

LSU AgCenter's
Ornamental Horticulture
E-Mail Update
May 24, 2010



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

Ornamental Plant of the Week for May 24, 2010 – 'Early Bird' Crape Myrtles (from Allen Owings)

The Early Bird series of dwarf crape myrtles are new for 2010. Colors available are white, lavender and purple. Plants started blooming at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station May 15. Mature height is advertised as 5-8 feet. Early bloom and flowering can extend for 100-120 days. At this time, powdery mildew and *Cercospora* leaf spot susceptibility are not known. These plants are in the Southern Living Plant program (www.southernlivingplants.com).



Nursery and Landscape Golf Shootout (from Allen Owings)

It is not too late to sign up for the 10th annual Nursery and Landscape Golf Shootout scheduled for the LSU Golf Course in Baton Rouge on Friday June 4. \$50 per person is the registration fee. The tournament tees off at 8:30 a.m. and is a four-person scramble. Individual and team entries are accepted. Lunch is provided! Thanks to the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association for their major sponsorship of this event. In addition, appreciation is extended to the Louisiana State Horticulture Society and Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association for their support. If you are interested, contact Allen Owings (aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu) or Ed Bush (ebush@agcenter.lsu.edu) for more details or to sign up!

People's Choice Awards – Spring 2010

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 2010. 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

Knock Out Roses Landscape Recommendations and “Best Management Practices” (from Allen Owings)

- Soil pH requirement – 6.5.
- Full sun conditions are needed. 8 hours of sun is needed 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.

Sunpatiens (from Bob Souvestre)

If you like the flowering habit of shade-loving impatiens, you'll be excited to know that a new type of impatiens is on the market that will thrive in our summer heat and humidity – SunPatiens.

You get the best of both shade-loving impatiens and the larger-flowered and variegated foliage of New Guinea impatiens with SunPatiens, a hybrid bred by Sakata Seed that thrives in our summer landscapes in full sun.

They not only survived last summer's drought, but they were one of the few varieties of plants that actually looked good in local landscapes.

This low-maintenance annual is available in three distinct series – two spreading varieties, seven compact varieties and five vigorous varieties. In our growing conditions, the spreading and vigorous types grown up to 24 inches tall and a bit larger in width. The compacts are a bit smaller all around. One plant will fill an entire container, but you can add a trailing annual like verbena, vinca or callibrachoa to cascade over the side. Overall plant size is influenced by soil fertility, irrigation and light exposure. Choose the appropriate plant height for bedding, containers and hanging baskets.

New varieties this year are the Spreading White Variegated, Compact Magenta and Compact Deep Rose. The other spreading type is Salmon Variegated. The remaining compact varieties are Lilac, Orange, Coral, Blush Pink and White. The vigorous series has Magenta, Orange, White, Red and Lavender. Flowers are large and showy and are easily seen above the dark, green, glossy foliage.

SunPatiens will bloom from May through first hard frost. Plants perform best when they receive full sun. If grown in semi-shady conditions, prune in mid-summer to maintain a bushy growth habit because plants will become lanky otherwise and produce fewer flowers. In fact, consider growing regular impatiens instead. Allow plants to slightly wilt between watering, and mulch to conserve soil moisture.

Commercial Ornamental Horticulture Events Upcoming

The LSU AgCenter and affiliated groups offer numerous educational opportunities for green industry professionals. In addition, many garden shows and related events for home gardeners are offered continually throughout the year. Some educational programs having multi-state impact and attendance are also listed. Be sure to check with the contact person listed for more specific information on each event.

May 25-27, 2010

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

June 4, 2010

Nursery and Landscape Golf Shootout
LSU Golf Course
Baton Rouge, La.
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

June 18-19, 2010

Landscape Short Course
Burden Center
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Jeff Kuehny at
jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu or Allen Owings
at aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

July 21-22, 2010

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

August 19-22, 2010

Nursery/Landscape Expo
San Antonio, Texas
www.txnla.org

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

October 6, 2010

La. Irrigation Association Annual Meeting
Location TBA
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

October 6, 2010

La. Irrigation Association Re-Certification
Meeting
Location TBA
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

October 6-7, 2010

Ornamental and Turfgrass Pesticide
Applicator Re-certification and Certification
Testing
Lafayette, La.
www.lpca.org

October 8, 2010

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

November 5-6, 2010

AgriSouth Horticulture Expo
AgriCenter International
Memphis, Tenn.

www.agrisouthexpo.com

November 17-18, 2010

Ornamental and Turfgrass Pesticide
Applicator Re-certification and Certification
Testing
Kenner, La.

www.lpca.org

November 18, 2010

NW La Nursery Association Meeting
American Rose Center
Shreveport, La.

Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

January 12, 2011

Louisiana State Horticulture Society
Annual Conference
Burden Center
Baton Rouge, La.

Contact Stuart Gauthier at
sgauthier@aqcenter.lsu.edu

January 19-21, 2011

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

www.gshe.org

February 26, 2011

NW La Nursery Association Tour
SFA Arboretum
Nacogdoches, Texas

Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

**Spring / Fall Garden Shows and Related
Consumer Events – 2010**

June 5, 2010

Daylily Festival
Abbeville, La.

Contact Stuart Gauthier at
sgauthier@aqcenter.lsu.edu

October 15-16, 2010

Fall Flower & Garden Fest
Truck Crops Experiment Station
Crystal Springs, Miss.

<http://msucares.com/fallfest>

Contact Rick Snyder at
ricks@ra.msstate.edu

October 15-16, 2010

Southern Garden Symposium
St. Francisville, La.

www.southerngardensymposium.org

October 16-17, 2010

Fall Garden Festival
City Park Botanical Gardens
New Orleans, La.

Contact Brent Jeansonne at
bjeansonne@aqcenter.lsu.edu

Arborist Workshops – 2010

Contact Hallie Dozier at
hdozier@aqcenter.lsu.edu

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