



## Ornamental Horticulture E-News *February 6 and 13, 2012*

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

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Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/LSU-AgCenter-Hammond-Research-Station222670654425080>



### **Ornamental Plant of the Week for February 6, 2012 – 'Fireworks' Gomphrena (from Allen Owings)**

Spring is coming, and some of the new gomphrena (globe amaranth) need to be considered for increased use. Fireworks is the new variety in the gomphrenas that is catching the gardening world by storm. These are not like your older gomphrenas, which we sometimes commonly called bachelor buttons. Some

people also call these globe amaranth. They are an old garden standby. The Fireworks is very tall (3-4 feet) and has pink flowers with light sprinkles of purple while other traditional gomphrena have light purple, lavender, white, dark purple and pink flowers. Plants can be from 6 inches to 4 feet tall depending on which one you plant. Full sun is best for these, and limit irrigation. Select the Audray, All Around or Las Vegas series if you want these smaller-growing ones as opposed to the tall Fireworks.

## **Ornamental Plant of the Week for February 13, 2012 – Indian Hawthorn (from Allen Owings)**

Some Indian hawthorns to try include Snowcap and Spring Sonata. Spring Sonata is in the Southern Living plant program. Foliage is larger than other Indian hawthorns, and peak bloom in the spring at the Hammond Research Station is 10-14 days later than other varieties. Snowcap is a patented variety licensed by Athena Trees and Bold Spring Nursery. Snowcap is a dependable shrub with a dense habit and clean, dark-green foliage that turns burgundy as the weather turns cooler. Foliage is also disease-free. The best pink-flowering Indian hawthorn continues to be Eleanor Tabor.



Spring Sonata

Snowcap

Eleanor Tabor

## **Review of People's Choice Awards Winners - 2011 (from Allen Owings)**

### ***Master Gardeners – Spring 2011***

320 Louisiana Master Gardeners attending an “Appreciation Day” at the LSU AgCenter’s Hammond Research Station on Friday, May 13, were provided an opportunity to vote for their two “favorite” plants in the sun garden plant trial evaluation area at the station. Plants in the sun garden are annual bedding plants for sun, herbaceous perennials, roses and companion woody ornamental shrubs and small trees. We had a total of 384 votes for the spring 2011 Master Gardener people’s choice plant awards. The medal winners received 19.5 percent of the total votes. Other plants receiving significant votes accounted for 63.3 percent of the total votes, and plants not listed received the remaining 17.2 percent of the total votes.

### ***The Medal Winners:***

- Gold Winner – Guardian Blue delphinium
- Silver Winner – Redbor kale
- Bronze Winner – PowWow Wild Berry echinacea

### ***Others Receiving Significant Votes:***

- Camelot rose foxglove
- Blue Chip buddleia
- Shoal Creek vitex
- Suncatcher Pink Lemonade petunia

- Spreading Salmon Var. SunPatiens
- Cassia corymbosa
- Fireworks Gomphrena
- Curled Green kale
- Early Bird Gold rudbeckia
- Starbor kale
- Tidal Wave Hot Pink petunia
- Tricolor hibiscus [*Hibiscus tiliaceus*]
- Cherry Brandy Hardy hibiscus
- Tidal Wave Silver petunia
- All the Rage Easy Elegance rose
- Frostproof gardenia
- Guardian White delphinium
- Guardian Lavender delphinium
- Curly Q copper plant
- Little Leaf variegated tibouchina
- Sorbet Lemon Royale viola
- Sorbet Lemon Chiffon viola
- President canna
- Saratoga Red nicotiana
- Perfume Antique shade nicotiana
- Julia Child rose
- PowWow White echinacea
- Wasabi coleus
- Compact Blush Pink SunPatiens
- Compact Orange SunPatiens
- Picnic Light Pink petunia

### ***Home gardeners – Spring 2011***

60 home gardeners from Louisiana attending a “Garden Stroll” at the LSU AgCenter’s Hammond Research Station on Saturday May 21 were provided an opportunity to vote for their two “favorite” plants in the sun garden plant trial evaluation area at the station. Plants in the sun garden are annual bedding plants for sun, herbaceous perennials, roses and companion woody ornamental shrubs and small trees.

#### ***The Medal Winners:***

Gold Winner – Guardian Blue delphinium  
 Silver Winner – PowWow Wild Berry echinacea  
 Silver Winner – Guardian Lavender delphinium  
 Bronze Winner – Suncatcher Pink Lemonade petunia  
 Bronze Winner – Tidal Wave Silver petunia  
 Bronze Winner – Peppermint Schnapps hardy hibiscus

#### ***Others Receiving Significant Votes:***

- Intensia Series phlox (primarily Lavender Glow and Blueberry)
- Sanguna Series petunias (primarily Blue, Light Blue, rose Vein and White)
- Lani Series verbena (primarily Bright Pink, Purple Rain Mix, Twister Pink and Lavender Star)
- Sorbet Series viola (primarily Blue Heaven, Yellow Delight and Black Delight)
- Compact Blush Pink SunPatiens
- Tidal Wave Cherry petunia
- Tidal Wave Hot Pink petunia
- Guardian White delphinium
- Fireworks gomphrena
- Camelot rose foxglove
- Starbor kale
- Redbor kale

- Saratoga Red nicotiana
- New Blue Wonder scaevola
- Blue Chip buddleia
- Opelousas Red copper plant
- White Cat Whiskers
- Early Bird Gold rudbeckia
- Sun Spun Blue petunia

### ***Louisiana Master Gardeners' plant evaluation survey***

Louisiana Master Gardeners attended an "Appreciation Day" at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station on Friday, May 13. The participants (RSVP – 345; actual attendance – 320) were provided a survey to indicate areas of interest in ornamental/landscape plant evaluation research. There was an 18 percent response rate. Participates were asked to vote for three plant categories from the list provided. Percentages of Louisiana Master Gardeners desiring research in the following topic areas were:

- Future Louisiana Super Plants – 70.2 %
- New herbaceous perennials – 66.0 %
- New herbaceous annuals – 42.6 %
- New coneflowers – 34.1 %
- Buddleia cultivars – 25.5 %
- Easy Elegance shrub roses – 23.4 %
- Foliage (coleus, alternanthera, copper plants) – 23.4 %
- Southern Living trees/shrubs – 10.6 %
- Heirloom hybrid tea roses – 6.4 %

Interest in Louisiana Super Plants is considerable among Master Gardeners, especially what is coming in the future. In addition, it was interesting to note the desire for information on new herbaceous perennials (66 percent) – as compared with annuals (42.6 percent). There also seems to be some desire for alternative rose cultivars. It was also noted that specifically focused areas, such as buddleia and echinacea, received high marks.

### ***Green Industry – Fall 2011***

130 nursery and landscape professionals attending a landscape horticulture field day at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station on October 18 were provided an opportunity to vote for their two "favorite" plants in the sun garden plant trial evaluation area at the station. Plants in the sun garden are annual bedding plants for sun, herbaceous perennials, roses and companion woody ornamental shrubs and small trees.

### ***The Medal Winners:***

- Gold Winner – Carefree Celebration rose
- Gold Winner – Purple muhly grass
- Silver Winner – Sombrero Salsa Red echinacea
- Bronze Winner – Double Scoop Bubble Gum echinacea
- Bronze Winner – Mesa Bright Bicolor gaillardia
- Bronze Winner – Henry Duelberg salvia
- Bronze Winner – Belinda's Dream rose

### ***Others Receiving Significant Votes:***

- BabyWing Pink begonia
- Carita Purple angelonia
- Little Leaf/Dwarf tibouchina
- Bandana Lemon Zest lantana
- Bandana Rose improved lantana
- Carefree Marvel rose
- Black Pearl ornamental pepper
- Golden Edge duranta
- Marginata Bronze copper plant
- Henna coleus
- Dreamland Scarlet Elegance zinnia
- Florida City Bonnifay coleus
- BabyWing White begonia
- Profusion Double Fire zinnia
- Profusion Orange zinnia

## **Plant problems? We can help!**

Routine  
Diagnostic  
**\$20**



The LSU AgCenter's Plant Diagnostic Center is a one-stop shop for all your plant health problems.

The center provides rapid, accurate diagnosis of the cause of the problem and delivers best management practices recommendations for long-term management.

## **LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center**

For more information, visit our website: [LSUAgCenter/PlantDiagnostics](http://LSUAgCenter/PlantDiagnostics)

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

New USDA Hardiness Zone Map – February 3

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news\\_archive/2012/february/news\\_you\\_can\\_use/USDA-plant-hardiness-zone-map-shows-La-changes.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2012/february/news_you_can_use/USDA-plant-hardiness-zone-map-shows-La-changes.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.*

#### **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](mailto:rstrahan@agcenter.lsu.edu)

#### **February 23, 2012**

New Orleans Horticulture Society Meeting  
Garden Study Room  
City Park Botanical Gardens  
Contact Russell Harris at  
[ruharris@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:ruharris@agcenter.lsu.edu)

#### **March 1-2, 2012**

Nursery and Landscape Professional  
Training and Exam  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Annie Coco at  
[acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

#### **April 4, 2012**

Azalea Symposium  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Allen Owings at  
[aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu)

#### **May 12, 2012**

Green Industry Open House for BRLA,  
LNLA, LIA, NOHS and SELNA  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Allen Owings at  
[aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu) or Ed Bush at  
[ebush@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:ebush@agcenter.lsu.edu)

#### **June 19-20, 2012 – NEW DATE**

Mid South Green Industry Conference  
Muse Center  
Pearl, Miss.  
[www.mslna.org](http://www.mslna.org)

**June 28, 2012**

Horticulture Field Day  
Texas A&M – Overton  
Overton, Texas  
Contact Brent Pemberton at  
[b-pemberton@tamu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**October 4, 2012**

Ornamental Horticulture Field Day  
South Miss. 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](mailto: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](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**Gardening Workshops and Field Days  
for Home Gardeners****February 10, 2012**

It's Easy Being Green – Home Horticulture  
Program  
Journey Fellowship Church  
Lacombe, La.  
Contact Rusty Batty at  
[rbatty@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rbatty@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**February 22, 2012**

Backyard Home Orchards Workshop  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Sandra Benjamin at  
[sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**February 26, 2012**

Camellia Garden Stroll  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Sandra Benjamin at  
[sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 2-4, 2012**

Mississippi Garden and Patio Show  
Biloxi, Miss.  
[www.msnla.org](http://www.msnla.org)

**March 10, 2012**

Spring Garden Day  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Sandra Benjamin at  
[sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto: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](http://www.msnla.org)

**March 16-17, 2012 (FRI and SAT)**

Northshore Spring Garden Show  
Covington, La.  
Contact Rusty Batty at  
[rbatty@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rbatty@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 20, 2012**

Old Tyme Vegetable Workshop  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Sandra Benjamin at  
[sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 23-24, 2012 (FRI and SAT)**

SW La. Garden Festival  
Burton Coliseum  
Lake Charles, La.  
Contact Robert Turley at  
[rturley@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rturley@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 24-25, 2012**

Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show  
Parker Coliseum  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact David Himelrick at  
[dhimelrick@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:dhimelrick@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 31, 2012**

Feliciana Garden Stroll  
St. Francisville, La.  
Contact Andre Brock at  
[abrock@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:abrock@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**April 14, 2012**

Festival des Fleurs Garden Show & Sale  
Blackham Coliseum  
Lafayette, La.  
Contact Billy Welsh at [welsh@louisiana.edu](mailto:welsh@louisiana.edu)

**April 13-14, 2012**

New Orleans Spring Garden Show  
City Park Botanical Gardens  
New Orleans, La.  
Contact Russell Harris at  
[ruharris@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:ruharris@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**April 28, 2012**

roses and Horticulture – Newest roses for  
the Newest Gardeners  
American rose Center  
Shreveport, La.  
Contact Allen Owings at  
[aowings@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**June 30, 2012**

Burden Center Garden Festival  
Burden Center  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact Jeff Kuehny at  
[jkuehny@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:jkuehny@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**July 14, 2012**

roses and Horticulture – Propagation and  
Hybridizing  
American rose Center  
Shreveport, La.  
Contact Allen Owings at  
[aowings@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@aqcenter.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](mailto:aowings@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**Horticulture Lunch and Learn at  
Louisiana House – 2012**

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

**February 10, 2012**

Proper Bed Preparation and Fertilization –  
Kyle Huffstickler

**March 9, 2012**

Spring Vegetable Gardening – Tom Koske

**Beekeeping Events****February 6, 2012**

SW LA Beekeepers Association: Louisiana  
Apiary Laws and Regulations; Income  
Taxes & Bees  
Memorial Civic Center  
DeRidder, La.  
Contact Keith Hawkins at  
[khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**March 5, 2012**

SW LA Beekeepers Association: Splitting  
Hives  
Memorial Civic Center  
DeRidder, La.  
Contact Keith Hawkins at  
[khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**April 2, 2012**

SW LA Beekeepers Association: Collecting Swarms  
Memorial Civic Center  
DeRidder, La.  
Contact Keith Hawkins at  
[khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**May 7, 2012**

SW LA Beekeepers Association: "Inspecting a Hive" Field Trip  
DeRidder, La.  
Contact Keith Hawkins at  
[khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**June 4, 2012**

SW LA Beekeepers Association: "Honey & Biscuits: How to Harvest Honey"  
Memorial Civic Center  
DeRidder, La.  
Contact Keith Hawkins at  
[khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:khawkins@aqcenter.lsu.edu)

**Louisiana Beekeepers Association**

[www.labeekeepers.org](http://www.labeekeepers.org)

**Reflections in the Garden by the Burden Horticulture Society – 2012**

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

or call Burden Center at 225-763-3990

**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