

LSU AgCenter's  
**Ornamental Horticulture**  
**E-Mail Update**  
**February 1, 2010**



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

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**Ornamental Plant of the Week for February 1, 2010 – 'Corey Yellow'  
Coreopsis (from Allen Owings)**



Corey Yellow coreopsis from Syngenta Flowers is a relatively new introduction. It was a good performer in landscape plant evaluation trials at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station in 2009. We will continue evaluation and promotion of this plant in 2010. Bright yellow flowers. Plants were 24-28 inches tall in our gardens with a spread of 14-16 inches. Blooms were fairly abundant from late April through killing frost. Perennial, hardy to USDA hardiness zone 6.

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

Iron Chlorosis – January 25

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news\\_archive/2010/january/news\\_you\\_can\\_use/Watch-for-iron-chlorosis-in-your-landscape-plants.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2010/january/news_you_can_use/Watch-for-iron-chlorosis-in-your-landscape-plants.htm)

**A Review of Some Newer Floribunda and Landscape Shrub Roses (from Allen Owings)**

Landscape shrubs roses like the popular Knock Out varieties are all the rage in the rose world right now, but we have a number of other great landscape shrub roses that can be considered. The LSU AgCenter evaluates roses at the Hammond Research Station in Hammond and at Burden Center in Baton Rouge. Some of the recent All-America Rose Selection (AARS) winners are good performers for us in Louisiana. While most roses

now sold fall into the landscape shrub category, we have some nice floribunda roses available that have been released in the last 5-10 years that merit increased use.

There is only one new AARS winner for 2010 – Easy Does It. This variety is a floribunda from Weeks Roses. Flower color is a mango, peach and apricot blend. Petal count is 25-30. Easy Does It performed very well in the AARS display garden at Burden Center in 2009. In addition, it was named a People’s Choice award winner at the LSU AgCenter’s landscape horticulture field day held at the Hammond Research Station in 2009.

### *Knock Outs and Other New Shrub Roses*

Knock Out roses are now available in seven varieties. These include the original cherry red variety in addition to pink, blush, rainbow, sunny (yellow), double pink and double red. The double forms of Knock Out roses have 18-22 petals per flower as compared with the 5-7 petals per flower on the single-form varieties.

While most of the attention is on Knock Out rose varieties, we need to be aware of other shrub roses to try. These would include Home Run, Lady Elsie May, Carefree Celebration and Carefree Spirit.

Home Run is from Weeks Roses. This variety is a little less vigorous than the Knock Out varieties, but the red flower colors are slightly darker than what you see on the original Knock Out. Home Run has been a very nice plant in LSU AgCenter rose evaluation trials.

Lady Elsie May is a shrub rose that is an AARS winner from 2005. It has semi-double, coral blooms and is a good landscape choice for mass plantings. Petal count per flower is 12-14. Flowers have a light fragrance.

Carefree Celebration has rich orange flowers and has a growth habit similar to Knock Out. Petal count is high for a landscape shrub rose. Blackspot resistance is excellent. Plants reach heights of 4 feet with 3-4 foot spreads. Bill Radler, the same gentleman who developed the Knock Out varieties, is the developer of this plant.

Carefree Spirit is an AARS winner from 2009 and has performed great in LSU AgCenter evaluations. Blackspot was almost non-existent on this plant in LSU AgCenter landscape trials in 2008 and 2009. Flower color is deep red with white accents.

### *Newer Floribundas Are Some of the Best*

Some of the newer, good floribunda roses are Cinco de Mayo, Julia Child, Easy Going, Hot Cocoa, Livin’ Easy and Moondance.

Cinco de Mayo has lavender flowers with a hint of rusty red-orange. Plants are maintained at a height of 3 feet. Uniqueness of bloom color is what sets Cinco de Mayo

apart from other roses. The variety has some blackspot susceptibility when over-irrigated or when rainfall exceeds normal amounts.

Julia Child has obtained good popularity the past few years. It is well-accepted by nursery professionals and is another floribunda rose. The plant has a medium-size growth habit. Flowers are buttery gold and have 35 petals. Flowers are fragrant. Julia Child is a former AARS winner and performs well in Louisiana.

Easy Going was introduced in 1996 and is sold at garden centers in Louisiana. In the past, it has done well in the AARS display garden at Burden Center in Baton Rouge. It has a yellow bloom with a little bit of golden bronze. Flowers sit tightly on top of the foliage.

A chocolately orange to dark red flowering floribunda is Hot Cocoa. It is an AARS winner from 2003. Flowers have a deep, rusty orange reverse. Good bloom size is also characteristic of this rose variety.

Livin' Easy is an older floribunda rose. It was released as an AARS winner in 1996 and has ruffled, apricot-orange flowers with 22-28 petals. Flowers have a fruity fragrance.

Moondance is a Jackson and Perkins floribunda rose of the year. It has sweet, raspberry-scented, creamy white flowers. It has received good "roses in review" ratings from Gulf District members of the American Rose Society. A taller-growing rose, this variety reaches 5 feet in the landscape. It is a much more beautiful rose than its parent, the popular white floribunda Iceberg.

### **Best Performers from Cool-season Bedding Plant Landscape Trials (from Allen Owings)**

One of the major objectives of horticulture research at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station is to evaluate landscape performance of ornamental plants. This includes woody shrubs, trees, roses, flowering perennials, warm-season bedding plants and cool-season bedding plants. Since starting our landscape horticulture research program at Hammond, we have conducted cool-season bedding plant trials the past three years. Cool-season flowers are generally planted October and November and perform well through the spring season. Here are some of the newer, top performers to consider for residential and commercial landscapes in Louisiana.

The best of new dianthus is the Amazon series. These are very prolific flower producers and should be planted in September, October or November. Flower heads are large and will last until mid-May in south Louisiana. The series also has cut-flower potential. Flower colors available in the Amazon series are Rose Magic, Purple, Cherry and Neon Duo. Amazon dianthus are *Dianthus barbatus* interspecific hybrids from PanAmerican Seed.

The Bouquet series dianthus is also great. Purple Bouquet is very popular. Flowers are not truly purple – they are more of a hot pinkish purple. These dianthus are another of the new *Dianthus barbatus* interspecific hybrids. It has also been an outstanding performer in our LSU AgCenter landscape plant evaluations. Purple Bouquet dianthus reaches heights of about 24-30 inches, and blooms last longer into the warm-season heat and humidity when compared with other varieties. Cut the plants back in late spring when foliage declines, and new foliage will emerge, followed by an early-summer bloom. Bouquet Rose Magic is also a great landscape performer. The other variety in the series is Bouquet Rose.

One of the best petunias is Tidal Wave Silver. It is the best performer in the series, which also includes purple, pink and hot-cherry flower colors. Louisiana landscape plantings of petunias should be done in late September through early November and then in early February through mid-March. Tidal Wave Silver is a “hedgiflora” type petunia. Plants are very large. Plants reach spreads of 3 feet with heights of 2 feet. Space individual plants 18-24 inches apart in landscape beds. Also, consider Wave, Easy Wave, Shock Wave and Double Wave petunias. The Supertunias from Proven Winners are also nice plants in addition to the Suncatcher petunias from Ball Horticulture.

Nicotianas are good alternative, cool-season bedding plants for south Louisiana. Nicotiana is flowering tobacco. Most of these for landscape use are “dwarf” in size but still reach heights of 24 inches. Nicotianas have less cold hardiness than some other cool-season flowers, however, so that needs to be considered. In south Louisiana, they should be able to withstand winter temperature conditions as long as plants are hardened off some before the first frosts and freezes. You also can plant them in mid- to late February in south Louisiana and in north Louisiana. Plants last until late spring. Flower colors available include white, lime, rose, red and more. They do best during the cool season of the year in a full sun planting but will perform better into late spring if partial shade is provided. The Nicki series usually is sold in seed catalogs as a mix.

Camelot foxgloves are new to the market. We have trialed them the past couple years at the LSU AgCenter. These are also called digitalis and are actually a biennial. Plant in the fall, and 3- to 4-foot-tall spikes of flowers occur in the spring. Flowers come on 2-3 weeks before the popular Foxy variety and last 2-3 weeks longer. Flowers in the Camelot foxglove are lavender, cream, rose and white, with lavender, cream and rose being the better-performing colors.

Diamonds Blue delphinium has intense blue flowers and is a new seed-propagated *Delphinium chinensis* from PanAmerican Seed. It was one of the best performers in the LSU AgCenter’s cool-season bedding plant landscape evaluation trials at the Hammond Research Station in 2009. This plant is considered a first-year-flowering perennial but should be treated as an annual. Plant in full sun in the fall for great flowering performance from February through May. Space plants 12-14 inches apart. Plants reach a height of 18 inches with a 10- to 12-inch spread.

Redbor ornamental kale is incredible. There is renewed interest in foliage plants for the landscape, and this plant is a great addition to the ornamental kales and cabbages already available for the cool season of the year. It seems to be in short availability, and many folks are not aware of this great variety. It was a Mississippi Medallion-winning plant in 2005 and has performed great in LSU AgCenter landscape trials the past two years. It is one of the most vigorous-growing and heat-tolerant ornamental kales on the market. Extremely curly foliage, early dark purple foliage and a spring height of 3 feet are characteristic of this plant. A great cool-season bedding plant for Louisiana. We are also trialing some additional ornamental kale varieties with landscape potential.

No cool-season flower is more reliable for performance than pansies. Plant in the landscape beginning mid-October in north Louisiana with late October to early November planting recommended for southern portions of the state. Pansies need full sun for best results. Acid soil is best. We have evaluated Matrix pansies in LSU AgCenter trials that past two years. They are very good performers, and flowers hold up very well. Matrix pansies are available in 27 varieties and mixes. The best-performing of the Matrix series has been Matrix Morpheus.

The LSU AgCenter has been evaluating landscape performance of columbines the past two years. The Swan and Songbird series are both propagated by seed. Columbine (*Aquilegia*) is known to many of us, but the Songbird and Swan series from PanAmerican Seed offer flower colors in these great plants that most of us do not know. Columbine is a perennial, normally treated as an annual in Louisiana. For the landscape, plant in color beds mid- to late fall for 8 weeks of flowers in March through early to mid-May. Many flower colors are now available besides the yellow or golden columbines from Texas we may be familiar with. Varieties in the Songbird series are Blue Bird, Bunting, Cardinal Improved, Dove, Goldfinch, Robin and Nightingale. Varieties in the Swan series are Blue White, Burgundy White, Pink Yellow, Red White, Rose White, Violet White, White and Yellow.

## **Commercial Ornamental Horticulture Events Upcoming**

### **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 21, 2010**

**LA Chapter – Azalea Society of America Meeting**

Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.

Contact Regina Bracy at

[rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu)

### **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 Snyder 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 23-24, 2010**

Ornamental and Turfgrass Pesticide  
Applicator Re-certification and Certification  
Testing

Bossier City, La.

[www.lpca.org](http://www.lpca.org)

**March 25, 2010**

NW La Nursery Association Meeting  
Keeling Irrigation  
Shreveport, La.

Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**May 20, 2010**

Landscape Horticulture Field Day  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.

Contact Regina Bracy at  
[rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto: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](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)

**July 21-22, 2010**

Mid South Green Industry Conference  
Eagle Ridge Conference Center  
Raymond, Miss.

[www.msnla.org](http://www.msnla.org)

**August 19-22, 2010**

Nursery/Landscape Expo  
San Antonio, Texas

[www.txnla.org](http://www.txnla.org)

**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@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:dgill@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**October 6-7, 2010**

Ornamental and Turfgrass Pesticide  
Applicator Re-certification and Certification  
Testing

Lafayette, La.

[www.lpca.org](http://www.lpca.org)

**November 5-6, 2010**

AgriSouth Horticulture Expo  
AgriCenter International  
Memphis, Tenn.  
[www.agrisouthexpo.com](http://www.agrisouthexpo.com)

**November 17-18, 2010**

Ornamental and Turfgrass Pesticide  
Applicator Re-certification and Certification  
Testing  
Kenner, La.  
[www.lpca.org](http://www.lpca.org)

**November 18, 2010**

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

**January 20-22, 2011**

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

**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@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 13, 2010**

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

**May 1, 2010**

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

**Arborist Workshops – 2010**

Contact Hallie Dozier at

[hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu)

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