

LSU AgCenter's
Ornamental Horticulture
E-Mail Update
July 26, 2010



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

Ornamental Plant of the Week for July 26, 2010 – 'Brazilian Red Hots'
***Alternanthera* (from Allen Owings)**



One of the newer Joseph's coats, or alternantheras, released in the past few years is the Brazilian Red Hots cultivar. Foliage is a vibrant variegation of purplish centers and bright fuchsia margins. Plants grow to a height of 24-36 inches. Plant in full sun. The more sun, the brighter the foliage. These plants do best when planted mid- to late spring through the early summer and will look their best late summer through the fall until the first killing frost. A fantastic plant.

LSU AgCenter Budget Update (from Bobby Fletcher, SE Regional Director and Assistant Director, LCES, LSU AgCenter)

Additional LSU AgCenter contacts for the web pages linked below are Frankie Gould (Communications, fgould@agcenter.lsu.edu) and Hampton Grunewald (Chancellor's Office, hgrunewald@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Several people have inquired about the budget reductions and how that could impact the LSU AgCenter. We still face challenges, and your advocacy is important to keep us viable into the future. LSU System President John Lombardi directed each campus in the LSU System to develop a preliminary plan to address the anticipated severe budget cuts to higher education for the 2011-12 fiscal year. The LSU AgCenter was directed to prepare for a cut of **23 percent**, which amounts to approximately **\$16 million**. This anticipated reduction on top the cuts over the past two years equates to a devastating **40 percent** budget loss for the LSU AgCenter.

While a reduction of any amount will inhibit the LSU AgCenter's ability to fulfill its mission, cuts of this magnitude are catastrophic. The LSU AgCenter, by the nature of its mission, has the vast portion of its budget vested in personnel. This plan will eliminate

211 positions through vacancies and layoffs that reduce or cut programs and in some cases entire units.

For the latest complete information, click [here](#):

You can also go to the “Focus on the Budget” web page [here](#):

Black Petunias (from Allen Owings)

Black petunias have been getting a considerable amount of discussion the past few months. Black petunias, you ask? Are there black-flowering petunias? Yes, there are.

Ball FloraPlant has added three dark-flowering cultivars. Black Velvet is being promoted as the world’s first black petunia. This cultivar works well in baskets, containers and landscape beds. Early to flower, it has a tightly branching growth habit.

Phantom is another new petunia. The flower base color is black with a yellow star pattern on the petals. A mounding petunia, it has an upright habit.

The Pinstripe variety produces dark purple flowers with a creamy white star pattern.

All three of these “black” petunias have been grown in LSU AgCenter landscape evaluations at the Hammond Research Station this spring. All three were LSU AgCenter landscape plant People’s Choice award winners this spring. Home gardeners voted Pinstripe and Phantom award winners, while green industry professionals named Pinstripe the People’s Choice Silver Winner for the spring and named Black Velvet the People’s Choice Bronze Winner for the spring.



At this year’s OFA Short Course, Black Velvet was announced as the winner of Greenhouse Grower Magazine’s Industry Choice Award and was also chosen as the magazine’s Readers’ Choice winner.

People’s Picks at Texas A&M Overton Field Day

Here is a list of the people’s pick winners from the ornamental horticulture plant trials field day held in Overton, Texas, in June.

The Winners

Purple Flash ornamental pepper
Denver Daisy rudbeckia
Sunpatien Variegated Salmon impatiens
Supertunia Sangria Charm petunia
Henna coleus
Sky Flower thunbergia battescombei
Indian Summer coleus
Purple pineapple lily
Red Head coleus
Snow Princess lobularia
Intensia Blueberry phlox
Senorita Rosalita cleome
Princess Caroline napier grass
Big Rose Bronze Leaf begonia
Experimental 65 gaillardia
Casino Light Yellow melampodium
Double Zahara Fire zinnia

The Honorable Mentions

Tiny Toes coleus
Grandiosa Cherry Picotee geranium
Samantha lantana
Tifton 125 napier grass
Supertunia Vista Bubblegum petunia
Titan Dark Red vinca
Duet Rose n' Yellow portulaca
Profusion Yellow zinnia

See more at <http://flowers.tamu.edu/>

Sustainable Landscape News Articles (from Kyle Huffstickler, Allen Owings and Dan Gill)

Summer Lawn Care – July 16

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2010/july/news_you_can_use/Tend-to-your-lawn-during-summer.htm

Some Plants for Late Summer – July 23

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2010/july/news_you_can_use/Tropical-plants-thrive-in-late-summer-.htm

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.

July 28-29, 2010

Louisiana Irrigation Association
Irrigation Re-Certification/Certification
Hammond Research Station
Hammond, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

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
Ralph and Kacoo's
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

October 6, 2010

La. Irrigation Association Re-Certification
Meeting and Annual Meeting
Ralph and Kacoo's
Baton Rouge, La.
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

October 9-13, 2010-06-14

IPPS-Southern Region Conference
Raleigh, N.C.
www.ipps.org/SouthernNA/

October 20, 2010

Rose Research Open House
Burden Center
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Allen Owings at
aowings@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@agcenter.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****October 2-3, 2010**

PlantFest! At Hilltop Arboretum
Baton Rouge, La.
www.lsu.edu/hilltop

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@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Reflections in the Garden Held at Burden
Center**

www.burdenhorticulturesociety.com

August 2 – Gingers
Jeff Kuehny

September 13 – Fall Landscape Planning
Dan Gill

October 4 – Sweet Potatoes
Don LaBonte

November 1 – Strawberries
Charlie Johnson

December 6 – Holiday Decorating
Barbara Quirk and Jeanne Clements

**American Rose Society / American Rose
Center Events in Shreveport**

Contact Ellen Trice at Ellen@ars-hq.org

October 21
ARC University Day from 11 a.m. until 3 pm

**LA House Lunch and Learn Horticulture
Held at LaHouse in Baton Rouge**

Contact Kyle Huffstickler at
khuffstickler@agcenter.lsu.edu

August 13 - Home Citrus Production
Speaker TBA

September 10 – Environmentally Friendly
Weed Control
Ron Strahan

October 8 – Cool-season Annuals and
Herbs
Kyle Huffstickler

November 12 – Fruit Tree Culture in the
Home Orchard
Charlie Johnson

Arborist Workshops – 2010

Contact Hallie Dozier at
hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu

July 30, 2010 – New Orleans
Bringing Business Your Way

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