

LSU AgCenter's
**Ornamental Horticulture
E-Mail Update
May 3 and 10, 2010**



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

Ornamental Plant of the Week for May 3, 2010 – (from Allen Owings)



The most impressive bloomer of the Robin Hill azalea group is Watchet. This variety was named a Louisiana Select plant many years ago and is still popular with home gardeners and commercial landscapers. Light pink blooms on a 3- to 4-foot plant. Watchet azalea blooms very well in the mid-spring and then blooms again in the late summer through late fall. Robin Hill azaleas are more prone to azalea lacebug infestations than other groups. Also, bed preparation is very important for this variety.

**Ornamental Plant of the
Week for May 10, 2010 –
'Mesa Yellow' Gaillardia
(from Allen Owings)**

We may have had Mesa Yellow gaillardia as an ornamental plant of the week previously, but we can do it again. Nice, new seed-type gaillardia from PanAmerican Seed. All-America Selections winner for 2010. Here it is paired with Redhead coleus in landscape beds at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station.



Ornamental Cotton in Louisiana (from LDAF Press Release)

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry officials say cotton plants may look beautiful in private home landscapes, but the state must monitor all planted cotton for boll weevil presence, including cotton grown for ornamental purposes.

Todd Parker, LDAF assistant commissioner for the Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, said state boll weevil eradication laws provide that anyone who wants to plant cotton for non-commercial purposes must receive prior permission from the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

“We need to know where all the cotton plants are located throughout the state to monitor for the boll weevil and protect Louisiana’s cotton industry,” Parker said. “The LDAF places traps in all cotton fields every year to check for the presence of boll weevils.”

Parker said an increasing number of gardeners outside of traditional cotton growing areas are planting cotton to add interest to their garden landscapes. Others plant small plots for fiber to spin their own thread for weaving. The LDAF must place a boll weevil trap at all these locations, Parker said.

Historically, the boll weevil has been cotton’s most destructive pest. All cotton-growing states have eradication programs.

Cotton remains one of Louisiana’s leading crops and was worth more than \$134 million to the state in 2008, but that figure declined in 2009 due to extremely wet weather during the harvest. The 2009 numbers totaled more than 225,000 acres harvested with the total value of the cotton sector estimated to be \$130.2 million.

For more information regarding planting non-commercial or ornamental cotton, contact the Louisiana Boll Weevil Eradication Program office at 225-952-8105.

Revised (May 2010) Mississippi State University Publication – A Quick Reference Guide to Mississippi Wholesale Nurseries and Commercial Sod Producers

<http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2348.pdf>

Sustainable Landscape News (from Dan Gill and Allen Owings)

Goldsturm Rudbeckia – April 30

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/news_you_can_use/Goldsturm-rudbeckia-is-a-tough-perennial-for-Louisiana-gardens.htm

Landscape Horticulture Field Day at Hammond – May 13 (from Regina Bracy and Johnny Morgan)

The LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station will hold its landscape horticulture field day for horticulture industry professionals May 13.

Regina Bracy, LSU AgCenter resident coordinator at the station, said the field day will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m., followed by the welcome at 9 a.m.

"We're inviting the public to come out and see what's new in shrubs and herbaceous perennials," Bracy said. "Attendees also will learn how to control loropetalums and Knock Out roses in the landscape."

Before touring the landscape research, Bracy will discuss Louisiana Super Plants, the promotion program for Louisiana, and Yan Chen, associate professor at the station, will discuss consumer tolerance to thrip damage on impatiens.

The tour of the research at the station will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will include the following topics:

–What's New in the Shade? and Can Knock Out Roses Be Controlled Using Pruning and PGRs? by horticulturists Yan Chen and Allen Owings

–Nitrogen Effects on Flowering Plants in the Landscape and PGR Use in the Landscape by Chen

–Beating the Winter Humdrums – Plant Evaluations in Sun Garden by Owings

–Notable Plants in the Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden by Bracy

Bracy said refreshments will be served at noon in the Margie Y. Jenkins garden.

More information about the landscape horticulture field day is available from the Hammond Research Station at 985-543-4125. The station is located approximately 6 miles east of Hammond at 21549 Old Covington Highway (Louisiana Highway 1067).

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 11, 2010

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

May 13, 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 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.qshe.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****May 1, 2010**

Bonne Terre Garden Fair
TARC
Houma, La.
Contact Barton Joffrion at
bjoffrion@aqcenter.lsu.edu

May 8, 2010

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

May 15, 2010

Master Gardener Spring Stroll
St. Francisville, La.
Contact Andre Brock at
abrock@aqcenter.lsu.edu

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
bjeanonne@aqcenter.lsu.edu

Arborist Workshops – 2010

Contact Hallie Dozier at
hdozier@aqcenter.lsu.edu

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