

LSU AgCenter's Ornamental Horticulture E-Mail Update January 23, 2012



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

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Ornamental Plant of the Week for January 23, 2012 – 'Henry's Garnet' Virginia Willow (from Allen Owings)



One of my personal favorites in the native shrub category is the Virginia willow. This is also called Virginia sweetspire and known botanically as *Itea virginica*. Interest in this plant really increased in the late 1990s when Henry's Garnet started catching on with landscape contractors with the naming of this variety as a Louisiana Select plant. Flowers are the major feature of Virginia willow. Flowers are 4- to 5-inch white racemes (some varieties have a pinkish tinge) and have moderate fragrance. Flowering occurs over a four-to-six-

week period in spring right about the time azaleas complete their flowering. Henry's Garnet is the most widely available variety. It also has been recognized as a Mississippi Medallion plant in the past. Plants prefer more sun than shade but will grow in varying locations. It is best for soil pH to be slightly acid.

Consumer Evaluations of Poinsettia Cultivars, 2011 (from Jeff Kuehny, Wanda Ellis and Katie Guitreau)

The 2011 poinsettia cultivar trials at Burden Center included a consumer survey. Cultivars were from Paul Ecke Ranch, Syngenta, Dummen USA and Selecta. Results indicated that 1188 (Ecke) was the top red cultivar followed by Orion Red (Syngenta) and 1055 (Ecke). Bella Italia Red (Dummen USA) and several of the numbered cultivars (23203, 23569 and 23866) by Syngenta were very popular with consumers in our trials. Interestingly, Prestige Red, which has rated highly in the past two years, dropped to being one of the lower-rated red cultivars this year. The nontraditional poinsettia cultivar Ice Punch (Ecke)



ranked highest this year followed by Cortez Burgundy (Syngenta) and Red Glitter (Ecke). Winter Rose (Ecke) and Valentine (Selecta) or the “rose” type remain popular with consumers while a numbered cultivar SK-85 (Selecta) ranked just next Premium Picasso (Dummen USA). Pink and white cultivars were not very popular this year.

Overall, Ecke’s 1188 and Syngenta’s Orion Red were the top-ranking choices of consumers, while Ice Punch and Red Glitter, both Ecke cultivars, followed close behind. Consumers may prefer red poinsettias over the nontraditional types; however, this is the first year that a nontraditional cultivar has ranked so high. So this year growers and retailers should consider producing a few high-quality, nontraditional poinsettia cultivars, which could be a great opportunity to increase sales by attracting consumer who are looking to purchase nontraditional poinsettias.

All the plants in our 2011 trial with consumer survey scores can be viewed online at www.lsuagcenter.com.

(Note: We would like to acknowledge Paul Ecke Ranch, Syngenta, Selecta and Dummen for supplying the poinsettias cuttings. We would also like to acknowledge Sun Gro Horticulture for supplying the growing substrate, Syngenta for supplying pesticide and Scotts for supplying fertilizer for this project.)

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

Perennial Verbena – January 20

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2012/january/news_you_can_use/Perennial-verbena-remain-good-landscape-choice-.htm

Calendar of Events

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.

January 24, 2012

Louisiana Irrigation Association
Re-Certification Class
Ralph and Kacoo’s
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

Contact Allen Owings at
aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

February 3-5, 2012

La Native Plant Society Annual Meeting
Camp Hardtner
Pollock, La.
Contact Charles Allen at native@camtel.net

January 28, 2012

Ornamental Eucalyptus Forum
Community Center
Merryville, La.
Contact Keith Hawkins at
khawkins@agcenter.lsu.edu

February 9, 2012

Basics of Professional Lawn Maintenance
(Category 3 O and T Pesticide Re-Certification)
Caddo Parish Extension Office
Shreveport, La.
Contact Ron Strahan at
rstrahan@agcenter.lsu.edu

February 2, 2012 – FULL FULL FULL

Landscape Pest Management Workshop
(Category 3 O and T Pesticide Re-Certification)
Hammond Research Station
Hammond, La.

March 1-2, 2012

Nursery and Landscape Professional
Training and Exam
Hammond Research Station
Hammond, La.
Contact Annie Coco at
acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 6-7, 2012

Greenhouse Tomato Short Course
Eagle Ridge Conference Center
Raymond, Miss.
<http://greenhousetomatosc.com>

March 14-15, 2012

Louisiana Irrigation Association
Irrigation Basics Certification and Re-
Certification Class
Ralph and Kacoo's
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

April 4, 2012

Azalea Symposium
Hammond Research Station
Hammond, La.
Contact Allen Owings at
aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

June 6-7, 2012

Louisiana Irrigation Association
Irrigation Basics Certification and Re-
Certification Class
Ralph and Kacoo's
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

June 15, 2012

Nursery and Landscape Golf Shootout
LSU Golf Course
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Allen Owings at
aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu or Ed Bush at
ebush@agcenter.lsu.edu

June 19-20, 2012 – NEW DATE

Mid South Green Industry Conference
Muse Center
Pearl, Miss.
www.msnla.org

June 28, 2012

Horticulture Field Day
Texas A&M – Overton
Overton, Texas
Contact Brent Pemberton at
b-pemberton@tamu.edu

August 2-3, 2012

Nursery and Landscape Professional
Training and Exam
Ira Nelson Horticulture Center
Lafayette, La.
Contact Annie Coco at
acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu

October 4, 2012

Ornamental Horticulture Field Day
South MS Branch Experiment Station
Poplarville, Miss.

October 11, 2012

Landscape Horticulture Field Day
Hammond Research Station
Hammond, La.
Contact Regina Bracy at
rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu

November 7-8, 2012

Louisiana Irrigation Association
Irrigation Basics Certification and Re-
Certification Class
Ralph and Kacoo's
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact Severn Doughty at
scd357@cmaaccess.com

**Gardening Workshops and Field Days
for Home Gardeners****January 28, 2012**

Seeds of Knowledge Seminar
Trinity Center
Ruston, La.
Contact Rafash Brew at
rbrew@agcenter.lsu.edu

February 10, 2012

It's Easy Being Green – Home Horticulture Program

Journey Fellowship Church
Lacombe, La.

Contact Rusty Batty at
rbatty@agcenter.lsu.edu

February 26, 2012

Camellia Garden Stroll
Hammond Research Station
Hammond, La.

Contact Sandra Benjamin at
sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 2-4, 2012

Mississippi Garden and Patio Show
Biloxi, Miss.

www.msnla.org

March 10, 2012

Spring Garden Day
Hammond Research Station
Hammond, La.

Contact Sandra Benjamin at
sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 10, 2012

New Orleans Botanical Garden
Old Garden Rose Sale
Pelican Greenhouse at City Park
New Orleans, La.

March 16-18, 2012

Mississippi Garden and Patio Show
Jackson, Miss.

www.msnla.org

March 16-17, 2012 (FRI and SAT)

Northshore Spring Garden Show
Covington, La.

Contact Rusty Batty at
rbatty@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 23-24, 2012 (FRI and SAT)

SW La. Garden Festival
Burton Coliseum
Lake Charles, La.

Contact Robert Turley at
rturley@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 24-25, 2012

Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show
Parker Coliseum

Baton Rouge, La.

Contact David Himelrick at
dhimelrick@agcenter.lsu.edu

March 31, 2012

Feliciano Garden Stroll
St. Francisville, La.

Contact Andre Brock at
abrock@agcenter.lsu.edu

April 14, 2012

Festival des Fleurs Garden Show & Sale
Blackham Coliseum
Lafayette, La.

Contact Billy Welsh at welsh@louisiana.edu

April 13-14, 2012

New Orleans Spring Garden Show
City Park Botanical Gardens
New Orleans, La.

Contact Russell Harris at
ruharris@agcenter.lsu.edu

April 28, 2012

Roses and Horticulture – Newest Roses for
the Newest Gardeners
American Rose Center
Shreveport, La.

Contact Allen Owings at
aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

June 30, 2012

Burden Center Garden Festival
Burden Center
Baton Rouge, La.

Contact Jeff Kuehny at
jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu

July 14, 2012

Roses and Horticulture – Propagation and
Hybridizing
American Rose Center
Shreveport, La.

Contact Allen Owings at
aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

September 8, 2012

Roses and Horticulture – Climate Change and Plants

American Rose Center

Shreveport, La.

Contact Allen Owings at

aowings@aqcenter.lsu.edu

Horticulture Lunch and Learn at Louisiana House – 2012

Contact Kyle Huffstickler at

khuffstickler@aqcenter.lsu.edu

February 10, 2012

Proper Bed Preparation and Fertilization –

Kyle Huffstickler

March 9, 2012

Spring Vegetable Gardening – Tom Koske

Reflections in the Garden by the Burden Horticulture Society – 2012

www.burdenhorticulturesociety.org

or call Burden Center at 225-763-3990

February 6, 2012

How to Understand and Predict Weather

Patterns –

Jay Grymes

March 5, 2012

Going Wild with Native Plants –

Rick Webb

April 2, 2012

Herb and Kitchen Gardening –

Peggy Cox

May 7, 2012

Planting a Monet Garden –

Sandra Patrick

June 4, 2012

Heat Tolerant Color –

Cindy Moran

July 2, 2012

Botanical Treasures from Across the U.S. –

Jeff Kuehny

August 6, 2012

Recycling in the Garden –

Dan Gill

September 3, 2012

Organic Gardening –

Carl Motsenbocker

October 1, 2012

Bulbs in the Garden –

Al O'Brien

November 5, 2012

Pass Along Gardens –

Neil Odenwald

December 3, 2012

How to Build a Bird House –

Emily Winners