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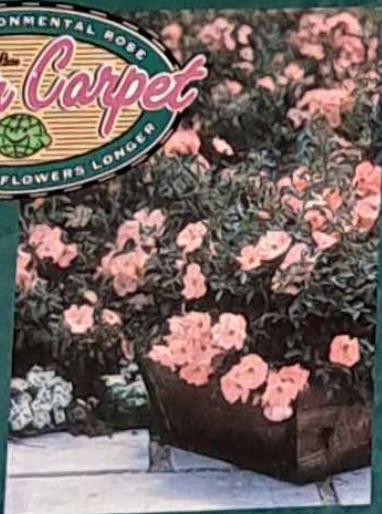
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## Important Memo:

### *From the Desk of the Executive Secretary*

**W**elcome to our winter 2002 issue of the LNLA magazine. This new method of information dissemination designed to improve communication from LNLA to all green industry professionals in Louisiana was initiated a couple years ago. This issue is being mailed to all LNLA members in addition to all licensed landscape contractors, landscape architects, horticulturists, wholesale growers, and arborists in the state. Please provide your feedback and consider joining the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association.

You should be getting this magazine right at the time of the Gulf States Horticultural Expo in Mobile, AL. We hope to see you there or hopefully we saw you there! This is a great three state trade show event that has been a real winner for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Plan on making this an annual "must attend" event.

Stay tuned for plenty from LNLA in 2002. We have just received \$115,000 from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry from federal specialty crop fund appropriations. This money will be put to work on your behalf - we will provide you with additional updates on this project shortly.

***Best wishes for a great 2002!!***

Allen Owings  
Executive Secretary



# Survival of The Fittest

## Azalea Seeding Selection Process at Transcend Nursery

Robert (Buddy) Lee

**T***ranscend Nursery is located in Southeast Louisiana and is owned by Robert and Dixie Lee. Ryan (son) and Kelsey (daughter) assist with the nursery. I have been working with azaleas since 1970, beginning with my first part-time job at a commercial nursery (Folsom Nursery), which specializes in the production of quality landscape azaleas. I was employed as an azalea grower for Beason Creek Nursery and was owner of Savannah Spring Nursery. My fascination with azaleas was kindled at an early age, and azaleas continue to intrigue me. For the past several years, I have been actively hybridizing for unique and hardy cultivars of azaleas. Association with organizations such as the Azalea Society of America and the American Rhododendron Society has been extremely rewarding and has supplied a wealth of information about the many aspects of azaleas. Once a person has successfully mastered the ability to cross-pollinate azaleas, germinate the seeds, and grow the seedlings, the number of azalea plants a person can accumulate over time can become numerous as well as overwhelming. An overriding desire to keep almost every seedling can decrease the overall effectiveness of a breeding program. It also can become a burdensome situation that is both space and time consuming. A key component to an azalea-breeding program is a continuous selection process that eliminates inferior seedlings and identifies potentially superior seedlings. The selection process at Transcend Nursery begins at an early stage. Once the azalea seedlings have reached approximately 1-inch in height in the germination trays, they are transplanted into individual 2-inch diameter growing containers. All the viable seedlings of each*



cross are transplanted into these transplant trays. Large numbers of seedlings can be transplanted at this time because it is relatively inexpensive and doesn't require a lot of space. In the spring of 2000, approximately 40,000 seedlings were potted in these small containers. New containers and growing trays

are used to help prevent contamination of fungal disease from previous plantings. The plant trays are raised approximately 4 inches off the ground to give adequate drainage. Filtered shade is provided to protect the young seedlings from direct sunlight. The media used for potting consist of one part ground peat moss and five parts finely-ground pine bark mixture. The pine bark mixture consists of 10 percent sand with 2 pounds of Micro-Max and 2 pounds of lime per cubic yard. A liquid fertilizer is initially applied to get the young seedlings off to a good start. Later, a granular fertilizer is applied to maintain adequate growth

throughout the growing season. One selection goal is to develop azaleas that have more resistance to the common pests and diseases that may cause damage to azaleas. A minimal amount of chemicals (insecticide, miticide and fungicide) are applied to the young seedlings. A natural elimination process is allowed to occur. The newly transplanted seedlings are not provided greenhouse protection and are subjected to whatever weather conditions that come. In the Gulf South, this could range from extremely hot and humid days and nights during the spring and summer to wildly extreme temperature fluctuations during the fall and winter. Hot and humid conditions are as responsible for seedling demise as extremely cold conditions. This

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## Survival of The Fittest

*continued from page 5*

“*Survival of the Fittest*” plant selection mentality will hopefully result in a selected group of azaleas that is healthy and hardy. At Transcend Nursery, less than 50 percent of these little seedlings will continue to the next level of selection. After the seedlings have grown in the transplant trays for 12 to 18 months, it becomes time to pot the seedlings into 6-inch containers. The elimination process becomes more decisive at this stage. Potting a seedling into a 6-inch container is costly and space consuming. Only the healthiest and most vigorous seedlings are continued to the next phase. Plants with irregular leaves and other deformities are discarded. At Transcend Nursery this spring (2001) 14,000 seedlings were potted into 6-inch containers. The container yard for the 6-inch pots is located in full sun under a timed sprinkler system. The plants are again subjected to any climatic conditions that arise. This is very similar to the way commercial growers produce azaleas. The newly potted plants are fertilized, sheared, and maintained as with any traditional azalea crop. An azalea that can withstand commercial growing processes has a better chance of being accepted in the nursery industry. As the azalea seedlings grow, the plants are regularly observed, and inferior plants are removed. Plants that have poor growth patterns or leaf deformities or those that just fail to thrive are eliminated at this point. The overall objective is to retain only the healthiest and most desirable plants throughout the selection process. Past experience with keeping seedlings that lack vigor has been extremely unrewarding. Keeping plants that have leaf deformities, in hopes that the plant will outgrow this condition, has also proven unsuccessful. One such plant that otherwise has a beautiful flower has been planted in my yard since 1993 and continues to have what I call “crinkle leaf.” This leaf deformity seems to be genetic based. First year seedlings hybridized for multi-seasonal blooming traits usually

**A key component to an azalea-breeding program is a continuous selection process that eliminates inferior seedlings and identifies potentially superior seedlings.**

started their blooming for the first time around the middle of June. All of these initial plants were the result of crosses between *R. oldhamii* ‘Fourth of July’ and numerous named cultivars that have fall blooming tendencies. Plants were selected not only for all of the common desirable traits (flower color, flower form, growth habit, etc.) but also for their free-flowering characteristic and the ability of the flower to withstand heat. Each selected cultivar was propagated and tested under commercial production conditions. The Encore Azaleas were selected from these cloned seedling groups by Flowerwood Nurseries, Inc., and PDSI of Loxley, Alabama. Tedious work, data collecting, observation, along with numerous man-hours went into the final testing and selection of this group of azaleas. The cultivars ‘Watchet’ and ‘August To Frost’ crossed with several Encore Hybrids have produced plants with a wider color variation (es-

pecially white) not commonly found in the Encore Azaleas. Most of the ‘Watchet’ crosses also have very heavy fall-blooming characteristics. One oddity noted with the ‘Watchet’ crosses is the occasional very dwarf-type seedlings

that are produced. These dwarf seedlings are all very similar, regardless of the cross, with a compact growth habit and small waxy like leaves. ‘August Through Frost’ crossed with several of Encore Hybrids have produced plants that are heavy spring bloomers with repeat blooms beginning in May and ending in late fall with the arrival of colder weather. These plants would almost bloom continuously under the right conditions. One negative with the ‘August Through Frost’ crosses is that some have flowers that tend to wilt down very easily with excessive warm temperatures. Selected seedlings from the ‘Watchet’ and ‘August Through Frost’ are presently under final evaluation. After the seedlings have been in the 6-inch containers for approximately one year and spring blooming begins, another aggressive selection event gets underway. An azalea seedling’s first bloom may not be the best indicator of a plant’s future performance;

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## Survival of The Fittest

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however, it is the most practical criterion. I have selected what I had considered some spectacular blooming plants solely on their first flowering, only to be terribly disappointed the next time they bloomed. However, as a general rule, most flowering seedlings selected at this time tend to stay fairly true to flower size, form, and color during the next blooming season. Slight variations of flower color can occur from year to year due to environmental and nutritional factors. Healthy seedlings that develop heavy flower bud sets, have good flower color clarity, have adequate flower form, and are very floriferous during their first blooming period in all probability are the most viable plants to keep for further evaluation. Selecting flower color is a very subjective undertaking, which would differ from person to person. Honestly, I have never seen an ugly blooming azalea. Deciding which flowering plant will be selected is based on the overall appearance and effect that it presents. Plants that do not make the "cut" are removed (reluctantly) to make room for the oncoming crop of new seedlings. My past experience as a commercial azalea grower and azalea collector has had a big influence on what I wish to see in an azalea. Azaleas hybrids by nature have a wide spectrum of flower color, size, and form. This, for me, is the true wonder and beauty of azaleas. The remaining azaleas are potted into to a larger nursery container. Each plant is carefully checked for winter damage before being potted. Plants that show any bark split or cold damage are eliminated. Individual plants are labeled with metal tags at this time to ensure accurate identification. Only plants that a person truly wants to care for and carefully evaluate for the next several years should be allowed to reach this point. I visualize my plant breeding and selection process as a pyramid-shaped type of venture, realized over time, starting with a broad base composed of numerous seedlings and ending at an apex of a few remaining superior plants. Over time, through good observation and record keeping, some of these superior seedlings may prove themselves worthy of being named and registered. ❁

*Reprinted with the permission of the Azalea Society of America.*

## Upcoming Events

### January 24-26, 2002

Gulf States Horticultural Expo  
Arthur Outlaw Convention Center  
Mobile, AL

### February 20-21, 2002

Lawn and Landscape Short Course  
Burden Center  
Baton Rouge, LA

### February 28 - March 1, 2002

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# Nursery/Landscape Golf Shootout



The LSU Department of Horticulture hosted the first annual Nursery/Landscape Golf Shootout at the LSU Golf Course in Baton Rouge on Friday September 14th. For the inaugural event, we had six teams participating. First place prizes were \$50 pro shop gift certificates. Very special thanks to Jon Ducote of BWI

Companies and Bobby Scott of the Dodson Group for sponsoring this year's event. Also, thanks is extended to the LSU College of Agriculture and the La Department of Agriculture and Forestry for their support. Boo LeBlanc won the closest to the hole on #3, while Fred Trappey won closest to the hole on #10. Long drive on #13 was Boo LeBlanc. Thanks to artist Henry Lastrapes of Baton Rouge for his donation of a water coloring for a closest to the hole prize. *Next year plan to join us for our next golf outing on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the LSU Golf Course in Baton Rouge.* ❁

## Nursery/Landscape Expo 2001

A total of 10,585 attendees visited The Nursery/Landscape Expo August 17-19 at the Dallas Convention Center in Dallas, TX. Attendees saw 760 exhibitors filling 1669 booths. The expo include a pre-show educational seminar with an attendance of 430. Also included in this year's seminars was the Texas and Southwest Greenhouse Growers Conference and the Water Conservation in Landscape Irrigation Conference. The Nursery/Landscape Expo is jointly sponsored by the Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape Associations, the Arkansas Green Industry Association, and the Texas Recreation and Parks Society, with the Texas association being the managing partner.

## LSU AgCenter Plans Green Industry's Second Economic Impact Study

The LSU AgCenter with support from the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association (LNLA) and Metro Area Horticulture Foundation is embarking on its second Economic Impact Study of Louisiana's nursery and landscape industry. The first study completed about 5 years ago revealed that the nursery and landscape industries in Louisiana were responsible for over \$1.3 billion in economic activity annually. LSU AgCenter economist Roger Hinson will oversee the study. "The earlier study was essential in obtaining a benchmark value of the economic contributions of our industry in Louisiana" says LNLA President Randy Bracy. "This follow up study will provide us with needed information on the recent growth of our industry and hopefully identify some areas that were not included in the LSU AgCenter's previous effort." When the earlier study was conducted, estimates of the total value of the nursery and landscape industries in Louisiana were about \$750 million annually. The value of over \$1.3 billion has enhanced recognition of the nursery and landscape industries in Louisiana as of the largest agricultural service and production contributors to the economy. ❁

## LSU AgCenter Announces Debut of Lawn and Garden Website

The LSU AgCenter recently announced the debut of a lawn and garden website. *Louisiana Lawn and Garden* located at [includes practical horticulture information for consumer and commercial audiences.](#)

Site content includes a home horticulture section

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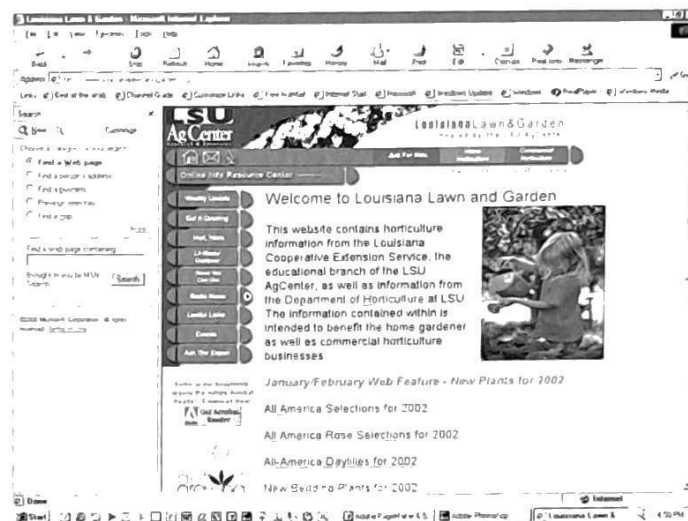
## STATE, REGION AND NATIONAL NEWS

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divided into subject areas such as fruits and nut, home gardens and vegetables, lawn care, home grounds and landscaping, and urban tree care. The commercial horticulture sections features floriculture, landscaping, nursery crops, turfgrass, and fruits/vegetables. Information is also provided on the Louisiana Master Gardener program. Links are available to LSU AgCenter "News You Can Use" and "Get It Growing" and the LSU Department of Horticulture. Recent and current editions of Horticulture Hints, the popular extension horticulture newsletter, is also accessible.

Shortly, upcoming events will be posted and links to related website and governmental agencies will be added to the Louisiana Lawn and Garden website. This new method of communicating horticulture news

has been a goal of the LSU AgCenter and will enable home gardeners and green industry professionals to have a instant source of reliable information. ❁



## Obituaries

### ***Puls, Jr. Earl***

A retired project leader and extension horticulturist at LSU and a resident of Ethel, he died at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, 2001, at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston. He was 61 and a native of Hammond. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Survived by his wife, Jo Ann McEachern Puls; two sons, Jonathan Earl Puls, Baton Rouge, and Brian Mac Puls, Houston; and two sisters, Grace Santa Cruz, Bay St. Louis, Miss., and Patty Guidry, Covington. Preceded in death by his parents, Elmer E. Puls Sr. and Grace Mitchell Puls. He received a bachelor of science degree from Southeastern Louisiana University, a master of science degree from LSU and his doctorate from the University of Missouri. He was a technical consultant to Dupont Chemical Co. He was a member of

Louisiana Pecan Growers Hall of Fame, executive secretary of Federated Pecan Growers of North America and a vestryman and member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Clinton. In lieu of flowers, friends are asked to make memorial contributions to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 8259, Clinton, LA 70722 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN.

### ***Wayne Young***

Wayne Young of Amite, plant broker, and owner of Southern Pride Nursery, died Friday August 17, 2001 at his residence. He was a native of New Orleans and an active member of the Southeast La. Nurserymen's Association. Our sympathy is extended to the Young family.

# Growing Better Ground Covers for Louisiana Landscapes

Over the last few years the use of ground covers in commercial and residential landscapes has increased significantly. This increased use is due to the interest in having more than trees, shrubs, and lawns in a landscape and the perception, sometimes true and sometimes not, that ground covers are low maintenance plants. Also, many home landscapes have shady areas where turfgrass is difficult to grow - ground covers are a great alternative.

Research is currently underway at the LSU AgCenter to investigate the landscape performance of liriopie and monkey grass varieties. Liriopie, known by the scientific name *Liriopie*, and monkey grass, also called mondo grass, and known by the scientific name *Ophiopogon*, are collectively referred to as liriopogons.

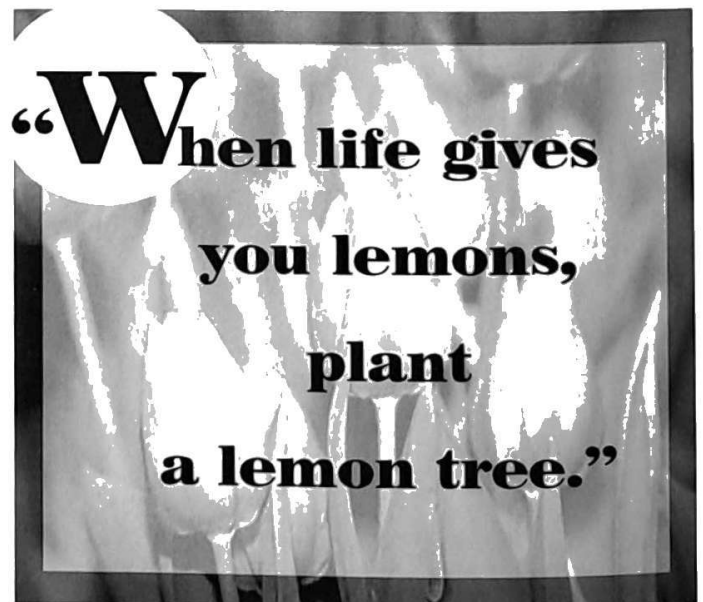
Liriopie and monkey grass are probably the two most widely used ground cover plants in Louisiana and across the southeastern United States. A few varieties of these plants have been available previously but over the last few years numerous varieties have been introduced. This has created confusion among members of the horticulture industry and among home gardeners pertaining to the most ideal planting site and landscape uses for liriopogons.

Goals of current research by LSU AgCenter horticulturist Ed Bush and graduate student Catherine Broussard are to evaluate about 20 liriopie and monkey grass varieties in sun and shade environments. Initial observations have indicated that some varieties mostly recommended for sunny locations actually do best in shaded plantings. The vice versa is also being observed.

In addition, over the last few years in the southeastern United States, major disease problems, mostly with leaf blight and root rot symptoms, have been ob-

served in landscape plantings of liriopie and monkey grass. LSU AgCenter plant pathologist Gordon Holcomb is working with the horticultural researchers to positively identify these pathogens and documentation of varietal differences in response to these disease pressures is being made. Populations of scale insects have also been observed on some of the liriopie and monkey grass plants.

A new goal in the ground cover research effort is to conduct DNA fingerprinting on the liriopie and monkey grass plants. This is important because of the general industry confusion and botanical classification disagreements concerning the genetic lineage of some of these varieties. For instance, one plant currently being evaluated is aztec grass. This variety is commonly sold in the nursery trade as a liriopie but LSU AgCenter studies have revealed it is more closely genetically related to monkey grass. For additional information on liriopie projects contact Ed Bush at 225/578-1044 or [ebush@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:ebush@agctr.lsu.edu). ❁



# Poinsettia Consumer Survey From 2000 - A Summary

LSU AgCenter Horticulturists Pat Branch and Jeff Kuehny

**T**he LSU AgCenter for the last seven years has conducted extensive evaluation of poinsettia cultivars. In 2000, a poinsettia consumer survey was conducted. Results are summarized here.

Customers visiting Baton Rouge, Louisiana area retail nurseries (Clegg's Nursery and Louisiana Nursery) during the second week of December 2000 rated poinsettia cultivars based on personal preferences for bract color. The 18 poinsettia cultivars in the study included 8 red, 4 pink, and 6 grouped in the novelty category. Two red cultivars were experimental and thus unnamed.

Individual nursery customers were asked to examine the plants and to rate each plant on a scale from 7=strongly like to 1=strongly dislike. Participants were also asked to provide information regarding poinsettia purchases in the previous year (1999) and to provide demographic information (age, gender, household size and income, and education). One hundred sixty-three people participated in the survey. Thirty-three percent chose not to provide any personal information. Of the 109 participants who did provide personal information, 76% were female and 24% were male. Age ranged from 16 to 81, with an average of 44.7 years. Years of formal education completed ranged from 10 to 21 years, with an average of 15.6 years. Number of people living in a household ranged from 1 to 6,

with an average of 2.8. The six categories for household income ranged from less than \$25,000 to \$95,000 or more in \$15,000 increments. The category with the greatest percentage of responses was greater than \$95,000 (35%), followed by \$70,000 to \$94,999 (20%) and \$55,000 to \$69,999 (19%). Median household income was \$70,000 to \$94,999.

Ninety percent of the 109 personal survey participants had purchased a poinsettia in 1999. The number purchased ranged from 1 to 30, with an average of 5 purchases per participant.

Ninety-six percent had purchased a red poinsettia, 29% had purchased a white poinsettia, 30% had purchased a pink poinsettia, and 13% had purchased colors other than red, pink, or white. Forty-seven percent had purchased red poinsettias only.

**'Freedom Red' received the highest rating (6.0 on a 7.0 scale), regardless of bract color. It was rated good (5.0, 6.0) or excellent (7.0) by 85% of the participants.**

'Freedom Red' received the highest rating (6.0 on a 7.0 scale), regardless of bract color. It was rated good (5.0, 6.0) or excellent (7.0) by 85% of the participants. Eight of the 11 cultivars rated good or excellent were red. The three exceptions were 'Pepride Marble', a bicolored cultivar, rated good or excellent by 75% of the participants, 'Festival Rose', rated good or excellent by 72%, and 'Plum Pudding', a light purple cultivar, rated good or excellent by 66% of the participants. 'Freedom

*continued on page 13*

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## Greenhouse Grower

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Pink' and 'Lemon Snow' were the lowest rated of all cultivars.

Survey poinsettias were grouped by bract color to determine consumer preferences among red, pink, and novelty cultivars. 'Freedom Red' was the highest rated among red cultivars (Table 1). The next four cultivars received similar average ratings, and three of the four, numbered cultivars 920 and T-70-B and 'Red Angel', were rated good or excellent by a higher percentage of participants than 'Freedom Red'. 'Santa Claus Red' was also highly rated. The lowest rated red cultivars, 'Christmas Eve', 'Holly Point', and 'Christmas Bells', were rated good or excellent by more than 70% of the participants.

'Festival Rose' was the only pink cultivar rated 5.0 or higher and had the greatest percentage of participants rating it good or excellent compared to the other 3 pink cultivars (Table 2). The average ratings of 'Freedom Pink', 'Santa Claus Pink', and 'Freedom Salmon' ranged from 4.2 to 4.8. 'Pepride Marble' and 'Plum Pudding' were the highest rated novelty cultivars (Table 3), each with a 5.3 average rating, although 'Pepride Marble' was rated good or excellent by a greater percentage of participants than 'Plum Pudding'. 'Jester', 'Winter Rose Pink', 'Cortez Marble' and 'Lemon Snow' were all rated similarly lower than other novelty cultivars.

A comparison of poinsettia buyers with non-poinsettia buyers revealed that poinsettia buyers had a higher household income (\$70,000) than non-buyers (\$55,000), and were older (average age 50) than non-buyers (average age 40). There were no differences in gender, educational level, or household size.

There were no demographic differences between people who reported buying only red poinsettias and those who had bought both red and non-red poinset-

tias. Those who bought both red and non-red did purchase an average of 1 more poinsettia (4.9) than those who bought only red (3.9). Five percent reported buying only non-red poinsettias, all female, with 2.4 more years of education than the average and higher household income (\$95,000).

In a comparison by gender there were no demographic differences. However, there were differences in poinsettia colors purchased. Forty-five percent of women purchased only red poinsettias, while 57% of men purchased red only.

This consumer survey was limited to outlets of two retail nurseries and may or may not be representative of consumer preferences in a broader market that includes florists, mass market retailers, and food markets. It was based upon a survey conducted in Columbus, Ohio, considered to have a population representative of a typical American city, in 1995. Baton Rouge is a smaller city, located in the Gulf South. The Ohio study was conducted in the Franklin Park Conservatory, a public garden, where visitors were asked to rate 47 poinsettia cultivars. There were only 18 cultivars in our survey.

Our results were consistent with the Ohio study in that poinsettias with red bract color were most preferred. However, we did have a higher percentage of consumers indicate that they had purchased non-red poinsettias in the previous year. More than half of our participants had purchased at least one non-red cultivar. The percentages for purchases of pink or white bract cultivars were double and triple those reported in Ohio. This may indicate that there is an opening for a marketing approach that emphasizes poinsettia colors other than red. ❁

*Thanks to Bridget K. Behe, Michigan State University, for supplying the survey form, and to Clegg's Nursery and Louisiana Nursery for participating in the survey. Thanks also to Fafard, Inc. for supplying the growing medium.*

*Source Companies: Fischer U.S.A., Oglevee, Paul Ecke Ranch, Selecta by Horticulture Marketing Associates*

## Dixie Hollies


**A** new group of hollies available in the south east over the last couple of years have been the Dixie Hollies. These were developed by Cecil Pounders and are being grown and marketed by Plant Development Services Incorporated in Loxley, AL. These hollies were developed to combine the environmental tolerance of *Ilex opaca* with the texture characteristics of *Ilex cassine*. Other desirable traits include uniform symmetrical growth during production, durability and reduced maintenance in the landscape, annual berry production, and hardiness through USDA Zone 6.

Dixie Dream was primarily selected for its unique

growth characteristics. It has fine textured olive green foliage on cascading branches. The variety's densely branched structure and pyramidal shape are perfectly suited to application as a specimen or planting in mass as a unique screen.

Dixie Flame's name derives from the variety's ability to display large crops of vibrant red fruit during the late fall and winter. Leaves are more elongated than the other two varieties and foliage color is outstanding even when the plant is carrying a heavy fruit crop. The growth habit is upright while the crown is more open to better display the fruit. Mature height is 15 feet with a 6-8 foot spread.

Dixie Star is distinguished from the other selections by its distinct lustrous green leaves and compact erect narrow symmetrical crown without extensive shearing. Fruit production is adequate but outstanding foliage is the primary landscape feature for this variety. It is ideally suited to corner and door plantings where a vertical profile is desired without excessive growth. \*



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### Gulf States Horticultural Expo

**Arthur Outlaw Convention Center, Mobile, AL**  
Educational Seminars - Thursday January 24<sup>th</sup>  
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## Daylily Rust

In Summer 2000 daylily rust, *Puccinia hemerocallidis*, was found in the U.S. for the first time on daylilies in Georgia and Florida. Although management practices were employed, the rust has been found in other southeastern states, including Louisiana. Recent questions have arisen regarding the LDAF policy for handling daylily rust when found in wholesale and retail nursery growers and dealers. This fungal disease poses a difficult regulatory problem because it is not officially quarantined — and may never be, because rust spores are impossible to contain and current fungicide treatments are not terribly effective. LDAF can offer the following guidelines, obtained from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and from ongoing research at the University of Georgia (UG).

1. Infested plants should be cut back to an inch or less and treated repeatedly with labeled fungicides. Carefully remove and destroy foliage from infested plants and from other plants in that block or bed if suspect. Fungicides recommended by FDACS are Systhane, Banner Maxx, Contrast and Heritage (all systemic). Others under consideration at UG include Strike (systemic) and Daconil and Dithane (protectant/contact). Most broad spectrum contact and systemic fungicides may be somewhat effective and may be useful in combination. However, experience has shown that effectiveness is limited.

2. Growers should make note of varieties showing symptoms because these varieties may be susceptible. The rust has been found to attack daylily varieties 'Pardon Me', 'Colonel Scarborough', 'Quannah', 'Gertrude Condon', 'Starstruck', 'Stella

D'Oro', 'JoanSenior', 'Crystal Tide', 'Imperial Guard', 'Double Buttercup' and others. Over time, it may be necessary to discontinue the growing of susceptible varieties because they may perpetuate rust problems. Infection occurs two to three days after leaf inoculation. The disease spreads quickly in nurseries and may kill the foliage. All known infections have been on the foliage. It is unclear whether tubers are infected. Research is continuing on this issue.

3. This rust is not a quarantined pest; however, LDAF considers it a quality pest and as such it is treated as any other quality pest is treated. If present on

daylilies, the infested plants will be held from sale with the recommendation to cut the plants back and treat them (as described above). If regrowth is free from rust, the plants may be sold. Keep in mind, however, that apparent absence of active rust on regrowth does not guarantee that the plants are totally

free from rust. If regrowth is not free from rust, the plants will be held with the recommendation to cut back regrowth and treat again. Plants with active symptoms will be held from sale.

Finally, know your source. Be wary of purchasing plants from infested sources or areas and use good judgement when selecting sources and varieties. If your current stock is rust-free, consider delaying purchases that might increase infestation risk. For more information, see the USDA daylily rust website at [www.aphis.usda.gov/npb/daylily.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/npb/daylily.html). A search on 'daylily' may also provide additional web sites. ❁

**Be wary of purchasing plants from infested sources or areas and use good judgement when selecting sources and varieties.**

# New Bedding Plants for 2002

by LSU AgCenter Horticulturist Allen Owings

Listed below are new flower/bedding plant cultivars available for 2002. The majority of the information is provided by the National Garden Bureau and seed companies introducing the particular cultivars. LSU AgCenter evaluations have been conducted on some of the cultivars—comments are noted.

## *Abutilon F1 'Bella Red'*

Exceptionally floriferous and compact delivering great branching. Perfect for in garden containers or as an indoor houseplant. Also new: Coral, Apricot Shades, and Salmon Shades.

## *Ageratum 'Leilani Blue'*

The 14-16 inch height and clusters of blue flowers stand out, creating a soft pillow of blue for the background of your garden bed or centerpiece for your container. Full sun or partial shade.

## *Alonsoa 'Rebel'* *(Mask Flower)*

Herbaceous annual with bright scarlet asymmetrical flowers on reddish, four-angled 15-19 inch stems. Ideal for direct sowing.

## *Aquilegia F1 'Spring Magic Mix'*

This beautiful new mid height 14 inch Aquilegia is very uniform and well branched. Prolific bloomer with colorful 2-inch flowers and beautiful rounded plant habit. New series of 5 colors.



## *Asclepias 'Garden Leader Scarlet'*

Only clean rubbed seed from very vigorous and large flowered plants go into this series. Prefers a warm, sunny, well-drained location. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Cut flower or patio plant.

## *Begonia F1 'Dragon Wing Pink'*

Outstanding heat tolerance and lush growth. Exceptional branching, vigor and flower power. Large pendulous flowers combine with glossy green leaves in a showy display.

## *Begonia F1 'Fortune Golden Shades'*

Uniformity, a well-branched, compact habit and its prolific blooming make Fortune the choice tuber-

ous begonia. Series of 12 colors plus a mix including new Apricot-Orange.

## *Begonia F1 'Queen Pink'*

The first seed-produced double flowering begonia series having consistently double blooms. Rose-like flowers are fully double. Performs well in all weather extremes with superior vigor and spreading habit in the garden and hanging baskets.

## *California Poppy 'Milkmaid'*

Pretty creamy-white, fluted blooms and 'ferny' blue-green foliage. Easy to grow, they are delightful in the border or used in tubs and window boxes. This dainty annual will reach 8-10 inches in height.

## *Canna 'Tropical Salmon'*

The Tropical series is grown from seed and are extra dwarf, growing only 24-30 inches. Expect flowers 85-120 days after sowing in spring. Excellent for the garden and in pots.

## *Cleome F1 'Sparkler Blush' — AAS Flower Winner*

This first F1 hybrid Cleome has pastel pink blooms covering full, bushy, upright 3 foot tall plants.

*continued on page 17*



## Bedding Plants

*continued from page 16*

### *Cuphea 'Summer Medley'*

An unusual addition to pots and tubs, these weather tolerant plants produce masses of flowers in an attractive array of pretty colors, from pale pink to scarlet with shades in between. Equally stunning in beds and borders.

### *Delphinium 'Sky Lights Mix'*

Compact bushy plants, covered with large spurred flowers. Well-balanced mixture of Deep Blue, Light Blue and White. First year flowering perennial, spectacular in the second and later seasons for its flower abundance.

### *Dianthus 'Heritage White'*

Extra early bedding plant, knee-high cut flower, excellent garden performance. Does not require low temperatures to initiate flowers. Heritage series has 3 additional colors.

### *Gazania 'Gazoo Clear Vanilla'*

Gazoos offer extra-large flowers and unique, non-striped colors. Extra-large blooms and vigorous plant habit are ideal for landscape use or larger containers. New series of 6 colors and a mix.

### *Gazania 'Kiss Mix'*

Large 4 inch brightly colored daisy flowers bloom atop a mounded controlled plant habit. Tender perennials ideal for containers, garden beds, borders, or ground cover. New seven colors and mix.

### *Gazania rigens 'Talent Orange'*

Large 3 inch flowers against a background of striking silver foliage. Use in bedding, containers, and especially in combination planters. Height 8 inches. Series offers 3 new colors.

### *Geranium F1 'Black Magic Rose'*

AAS Bedding Plant Winner  
Unique bicolor leaves; dark brown centers with green margins. Large rose umbels; free flowering plant. Height 10-14 inches, spread 14-18 inches.

### *Geranium 'Ringo 2000 Coral'*

Bright salmon-orange with deep green foliage. The earliest-flowering series on the market that still offers exceptional garden performance. Ringo Series includes 13 separate colors.

### *Gerbera F1 'Festival Neon Rose with Eye'*

Uniform plant habit and outstanding flower count. Festival series is offered in light-eyed, dark-eyed, semi-double, spider and mini varieties, superior selection of colors and mixes. Also new Cherry w/Eye, Peach w/Eye.

### *Impatiens 'Dazzler Blue Pearl'*

Compact, uniform habit generates masses of 1.5 inch rich bluish-lilac blooms on rich green foliage.

Thrives in landscapes and pots. All 22 color choices in series are well matched, coming into bloom together and flowering freely until frost.

### *Impatiens F1 'Fanciful Tropical Mix'*

All-new Fanciful series offers many bright, multi-petaled blooms. Terrific in mixed containers and in the garden. 10-12 inches tall and 14-16 inches across. Excellent branching and uniform habit. Colors: Coral, Orchid Rose, Red, and Salmon.

### *Impatiens 'Garden Leader Sun & Shade Lipstick'*

'Lipstick' is new for 2002, a new Sun & Shade addition - the most complete series available: 35 colors plus 12 designer mixes. Every variety and mixture is garden tested for superior outdoor performance.

### *Impatiens F1 'Tempo Cinnamon'*

Hot red color on compact plant habit. Tempo's still boast the largest flower. The series includes 29 colors and 8 mixes. Tempos continue to win over followers because of their excellent germination and improved compact plant habit.

### *Lobelia 'Aqua Lavender'*

New species for Takii. Nice compact plant habit. Stays as low as 4-6 inches in height. Excellent pot variety. Series also includes Blue w/Eye, Sky Blue and Violet.

*continued on page 18*

## Bedding Plants

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### *Ornamental Pepper F1 'Chilly Chili' — AAS Flower Winner*

The first non-pungent Ornamental Pepper with exceptional garden performance. Two inch-tapered peppers are yellow, orange and red upon maturity.

### *Pansy F1 'Ultima Morpho' — AAS Flower Winner*

Bicolor patterns of blue upper petals and bright yellow lower petals with whiskers. Excellent garden performance. Abundant 2.5 inch flowers on a compact plant.

### *Pansy F1 'Happy Face Purple Smile'*

The 'Happy Face' series has been dramatically improved for flowering under short days, while maintaining a fuller plant habit. Flower stems have been shortened. Garden height 4-6 inches.

### *Pansy F1 'Ultima Scarlet & Yellow'*

Deep scarlet upper petal and golden yellow lower petal with a deep scarlet ray. This unique color combination will brighten gardens planted to flower this fall or spring.

### *Penstemon 'Dwarf Navigator'*

One of the hardiest Penstemons available! Prominent spikes of trumpet flowers rise above the low mound of green foliage. Ideal for borders, wildflower gardens attracting hummingbirds.

### *Petunia 'Avalanche White, Lavender'*

Their spreading habit will fill a garden bed or make an excellent, long lasting container.

### *Petunia 'Double Madness Satin Pink'*

Outstanding double Floribunda Petunias are compact, floriferous plants delivering masses of 3 inch flowers all summer. Thriving in pots, baskets and landscapes, they bounce back within hours of a rain-storm. Also new: Sheer and Pink.

### *Petunia F1 'Explorer Rose Pink'*

Among earliest to flower in spring, continuing to flower under short fall days. Tremendous flower power and quick recovery after a storm. Series colors include white, coral and lavender.

### *Petunia 'Frillytunia Rose'*

Early grandiflora petunia with stunning, large ruffled flowers. Compact and uniform habit, mid-green leaves, earliness to flower, and an outstanding display of bright rose, ruffled flowers.

### *Petunia F1 'Lavender Wave' — AAS Flower Winner*

Large two-inch rich, deep lavender blooms on ground-hugging 5-7 inch tall plants spread up to 4 feet. Exceptional garden and container performance. Blooms freely all season, tolerates heat and cold conditions.

### *Petunia F1 'Tidal Wave Silver' — AAS Flower Winner*

Distinct bicolor flower; silvery white with dark purple center. Plant height depends upon plant spacing, attaining 2-3 feet if spaced 6 inches. Hedgiflora type.

### *Petunia 'Ramblin Peach Glow'*

This new Petunia series offers a fascinating crawling habit. Grows 8-10 inches high and crawls 2-3 feet! Best grown in full sun or partial shade. Try in containers, window boxes or hanging baskets. New series is available in 4 colors.

### *Ranunculus 'Bloomingdale Series'*

Dwarf plants 8-10 inches tall with very small foliage. Large 3-inch diameter full double flowers are borne on short, sturdy stems. New colors are Rose Pink Bicolor Shades, Blue Bicolor Shades, and Orange Bicolor Shades.

### *Rudbeckia 'Cherokee Sunset'*

AAS Flower Winner  
Double and semi-double blooms in sunset colors; bronze, mahogany, golden yellow, orange. Mature plants are 24-30 inches tall.

### *Salvia 'Marble Arch Mix'*

Produces a robust floral display of rose pink, deep blue and white.

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## Bedding Plants

*continued from page 18*

These impressive floral spikes provide color from July to end of August. Classified as an annual, these plants will go to seed to produce the following year.

### *Salvia 'Sahara'*

Compact plant with vivid red flower spikes over dark green foliage. Sahara gives a striking color impact in the garden all season. Bred particularly for improved heat tolerance.

### *Scabiosa (S. columbaria) 'Nana'*

Compact and long flowering Scabiosa. This fully first year flowering perennial produces many blue violet flowers from summer till frost. Border and landscape plant.

### *Scabiosa 'Salmon Pink'*

An old fashioned favorite, producing flat quilled flowers ideal for cutting, perfect for attracting butterflies. Landscape uses include borders and massing, but ideally these plants provide color to any part of your garden.

### *Snapdragon 'Crown Red'*

Crown Snapdragons are semi-dwarf with lots of secondary branching for the most color on a full plant. Up to 10 days earlier, they combine easy growth with outstanding garden performance. Additional new color is Crown Yellow.

### *Snapdragon F1 'Solstice Mix'*

Winter-flowering knee-high Snaps

flower 30-60 days earlier under short days than other intermediate winter flowering varieties. Great home garden cutflower growing 16-20 inches. Colors: Burgundy, Orange Tricolor, Pink, Purple & Yellow.

### *Stock 'Vintage Antique Mix'*

Copper, Peach and Yellow mix provides an unusual and striking display. Excellent garden performance. Prefers cool growing conditions. Early to flower, 15-20 inches high.

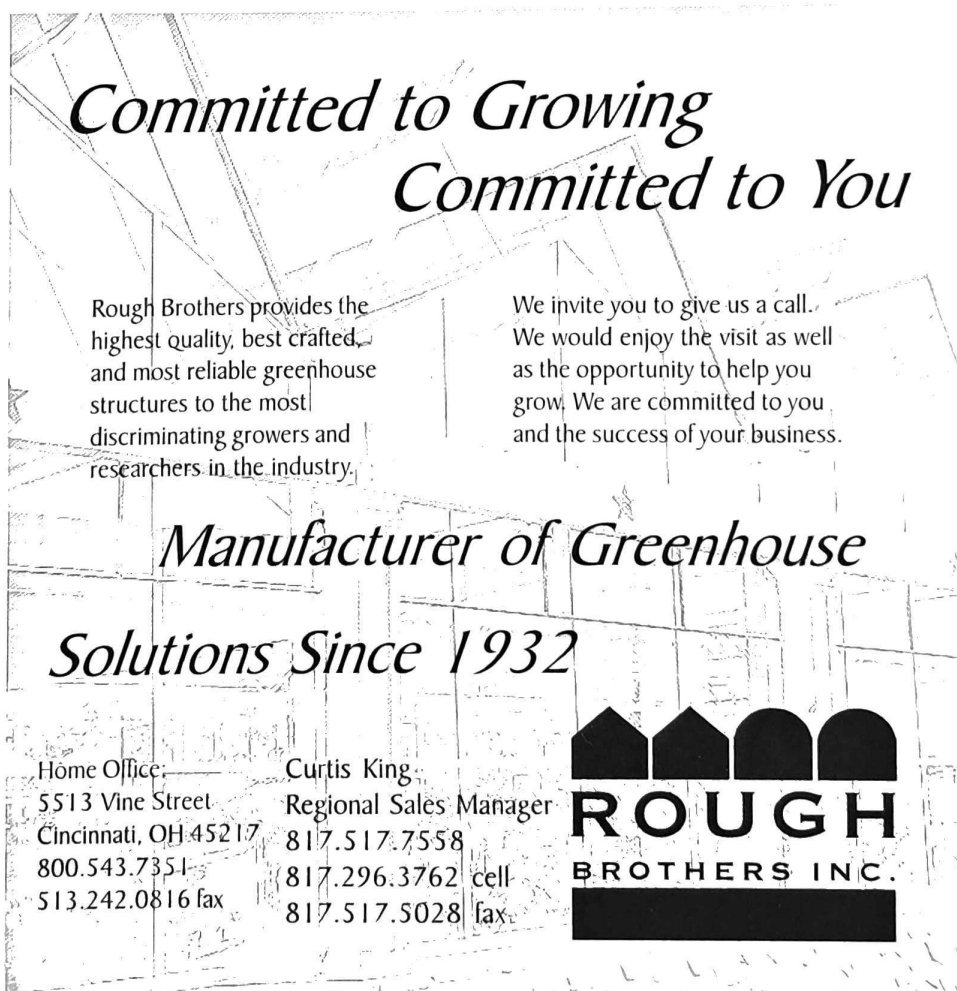
### *Sunflower F1 'Double Dandy'*

First ever dwarf, double-flowered red Sunflower. Well-branched habit reaches only 1.5-3 feet tall with 4-5 inch velvety wine red blooms. Great companion to Burpee's dwarf 'Elf' Sunflower.

### *Sweet Pea 'April in Paris'*

The perfect match of fragrance, form and color. Large wavy blossoms are

*continued on page 21*



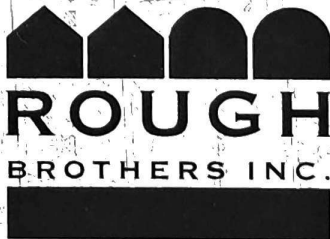
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## Bedding Plants

*continued from page 18*

soft primrose cream with a lilac edge that deepens and increases with age. Brings intense scent into exhibition blossoms - long-stemmed, vigorous and prolific.

### *Vinca 'First Kiss Ruby'*

An especially unique color with beautiful wine red blooms. The new 'First Kiss' series offers 7 colors and a mix. Flowers early and uniformly with large round blooms that have wide, overlapping petals. Excellent basal branching and superb garden performance.

### *Vinca 'Garden Leader Cascade Beauty Salmon, Rose Eye, Purple'*

This new and exclusive Vinca grows in the toughest climate, thriving in heat and drought. Full sun loving. Trailing mounds with overlapping petal flower form are 6 inches high and spread to 18 inches.

### *Vinca 'Jaio Scarlet Eye' — AAS Bedding Plant Winner*

Rose-scarlet blooms with a small white eye on uniform 12-inch tall plants that proved exceptional garden performance and flower production all season.

### *Viola 'Cottage Mix'*

An ultra-mini Viola with a very neat mounded habit which perfectly displays the tiny flowers which are produced in abundance. 'Cottage' is available in three subtle pastel shades to give an old-fashioned 'Cottage Garden' look.

### *Viola F1 'Sorbet Series'*

Early and uniform, excellent vigor, remains compact, exceptional over-wintering. New 'Black Duet' has black upper petals with deep lavender on sides and bottom of each bloom. The petite 'Babyface White' has a dark purple-blue center. ❁

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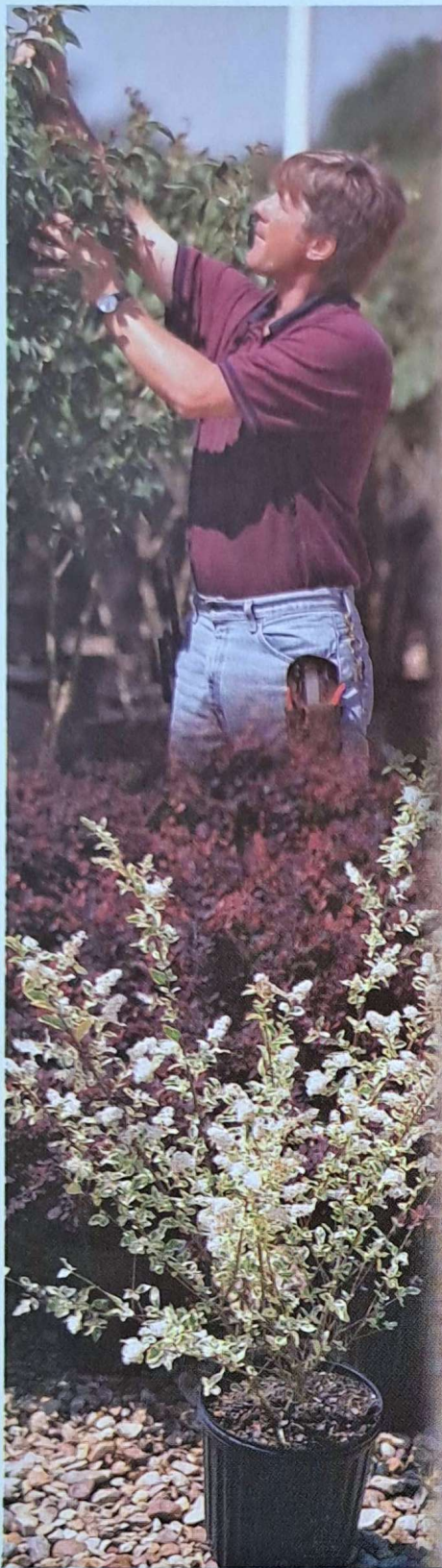
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