



LOUISIANA

NURSERY & LANDSCAPE NEWSLETTER



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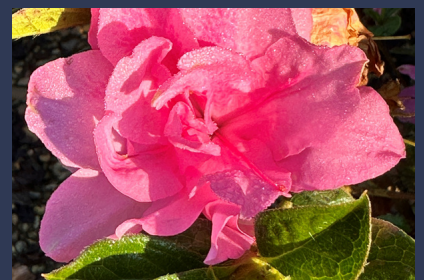
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LNLA 2026

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LOUISIANA

NURSERY & LANDSCAPE NEWSLETTER

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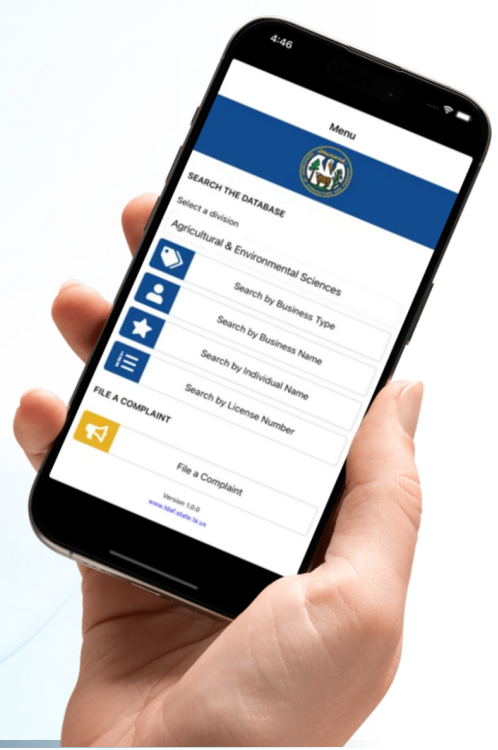


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The app allows users to verify a horticulture license or permit of a business and file a complaint. The mobile app is available for both Apple and Android users. Download it at the iTunes and Google Play stores.





A WORD FROM OUR

President

Hello Members,

I don't know about anybody else, but it feels like this year has went by extremely quickly. It feels as though it was just yesterday we were at the Gulf States Show, yet here we are in the full Louisiana heat of August. I hope that everyone is having a productive summer; it started off wet, a little too wet for most of us. This additional precipitation, I know, has caused a rise in problems with disease and insects. Raining every day rendered us unable to spray, which is our primary way to guard against and fight those insects and diseases. Now, we find ourselves in the hot, dry part of the summer, which in itself has its own set of problems. There is never a dull moment in the green industry.

We had our summer board meeting on June 18th, and it was officially voted to form a LNLA PAC. Lisa Loup will be the president of the PAC, and she is working on getting a board put together. The PAC will officially begin on January 1st, 2027. The PAC will become the advocating spearhead for the association, which will alleviate much of the burden of the legislative affairs from the LNLA. The addition of the LNLA PAC will hopefully allow us to focus more on education and networking aspects while not having to allocate so much time and energy into advocating. We are now trying to raise the bar for education, research, networking, and membership to at least an even level with advocacy. Many members have voiced their opinions, and as a result, we are attempting to increase attention, time, and effort to education and membership. Morgan has been working diligently on bringing in many new members and vendors, as well as trying to increase the amount of education seminars – like CNLP – that we offer.

I would personally like to thank everyone who attended and that gave money to the Gala in June. It is a wonderful event that helps to fund scholarships and research. It was a great turnout this year, and the money raised will aid in the future of our industry. Without the scholarships, the younger, upcoming generations will be less likely to pursue a career in the green industry. Additionally, the money that goes toward research helps to propel our industry forward with new/improved processes and techniques that are vital to growth.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members for being loyal and helpful for each and every person in our industry. Without you, we wouldn't have such a great association and family to help our industry thrive and grow. Everyone in our industry is important, and I wish everyone a successful end of the summer and fall.

Brandon Adams

OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life for people, conserve and protect the global environment, and promote the professionalism and profitability of the nursery and landscape industry in Louisiana.

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Manager's Message

Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association

Morgan M. Milling, Executive Director

As summer temperatures continue to rise across Louisiana, our landscapes and nursery stock feel the stress right alongside us. Prolonged heat, intense sun, and inconsistent rainfall can quickly take a toll on plants if they are not monitored carefully. This is the time to stay proactive by watering deeply and early, checking containers and newly installed material frequently, applying mulch to help retain moisture, and watching closely for signs of heat stress. With thoughtful maintenance and attention, we can help plants remain healthy and resilient through the toughest part of the season.

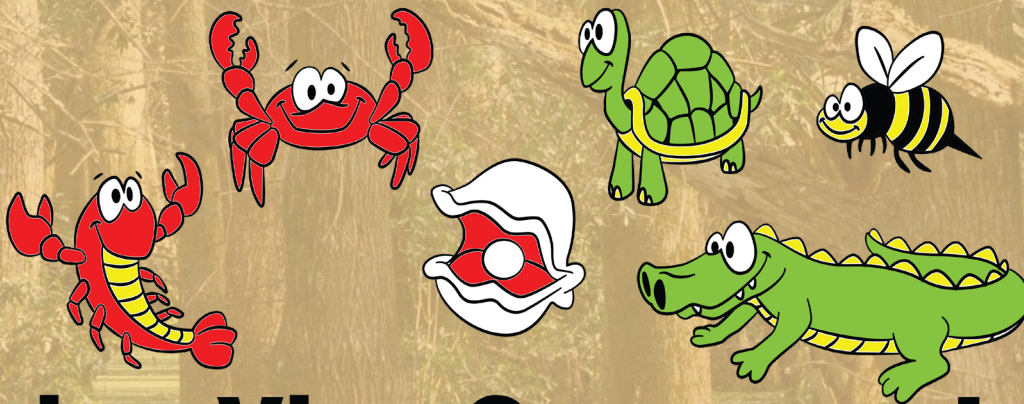
We also want to take a moment to reflect on a wonderful evening at the LNLFSR Gala 16, held at the Covington Country Club in Covington, Louisiana. The event was well attended, beautifully hosted, and a tremendous success. It was an evening filled with fellowship, generosity, and strong support for the future of our industry.

On behalf of LNLA and the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research, we extend our sincere thanks to all of the donors and members who attended the Gala. Your generosity and participation made the evening truly special. Without the support of the Gala, our scholarships would not be possible, and we are deeply grateful for your continued commitment to investing in students and the future of Louisiana horticulture.

Thank you for supporting LNLA, LNLFSR, and the important work being done to strengthen our industry. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to serve our members across Louisiana.



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Chadscape & Sprout Savvy Redefine the Garden Center Experience

In an era when many garden centers focus on selling plants, Chadscape Horticultural Services & Sprout Savvy Garden Coaching is creating something entirely different—a destination where inspiration, education, and exceptional customer service come together.

What truly will distinguish Chadscape is its commitment to creating an experience rather than simply operating a retail garden center. Guests will wander through beautifully designed displays and gather ideas for their own outdoor spaces while enjoying an atmosphere filled with music, vibrant landscaping, and inviting gathering areas. Every corner will be intentionally designed to inspire creativity and celebrate the beauty of gardening. By bringing together exceptional products, hands-on education, and an unforgettable customer experience, Chadscape is redefining the garden center experience and establishing itself as Southwest Louisiana's premier nursery destination.

Thoughtfully curated displays will showcase premium plants, outdoor living features, and professionally designed landscapes that spark creativity at every turn. Chadscape will serve both homeowners and landscape professionals with an unmatched selection of products and expert guidance. The nursery will feature premium trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, tropicals, and exclusive plant varieties selected for success in Southwest Louisiana's unique climate. The expansive stone yard and premium bulk materials center will offer Southwest Louisiana's most comprehensive selection of natural stone, decorative rock, mulch, soils, and landscape materials for projects of every scale.

Founder, Chad Everage, is one of the area's most respected horticulture and landscaping professionals, recognized for his expertise, leadership, and passion for creating exceptional outdoor spaces. Throughout his career, he has helped homeowners, businesses,

and communities design landscapes that are both beautiful and sustainable. Early in his career, Chad helped establish Magnolia Nursery, where he played a key role in its growth and success. He later served as the Retail Sales Manager and Buyer for Landscape Management, further expanding his expertise in plant procurement, retail operations, merchandising, and customer service.

Widely respected across Louisiana's green industry, Chad brings extensive knowledge in landscape design, plant health, irrigation, installation, horticultural management, and retail nursery operations. His practical approach blends decades of hands-on experience with a deep understanding of the Gulf Coast's unique climate and growing conditions.

Chad's leadership extends well beyond his own business. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association (LNLA), he has played an active role in advancing professionalism, continuing education, and industry excellence across the state.

Complementing Chad's landscape expertise is Lori Richard, owner of Sprout Savvy Garden Coaching, whose passion is helping people discover the joy and confidence that comes from growing their own food. Lori believes gardening should be approachable,



rewarding, and accessible to everyone—from first-time gardeners planting their very first tomato to experienced growers looking to maximize their harvests. Through Sprout Savvy, she provides personalized coaching and classes, educational workshops, practical growing strategies, and hands-on guidance tailored to the growing conditions of Southwest Louisiana. Known for her encouraging teaching style and practical advice, Lori has become a trusted resource for gardeners seeking the knowledge and confidence to grow successfully.

With a shared commitment to quality, education, and innovation, Chadscape and Sprout Savvy is growing a destination where every customer leaves inspired to create something beautiful.

Chad Everage & Lori Richard



LNLA Healthcare & Benefits Program Freedom to Grow

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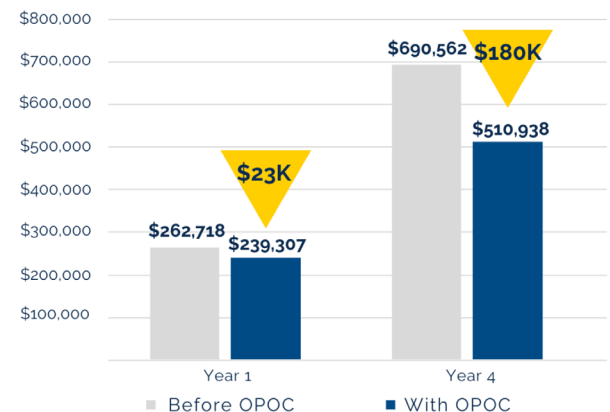
Why LNLA Partners with OPOC.us

-  **Tailored Plans for Members:** We design benefit programs that align with the unique needs of your member organizations. No cookie-cutter plans.
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OPOC delivers real, tangible results. They reduce costs, improve benefits, and put controls in place to manage future costs.
– Morgan Milling, Executive Director, LNLA

Case in Point: Assn. Member Story

A member of a southern based trade association began working through the Healthcare & Benefits Program offered by their association. They saw immediate value in the custom-branded CARE Center, and reduced their expenses by \$23,000 in their first year. By year four, the group had experienced close to a \$180k reduction of cost, while improving their offering.



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LNLA...REMEMBERING WHEN

We hope everyone enjoyed the "LNLA Remember When" column in the last issue. We provided some memories of the LAN, LAN/MNA trade shows and the beginning of the Gulf States Horticultural Expo. We also mentioned LNLA being 72 years old and reminisced about the past executive secretaries of the association. This edition will focus on the history of LSU working with the nursery, landscape industry and the fond memories of our LAN/LNLA birthday celebrations.

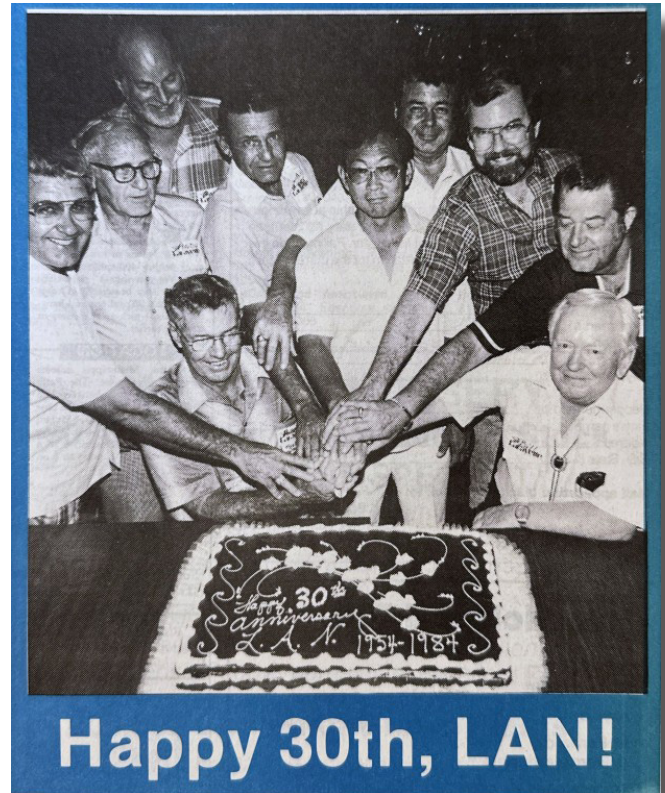
As all of you may know or some of you may need to be reminded, LAN began in 1954 at a meeting in Lafayette, LA. We have had a strong tradition of birthday celebrations.

Who remembers the LAN 30th birthday party..... the event was held at A and B Henderson's BBQ and Crawfish Kitchen on September 15, 1984. Over 200 individuals attended. Dr. Foret was recognized for his many years of service as secretary and A.B. Henderson was recognized for his service as the last president of the Louisiana State Horticulture Society's nursery group and the first president of LAN.

Who remembers the LAN 40th birthday party.....Gator Cove in Lafayette was the site of the 40th celebration on May 14, 1994. LAN held a board meeting in the early afternoon, then we transitioned to a nice evening of socializing.

Who remember the LNLA 50th birthday party.....this was held at Burden Research Center in Baton Rouge. We recognized 50 year members and living past presidents.

Who remembers the LNLA 60th birthday party.... we enjoyed a social at the ULL Ira Nelson Horticulture Center



in Lafayette in September 2014 for our 60th birthday celebration. About 75 folks attended. Everyone enjoyed memories of the good days and shared jambalaya, birthday cake and liquid refreshments from a pirogue.

Who remembers the LNLA 70th birthday party....just 2 years ago on September 6, 2024 at Gerald Foret Wholesale Nursery, New Iberia. Reflections were provided by Allen Owings and Severn Doughty. Severn gave recollections from Walter Imahara, our oldest living LNLA member. A great time was had by all.

The Beginnings of LSU Work with the Nursery Industry

Dr. James Foret, agriculture professor at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette was the long time first executive secretary of LAN. He served from 1954-1986. The administration at ULL allowed Dr. Foret to spend 30% of his time working with the advancing nursery crop production industry in the state. While this was not an official extension service appointment (that is reserved for land grant universities, in the case of Louisiana that would be LSU), Dr. Foret regularly worked with nursery growers in Acadiana, Forest Hill and SE Louisiana during that 30+ year timeline. Dr. Foret was compensated \$300 monthly from LAN for his service as secretary.

In the early 1980's, Dr. Foret would accept some additional responsibilities at ULL and horticulture professor Dr. Warren Meadows at the LSU AgCenter's Burden Research Plantation in Baton Rouge was officially given a statewide extension service appointment to work with the nursery industry. This announcement was made to LAN members and the nursery industry in January 1980 and was the first time that a LSU faculty member had been designated to work with the state's nursery industry.

While nursery crop research had just begun at the Burden facility, other research benefiting the nursery industry had already been conducted from the 1960s to this time at the Truck Crops Research



Growing Louisiana Through Legislative Leadership

A Six-Year Recap of the LNLA Legislative Committee's Accomplishments

*Protecting Our Industry. Advocating for Our Members.
Shaping Louisiana's Future.*



Since its formation in 2021, the *Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association (LNLA) Legislative Committee* has become a trusted voice for Louisiana's green industry. What began as a response to legislative challenges has evolved into a proactive effort to protect businesses, strengthen our profession, and promote the long-term success of Louisiana horticulture.



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The committee was established following legislative efforts that impacted landscape contractor licensing related to sod installation. Although legislation was ultimately passed allowing utility contractors to replace sod in construction zones—removing important licensing oversight and limiting consumer protections—the experience underscored the importance of maintaining a strong legislative presence for our industry.

Recognizing this need, the LNLA Board of Directors officially created the Legislative Committee in 2021.



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1



PROTECTING PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

The Legislative Committee has successfully defended Louisiana's professional licensing standards against multiple attempts to weaken statewide occupational licensing requirements.

A significant victory came in 2024, when the horticulture industry remained one of only a select few professions—including doctors and attorneys—to be exempt from legislation that reduced licensing requirements, preserving the integrity and professionalism of our industry.

2



PROTECTING POWER EQUIPMENT

LNLA played an integral role in passing legislation protecting the continued use of power equipment and fossil fuel engines, helping prevent restrictive regulations that have emerged in other parts of the country.

This achievement benefits not only nursery and landscape professionals but the entire agricultural community throughout Louisiana.

3



PROTECTING LOUISIANA'S WATER SUPPLY

In 2025, the Legislative Committee successfully helped defeat legislation that would have imposed unnecessary regulation on Louisiana's water supply.

This was especially important for nursery stock growers, whose businesses rely heavily on dependable water resources. LNLA continues to monitor this issue closely to safeguard our members' interests.

4



DEMONSTRATING OUR ECONOMIC IMPACT

Working alongside the LSU AgCenter, LNLA commissioned an economic impact study that confirmed:



\$4 BILLION

Annual Economic Impact

50,000+ JOBS

Supported Across Louisiana

This groundbreaking data has significantly increased legislative awareness of the nursery and landscape industry's importance to Louisiana's economy and has strengthened LNLA's advocacy efforts.



LOOKING AHEAD



LEGISLATIVE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

To strengthen our advocacy efforts, LNLA has established a Legislative Political Action Committee (PAC), providing additional opportunities to support leaders who understand the importance of Louisiana's green industry.



SUPPORTING THE HAMMOND RESEARCH STATION

LNLA is committed to partnering with the LSU AgCenter to ensure the Hammond Research Station remains a premier center for horticultural research, innovation, and education for generations to come.



OUR MISSION CONTINUES



Protecting our profession



Defending our members' interests



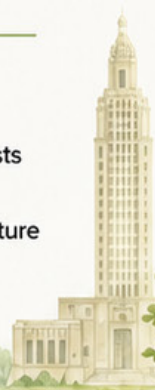
Strengthening Louisiana agriculture



Promoting sound public policy



Growing the future of
Louisiana's Green Industry





Nursery field day in Baton Rouge

The first official gathering in the brand-new Burden Conference Center (left) was the October 13 meeting of the LAN Board of Directors and the annual LSU Nursery Research Field Day.

The field day itself highlighted six different horticultural research projects, including dibble application of fertilizers, weed control measures, off-season flowering plants, and plant tissue culture micropropagation.

The Burden Research Plantation hosted the meeting, which concluded with a cochon de lait supper prepared by "Doc" Dauterive of Breaux Bridge.

Station (now referred to as the Hammond Research Station) in Hammond. Research work for the ornamental industry at Hammond had been conducted over this time period by Bunnie Wascom, Ben Williams, Hody Wilson and Larry Brown.

Dr. Meadows' turfgrass and pecan extension responsibilities were transferred to other faculty members, a research associate was hired to work with Dr. Meadows, and a new greenhouse and lab building was built at the Burden property. Initial work in terms of research (Dr. Meadows had a nursery crop extension and research appointment) included container production evaluation looking at fertilizers and weed control. Dr. Meadows also oversaw several years of garden mum trials and also initiated the moving of the LSU rose garden from the Hill Farm Teaching Facility on the LSU campus to the Burden property on Essen Lane. Poinsettia and florist chrysanthemum research was also conducted. Dr. Meadows also worked with other faculty members to build turfgrass research plots at Burden.

Dr. Meadows coordinated the educational programs at the newly created LAN/MNA joint educational short course and trade show each January and worked with Walter Imahara, Imahara's Garden Center in Baton Rouge, on the trade show. He also regularly met with individuals working on getting into the nursery industry. Many folks

know that Dr. Meadows was the brother of Syndey Meadows, longtime general manager at Flowerwood Nursery in Alabama. Contemplating retirement at some time in the short term future, Dr. Meadows stepped down as secretary in January 1994 and I accepted the position as executive secretary.

What about field days for the nursery industry. The first field day at Burden that LSU held for the nursery industry was in 1981. This would become an annual event that alternated between the Burden facility in Baton Rouge and the research station in Hammond. These field days lasted from the 1980 in Hammond to 1993 in Baton Rouge. Field days had been held prior to this time at the Hammond facility but we have no detailed records of dates, etc. Unfortunately, the work for the ornamental horticulture industry at Hammond was discontinued with Dr. Larry Brown's retirement in 1994 (thankfully much needed landscape horticulture and ornamental horticulture industry research and extension efforts would begin again at Hammond in 2005/2006 under the leadership of Dr. Regina Bracy when she became station director there). During these field days, LAN held a board meeting in the AM and the field day was in the PM. The event was traditionally held in October. Attendance ranged from 80 to 600 (yes, 600, wow).

GUIDE TO YOUR LNLA MEMBER BENEFITS



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A Home Care policy can allow you to choose where you recover and offset the costs of care not covered by traditional health care. The choice of your home, assisted living facility, or the nursing home should be yours.



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Benefits paid directly to you. You select the benefit level that best suits your needs.



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A supplemental hospital indemnity insurance policy could be a smart financial decision for other hospital expenses including extended hospital stays, emergency room visits, ambulance transportation and more.



Long-Term Care

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Medicare Supplement plans not only help pay for additional eligible expenses not paid by Original Medicare, they provide the freedom for you to use your own physician, specialist, and medical facility. Not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Federal Medicare Program.



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BENEFITS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH



Some benefits not available in all states. Association membership required to obtain benefits. Some associations have made a special benefits website available to their members. Register at myAMBAbenefits.info.

Updated 04/2026

Volume 95

DISEASES IMPACTING SOUTHERN WOODY ORNAMENTAL GROWERS: BOXWOOD DIEBACK AND PHYTOPHTHORA ROOT AND CROWN ROT

By Max Gilley, Technical Sales Representative- BioSafe Systems

The signs of summer are starting to show...warming temperatures, climbing humidity, and frequent rainfall...all ideal conditions for disease development in southern ornamental production systems. Two diseases that continue to impact nursery and landscape growers are boxwood dieback and Phytophthora root and crown rot.

Boxwood Dieback



Boxwood dieback is caused by the fungal pathogen *Colletotrichum theobromicola* and was first identified in Louisiana in 2015. The disease primarily affects boxwood cultivars, with English, Japanese, and Korean boxwoods all considered highly susceptible. With the availability of resistant cultivars leading to less incidence of boxwood blight, dieback has become the more prevalent disease of boxwoods in commercial nursery production.

Symptoms include random twig dieback with light tan foliage that remains attached to branches. Infected plants often have healthy-looking roots and crowns, helping distinguish the disease from root rot problems. A key identifying feature is bright black discoloration beneath the bark of infected stems and twigs. Leaf spots may also develop, appearing with light centers and dark brown margins.

Research suggests the pathogen is commonly introduced through infected liners and spreads through splashing water, contaminated pruning tools, and overhead irrigation. Because symptoms can resemble Volutella blight, boxwood blight, or Phytophthora root rot, laboratory confirmation is often necessary for accurate diagnosis.

Phytophthora Root and Crown Rot

Phytophthora root and crown rot is caused by soilborne *Phytophthora* species and affects a broad range of woody ornamentals commonly produced in the South, including boxwood, azalea, gardenia, camellia, and holly.

Unlike boxwood dieback, this disease attacks root systems and crown tissue. Early symptoms include yellowing foliage, reduced vigor, wilting, and canopy thinning. As the disease progresses, roots become dark and decayed, and crown tissue near the soil line develops brown to black discoloration.



Disease development is strongly associated with saturated soils and poor drainage. The pathogen spreads through contaminated soil, water movement, infected plant material, and irrigation runoff. Extended periods of rainfall and excessive irrigation often increase disease pressure in nursery production systems.



Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation

FOR SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



Multiple \$2,500 Scholarships Available!

Supporting the next generation of horticulture leaders in Louisiana.



WHO CAN APPLY?

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WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Strong academics (GPA + recommendation)
- Research & service to the industry (projects, internships, work)
- Leadership & community service (on campus & beyond)
- Clear career goals in horticulture



HOW TO APPLY

- Complete the LNLFSR Scholarship Application
- Include a 500-word essay: "Why I Deserve This Scholarship"
- Submit 2 letters of recommendation



QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS TO:

LNLFSR Scholarship Committee, Attn: Dr. Yan Chen
LSU AgCenter – School of Plant, Environment & Soil Sciences, 104 Sturgis Hall,
Baton Rouge, LA 70803



phone: 985-276-7786. **email:** yachen@agcenter.lsu.edu



Deadline: November 1, 2026

Similar, but Different

Although boxwood dieback and Phytophthora root and crown rot are caused by different pathogens, the diseases are often confused because both can produce canopy thinning, branch dieback, and overall plant decline. One major difference is that boxwood dieback primarily infects aboveground stem and foliage tissue, while Phytophthora infects roots and crown tissue below the soil line.

Despite these differences, both diseases are strongly influenced by irrigation practices, especially when irrigating in recycled systems. Overhead irrigation creates favorable conditions for disease development by increasing leaf wetness, splashing spores between plants, and prolonging moisture within dense canopies. In the case of Phytophthora, excessive moisture and standing water also promote movement of the pathogen through soil, runoff, and recycled irrigation water.

As more growers evaluate disease pressure within production systems, irrigation water is receiving greater attention as a potential source of pathogen spread. Recycled water, retention ponds, and irrigation systems can all contribute to movement of fungal and water mold pathogens throughout a nursery if not properly managed. Because of this, many operations are beginning to incorporate irrigation water treatment and sanitation strategies into their disease prevention programs.

In the next article, we will examine water treatment technologies currently being used in nursery production, including disinfection chemistries and irrigation sanitation strategies designed to help prevent disease and reduce pathogen spread through nurseries.



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NEW RESOURCES OF COMMUNITY AND COMMERCIAL PONDS



Blue-green algae is a planktonic alga that are stimulated by nutrients that run off from impervious surfaces or oversaturated yards.



Strips of grass and vegetation around ponds can help prevent litter from reaching the pond while also acting as reducing runoff nutrients.

Pond design, operation, and management is a critical aspect for many landscape professionals, homeowner associations, and industries across the state, with a variety of parameters and techniques to consider. Establishing the most impactful best management practices to increase pond water quality, prevent invasive species, and create a healthy ecosystem can be difficult without proper identification of root causes and persistent issues. The LSU Water Quality Extension Lab, in collaboration with a Louisiana Sea Grant specialist and extension agents, has created a factsheet series for Community and Commercial Stormwater Ponds with quick guides for targeted audiences and focused articles for pertinent issues as a resource for professionals. This series targets critical issues seen across the state and provides management and mitigation techniques for case-specific examples.

The first set of factsheets focuses on broader parameters affecting ponds and the mitigation techniques associated with these challenges. Major elements that are highlighted include: aquatic vegetation management, common impacts on water quality, water movement, parish governments, pond designs and function, and challenges and best management practices. For example, the aquatic vegetation resources provide indicators, problems, and management techniques for planktonic and filamentous algae, submerged, floating, invasive, and emergent plants. The information shows both the benefits

and negative impacts of the imbalance of vegetation in pond systems. Common impacts on water quality outline the parameters that cause problems in ponds, such as dissolved oxygen, nutrients, fecal coliforms, sediments, temperature, and anthropogenic compounds. It's important to understand what water quality parameters are important to maintain in ponds and how they affect the surrounding systems. This can also help target water movement strategies to increase the processing of nutrients or provide more dissolved oxygen to your pond systems. Ponds that are built as flow-through systems to mimic the natural movement of rain across developed landscapes can have issues if stagnant water becomes heated by the sun, reducing the solubility of oxygen in the water. Additionally, stratification of the water column can occur if the surface water is heated while deeper water remains cool. In either case, to stabilize nutrient conversion and maintain a healthy ecosystem, there may be a need to add mechanical aeration or circulation to ponds to increase oxygen levels and mixing. The water movement factsheet outlines types of circulation and benefits for pond systems. The parish government resource sets out to maximize the value of ponds established by parishes for flood control and water quality improvements. During the design phase of ponds, thorough analysis of secondary benefits can create community assets by enhancing property values, providing a wildlife refuge, improving aesthetics, and offering recreational or educational



MINI SKID STEER PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Information provided by Vermeer

Maintenance likely isn't a word that brightens your day. But, in order to keep your equipment running smoothly to maximize productivity, specifically mini skid steers, regular maintenance is key.

Keeping up with the maintenance can seem overwhelming, but knowing what upkeep to do when can help it be manageable over the long run. Whether it's daily, weekly, monthly or annually, here's a mini skid steer maintenance checklist to help keep you on track and on schedule. Refer to your machine's operators and maintenance manual for safety messages and further instructions.

DAILY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 10 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine (specifically the air intake and cooling areas)
- ☐ Check engine oil
- ☐ Check engine coolant level
- ☐ Fill fuel tanks
- ☐ Check hydraulic fluid
- ☐ Check air cleaner
- ☐ Grease machine (specifically the boom pivot and park brake)
- ☐ Check condition of tracks
- ☐ Check track tension

BI-WEEKLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 100 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
(specifically the fuel filter and the fan belt tightness)
- ☐ Maintain safety signs on the machine
- ☐ Check overall machine
- ☐ Check control joystick and levers
- ☐ Check neutral control positions
- ☐ Check neutral start interlocks
- ☐ Check operator presence system
- ☐ Check hydraulic system
(and relieve the system hydraulic pressure)
- ☐ Check the park brake
- ☐ Grease the operator platform

MAINTENANCE ITEMS EVERY 2,000 SERVICE HOURS

- ☐ Drain and clean the engine cooling system

Even though maintaining a machine can seem daunting, following this list can help extend the life of your mini skid steer and maximize your productivity. Refer to your machine's maintenance manual and the operator's manual for more details.

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 50 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine (specifically the fuel lines and clamp bands)
- ☐ Change engine oil and filter
- ☐ Check track tension
- ☐ Replace fuel filter
- ☐ Replace hydraulic filter

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 200 TO 250 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
(specifically the radiator hoses and clamp bands)
- ☐ Check the hydraulic oil cooling fan
- ☐ Replace the hydraulic filter
- ☐ Replace the fuel filter

BI-MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 500 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
- ☐ Remove fuel tank sediment
- ☐ Clean engine cooling system
- ☐ Replace fan belt
- ☐ Check fuel line
- ☐ Check air cleaner restriction indicator
- ☐ Replace hydraulic filter
- ☐ Change engine oil and filter
- ☐ Check battery electrolyte levels
- ☐ Clean battery terminals

YEARLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 1,000 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check the engine system (specifically check the fuel lines for leaks, kinked hoses and hoses that are rubbing against another part)
- ☐ Change hydraulic fluid
- ☐ Service the strainer
- ☐ Service the secondary air cleaner

opportunities. Additionally, this can also provide community support for operational costs associated with landscape maintenance and maintaining healthy ecosystems. This also complements the design and function factsheet, which outlines the main components of retention and detention pond systems. While design and secondary benefits play a critical role in establishing ponds, the challenges and best management practices resource outlines a checklist for habitat, vegetation, infrastructure, and mechanical components issues and mitigation strategies. For instance, pond aesthetics have been recognized to increase property values for communities and should be maintained through debris removal and landscape upkeep. It is important to have an engaged community or contracted landscape company to continually monitor debris buildup, vegetation growth, weed intrusion, and general landscape aesthetics. These resources can serve as a tool to forecast pond management strategies, while also being proactive to challenges that may arise from current parameters or in the design phase for new ponds.

The second set of factsheets under this series focuses on targeted groups as quick guides for mitigation strategies and ways to save on operational costs. These resources were crafted for developers/commercial industries, homeowners associations, and landscape professionals. Examples of scenarios outlined in these factsheets include using filtering grass around stormwater drains, which can help reduce sediment or clay runoff from job sites, but it must be maintained to prevent flooding. In

some cases, clogs can cause water to back up into job sites. Once these clogs are removed, materials and debris can be swept into drains, increasing the litter in ponds. For homeowner associations, tips include providing a list on the HOA website of environmentally friendly soaps, including phosphorus-free options, and in meetings educating residents on areas that can lead to chemicals entering stormwater ponds, like driveway slopes and around storm drains. Washing houses, sidewalks, and cars using certain chemicals can cause an imbalance in pond ecosystems by harming the aquatic plants and microbial communities that break down nutrients naturally. The landscape professional guide provides general practices, like keeping heavy lawn care equipment away from the steep edges of ponds. This could lead to the breaking of turf roots, causing erosion of the soil into the pond. It's best to leave a strip of grass or plants around the pond to help reduce runoff nutrients and catch litter before it reaches the pond. Additionally, a detailed maintenance and operational planning resource outlines the routine (monthly, quarterly, and after major storm events), during warm season, semi-annual to annual, 1-3 year, and 5-25-year checklist for maintenance and infrastructure changes. This ranges from inspecting edge erosion around the pond to precision inspection of sloped pipes, underdrains, and another hard-to-access piping by a licensed professional. For more information on the community and commercial pond factsheet series, check out the LSU Water Quality Extension Lab homepage or email mhayes@agcenter.lsu.edu.



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Obituaries



Georgia Brantley Chargois

May 11, 1925 — Jun 9, 2026

Georgia Brantley Chargois passed into the loving arms of her Lord on June 9, 2026. Born on May 11, 1925, 101 years young, "Ms. Georgia", as she was called, was born in Greenbrier, Arkansas, to Zachary Taylor Loveless and Clara Woodruff Loveless. She was preceded in death by her parents and four of her six siblings: Hazel Loveless Cardin (Dennis), Guthrie "Gus" Loveless (Bonnie Mae), Ozie Loveless Martinez, and Lovetta Loveless. Left to mourn her passing are her siblings: Gene H. Loveless and Shirley Loveless McElhanon Jordan, both of Arkansas.

After graduating from high school, she worked in a factory in Little Rock, Arkansas, making parts for bombs during World War II. She was truly a "Rosie the Riveter" during the war. In 1945, she met and married Willie Fred Brantley after he returned from Germany, from serving in the U.S. Army during WW2. After marrying, they lived in Farmersville,

Louisiana, where his parents resided, and Gibsland, Louisiana, where he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They moved to Jennings in July 1951, where he worked for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. He preceded her in death in August 1973. They had four children: Judy Brantley Goodreau (Darrell) of Mandeville, Louisiana, Fredrick Brantley (Jennifer) of Jennings, Jimmy Brantley (Marlene) of Lafayette, Louisiana, and Robert Brantley (Laura Carrasco) of Corpus Christi, Texas. She has four grandchildren: Shelli Goodreau Brooks (Stephen) of Mandeville, Louisiana, Jason Brantley of Austin, Texas, Kelly Brantley (George Lewis) of Washington, DC, and Dr. Emily Brantley Roarty (Kevin) of Houston, Texas. She also has six Great-grandchildren: Connor Brooks (Amanda Bui) of Cypress, Texas, Gaven Brooks (Darien) of Covington, Louisiana, Tatum Brantley and Simon Brantley of Austin, and Claire Roarty and Madeline Roarty of Houston, Texas. All are left to cherish her memory. In 1979, she married John Chargois from Lake Charles, Louisiana. They enjoyed weekends at his camp in Big Lake, along with the shrimp that Mr. Chargois caught on a regular basis. He preceded her in death in December 1991.

Ms. Georgia worked at Montgomery Ward and Sears in Jennings and retired after 25 years. After retirement, she volunteered at the Jennings American Legion Hospital for 23 years as a Pink Lady. She was the oldest living member of the First Baptist Church of Jennings, was a member of the Ruth Sunday School Class, and was a member of the Baptist Young at Heart Group; she was also a member of the Women's VFW.



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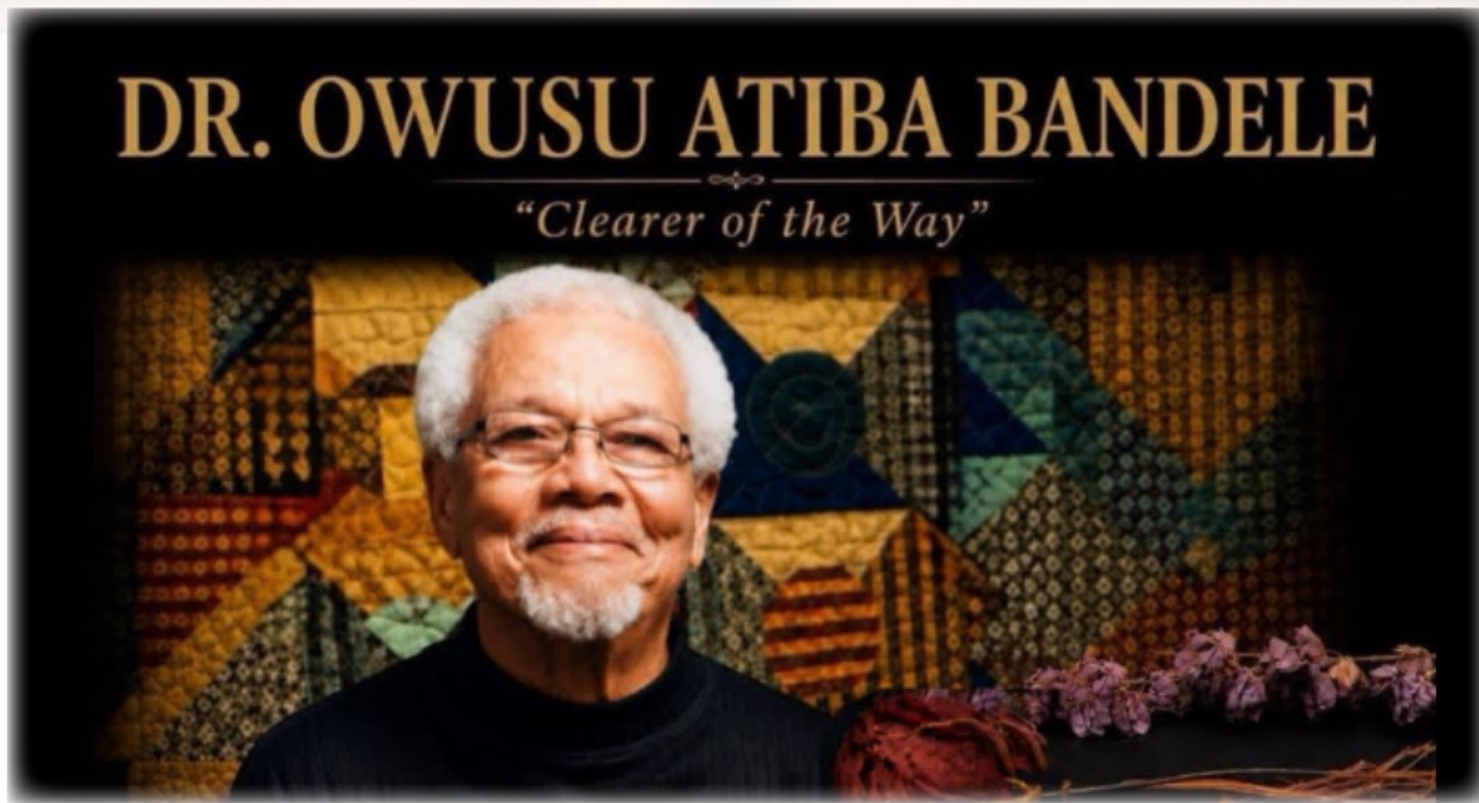


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Obituaries



Dr. Owusu Atiba Bandele

Dr. Owusu Bandele was a Professor Emeritus of Horticulture at the Southern University Agricultural Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is best known for his lifelong advocacy for sustainable organic farming and for organizing the university's long-running Black History Quiz Bowl.

Key highlights of his career and legacy at Southern University included:

- **Black History Quiz Bowl:** In 1994, Dr. Bandele began organizing an annual educational competition for students to study and test their knowledge of Black history, culture, and current events. The program has since grown to include middle and high schools throughout the parish, as well as collegiate competitions.
- **Agricultural Legacy:** He joined Southern University in 1987 and has dedicated decades to researching low-input, sustainable, and organic farming techniques for small-scale farmers.
- **Activism and Organizations:** Dr. Bandele is a co-founder of the Southeastern African American Farmers' Organic Network and a nationally recognized voice advocating for equity in the food system.
- **Living Legend:** In 2015, he was honored as one of the 15 "Living Legends" by the Southern University Ag Center during the 125th anniversary of the nation's 1890 land-grant universities.

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Some associations have made a special benefits website available to their members.

Obituaries

TIMOTHY DONICE



BLACKWELL II

MAR 23, 1978 — JUN 7, 2026

Timothy Donice Blackwell II

Timothy Donice Blackwell II—"Bo" to absolutely everyone—lived his life the way some folks wish they could: wide open, full throttle, and with a heart big enough to carry half the parish in it. When he passed away on June 7, 2026, the world didn't just lose a man; it lost a presence. The kind of presence you heard before you saw and felt long after he walked out of the room.

Bo came into the world on March 23, 1978, born to Tim and Rosanne Blackwell, and from the very beginning he was wrapped in the kind of family that teaches you who you are. He grew up learning the value of hard work, the importance of loyalty, and the simple truth that friendliness can take you farther than anything else. Those lessons didn't just shape him—they became the compass he lived by.

If you ever heard Bo tell a story, you remember it. He had a way of spinning a tale that made you feel like you were right there beside him, even if the details wandered into the territory of "maybe true, maybe not." He could make a whole room laugh with a joke, a memory, or one of his infamous practical jokes—because even when you were the target, you couldn't help but laugh. He never met a stranger, and he never let anyone keep their given name for long; if Bo liked you, you got a nickname, and if he loved you, you probably had three.

He was a third-generation nurseryman, proud of the dirt under his nails and the heritage behind it. Work didn't scare him. Sweat didn't bother him. And shirts? Well, those were optional. If you needed help, he was already halfway to the truck before you finished asking.

Bo loved the outdoors like it was part of his DNA. Hunting, fishing, collecting arrowheads—those weren't hobbies, they were chapters in the story of his life. Some of his hunting tales sounded like they belonged in a book of tall tales, but with Bo, there was always just enough truth to keep you guessing. In his younger years, he rode horses and team roped, and no matter what he was doing, if a song came on the radio, he was singing along. He loved a good time, a good joke, and good people—and he found all three everywhere he went.

But for all the things Bo loved, nothing came close to the love he had for his children, Connelly and Blaise. They were his pride, his joy, and the best parts of his heart walking around in the world. He adored his family, and they adored him right back. He cherished his nephew and niece, Case and Landry Putnam, who though he'd never say they "hung the moon," he treated them like they did. His sister, Beth, was his lifelong partner in mischief and mock-arguments, the kind of sibling bond built on equal parts teasing and unshakeable love.

Bo was the grandson of the late H.D. and Peggy Blackwell of Folsom; the late Bernadine Antony Douglas of Madisonville; and the late Ruil Douglas Sr. of Ponchatoula. He was preceded in death by his uncles Speedy Douglas, Michael Douglas, David Douglas, John Douglas, and Richard Douglas.

He leaves behind his parents, Tim and Rosanne Blackwell; his children, Connelly and Blaise Blackwell; his sister and brother-in-law, Beth and Aaron Putnam; his nephew and niece, Case and Landry Putnam; and a wide circle of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who felt more like family.

Bo will be deeply missed by all who knew him. And in true Bo fashion, his life will be celebrated the way he lived it—big, loud, full of love—at a later date.

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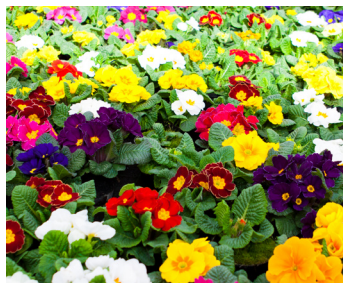
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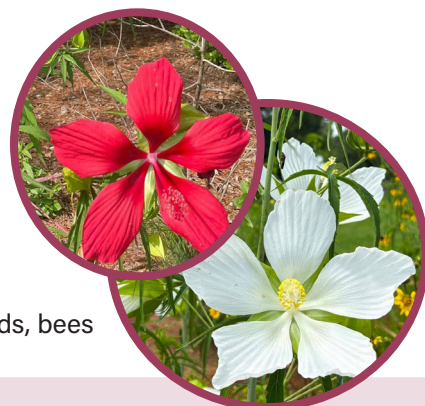


2027 LOUISIANA SUPER PLANTS



MONARCH MAGIC AGERATUM (*Ageratum houstonianum*) debuted in 2025 via Ball FloraPlant (PP#36,789). After 2 years of LSU AgCenter trials it was easy to recognize this warm season annual as an outstanding variety. This vegetatively propagated, spreading type ageratum (commonly called mist flower) is ideal for use in baskets and mixes but is also phenomenal in landscapes! Full sun to majority of the day sun is recommended. Great performers in landscape beds, mixed containers and baskets. Grows 6-12 inches tall with a spread of 8-16 inches. Irrigation requirement is minimal – only needed supplemental water during extended dry periods. Low maintenance. This plant starts producing the traditional blue colored blooms in early to mid spring and stays in constant flower through the summer and well into the fall, usually until first frost. Monarch Magic is highly attractive to a wide range of beneficial insects and pollinators. Monarch butterflies cannot resist. Experience the magic of this great plant.

TEXAS STAR HIBISCUS (*Hibiscus coccineus*), also known as Scarlet Rosemallow, is a striking perennial shrub known for large, five-petaled crimson red or pure white flowers that form a distinct star shape. Flowers last a day like other hibiscus and are present from late spring into late summer. Despite its common name, this native hibiscus is mostly naturally found Louisiana and Mississippi eastward across the SE. Adapted to wetlands, rain garden beds or typical landscape beds. Prefers full sun but can handle light shade but will be taller and fewer blooms will be produced. Plants rapidly grow to 6-8 feet tall but can be kept shorter with a late spring pruning. Plants spread to a width of 4 feet. Prized by hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Outstanding heat tolerance.



BASIL is a savory, flavorful, leafy green herb. This tender annual is native to Asia, yet this savory herb is common in many Italian dishes. There are many types of basil such as Sweet Basil, Thai Basil, Lemon Basil, Purple Basil, Greek Basil and Holy Basil. Basil thrives with at least 6 to 8 hours of daily sunlight and do best in moist but well drained soils. In the edible garden, harvest regularly to keep promotion on bushy growth and to delay flowering. I, and regular harvesting to promote bushy growth. Many basil varieties can be easily grown from seed. Plant after the danger of frost has passed in the early spring. Basils offer distinct flavors, fragrances, and growth habits to a garden or landscape and are adapted to garden rows, containers and ornamental beds. Blooms are highly appreciated by many bee species and other pollinators.

PEACH PERFECTION ABELIA (*Abelia hybrid*) is a flowering shrub Louisiana Super Plant winner. This Star Roses and Plants variety (PP#30,954) has been performing exceptionally in landscape trials at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station the past 10 years. We have been waiting for there to be adequate wholesale and retail availability to make this outstanding shrub "super"! Abelias are often utilized to inundate the landscape with color and complexity. Peach Perfection exhibits tri-colored foliage on stunning red stems. Foliage emerges bright orange, maturing to yellow, then green as summer progresses. It grows to a height of 5-6 feet but can be easily at 4 feet with occasional pruning. This abelia is less prone to produce "wild shoot growth" that is common in other varieties. Peach Perfection desires full sun. Plant in a well-prepared raised bed. This shrub deserves a place in pollinator gardens due to its' very long bloom season and ability to attract numerous beneficial insects plus hummingbirds.





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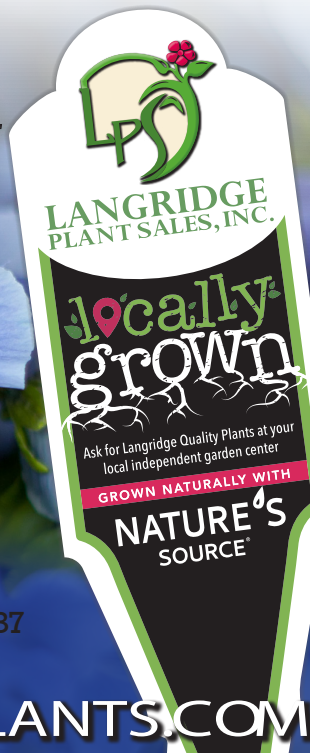
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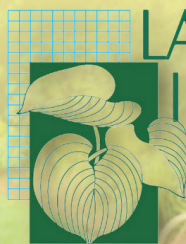
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EXPLORE THE BENEFITS OF PLANT TRIAL GARDENS

By: Allen Owings, Emeritus Professor (Horticulture), LSU AgCenter

If you are looking for what's new in the plant and gardening world, trial gardens are a hidden gem offering a unique and enriching experience for both seasoned green thumbs and curious novices. University, public garden, arboretum and company sponsored trial gardens are usually open to the public (some may be on select days only) and allow visitors to experience and see the introduction of new plant varieties and gain valuable insights into what is new in the plant world. The concentration is typically on annual bedding plants and flowering perennials but shrubs and other plant categories are sometimes included. Many of these gardens are also home to All America Selections evaluations.

The plant displays are expertly planted and maintained, and the selections are labeled with information on each plant so that you can take notes and jot down your favorites. Plant trial gardens have become an indispensable resource for cultivating a deep appreciation of ornamental plants and the new and upcoming varieties that could potentially be offered at local retail garden centers.

Located in many cities across the United States and in our own state of Louisiana at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, these gardens serve as living laboratories where innovative botanical experiments take place. They provide a cultivating environment for plant researchers, breeders and enthusiasts to highlight their latest creations and share their passion with a wider audience. Among the delicate petals and vibrant colors of flowers and foliage, visitors find themselves immersed in a world of natural beauty and endless possibilities.

One of the key benefits of touring trial gardens lies in the opportunity to witness the introduction of new plant varieties firsthand. As visitors stroll among the garden trial beds, they can observe the meticulous work of dedicated scientists and breeders who develop novel cultivars. These gardens offer a sneak peek into the intricate processes behind crossbreeding, hybridization and selection.

Attending open plant trial gardens also can help nurture an appreciation for biodiversity and environmental conservation. As attendees walk through the trials, they can see a display for plant diversity and gain a better understanding of the vital role these organisms play in sustaining our ecosystems. Many trial gardens are highlighting the importance of preserving endangered species and promoting native plants. These gardens are becoming ambassadors for the conservation movement, fostering a sense of responsibility and stewardship among their visitors.

Trial gardens in the multi-state area:

LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA
Mississippi State University / MAFES, Verona, MS
Mississippi State University / MAFES, Poplarville, MS
Mississippi State University / MAFES, Crystal Springs, MS
University of Tennessee, Jackson, TN
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
University of Tennessee, Crossville, TN
University of Florida / IFAS, Quincy, FL
Texas A&M, Overton, TX
Dallas Arboretum and Gardens, Dallas, TX
University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Young's Plant Farm, Auburn, AL

Opportunities to view plants are also available at places such as the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, SFA Gardens, Bellingrath Home and Gardens, Huntsville Botanical Gardens, Atlanta Botanic Gardens, Garven Woodland Gardens and many more locations such as these across the SE. Do some traveling each year to check out all the great plants.

*Dr. Owings also works as consulting horticulturist for Clegg's Nursery, Baton Rouge and Bracy's Nursery, Amite.

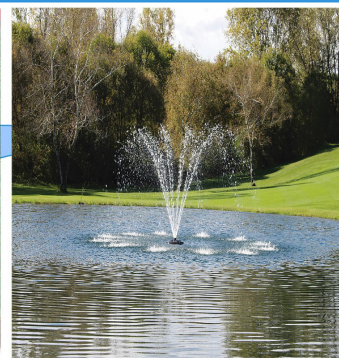


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WHAT'S GROWING ON: WARM SEASON TRIALS UNDERWAY AT THE HAMMOND RESEARCH STATION

By: Caroline Blanchard



Every year, the Hammond Research Station receives new and upcoming plant releases to be evaluated in the landscape. The plant material included in our Ornamental Trial Garden comes from both plant breeders and marketing companies across the country and in some cases, internationally. The trials at the Hammond Research Station allow growers, landscapers, and homeowners to see how new and upcoming plant material will look and perform in a typical landscape setting.

This year, we installed 129 individual trials from five partner companies in early April. In May, we began evaluations, which will continue through September. Evaluations are comprised of objective and subjective ratings that assess the flowering and foliage quality of a specific variety as well as its overall landscape impact. These scores are averaged over the course of the trialing season to provide a final overall score at the end of the season.

While our season started off with a cold snap in early May, temperatures are rising and putting our trial plants through their paces. Several varieties have stood out as high-performers as we approach the mid-way mark of the trial season. Below are five varieties in our 2026 Ornamental Trials with the highest overall score.



Impatiens Soprano® Pastel Pink **| Proven Winners | 2027 Release |** **Shade | 5.00**

This self-cleaning bedding impatiens has increased disease resistance and a profusion of light pink flowers.

Salvia Mystic Spires | **Ball FloraPlant** **| Sun | 4.83**

An oldie, but a goodie. This Salvia was introduced to the market in the mid- 2000s by Ball Horticulture Company and provides a compact salvia with striking blue flower spikes. This Salvia was included in the 2022 Louisiana Super Plant "Summer of Salvias".





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Helianthus Suncredible® Yellow II**| Proven Winners | Sun | 4.92**

Released by Proven Winners in 2019, this well-branched, continuous bloomer was designated a Louisiana Super Plant in 2021.

**Scaevola Blazen™ Blue | Ball****FloraPlant | 2027 Release |****Sun—5.00 | Containers—4.75**

There were many fans of this fan flower at our annual HRS Field day on June 18th, 2026. This well-branched, spreading scaevola created a carpet of bright blue flowers and captured the hearts of our tour group, receiving five votes—the most out of all the plants in the garden!

**Ipomoea Sweet Caroline
Bewitched After Midnight™ II**
| Proven Winners | Sun | 4.88

A new release from Proven Winners in 2026, this ornamental sweet potato provides a dramatic, deep purple backdrop to the landscape. Perfect for a ground cover in sun or shade.



As our trials continue to withstand the heat and humidity of the Louisiana summer, we are looking forward to seeing which plants come out on top. If you are looking for inspiration or want to see these plants in action, stop by the Hammond Research Station.



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GREENGATE GARDEN CENTER TO CLOSE AFTER 66 YEARS IN LAKE CHARLES

After more than six decades of serving Southwest Louisiana's gardeners, homeowners and landscape professionals, the family-owned nursery is preparing to close its doors.

For generations of Southwest Louisiana residents, Greengate Garden Center has been more than a place to purchase plants. It has been a trusted source of horticultural knowledge, personalized guidance and inspiration for creating beautiful outdoor spaces.

The longtime Lake Charles nursery and landscape company opened in 1960 and grew into a familiar destination for gardeners throughout the region.

Located on Lake Street, Greengate developed into a full-service garden center and landscape company. Its offerings included indoor and outdoor plants, trees, shrubs, gardening tools, decorative containers, soils, mulch and landscape design assistance.

The business became especially known for helping customers select plants suited to Southwest Louisiana's climate and growing conditions.

A FAMILY BUSINESS ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY

Greengate has remained a family-owned business throughout its history.

The decision to close comes as longtime owner Sallie Dondis, 91 years old, prepares to retire. With no family member available to assume ownership and continue operating the nursery, the family made the difficult decision to wind down the business.

While the announcement marks the end of Greengate's retail operations, its impact can be seen throughout the region. Landscapes, gardens and outdoor living spaces across Southwest Louisiana were influenced by the plants, services and professional advice provided by the Greengate team.

The nursery's relationship with its customers has always been central to the business. Many customers developed personal connections with the owners and employees that extended beyond individual purchases or landscaping projects.

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

News of the closure brought a strong response from longtime customers.

Community members have visited the nursery to purchase remaining inventory, support the employees and share memories of shopping at Greengate over the years.

The business announced a going-out-of-business sale, and plants and other inventory began selling quickly

following the announcement. For employees, customers and the Dondis family, the closing is emotional.

Greengate remained in operation through decades of changes in gardening trends, plant availability, customer expectations and the broader nursery industry.

A LASTING GREEN LEGACY

Independent garden centers occupy an important place within Louisiana's green industry.

They connect professional growers and suppliers with the homeowners who ultimately plant and care for their products.

They also provide something that cannot always be found through large national retailers: local experience and personalized service.

Greengate's legacy is rooted in that personal approach.

The nursery helped customers select plants that could withstand Louisiana's heat, humidity and weather while providing the knowledge needed to help those plants succeed.

As the final chapter approaches, the Dondis family has expressed gratitude for the loyalty shown by Lake Charles and the surrounding Southwest Louisiana community.

The nursery may soon close its gates, but the landscapes, gardens and relationships it helped cultivate will remain throughout the region for years to come.



"Thank you to Lake Charles and Southwest Louisiana for the support and loyalty that we've enjoyed for, well, for 66 years," Dondis said.

Thank you to the Dondis family for your loyalty and being such a staple in Louisiana Nursery and Agriculture!



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