

LSU AgCenter's  
**Ornamental Horticulture**  
**E-Mail Update**  
**January 4, 2010**



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

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**Ornamental Plant of the Week – 'Senorita Rosalita' Cleome for  
January 4, 2010 (from Allen Owings)**



One of the most outstanding new plants from trial gardens across the country the past few years has been the 'Senorita Rosalita' cleome. It is truly a great plant. Plants reach heights of 4-5 feet in our trials at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station. It blooms lavender-pink flowers from midspring through the first killing frost. Unlike other cleome, this variety is spineless and does not produce seed – so it stays in constant bloom. Pinch back or keep sheared if the plants become too tall. Mississippi State University has named this plant a Mississippi Medallion winner. It needs to be used more in Louisiana. Available via Proven Winners.

Senorita Rosalita article from Mississippi State University:

<http://msucare.com/news/print/sgnews/sq09/sq090416.html>

**Get It Growing News Articles for January 2010 (from Dan Gill)**

All America Selections for 2010 – January 1

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get\\_it\\_growing/read\\_more/2010-AllAmerica-Selections-winners-announced.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get_it_growing/read_more/2010-AllAmerica-Selections-winners-announced.htm)

Grow a Salad This Winter – January 8

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get\\_it\\_growing/read\\_more/Grow-a-salad-this-winter.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get_it_growing/read_more/Grow-a-salad-this-winter.htm)

Trees Provide Year Round Benefits – January 15

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get\\_it\\_growing/read\\_more/Trees-provide-benefits-all-year-long.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get_it_growing/read_more/Trees-provide-benefits-all-year-long.htm)

Spanish Moss – January 22

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get\\_it\\_growing/read\\_more/What-you-need-to-know-about-Spanish-moss.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get_it_growing/read_more/What-you-need-to-know-about-Spanish-moss.htm)

Keep Good Garden Records – January 29

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get\\_it\\_growing/read\\_more/Expert-offers-some-good-reasons-to-keep-garden-records.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/get_it_growing/read_more/Expert-offers-some-good-reasons-to-keep-garden-records.htm)

## **Sustainable Landscape News Articles (from John Young, Allen Owings and Dan Gill)**

Camellias – December 25

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news\\_archive/2009/december/news\\_you\\_can\\_use/Camellias-brighten-winter-landscapes.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2009/december/news_you_can_use/Camellias-brighten-winter-landscapes.htm)

Enjoy Cool Season Flowers Through the Spring – January 1

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news\\_archive/2010/january/news\\_you\\_can\\_use/Enjoy-coolseason-flowers-through-spring-.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2010/january/news_you_can_use/Enjoy-coolseason-flowers-through-spring-.htm)

## **Torpedograss (from Ron Strahan)**

If you live within a couple of hours drive or less of the Gulf of Mexico, it is a sure bet you have heard of torpedograss. I probably get 10 or so calls on torpedograss every month during the growing season. Torpedograss is a perennial rhizomatous grass that is considered one of the most invasive grasses in the world. Although the plant does produce seed, the seeds are not viable. The weedy grass solely reproduces vegetatively by robust rhizomes.

The spread of torpedograss in Louisiana is mainly attributed to the movement of soils infested with torpedograss from the Bonnet Carré Spillway. The spillway is located just west of New Orleans and is the main source for southeast Louisiana; especially within the New Orleans metro area. However, I see torpedograss throughout southeast Texas and regularly get calls on it from Mississippi and Alabama.

The fact is, you can find torpedograss everywhere along the Gulf Coast. Have you ever wondered why? Believe it or not, torpedograss was actually deliberately spread in the region in the 1920s because the grass was thought to be the next great forage for cattle and horses. It made a lot of sense at the time because torpedograss certainly spreads quickly and has very good salt tolerance. Unfortunately, compared to other forage grasses used in the South, torpedograss is not suitable at all as forage due to its low protein content. The grass can actually be toxic to horses. Unfortunately because of this error, torpedograss infestations have expanded considerably over the years, and the weed is very common on golf courses, home lawns and landscape beds throughout the region.

**LSU AgCenter Research on Torpedograss Infesting Centipedegrass** – I get the most calls regarding infestations of torpedograss in centipedegrass. Centipedegrass is one of our most common turfgrasses and is usually the choice of lawns in new subdivisions. However, centipedegrass is easily infested by torpedograss because the turf is such a slow grower and doesn't compete very well with aggressive weedy grasses. Danny Taverner, a recent LSU graduate, did his master's research on torpedograss management in centipedegrass. Danny screened many herbicides (experimental and labeled) for torpedograss activity and centipedegrass safety. Unfortunately, he was never able to discover a herbicide that killed torpedograss selectively in centipedegrass. He was only able to suppress the weed without significant centipedegrass injury using multiple applications of sethoxydim (Segment, Sethoxydim E-Pro) spaced 4 weeks apart. His work showed that frequency of application was the most important aspect of using sethoxydim. Surprisingly, there was no advantage in exceeding the sethoxydim manufacturer's labeled rate.

Danny also evaluated cultural practices such as mowing height and nitrogen fertility in centipedegrass infested with torpedograss. Although there was a slight advantage in reducing the mowing height below 2 inches, no cultural practice evaluated gave centipedegrass a competitive advantage over torpedograss. Right now, our only option for centipedegrass lawns that have torpedograss is multiple (at least 3) applications of sethoxydim. Sethoxydim will not get rid of torpedograss, but it will keep the weed knocked back to a certain extent with frequent use.

**The "Nuclear Option" for Torpedograss** – There is also the "nuclear option." Some centipedegrass lawns are so severely infested with torpedograss that total renovation is necessary. This requires spraying the lawn area with a very high concentration of glyphosate with the goal of killing torpedograss and starting over with a new lawn. Sometimes it takes two applications to get the torpedograss killed off. If you end up killing out the centipedegrass, consider installing zoysiagrass (semi-shady or full-sun properties) or bermudagrass (full sun properties only). Switching to zoysiagrass or bermudagrass will allow the use of Drive herbicide (quinclorac). Drive is one of the more effective herbicides for managing torpedograss, but it is too damaging to be used in centipedegrass. Renovation and switching to bermudagrass or zoysiagrass is absolutely the last resort and definitely not the cheapest route to travel, but it may be the most effective way to manage severe torpedograss problems.

### **In Loving Memory – Doug Young**

*(Some of you may have heard that Doug Young, Doug Young Nursery, Forest Hill, La., passed away on December 20, 2009. Doug was a very active member of the green industry in Louisiana. We appreciate his support of the horticulture programs at the LSU AgCenter and LSU. He and his wife Marcia were recognized with the James A. Foret Award by the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association several years ago for their career contributions to the nursery and landscape industries. Please keep the Young family in your thoughts and prayers.)*

Douglas R. Young of Forest Hill, Louisiana, passed away surrounded by his family and friends in St. Francis Cabrini Hospital on Sunday, Dec. 20, after a short illness.

Doug is survived by his wife of 44 years, Marcia Fralick Young, and his three children, Samantha Young, Kevin Edwards and Douglas R. Young Jr., and his wife Sheri, all of Forest Hill. He is also survived by his three grandchildren, Matthew Douglas, Sean and Eric Young. He is also survived by his mother, Edith D. Young, and his three brothers, Stanley and Don, of Forest Hill, and David, of St. Francisville, and numerous friends and relatives. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert E. Young.

Doug, who was born and reared in Forest Hill, attended Forest Hill High School, graduating in 1960. He graduated from LSU in 1966 and was employed by the Louisiana Department of Social Services until his retirement in 1997.

He and his wife started Doug Young Nursery in 1979 and grew it into one of the largest nurseries in the South, with a service area that stretches from the Atlantic Coast to the Rocky Mountains and worldwide. In addition, he also had business investments in several other states as well as holdings in Costa Rica.

Doug enjoyed his grandchildren, his granddog, his work, entertaining family and friends at home and relaxing to Andrea Bocelli at his lake house on Indian Creek, and traveling, especially to Costa Rica. In the last two years, he had visited Europe numerous times and loved taking in the world's culture (including Italy, Germany, Spain, England).

He was also known for his philanthropy. Among Doug's interests were St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Alexandria Zoological Park and Forest Hill Academy.

Although Doug was a successful nurseryman and an astute businessman, he always kept his priorities in place. His family and friends were the most important things in his life. He was always thankful that he could make his living doing something he enjoyed. He grew up working in the nursery business on his father's nursery and continued that tradition with his own children, all of whom are now involved in the DYN corporations.

Doug was always an innovative thinker who was not afraid to try a new idea if he felt it had merit. He was the first nurseryman in the local area to experiment with contract labor on repetitive jobs, which allowed him to monitor cost of production more closely. He was also the first in the local area to utilize a sales staff and the first to dedicate an entire operation to the "mass market" production of plants. A lot of Doug's experiments are now common practice in the Forest Hill horticulture industry.

Doug will be sadly missed by his family and friends and the employees of the DYN companies, who knew and appreciated the effort he made to reward them for not only their labor but also for their loyalty. He touched the lives of so many in the local communities and throughout the region with his love for helping out others.

There was a gathering of relatives and friends at Good Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Forest Hill on Wednesday, December 23, 2009. Doug's interment is at Paul Cemetery. The family requests that donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Doug's memory.

## **Commercial Ornamental Horticulture Events Upcoming**

### **January 7, 2010**

La Turfgrass Association Annual Conference  
Lawton Room, LSU Campus  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact Ron Strahan at [rstrahan@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rstrahan@agcenter.lsu.edu)

### **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](mailto:rturley@agcenter.lsu.edu)



### **January 21-23, 2010**

Gulf States Horticultural Expo  
Arthur Outlaw Convention Center  
Mobile, Ala.  
[www.gshe.org](http://www.gshe.org)

### **February 5-7, 2010**

LA Native Plant Society Annual Meeting  
Pollock, La.  
[www.lnps.org](http://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](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

### **February 23, 2010**

Landscape Pest Management Workshop  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Allen Owings at [aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu)

### **March 9-10, 2010**

Greenhouse Tomato Short Course  
Eagle Ridge Conference Center  
Raymond, Miss.  
[www.greenhousetomatosc.com](http://www.greenhousetomatosc.com)  
Contact Rick Synder at [ricks@ra.msstate.edu](mailto:ricks@ra.msstate.edu)

### **March 11-12, 2010**

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

### **May 25-27, 2010**

La State Horticulture Society Tour  
Lower Miss./Mobile, Ala./Milton, Fla.  
Contact Allen Owings at [aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu)

### **June 17-18, 2010**

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

**September 2, 2010**

NW La Nursery Association Meeting  
ArkLaTex Gardens  
Shreveport, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto: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](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com) or Dan Gill at  
[dgill@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:dgill@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**November 18, 2010**

NW La Nursery Association Meeting  
Location TBA  
Shreveport, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**February 26, 2011**

NW La Nursery Association Tour  
SFA Arboretum  
Nacogdoches, Texas  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

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

Camellia Garden Stroll  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Sandra Benjamin at  
[sbenjamin@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:sbenjamin@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 13, 2010**

Spring Garden Day  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Sandra Benjamin at  
[sbenjamin@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:sbenjamin@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 19-21, 2010**

Louisiana Nursery Festival  
Forest Hill, La.  
[www.louisiananurseryfestival.com](http://www.louisiananurseryfestival.com)

**March 20-21, 2010**

Northshore Garden Show  
Fairgrounds  
Covington, La.  
Contact Rusty Batty at  
[rbatty@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rbatty@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 27-28, 2010**

11th Annual SW LA Garden Fest  
Burton Coliseum  
Lake Charles, La.  
[www.gardenfest.org](http://www.gardenfest.org)  
Contact Robert Turley at  
[rturley@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rturley@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 27-28, 2010**

Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show  
Parker Coliseum  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact David Himelrick at  
[dhimelrick@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:dhimelrick@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**April 10-11, 2010**

New Orleans Spring Garden Show  
Botanical Garden at City Park  
New Orleans, La.  
Contact Brent Jeansonne at  
[bjeansonne@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:bjeansonne@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**May 1, 2010**

Bonne Terre Garden Fair  
Location TBA  
Houma, La.  
Contact Barton Joffrion at  
[bjoffrion@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:bjoffrion@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**May 8, 2010**

21st Annual Festival des Fleurs  
ULL – Blackham Coliseum  
Lafayette, La.  
Contact Billy Welsh at [welsh@louisiana.edu](mailto:welsh@louisiana.edu)

**June 5, 2010**

Daylily Festival  
Abbeville, La.  
Contact Stuart Gauthier at  
[sgauthier@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:sgauthier@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**Arborist Workshops – 2010**

Contact Hallie Dozier at  
[hdozier@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:hdozier@aqcenter.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