

LSU AgCenter's  
**Ornamental Horticulture**  
**E-Mail Update**  
**July 5, 2010**



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

**Ornamental Plant of the Week for July  
5, 2010 – 'Green Jewel' Echinacea  
(from Allen Owings)**

One of the new non-purple purple coneflowers (*Echinacea*) is 'Green Jewel'. This is a new cultivar from Ball Horticulture via Darwin Perennials. We have been evaluating these plants at the LSU AgCenter since last fall. First bloom occurred this May and the plant seems to have nice potential and commercial/consumer interest.



**Naked Male Sago Palms (from Allen Owings and Dan Gill)**



Have you seen sago palms around the state looking poorly this spring? Have you noticed a lack of new foliage growth? Many commercial landscapers and home gardeners pruned all foliage off sago palms this spring due to the foliage damage experienced during the past winter. Some plants have been growing well and some have not. There are a few "naked" sago palms out there.

There are male sago palms and female sago palms. Many "landscape drive bys" indicate poor new foliage growth, primarily on male sago palms, this year. Some female sago palms have produced nice new foliage and others have not.

New frond production on sago palms can be influenced by the reproductive growth process.

Female sago palms typically lack new foliage emergence during their cone production and

seed development phase. Normally, new foliage growth on male sagos is not lacking during the cone emergence, maturation process. When a male plant is finished with the male cone and it withers, the plant will send up new fronds that same season. So, male sago palms showing limited new foliage growth thus far this year should experience some new foliage emergence by summer's end. Females, on the other hand, spend a year focusing on the female cone and developing seeds, and generally do not send up any new fronds during that time.

### **How Big Do Loropetalums Get (from Allen Owings)**

The answer? The world may never know. But, figured you would enjoy seeing these photos of an 18 year old 'Burgundy' loropetalum in Tifton, GA. It is 18-20 feet tall and was planted in 1993.



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

Don't Neglect Your Landscape During Summer – July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/headline\\_news/Dont-neglect-your-landscape-during-summer.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/headline_news/Dont-neglect-your-landscape-during-summer.htm)

## Take All Root Rot (from Don Ferrin)



Take-all root rot, caused by the soil-borne fungus *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *graminis* (*Ggg*), is a disease of all warm-season turfgrasses and occurs throughout the Southeastern U.S. *Ggg* is one of several ectotrophic root-infecting fungi that are associated with turfgrasses and is frequently found in association with turfgrass roots without causing significant damage. As the name implies, this is a root disease that can be quite destructive. Symptoms are generally not evident until the roots have already been

severely compromised and they generally appear during periods of stress, such as during sudden or prolonged periods of heat and drought stress.

Initial symptoms of take-all root rot are a general yellowing, thinning or drought-stressed appearance of the turf (Fig. 1). The overall density of the root system is greatly reduced (Fig. 2). As disease progresses, irregular patches of dead grass develop (Fig. 3), and diseased roots appear dark-colored and tend to be short and brittle. Careful examination of stolons and the bases of the leaf sheaths with a good hand lens usually reveals the black, fungal mycelium of *Ggg* on their surfaces.



The management of take-all root rot relies primarily on the use of cultural practices to



reduce stress on the turf and alter the soil environment to make it more suitable for root growth and less suitable for the pathogen. The first step is to alleviate the stress(es) that triggered the disease. These stresses can include soil compaction, drought, improper soil pH, improper mowing height and the over use of herbicides. Because the initial symptoms are often mistaken for drought stress or localized dry spots, the first inclination is to irrigate, which generally does very little good as there are no roots

present to take up the water. Avoid overwatering; keep the soil moist but not wet. It is also important to ensure that the soil pH is at the low end of the range recommended for the turfgrass in question, generally a pH of about 6. It is then important to remember to use slow release acidifying forms of nitrogen so as not to begin raising the pH. Also, because we are actively trying to regrow roots it is important to provide adequate potassium as well as nitrogen; the general recommendation is to supply equal amounts of nitrogen and potassium.

None of the fungicides that are readily available to homeowners are particularly effective in controlling this disease by themselves once the disease has become established. However, commercial products like the strobilurins (azoxystrobin and pyraclostrobin), and to a lesser degree the triazoles (triadimefon and propiconazole), may aid in control when they are used as part of an integrated management program. Current recommendations are to make two applications in the fall (mid to late September and again in mid to late October) and one application in the spring (mid to late March). Each application should be watered in with at least ¼ inch of water to move the fungicide into the root zone where it is needed to protect the roots.

*This article was written by Dr. Don Ferrin, Extension Specialist in the Department of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge. Telephone: (225) 578-8537; Cell phone: (225) 573-6510; E-mail: dferrin@agcenter.lsu.edu*

## **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 21-22, 2010**

Mid South Green Industry Conference  
Eagle Ridge Conference Center  
Raymond, Miss.  
[www.msnla.org](http://www.msnla.org)

### **July 28-29, 2010**

Louisiana Irrigation Association  
Irrigation Re-Certification/Certification  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

### **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, 2010**

La. Irrigation Association Annual Meeting  
Location TBA  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**October 6, 2010**

La. Irrigation Association Re-Certification Meeting  
Location TBA  
Contact Severn Doughty at [scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**October 6-7, 2010**

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

**October 8, 2010**

SELNA Trade Show  
Castine Center  
Mandeville, La.  
Contact Annie Coco at [acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**October 9-13, 2010-06-14**

IPPS-Southern Region Conference  
Raleigh, North Car.  
[www.ipps.org/SouthernNA/](http://www.ipps.org/SouthernNA/)

**October 20, 2010**

Rose Research Open House  
Burden Center  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact Allen Owings at [aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**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  
American Rose Center  
Shreveport, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at [scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto: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](mailto:sgauthier@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**January 19-21, 2011**

Gulf States Horticultural Expo  
Arthur Outlaw Convention Center  
Mobile, Ala.  
[www.qshe.org](http://www.qshe.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 / Fall Garden Shows and Related Consumer Events – 2010**

**October 2-3, 2010**

PlantFest! At Hilltop Arboretum  
Baton Rouge, La.  
[www.lsu.edu/hilltop](http://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](mailto:ricks@ra.msstate.edu)

**October 15-16, 2010**

Southern Garden Symposium  
St. Francisville, La.  
[www.southerngardensymposium.org](http://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](mailto:bjeansonne@agcenter.lsu.edu)

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

[www.burdenhorticulturesociety.com](http://www.burdenhorticulturesociety.com)

July 5 – Easy Landscape Irrigation  
Bob Souvestre

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

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

Contact Kyle Huffstickler at  
[khuffstickler@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:khuffstickler@agcenter.lsu.edu)

July 9 – Cool Season Veggies  
Kathryn Fontenot

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 Trees Culture in the  
Home Orchard  
Charlie Johnson

**Arborist Workshops – 2010**

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