

# Hammond Research Station



## Report to Stakeholders

August 2015

### About the LSU AgCenter

The LSU AgCenter is dedicated to providing innovative research, information and education to improve people's lives. Working in a unique statewide network of parish extension offices, research stations and academic departments, the LSU AgCenter helps Louisiana citizens make the best use of natural resources, protect the environment, enhance agricultural enterprises and develop human and community resources.



### Research Highlights

*The mission of the station is to conduct research on environmental and production factors that affect the quality and sustainability of ornamental horticulture crops in the landscape (primary), production nurseries (secondarily) and at retail (secondarily).*



### Landscape Plant Evaluations

Cool and warm season annual flowers (bedding plants), herbaceous perennials, roses, ornamental grasses, trees, shrubs and ground covers are evaluated annually and multi-seasonally in trial gardens at the station. Cooperative studies are with leading national plant brands and regional, local growers. These efforts are used to introduce and recommend the best ornamental cultivars for the Gulf Coast region. Thousands of commercial and consumer clientele view the trials each year.

### Pest Management

A multi-disciplinary research team studies management, control, and life cycle of several emerging insect pests in addition to several that have been of industry significance over the past few years. This includes chilli thrips, Western flower thrips, several scale species, and crape myrtle bark scale.



### Plant Growth Regulator Use

New plant growth regulator application technology is evaluated on frequently used landscape shrubs for improved production and landscape management performance (reducing costs and labor hours). Information is applicable to landscape horticulturists and nursery growers.

### Alternative Crops and Ornamental Plant Breeding

A new effort in the past two years has been the establishment of specialty crop trials. This includes olives and tea (*Camellia sinensis*). Also, the LSU AgCenter fig breeding, selection and development program initiated a move to the station in 2015. Ornamental plant breeding efforts started in 2014 and include vitex, parsley hawthorn, hardy hibiscus, duranta and several other plants.

### Hammond Research Station

#### Office Address:

21549 Old Covington Hwy  
Hammond, LA 70403

#### Location:

6 miles east of Hammond on  
La. Hwy 1067 (access from I-12  
Exits 42 and/or 47)

Phone: 985-543-4125

Fax: 985-543-4124

#### Email:

aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

Web site: [LSUAgCenter.com/Hammond](http://LSUAgCenter.com/Hammond)

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Contact: Dr. Allen Owings  
Professor (Horticulture) and  
Research Coordinator

Size: 140 acres

### Landscape Horticulture Research

**Focus** is to improve landscape plant quality through new techniques, and innovative research—plant introduction/evaluation/trialing, sustainable and best management production/maintenance practices and efforts in insect, disease and weed control.

**Outreach and Extension** includes timely communication to nursery, landscape and garden center professionals. Numerous events are held annually. Evaluation gardens and research plots are labeled and accessible to visitors. Tours for growers, retailers, green industry associations, master gardener groups and garden clubs are encouraged. Mass media,



## Significance of Landscape Horticulture Research

- ◆ Research has led to registration of bio-pesticides for use on ornamental crops, offering alternative pest control options.
  - ◆ 35 Louisiana Super Plants have been named by the LSU AgCenter—these ornamental plants represent the most highly recommended, easy care, low maintenance cultivars for Louisiana landscapes.
- [www.LSUAgCenter.com/superplants](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com/superplants)
- ◆ Several landscape plants have been identified as excellent bio-filters for use in storm water mitigation systems.

## 2015 Green Industry Facts

- ◆ Third ranked agriculture industry in the state in terms of economic contributions (nursery production, landscape contracting/maintenance services, retail sales and value added) - \$2.2 billion annually
- ◆ 650 nursery growers.
- ◆ 2300 landscape horticulturists.
- ◆ 300 independent retail garden centers .
- ◆ 56,000 individuals employed
- ◆ Most diverse agriculture industry in the state (activities occur in all 64 parishes).

**Louisiana Ag Summary**  
[LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary](http://LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary)

## Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station

Louisiana's unique combination of crops — ranging from corn, cotton, rice and sugarcane to extensive forestry, poultry, cattle and fisheries industries — presents challenges for providing research-based information to ensure sustainable agricultural production systems.

To address the needs of these industries, the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station operates 11 departments shared by the LSU AgCenter and the LSU College of Agriculture, as well as 17 research locations across the state. To fund the basic and applied research, scientists compete for federal and state grants and checkoff dollars provided by some farmers' groups, along with state and federal dollars. Many of the facilities also sustain their research operations through the sale of agricultural commodities produced on the stations.

The LSU AgCenter has the most successful record of commercialization of intellectual property in the LSU System. Since 2000, fifteen new companies have been started based on licensed technology from LSU AgCenter. The income is distributed among the LSU System, the inventors and more research.

## Future Plans

The *Louisiana Super Plants* program is an educational and marketing campaign that evaluates and highlights reliable and beautiful plants that perform well in Louisiana landscapes. Promotion of Louisiana Super Plants generates interest and awareness of these outstanding plants, which benefits both consumers and nursery and landscape professionals. The first Louisiana Super Plants were identified in 2010. Louisiana Super Plants have been selected through 2016.



*Reducing Environmental Stress in the Landscape* incorporates production methods used by wholesale growers that can affect a plant's ability to tolerate environmental stresses. Research at the Hammond Research Station will continue to identify the most effective production methods and proper use of fertilizers, water and plants in the landscape. This research can provide methods for lowering landscape costs and reducing use of environmental resources.

The *LSU AgCenter Landscape Horticulture Industry Field Day* and the *Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden Horticulture Lecture Series and Spring Industry Open House* are events for commercial clientele that highlight on-going research efforts at the station. Additional events include landscape pest management workshops, certified nursery and landscape professional training, urban tree care programs, plant conferences and more. Station faculty work cooperatively with industry associations in conducting co-sponsored programs. Industry visitors from in-state and the Gulf Coast region regularly come to the



station to view plant trials.



For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our website:  
[LSUAgCenter.com](http://LSUAgCenter.com)