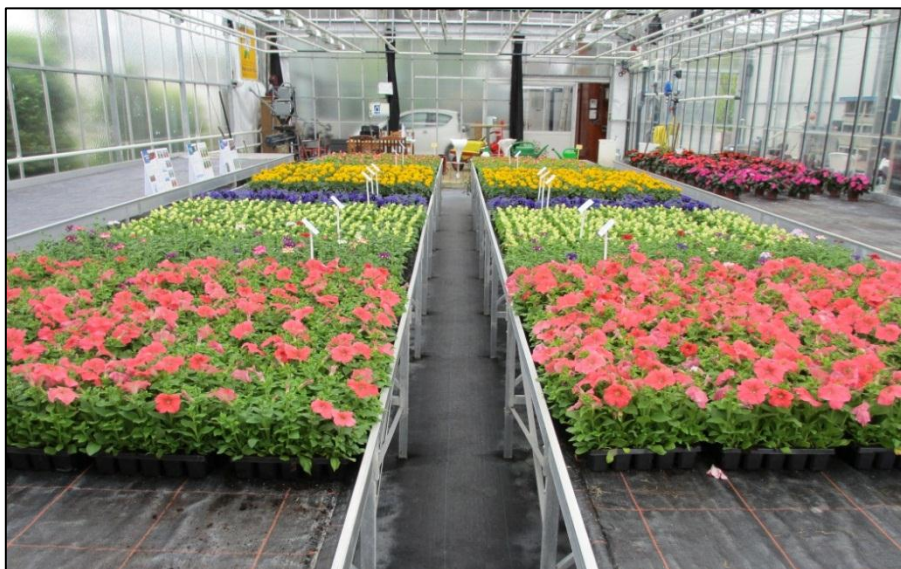


Trial Information

With Osmocote Bloom more compact and better branched plants.

- More compact plants with Osmocote Bloom.
- Better branching with Osmocote Bloom.
- Lower EC levels in the growing media.
- Better color of the plants.



Osmocote Bloom and water soluble fertilizers were compared in several bedding plant crops.

Goal of the trial

The comparison of Osmocote Bloom to WSF in various bedding plants and show differences on compactness, growth, branching and colour.

Key Conclusions

- More fresh weight (up to 28% more) due to better branching with Osmocote Bloom.
- Better color with Osmocote Bloom. WSF treatments showed in various crops a more light leaf color.
- Petunia and Tagetes are clearly more compact with Osmocote Bloom.

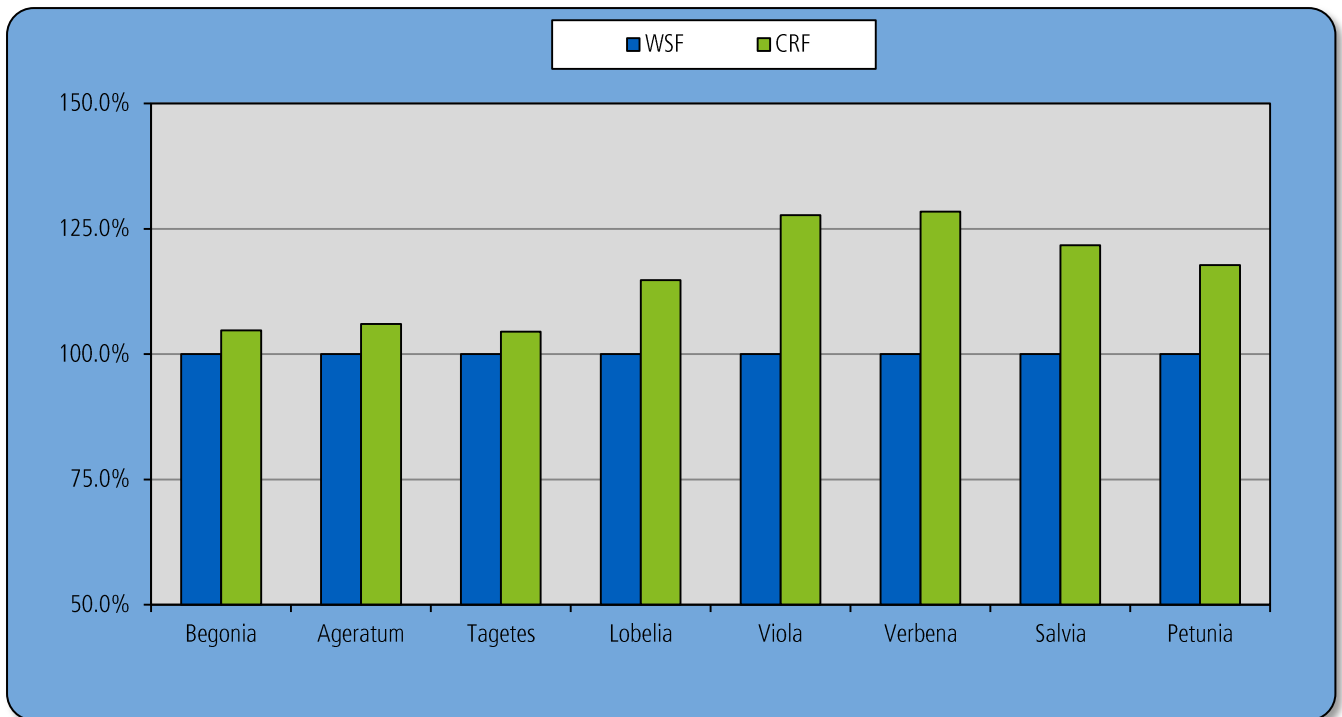
General information

Crops:	Begonia Spirit Pink Blush, Ageratum Kloha Blue, Tagetes Benanza Gold, Lobelia Belinda Blue, Viola cornuta, Salvia Jazz Cream, Verbena Tuscany Mix, Petunia Jumbo Salmon.
Location:	Bedding plant grower van der Plas, Maasdijk.
Potting time:	May 17 th , 2012
Pot sizes:	Clayettes, 10 cups
Potting soil:	Standard growing media without starter fertilizer (CRF treatment). Growers practice with 1.2 kg/m ³ starter fertilizer (WSF treatment).
Irrigation system:	Overhead, by hand.
Growth inhibition:	1x 150ml/100l Bonzi, 1x 200ml/100l Bonzi. No inhibition in Begonia.
Assessments:	Fresh weight, leaf colour evaluation, root quality score, flowering score.
Treatments:	growers practice (WSF) and Osmocote Bloom (CRF)

Crop	WSF rate in E.C.	CRF rate in gram per liter.
Begonia	2.5	3
Ageratum	2.5	3
Tagetes	2.5	3
Lobelia	2.5	4
Viola	2.5	4
Salvia	2.5	3
Verbena	2.5	4
Petunia	2.5	4

Fresh weight measurement

Fresh weight can be directly related to the growth of the plant, as well in length as in wide or plant structure. In the graph below, the fresh weight is shown in percentage. Growers practice is 100% (control treatment). Osmocote Bloom is compared with the growers practice.



The Osmocote Bloom treatments show overall clearly more fresh weight. Between 6% and 28% more than growers practice. Especially with water soluble fertilizers in Salvia, Petunia, Verbena and Viola significant differences are shown. These differences are obtained by the different branching and thickness of the stem of the plants in the Osmocote Bloom treatments.



Figure 1: Petunia; left WSF, right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)

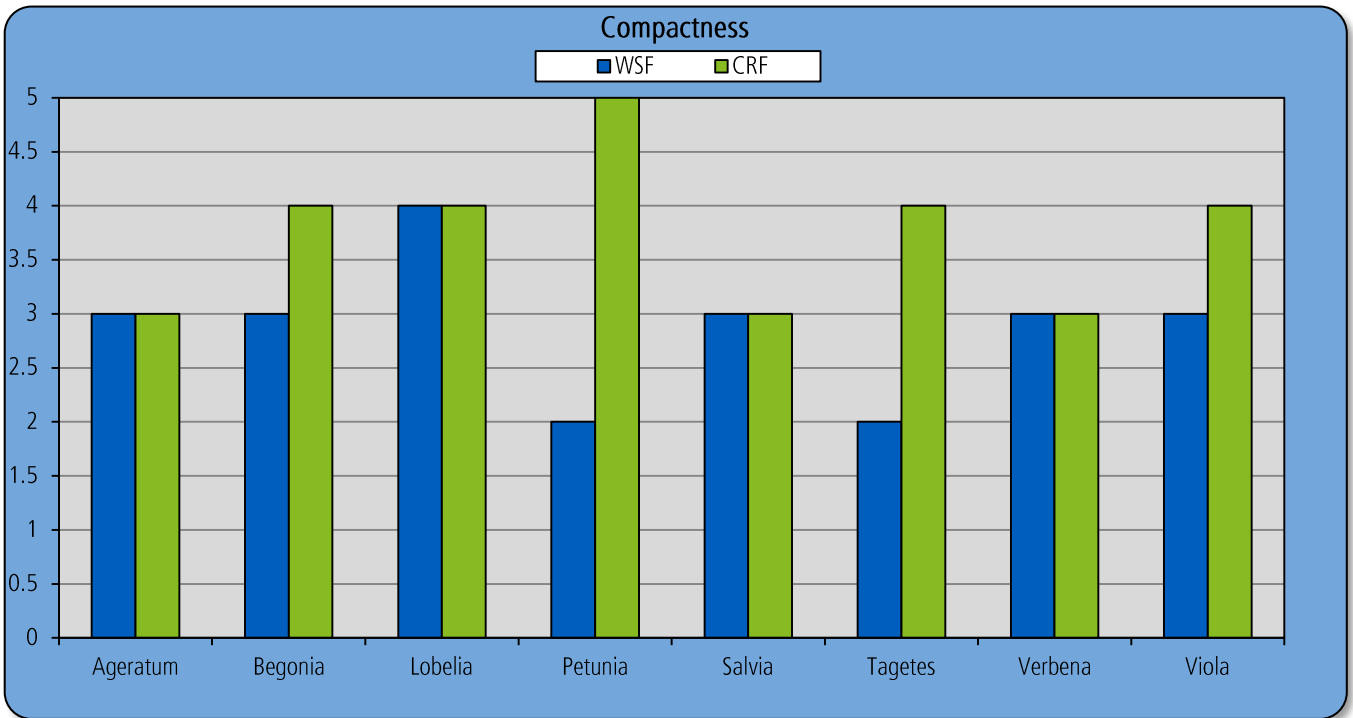


Figure 2: Tagetes; left WSF, right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)

Above pictures show the treatments at the end of the trial. In both pictures, the CRF treatments have the smallest plants. The branching however, is much better, especially in Petunia.

Compactness score

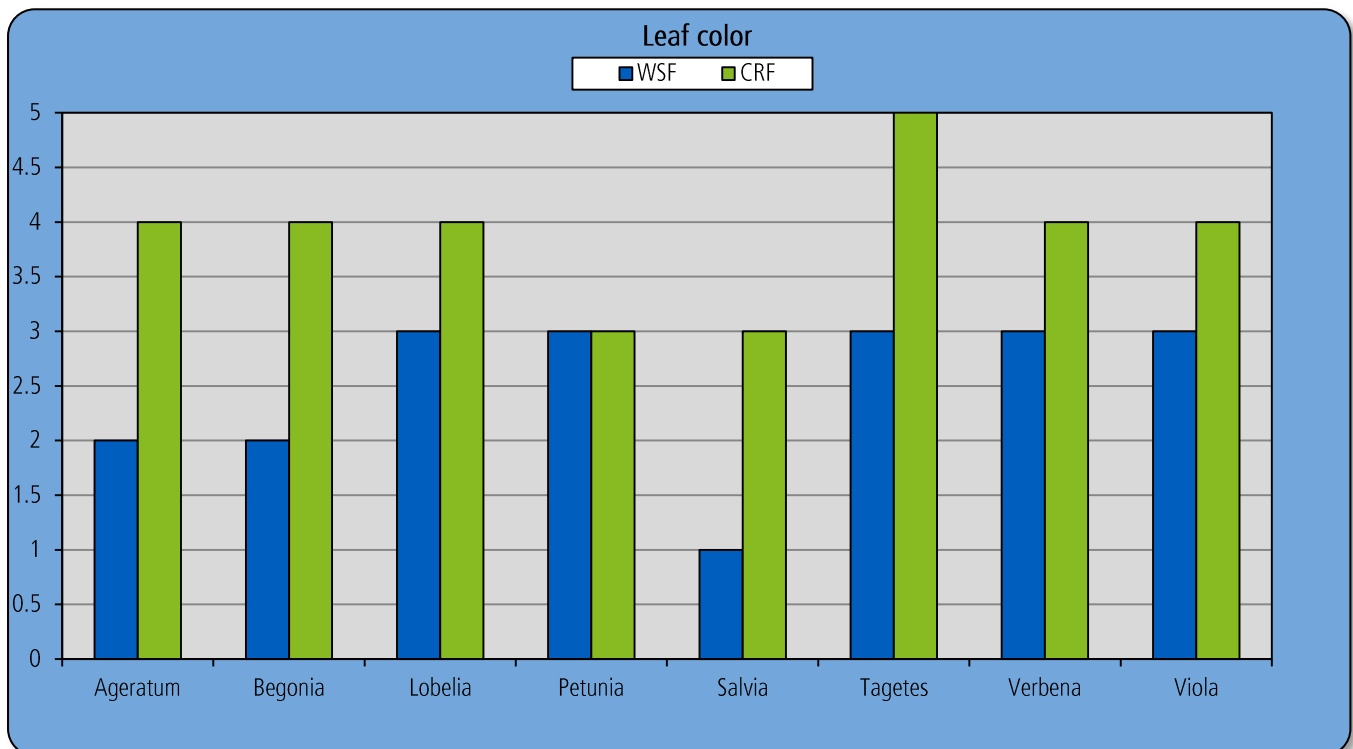
1=not branched, tall plants. 5= very compact, good branched.



The pictures on the previous page show the differences between the WSF and Osmocote Bloom treatment very clear. In this graph the compactness for all crops is shown. Not only Petunia and Tagetes show differences between the WSF and CRF treatment. Also Begonia and Viola were more compact with CRF.

Leaf color score

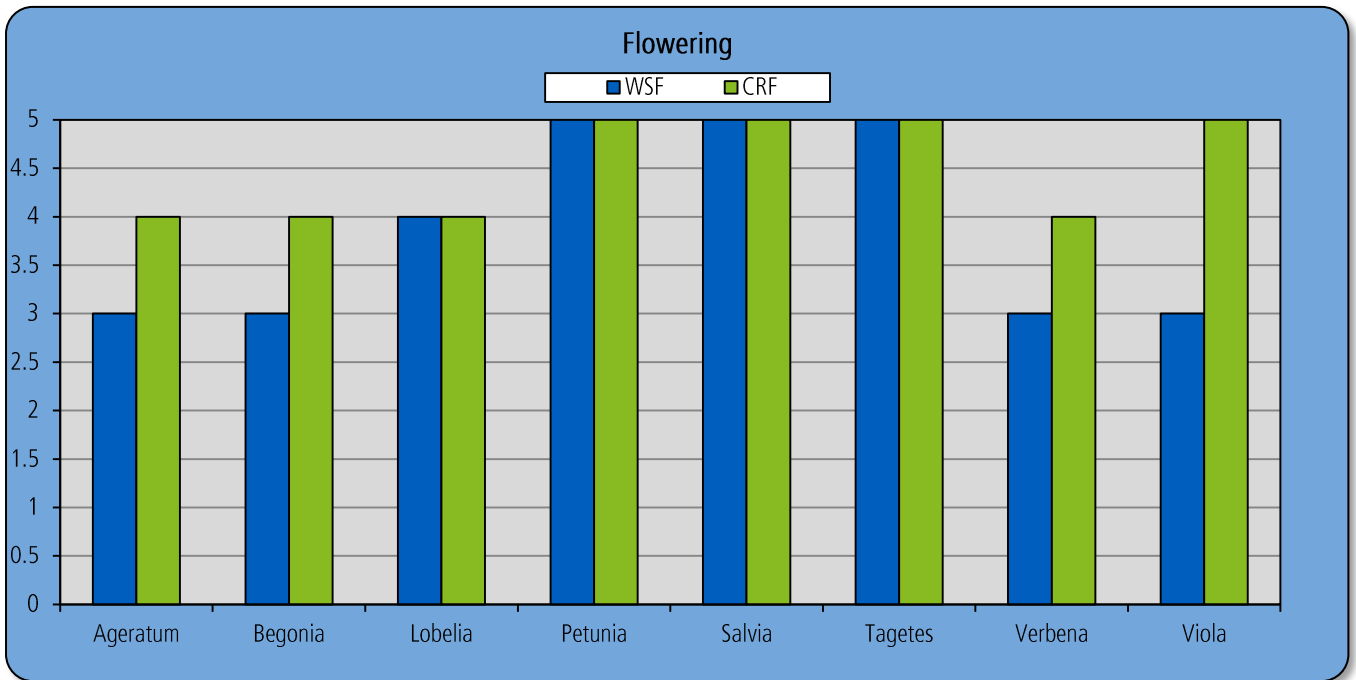
1= Yellow leaves (nutrient deficiency). 5= dark green leaves



Overall, the treatment with WSF showed a less green leaf color. The treatments with Osmocote Bloom showed no deficiency in none of the crops, where the WSF treatments showed a clear nitrogen deficiency. Especially, Salvia showed yellow when WSF was used and other crops were less dark green. This is probably caused by the fact that with WSF the nutrient supply is depending on the irrigation and in bedding plants irrigation is minimal to keep plants compact.

Flowering score

1= no flowering. 5= lots of flowers or flower buds.



The treatments with Osmocote Bloom showed in some crops more flowers and flower buds, caused by the better branching. The WSF treatments seem to have the flowers a bit earlier.

Pictures of the trial.



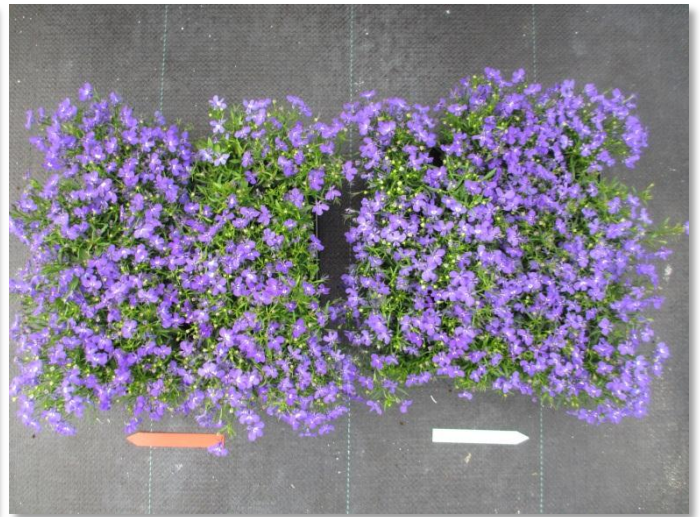
Begonia: left WSF, Right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)



Ageratum: left WSF, Right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)



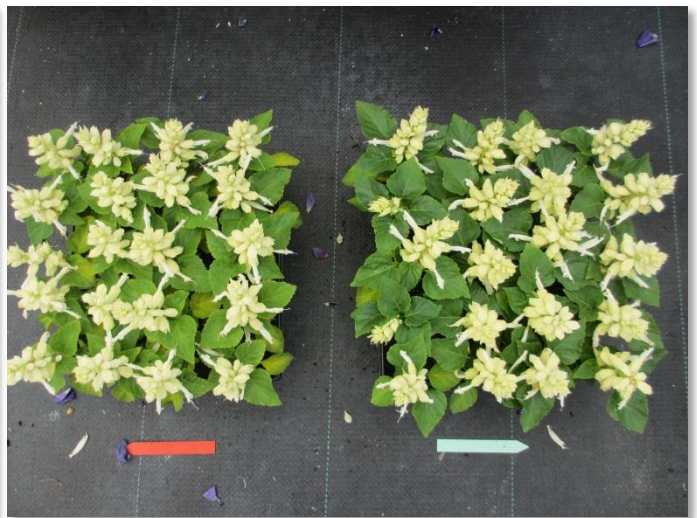
Tagetes: left WSF, right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)



Lobelia: left WSF, right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)



Viola: left WSF, right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)



Salvia: left WSF, Right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)



Verbena: left WSF, right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)



Petunia: left WSF, right CRF (Osmocote Bloom)

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