

Nursery and Landscape Notes



Summer 2010

Upcoming Events

September 2

Northwest Louisiana Nursery Association Meeting

ArkLaTex Gardens, Shreveport, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

September 16-17

Certified Nursery Professional Training

City Park Botanical Garden
New Orleans, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com or
Dan Gill at dgill@agcenter.lsu.edu

October 6

La. Irrigation Association Recertification Meeting and Annual Meeting

Ralph and Kacoo's, Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

October 6-7

Ornamental and Turfgrass Pesticide Applicator Recertification and Certification Testing

Lafayette, La.
Contact Karen Nix at
knix@agcenter.lsu.edu

October 8

Southeast LA Nursery Association Trade Show

Castine Center, Mandeville, La.
Contact Annie Coco at
acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu

October 20

Rose Research Morning

Burden Center, Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Allen Owings at
aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

Welcome to the summer 2010 edition of our new Nursery and Landscape Newsletter for Louisiana's green industry professionals. The LSU AgCenter is providing this communication to keep you updated on current research, extension programs and related events/activities. This newsletter comes to all wholesale growers, landscape contractors and horticulturists in Louisiana. Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcomed and very much appreciated.

Louisiana Super Plants Debuting in October

Regina Bracy, Allen Owings and Dan Gill

The LSU AgCenter is excited to announce a new ornamental plant promotion program for the state. The Louisiana Super Plant program is an educational and marketing campaign that highlights tough and beautiful plants that perform well in Louisiana landscapes. Louisiana Super Plants have a proven track record, having gone through several years of university evaluations and observations. Louisiana Super Plants are "university tested and industry approved."

Each spring and fall LSU AgCenter horticulturists unveil a list of Louisiana Super Plants, evaluated and selected for their superior performance throughout Louisiana. Wholesale nurseries are encouraged to grow and retail nurseries are encouraged to carry Louisiana Super Plants. That way, when you hear about these outstanding plants you will be able to find them at your local nurseries. Homeowners and professionals alike can benefit from using Louisiana Super Plants for a successful landscape experience.

Louisiana Super Plants for Fall 2010

Amazon Series Dianthus comes in three outstanding colors – 'Amazon Rose Magic,' 'Amazon Neon Purple' and 'Amazon Neon Cherry.' You can also obtain 'Neon Duo' (a combination of Neon Cherry and Neon Purple). This dianthus is excellent for bedding or cutting. Planting is best done in the fall but can continue until early spring. Flowering can occur from fall to late spring.

Camelot Series Foxglove includes three excellent colors – 'Camelot Cream,' 'Camelot Rose' and 'Camelot Lavender.' This is the best foxglove for Louisiana so far. It is best planted in fall or late winter for flowering in April and May.

ShiShi Gashira Camellia is a tried and true shrub grown reliably in Louisiana landscapes for many years. Terrific rose pink flowers are produced from October to December on this compact shrub that grows to about four feet by four feet.

Spring 2010 Landscape Horticulture People's Choice Awards

Allen Owings, Regina Bracy, Yan Chen, Roger Rosendale and Joey Quebedeaux

Green industry professionals, home gardeners and Louisiana Master Gardeners participated in the People's Choice plant award selections at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station in May. Attendees at the Landscape Horticulture Field Day (green industry professionals), Master Gardener Open House (Master Gardeners) and Sun Garden Stroll (home gardeners) were given the opportunity to "pick their winning plants" from the sun garden evaluation trial gardens at the

station. Over 360 varieties were planted this year. The planting mostly consists of cool- and warm-season annual bedding plants and herbaceous perennials, but new roses and some "companion" woody ornamental shrubs (such as Southern Living plants) are also included. The majority are "new" plants to the industry, but a few are industry standards planted for "comparison" and "side-by-side" evaluation purposes. Here are the results:

Home Gardeners

Gold Winner: Carefree Marvel rose and Amazon Rose Magic dianthus

Silver Winner: Amazon Neon Purple dianthus

Bronze Medal: Butterfly Blush gaura

Other Winners:

Redbor ornamental kale
Silver Anouk lavendula
Amazon Neon Cherry dianthus
Phantom petunia
Sorbet Yellow Duet viola
Passionate Kisses rose
Knock Out rose
Pinstripe petunia
Knock Out Blushing rose
Elation Red dianthus
Swan Violet White columbine
Carefree Celebration rose
Swirling Fantasy heuchera

Master Gardeners

Gold Medal: Carefree Marvel rose

Silver Medal: Silver Anouk lavendula

Bronze Medal: Passionate Kisses rose

Other Winners:

Amazon Neon Purple dianthus
Sweet Red w/White Eye dianthus
Cinco de Mayo rose
Amazon Rose Magic dianthus
Elation Red dianthus
Traviata rose
Songbird Nightingale columbine
Butterfly Blush gaura
Knock Out rose
Swan Mix columbine

Green Industry Professionals

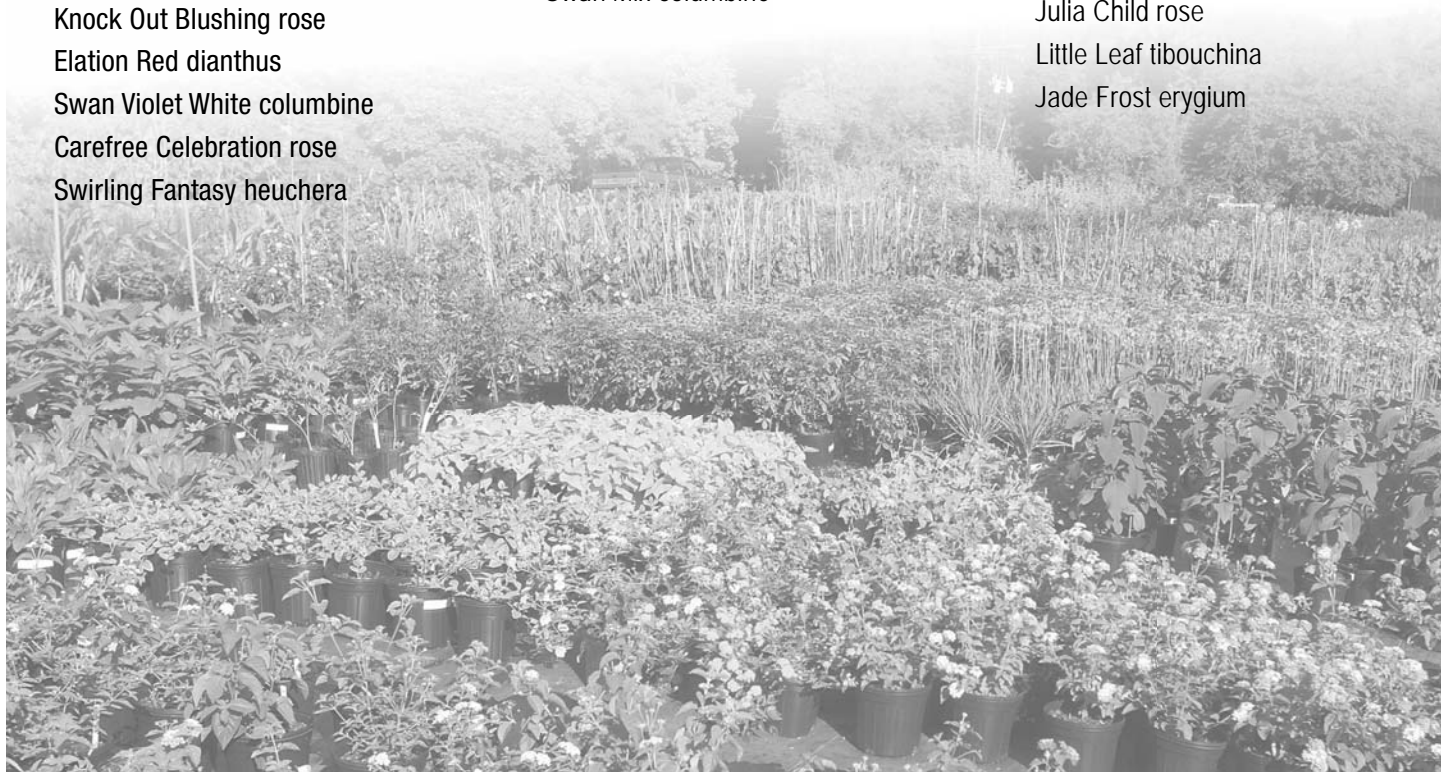
Gold Winner: Carefree Marvel rose

Silver Winner: Pinstripe petunia

Bronze Winner: Dark Secret heuchera and Black Velvet petunia

Other Winners:

Amazon Neon Cherry dianthus
Illusion Midnight Lace ornamental sweet potato
Illusion Emerald Lace ornamental sweet potato
Redbor ornamental kale
Senorita Rosalita Cleome
Amazon Neon Purple dianthus
Amazon Rose Magic dianthus
Julia Child rose
Little Leaf tibouchina
Jade Frost erygium



2009 Floriculture Crops Summary

Allen Owings

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service has released the 2009 Floriculture Crops Summary. The 2009 wholesale value of floriculture crops was down 7 percent from the revised 2008 valuation. The total crop value at wholesale for the 15-state program for all growers with \$10,000 or more in sales was estimated at \$3.8 billion for 2009, compared with \$4.1 billion for 2008.

California continues to be the leading state with crops valued at \$935 million, but was down 12 percent from the 2008 value. Florida, the next largest producer, at \$696 million was down 9 percent from the prior year to in wholesale value. These two states account for 43 percent of the 15-state total value. The top five states are California, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina and Texas, which account for \$2.5 billion, or 66 percent of the 15-state total value.

The number of producers for 2009, at 6,457, was down 13 percent in the 15 states compared with the revised 2008 count of 7,362. The number of producers with sales of \$100,000 or more dropped 3 percent to 2,919 for 2009 from 3,019 in 2008.

In the 15 state program, total covered area for floriculture production was 806 million square feet. However, these data are not comparable to the 2008 revised area of 756 million square feet due to the combined data collection efforts of the Census of Horticulture and the Annual Floriculture Survey.

The total wholesale value of floriculture crops grown by operations with \$100,000 or more of sales in the 15-state program was \$3.7 billion for 2009, down 6 percent from the revised 2008 total. These largest operations account for 96 percent of the total value of floriculture crops, but comprise only 45 percent of all producers.

The wholesale value of bedding and garden plants, at \$1.8 billion, was down 2 percent from the previous year. This crop category is the largest contributor to value of production and represents 49 percent of the wholesale value of all the reported crops. California, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas and Ohio the top five states in this category, account for 79 percent of the total 15-state bedding and garden value. The number of growers producing annual bedding and garden plants was 1,317, up 1 percent from 2008.

The wholesale value for other major crop categories, including potted flowering plants, foliage plants, cut flowers and cultivated greens and propagated material, was down in 2009 compared to 2008.

Native Tree Planting Effort at the Hammond Research Station

Regina Bracy

The 70-year-old loblolly pine stands that dominated the landscape at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station took a beating from Hurricane Katrina. In addition, Hurricane Gustav and snow in December 2008 caused more tree damage. Over half of the large pines in the shade garden have been lost and we are still losing them. In 2006 we embarked on a tree-planting program that continues today to plant close to 1,000 trees that represent more than 40 species of native large and small trees and shrubs. Half of the 1,000 trees are longleaf pine seedlings that were planted on five acres in the back corner of the station. We also have planted an assortment of large deciduous trees around the station to reforest the landscape.

The shade garden area has been planted with loblolly pine and hardwoods to replace the canopy or overstory, and we have planted a number of understory trees and shrubs that grow well in the shade of larger trees. We also have an urban forestry plot where 115 trees of 42 species are planted for future research, demonstration and education purposes. Other plantings include a hurricane buffer planting across the back or west side of the property.

This planting was funded by a hurricane recovery grant from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. With all these plantings of native trees and shrubs, we hope to demonstrate the wise use of natives and in the future provide demonstrations of the superior performance of native trees for South Louisiana landscapes -- especially where hurricanes occur.

Celcius Herbicide

Ron Strahan

Bayer has launched a new herbicide, Celcius, this spring. It is a mixture of three active ingredients – iodosulfuron, thiencazuron and dicamba. This herbicide has a lot of promise because it provides broadleaf weed control as well as suppression of several grass species, such as dallisgrass and large crabgrass. Another outstanding characteristic of Celcius is how easy it is on St. Augustine grass in the hot weather. The rate range is 2.5-7.4 ounces per acre. Virginia buttonweed is on the product label. At least two applications at the high rate will be necessary to achieve an acceptable level of buttonweed management.

Knock Out Rose Best Management Practices

Allen Owings

- ◇ Soil pH requirement – 6.5.
- ◇ Full sun conditions are needed – 8 hours of sun daily.
- ◇ Landscape bed preparation in terms of improved drainage and raised beds is highly recommended.
- ◇ Consider mature size when spacing plants. Knock Out roses are advertised to be 4-5 feet tall with an equal spread. Plants are very hard to maintain at this height and spread. Space plants 6-8 feet apart.
- ◇ Prune in mid-February by conducting a two-third height reduction pruning.
- ◇ Prune in late August/early September by conducting a one-third height reduction pruning.
- ◇ Eliminate some older interior wood when pruning 2- to 3-year-old and older plants.
- ◇ Mulch with pine straw or similar material in the spring and add new mulch as a topdress in the late summer/early fall.
- ◇ Fertilize with a three-month, controlled-release fertilizer in late February at the rate of 1-2 lbs N/1,000 –square-foot bed area. Higher rates for new beds and those showing low levels of fertility. Use lower application rate for older beds or beds showing high levels of fertility. Fertilize in early September at one-half the earlier season application rate.
- ◇ Rainbow Knock Out is the only slightly to moderately blackspot-susceptible cultivar. Consider a fungicide application in March, April and May. In addition, a September fungicide application may be beneficial.
- ◇ Sunny Knock Out is the most insect susceptible cultivar. Thrips and aphids are the major insect pests.



LSU AgCenter

Rose Research Morning



Green Industry, Rosarians and Home Gardeners Invited!!!

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

9 a.m. – 11:30 am

No admission charged!!!

*'Griffith Buck' Roses – 86 varieties
All varieties 'Knock Out' Roses
National 'Earth Kind' Trial Roses
'Drift' Series – Ground Cover Roses
and Much More*

Burden Center

Ornamental and Turfgrass

Research Facility

4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA

Contact Allen Owings at

aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu or 225.603.8096



Black Petunias

Allen Owings

Black petunias have been getting a considerable amount of discussion the past few months. Black petunias, you ask? Are there black-flowering petunias? Yes, there are.

Ball FloraPlant has added three dark-flowering cultivars. Black Velvet is being promoted as the world's first black petunia. This cultivar works well in baskets, containers and landscape beds. Early to flower, it has a tightly branching growth habit.

Phantom is another new petunia. The flower base color is black with a yellow star pattern on the petals. A mounding petunia, it has an upright habit.

The Pinstripe variety produces dark purple flowers with a creamy white star pattern.

All three of these "black" petunias have been grown in LSU AgCenter landscape evaluations at the Hammond Research Station this spring. All three were LSU AgCenter landscape plant People's Choice award winners. Home gardeners voted Pinstripe and Phantom award winners, while green industry professionals named Pinstripe the People's Choice Silver Winner for the spring and named Black Velvet the People's Choice Bronze Winner.

At this year's OFA Short Course, Black Velvet was announced as the winner of Greenhouse Grower Magazine's Industry Choice Award and was also chosen as the magazine's Readers' Choice winner.

Pine Trees in Louisiana

Allen Owings

In Louisiana we have several species of pine trees that are native. These include loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*), longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*) and slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*).

In southeast Louisiana, Hurricane Katrina did major damage to pine trees in 2005. These effects are still lingering. Add this to the loss of pine trees in the Baton Rouge area with Hurricane Gustav and in southwest Louisiana with hurricanes Rita and Ike and many of us are reluctant to use pine trees in our landscape plantings. In addition to our landscape trees, however, is the damage to pine trees is having a major long-term negative economic impact on Louisiana's forestry industry. Unfortunately, many pines trees damaged homes and buildings as they fell. But please do not give up on planting pine trees. We can still use pine trees successfully in our landscapes if the proper location and species are selected.

The best pine tree for landscape use in Louisiana is the spruce pine. It has a slow to moderate growth rate and matures at a size that works in medium to large size landscape settings. Spruce pines are much more adapted to adverse or varying soil moisture and pH conditions when compared to other pine species. Spruce pines can tolerate neutral to slightly alkaline soils and can also grow better in poorer drained soils that have some clay – although their growth certainly will be slower than if they were planted in more ideal silty, acid soil. Virginia pines are also slightly more tolerant of adverse growing conditions.

Pine trees vary greatly in size. Consideration needs to be given in this regard when planting in landscape settings. Shortleaf, Virginia and spruce pines are the smallest of the pines we have discussed in this article. They reach average



heights of 25-50 feet with an average spread of 20-30 feet. The Virginia and spruce pines would be best suited to planting. Shortleaf pine would perform better in north Louisiana than in south Louisiana. Loblolly, slash and longleaf pines are more upright growing and get to be considerably larger than the other species. The longleaf pine stays in a "grass-like" growing stage for several years before upright growth commences.

Pine tree seedlings are available every year (normally December – March) from the tree seedling sales office at the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. They are great for perimeter landscaping efforts and the soil conditions required for most pines matches that of common ornamental shrubs such as gardenias, hydrangeas, camellias, sasanquas and azaleas.



Caladium Problems

Yan Chen

We remind everyone that the caladium production area in Florida had significant cold damage on their tubers this past winter. We are seeing damage resulting from this in landscapes around south Louisiana this year. A lack of uniformity (as seen in the photo) is a common symptom of cold damage. Also, you will see smaller-than-normal foliage. Plants growing in full sun or stressed situations will be more prone to showing enhanced damaged than plants that are not stressed or growing in shady conditions. Caladium studies are still ongoing at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station. A large study of caladium cultivars planted in full sun will be conducted next year.

LSU AgCenter and Southern University AgCenter County Agents/Area Agents Doing Horticulture Work

J. B. Anders	St Tammany	985.875.2635	janders@agcenter.lsu.edu
Rusty Batty	St Tammany	985.875.2635	rbatty@agcenter.lsu.edu
Sandra Benjamin	Tangipahoa	985.748.9381	sbenjamin@agctr.lsu.edu
Miles Brashier	WBR/Pt Coupee/Iberville	225.638.5533	mbrashier@agcenter.lsu.edu
Rafash Brew	North Central Area	318.368.9935	rbrew@agcenter.lsu.edu
Steve Hotard	Northeast Area	318.323.2251	shotard@agcenter.lsu.edu
Stuart Gauthier	Vermilion	337.898.4335	sgauthier@agcenter.lsu.edu
Andre Brock	West Feliciana	225.635.3614	abrock@agcenter.lsu.edu
Denyse Cummins	Northwest Area	318.698.0010	dcummins@agcenter.lsu.edu
Barton Joffrion	Lafourche/Terrebonne	985.446.1316	bjoffrion@agcenter.lsu.edu
Gerald Roberts	Lafayette	337.291.7090	groberts@agcenter.lsu.edu
Henry Harrison	Washington	985.839.7855	hharrison@agcenter.lsu.edu
Vacant	Jefferson	504.838.1170	
Russell Harris	Orleans	504.284.5564	ruharris@agcenter.lsu.edu
Ron Nichols	St Landry	337.948.0561	rnichols@agcenter.lsu.edu
Vincent Deshotel	St Landry/Evangeline	337.948.0561	deshotel@agcenter.lsu.edu
Chris Robichaux	St Martin/Iberia	337.332.2181	crobichaux@agcenter.lsu.edu
Rene Schmit	St Charles	985.785.4473	rschmit@agcenter.lsu.edu
Kenny Sharpe	Livingston	225.686.3020	ksharpe@agcenter.lsu.edu
Bob Souvestre	EBR	225.389.3055	bsouvestre@agcenter.lsu.edu
Robert Turley	Calcasieu	337.475.8812	rturley@agcenter.lsu.edu
Terry Washington	Rapides	318.767.3968	twashington@agcenter.lsu.edu
Alan Vaughn	Plaquemines/St Bernard	504.433.3664	avaughn@agcenter.lsu.edu

LSU AgCenter Nursery/Landscape/Floriculture/Turfgrass Professors

Jeff Beasley	SPESS	Turfgrass Research	225.578.1029	jbeasley@agcenter.lsu.edu
Regina Bracy	HRS	Administration	985.543.4125	rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu
Ed Bush	SPESS	Nursery Research	225.578.1044	ebush@agcenter.lsu.edu
Yan Chen	HRS	Landscape Research	985.543.4125	yachen@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dan Gill	SPESS	Consumer Extension	225.578.2222	dgill@agcenter.lsu.edu
Pat Hegwood	BURDEN	Administration	225.763.3990	chegwood@agcenter.lsu.edu
Ron Strahan	SPESS	Weed Science & Turf	225.578.4070	rstrahan@agcenter.lsu.edu
Jeff Kuehny	SPESS	Floriculture Research	225.578.1043	jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu
Allen Owings	HRS	Commercial Extension	985.543.4125	aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu
Rene Schmit	St Charles	Master Gardeners	985.785.4473	rschmit@agcenter.lsu.edu

HRS = Hammond Research Station

SPESS = School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences

BURDEN = Burden Center

LSU AgCenter 'Allied Field' Professors

Hallie Dozier	RNR	Urban Forestry	225.578.7219	hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu
Don Ferrin	PPCP	Plant Pathology	225.578.8537	dferrin@agcenter.lsu.edu
Roger Hinson	AEAB	Ag Economics	225.578.2753	rhinson@agcenter.lsu.edu
Vacant	ENT	Entomology	225.578.2370	

RNR = Renewable Natural Resources
 PPCP = Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology
 AEAB = Agricultural Economics and AgriBusiness
 HRS = Hammond Research Station
 ENT = Entomology



Coming Soon!
... Fall 2010





Fall 2010

Dianthus - Amazon series
 Foxglove - Camelot series
 Camellia - 'Shishi Gashira'

Spring 2011

Angelonia - Serena series
 Pentas - Butterfly series
 Gardenia - 'Frostproof'
 Vitex - 'Shoal Creek'

Fall 2011

Columbine - Swan series
 Kale - 'Redbor'
 Rose - 'Belinda's Dream'
 Southern Sugar Maple

Ornamental plants selected for superior performance under Louisiana growing conditions

University tested and industry approved

Increased sales opportunities for the green industry

Promoted through LSU AgCenter media campaigns

New Louisiana Super Plants highlighted each spring and fall

For more information, visit our website:
LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants



LSU AgCenter
Hammond Research Station
21549 Old Covington Highway
Hammond, LA 70403

Nursery and Landscape **Summer 2010** *Notes*



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Allen D. Owings

Professor (Horticulture) • Hammond Research Station
Office Phone: 985.543.4125 • Cell Phone 225.603.8096
Office Fax: 985.543.4124 • E-mail: aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

Visit our Web site: www.lsuagcenter.com