

LSU AgCenter's
Ornamental Horticulture
E-Mail Update
January 11, 2010



*topics and events of nursery, landscape and floriculture
interest to Louisiana's green industry*

**Ornamental Plant of the Week for January 11, 2010 – 'Tradewinds
Purple Bicolor' Osteospermum (from Allen Owings)**



Several varieties in the Tradewinds series of osteospermums were trialed at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station from late winter through early summer 2009. The Purple Bicolor variety was a good performer. It last longer into the heat of late spring and early summer than what we have previously experienced with these plants. Osteospermums are usually planted into Louisiana landscapes from late January – early March. Typically, they last through May. We got two major, prolific bloom cycles from this variety

(mid/late March through mid April and early May through early June). Tradewind osteospermum are available from Syngenta Flowers.

Blackspot Ratings on 'Knock Out' Roses - 2009 (from Allen Owings)

The LSU AgCenter has a landscape trial of Knock Out rose varieties at Burden Center in Baton Rouge and also at the Hammond Research Station in Hammond. One piece of data that is collected regularly is blackspot susceptibility. We get many questions pertaining to how much blackspot do Knock Out roses get. Here are the blackspot data on six Knock Out varieties at Burden and all seven Knock Out varieties at Hammond from 2008 and 2009.

Roses were not sprayed with any fungicide and were give "normal, minimum" care. Blackspot ratings are based on a scale from 1 to 6 where 1 = 0% foliage with disease, 2 = 1-10% foliage with disease, 3 = 11-25% foliage with disease, 4 = 26-50% foliage with disease, 5 = 51-75% foliage with disease, and 6 = 76-100% foliage with disease.

	Burden Center		Hammond	
	<i>Summer '08</i>	<i>Fall '08</i>	<i>Summer '08</i>	<i>Fall '08</i>
Knock Out	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Pink Knock Out	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3
Blushing Knock Out	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.5
Rainbow Knock Out	2.3	3.2	2.5	3.2
Double Knock Out	1.1	1.7	1.0	1.5
Pink Double Knock Out	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.3
Sunny Knock Out	---	---	1.2	1.5
	<i>Summer '09</i>	<i>Fall '09</i>	<i>Summer '09</i>	<i>Fall '09</i>
Knock Out	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.5
Pink Knock Out	1.4	1.9	1.2	1.4
Blushing Knock Out	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.5
Rainbow Knock Out	3.0	3.8	3.0	3.5
Double Knock Out	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5
Pink Double Knock Out	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.5
Sunny Knock Out	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.3

Selecting Landscape Contractors

A result survey conducted by The Gallup Organization and supported by the American Nursery and Landscape Association asked consumers what they looked for in selecting a landscape contracting company. Here are the results:

- Good reputation and references – 67%
- Satisfaction guaranteed – 39%
- Provides free estimates – 34%
- In business for a number of years – 33%
- Locally owned and operated – 32%
- Insured and bonded – 28%
- Professional trade association member – 13%

- Professionally certified – 12%
- Government licensed – 7%
- Local representative of national company – 6%
- Other – 5%
- Award winning company – 3

Best Management Practices for Greenhouse Producers

For successful greenhouse crop production, growers must be able to recognize symptoms of insect, disease or nutritional problems in their plants and take corrective measures before major crop losses occur. Although scouting regularly does give you the added benefit of early detection, it is essential to employ practices that improve overall greenhouse management. For that purpose, we have taken the liberty of compiling some best management practices (BMPs) that we hope will reduce the chance of symptoms on your plants that need to be interpreted.

➤ *Make sure your stock plants are clean and disease free.*

Cuttings taken from stock plants that have insect or disease problems bring problems into your greenhouse from day one. If you purchase your cuttings, make sure they come from reliable reputable sources with certified clean stock programs. While growing your plants from seed does reduce risk to some degree, many pathogens are disseminated on seeds, including – but not limited to – *Alternaria*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Phytophthora*, *Xanthomonas*, *Pseudomonas*, cucumber mosaic virus and tobacco ringspot virus. If possible, quarantine new plants in an isolated greenhouse until it can be confirmed that plants are healthy.

➤ *Inspect plants upon arrival.*

Just because the source you used in the past has a great reputation for quality and you have an excellent track record with them in the past does not guarantee that your latest order will be pest free. Examine your new plants closely to avoid bringing another nursery's problem into your greenhouse.

➤ *Use your equipment intelligently.*

You paid for the equipment you are growing your plants in; use it correctly. Know the light level your crop requires and provide it. Reduce problems with diseases like downy and powdery mildew by providing adequate ventilation. Select equipment such as benches that have impermeable surfaces so they can be easily cleaned and sterilized. Make sure your benches and floors are even. This will reduce puddling in your greenhouses, reducing the occurrence of *Pythium* root rot.

➤ *Grow only plants you plan to sell in your greenhouse.*

Eliminate all weeds and remove all pet plants. Weeds are often the source of viruses such as impatiens necrotic spot virus and tomato spotted wilt virus.

➤ ***Eliminate insects and weeds surrounding your greenhouse.***

Removing weeds by physical and chemical means often reduces the occurrence of insects in your greenhouses. Weeds serve as both food and home for insects that will often invade your greenhouse through ventilation ducts.

➤ ***Perform periodic soil and foliar analysis to monitor fertilization programs.***

It is extremely important to test the accuracy of your fertilizer equipment every two to three months to ensure your plants are getting the proper nutrition. Test more frequently if crops indicate a problem or dye color indicates irregularity.

➤ ***Water quality issues should be addressed.***

A program that minimizes the effect of a troublesome factor, such as high or low bicarbonate, should be implemented and strictly followed.

➤ ***Choose an effective pesticide delivery method.***

The most effective equipment for pesticide delivery disperses small droplets uniformly, allowing easy penetration of the plant canopy. Choose systemic materials that compensate for incomplete coverage. Using sticky strips or cards, monitor efficacy.

➤ ***Choose appropriate insecticide, fungicide or miticide; minimize use.***

Minimize use by using long-term insecticide rotations, using insecticides with non-specific modes of action and avoiding persistent application. Use the least toxic pesticide available that will do the job, and stay abreast of university trials that compare product performance. This is particularly useful in the case of new materials.

➤ ***Practice sanitation.***

This is as simple as common sense and some general housekeeping. Never place plants, pots, hoses or flats on contaminated surfaces. Disinfect used pots before reusing them by soaking in a 10% bleach solution and then rinsing. Expediently move plants that have disease symptoms or heavy insect infestations into an area where they can be destroyed without causing further contamination. After removal, clean hands and change clothing to prevent the spread of insects or diseases to other sections of the greenhouse.

➤ ***Keep accurate records.***

When observations are made, record them for future reference. Additionally, record when fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide applications are made. Include chemicals used, amounts, volume delivered and application equipment used. This information will prove valuable over time.

Commercial Ornamental Horticulture Events Upcoming

January 13, 2010

Louisiana State Horticulture Society Annual Conference
Calcasieu Parish LSU AgCenter Office
Lake Charles, La.
Contact Robert Turley at
rturley@agcenter.lsu.edu



January 21-23, 2010

Gulf States Horticultural Expo
Arthur Outlaw Convention Center
Mobile, Ala.
www.gshe.org

February 5-7, 2010

LA Native Plant Society Annual Meeting
Pollock, La.
www.lnps.org

February 18, 2010

LA Irrigation Association Re-certification
LSU AgCenter, Avoyelles Parish Office
Mansura, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

February 23, 2010

Landscape Pest Management Workshop
Hammond Research Station
Hammond, La.
Contact Allen Owings at
aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 9-10, 2010

Greenhouse Tomato Short Course
Eagle Ridge Conference Center
Raymond, Miss.
www.greenhousetomatosc.com
Contact Rick Snyder at
ricks@ra.msstate.edu

March 11-12, 2010

Certified Nursery Professional Training
Burden Center
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com or Dan Gill at
dgill@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 14-17, 2010

Azalea Society of America
National Convention
New Orleans, La
Contact Regina Bracy at
rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 20, 2010

Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research
Annual Meeting and Plant Release
Ira Nelson Horticulture Center
Lafayette, La.

March 25, 2010

NW La Nursery Association Meeting
Keeling Irrigation
Shreveport, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

May 20, 2010

Landscape Horticulture Field Day
Hammond Research Station
Hammond, La.
Contact Regina Bracy at
rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu

May 25-27, 2010

La State Horticulture Society Tour
Lower Miss./Mobile, Ala./Milton, Fla.
Contact Allen Owings at
aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

June 17-18, 2010

Certified Nursery Professional Training
ULL Horticulture Center
Lafayette, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com or Dan Gill at
dgill@agcenter.lsu.edu

September 2, 2010

NW La Nursery Association Meeting
ArkLaTex Gardens
Shreveport, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

September 16-17, 2010

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

November 18, 2010

NW La Nursery Association Meeting
Location TBA
Shreveport, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

February 26, 2011

NW La Nursery Association Tour
SFA Arboretum
Nacogdoches, Texas
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

Spring Garden Shows and Related Events – 2010**February 21, 2010**

Camellia Garden Stroll
Hammond, La.
Contact Sandra Benjamin at
sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 13, 2010

Spring Garden Day
Hammond, La.
Contact Sandra Benjamin at
sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 19-21, 2010

Louisiana Nursery Festival
Forest Hill, La.
www.louisiananurseryfestival.com

March 20-21, 2010

Northshore Garden Show
Fairgrounds
Covington, La.
Contact Rusty Batty at
rbatty@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 27-28, 2010

11th Annual SW LA Garden Fest
Burton Coliseum
Lake Charles, La.
www.gardenfest.org
Contact Robert Turley at
rturley@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 27-28, 2010

Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show
Parker Coliseum
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact David Himelrick at
dhimelrick@agcenter.lsu.edu

April 10-11, 2010

New Orleans Spring Garden Show
Botanical Garden at City Park
New Orleans, La.
Contact Brent Jeansonne at
bjeansonne@agcenter.lsu.edu

May 1, 2010

Bonne Terre Garden Fair
Location TBA
Houma, La.
Contact Barton Joffrion at
bjoffrion@agcenter.lsu.edu

May 8, 2010

21st Annual Festival des Fleurs
ULL – Blackham Coliseum
Lafayette, La.
Contact Billy Welsh at welsh@louisiana.edu

June 5, 2010

Daylily Festival
Abbeville, La.

Contact Stuart Gauthier at
sgauthier@agcenter.lsu.edu

Arborist Workshops – 2010

Contact Hallie Dozier at
hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu

January 22, 2010 – Shreveport
First Aid and CPR

April 16, 2010 – Shreveport
Aerial Lift Safety

May 7, 2010 – Farmerville
Hazard/Danger Tree Cutting and Felling

July 30, 2010 – New Orleans
Bringing Business Your Way

August 6, 2010 – Shreveport
Tree Roots: Structures and Remediation

September 10, 2010 – Hammond
High Angle and Emergency Response

October 1, 2010 – New Orleans
Tree Climbing, Fall Protection

November 12, 2010 – Pollock
Tree Detectives

January 14, 2011 – Baton Rouge
Trees, People and the Law