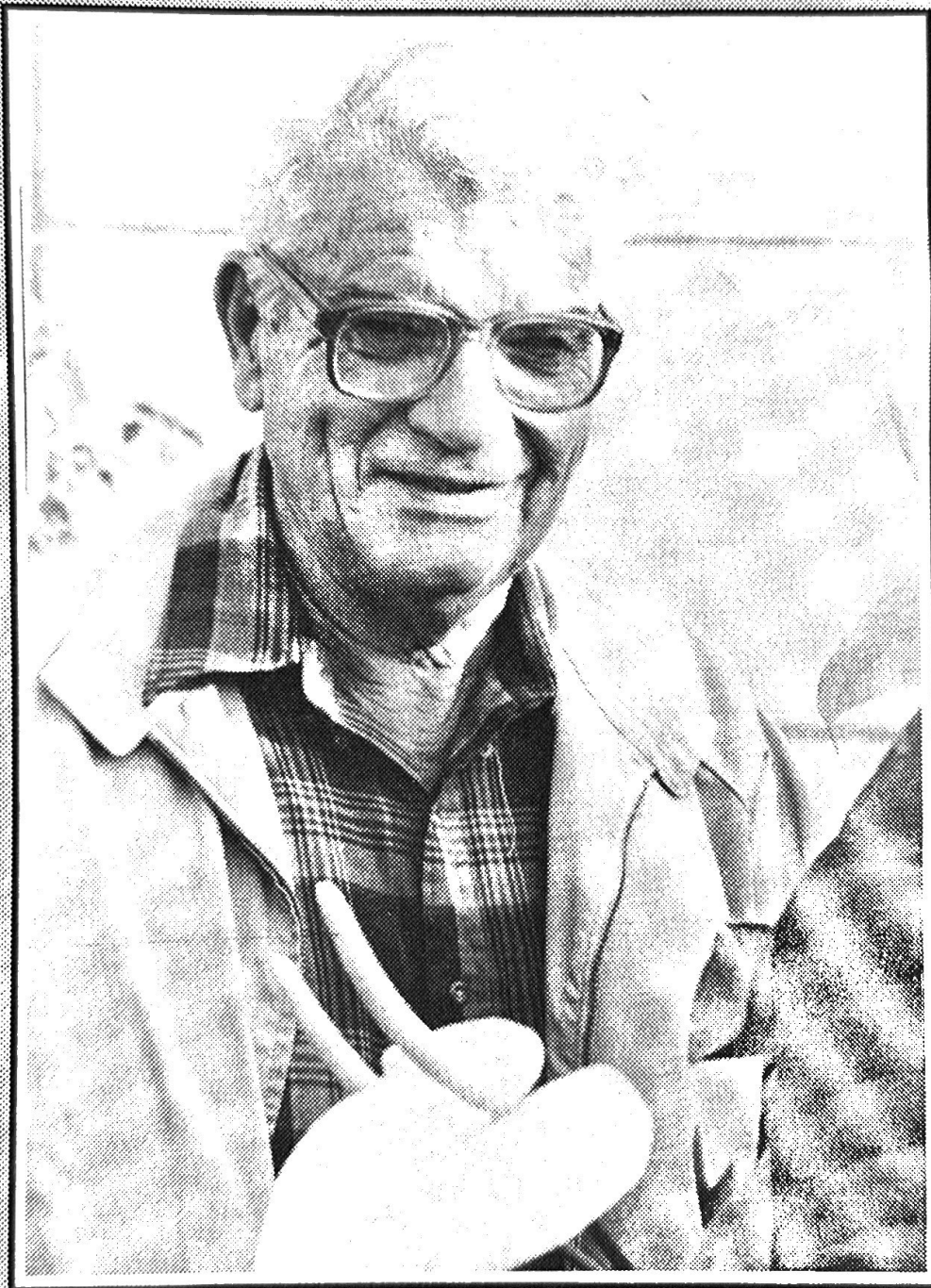


Louisiana's

NURSERYMEN

Official publication of the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen • Volume 9, Number 1 • Spring 1986



DR. J. A. Foret

*Retires after 32 years as LAN
Secretary*

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From the editor

Welcome, new readers

This issue of *Louisiana's Nurserymen* goes to more than 500 new readers — every licensed landscape contractor in the state of Louisiana — as a communication service of the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen.

This is a particularly appropriate time to expand circulation of the magazine, since major changes are now being proposed for the horticulture laws — changes that could affect almost everyone reading this. Among the principal proposed changes will be eliminating loopholes in the laws, and clarifying the distinctions between different horticultural professionals.

For those of you reading

Louisiana's Nurserymen for the first time, consider joining LAN. It's the most effective voice in the state for your interests. LAN sponsors an annual January conference (in conjunction with the Mississippi Association of Nurserymen), and dedicates one of its three track sessions to landscape topics. This meeting, and the annual TAN-MISSLARK show in August, give you the opportunity to meet others in your field, both for fellowship and for professional discussions.

To encourage excellence in horticulture studies, LAN offers scholarships to aspiring nurserymen. Through LAN you can become a Louisiana Certified Nurseryman, by passing a

proficiency examination based on a manual published by LAN.

Communication is essential in any discipline, and through LAN you receive this triannual magazine, which carries trade news, people news, LAN business, landscape ideas for native plants, research reports, and plenty of information on where to obtain plants and other products you need.

So why not? Join LAN; become a part of the horticulture mainstream. Send in the membership form on the opposite page, and improve your own sense of allegiance to the profession you've chosen.

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Native intelligence

Trumpet Honeysuckle

A vine for various visual effects in the landscape

by Dr. Severn Doughty

One of the more impressive ornamental vines today is a native to the east coast of the U.S. Some nursery and garden centers are beginning to handle it, but more attention should be given this lovely plant.

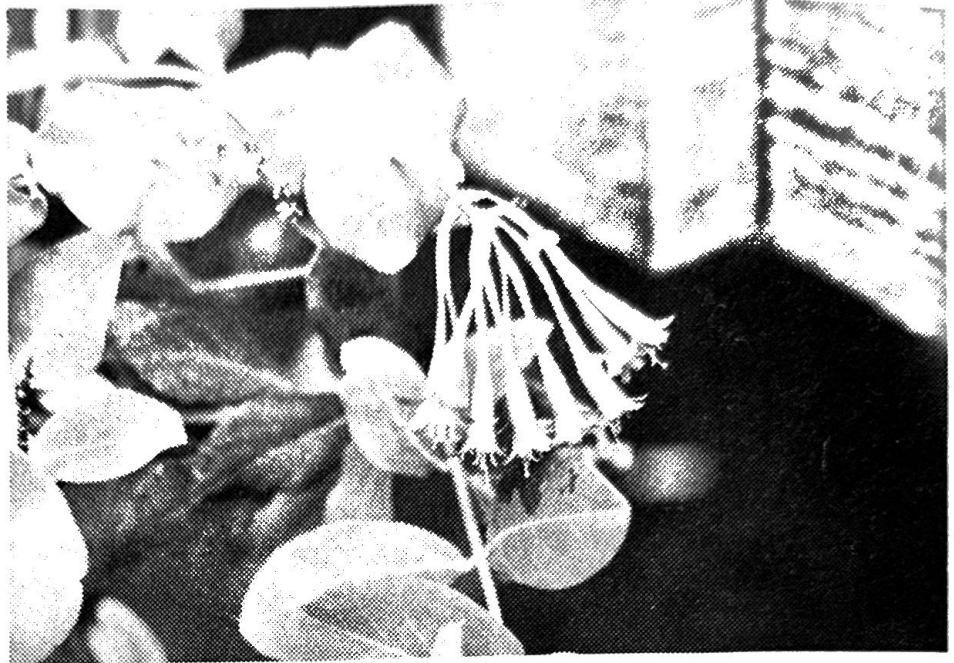
Trumpet honeysuckle, woodbine, scarlet trumpet, red honeysuckle and red woodbine, *Lonicera sempervirens*, belongs to the honeysuckle family (*Caprifoliaceae*). It is an evergreen vine in the lower South, but displays a more deciduous habit north of zone 8. Trumpet honeysuckle is a medium textured, shrubby vine with a medium growth rate that may reach 20 feet.

It needs support and training at first, but once trained, will respond with bountiful orange-scarlet to yellow, trumpet-shaped, non-scented flowers all throughout spring and summer, with scattered blooms in autumn.

Some landscape designs have even used this plant as a ground cover, but bright light should prevail for profuse flowering. The waxy, bluish green foliage also adds accent to almost any landscape, either as a baffle or screen, or as an accent on a trellis or arbor.

The oblong to ovate lower leaves are one to three inches long and opposite on the stem. The terminal leaves coalesce to form one leaf completely surrounding the stem like a dish. Berries form in clusters, usually in September and October, and are red to orange, plus they contain several seeds.

The fruit is enjoyed by several



species of birds, including the cardinal and purple finch. The stems are twining, green to reddish, and older stems appear gray with numerous small black lenticles. Good colorful pictures and descriptions are available in numerous references.

Red honeysuckle ranges from as far north as Maine, south to Florida, west to Texas and north again to Oklahoma, Missouri and Nebraska.

According to Robert A. Vines, hairy trumpet honeysuckle (*L. sempervirens*, *L. var. hirsulata* Rehd.), is a variety with stems somewhat short and very hairy. In addition, Michael Dirr lists other cultivars of trumpet honeysuckle which include: *Magnifica*, with bright red flowers; *Sulphurea*, with yellow flowers; and *Superba*, with flower petals orange-scarlet on the outside and leaves broadly oval.

Red honeysuckle is tolerant of many soil types, from heavy clay soils to sandy ones. The pH requirement also ranges widely, from acid to slightly alkaline. In the Blue Ridge Mountains, the vine is infrequently found along fence rows at lower elevations.

An interesting study by R. E.

Thill indicated that deer foraged on trumpet honeysuckle primarily during spring and summer. But their diet composition was very low, indicating that plantings of this vine in rural areas would probably not be severely damaged by deer.

By contrast, cattle did not prefer to forage at all on trumpet honeysuckle. However, this plant is an excellent choice for attracting hummingbirds. In New Orleans, hummingbird feeders rarely attract the delightful little creatures, but trumpet honeysuckle and other red-to orange-flowering plants will attract them.

Red honeysuckle may be propagated by layerage in late spring, or cuttings during summer. Seed may be sown directly into the ground in autumn, or cold stratification may enhance germination in spring.

Virtually no disease reports have been made. However, Donald Wyman reported aphids as a possible problem.

Trumpet honeysuckle is often available in the trade, as it is commonly grown by California nurseries. But this hardy native vine will certainly outperform many introduced vines, and deserves more attention locally.

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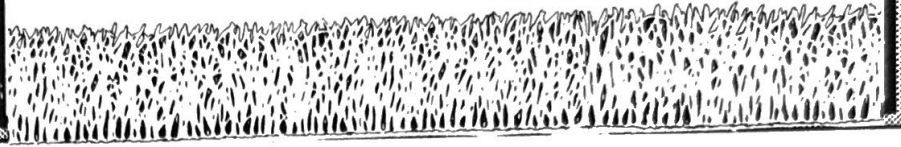

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Research report

Osmocote rate and placement studies in transplanting one-pint woody ornamental liners to three-gallon containers

by Dr. Warren Meadows and Donald Fuller

Nature of work. Placement of Osmocote in the dibble hole directly beneath the transplanted liner has proved to be an efficient method of application of Osmocote 17-7-12 for one-gallon container-grown woody ornamentals.¹ It was the purpose of this study to investigate the effect of dibble placement at several rates on transplanting of liners into three-gallon containers.

A pine bark : sand (4 : 1 v/v) medium amended with 5 lbs/yd³ dolomite and 1 1/2 lbs/yd³ Micromax was utilized as a basic medium with two application methods of Osmocote 17-2-12 (incorporated and dibbled). Osmocote 17-7-12 rates utilized were 2 lbs. n/yd³ both dibbled and

incorporated for both the one- and two-liner plant densities. Additionally, 2/3 lb N/yd³ rate for the two-liner density was included in a dibble application (Table 1).

One-pint liners of three azalea cultivars, G.G. Gerbing, Formosa and Fisher's Pink, were transplanted at one- and two-liner densities into 3 gal. containers on April 21, 1983. All plants were evaluated for quality (1=poor and 10=superior) on October 21, 1983.

Results and Discussion. The 2/3 lb N/yd³ dibble rate for the one-liner density transplant produced significantly higher quality ratings than the 2 lbs N/yd³ dibbled or incorporated (Table 1). Thus it would appear that the higher rate in a dibble application produced a detrimental effect on the one-liner

density. This effect was not as pronounced for the two-liner density, although there would appear to be no advantage in using the higher rate. The 1 1/3 lbs N/yd³ is equal to 2 ounces per pot, and 2 lbs N/yd³ is equal to 3 ounces per pot.

These data further support the authors' hypothesis that dibble-applied Osmocote 17-7-12 rates should be related to the liner or number of liners/pot, rather than to the soil volume of the container utilized. The data also indicated that a dibble rate of approximately 1 oz. per liner is a satisfactory rate for the three azalea cultivars included in the study.

Regardless of the Osmocote treatment for the azalea cultivars rated, the two-liner density resulted in superior plant quality at the termination of the study (Table 2).

Table 1. Effect of Osmocote 17-7-12 placement on quality ratings² of G.G. Gerbing, Formosa and Fisher's Pink azaleas, for plant densities of one liner and two liners.

Rate Kg N/m ³ (lbs N/yd ³)	Placement	G.G. Gerbing	Formosa	Fisher Pink
One Liner				
1.19 (2)	Incorporated	5.9 b ^y	5.3 c	6.6 b
1.19 (2)	Dibbled	5.5 b	6.0 b	6.5 b
0.40 (2/3)	Dibbled	7.0 a	7.0 a	7.9 a
Two Liners				
1.19 (2)	Incorporated	7.3 a ^y	6.3 c	9.0 a
1.19 (2)	Dibbled	7.8 a	7.0 b	8.5 a
0.79 (1 1/3)	Dibbled	8.0 a	8.0 a	9.1 a

Table 2. Effect of plant density on quality ratings² of G.G. Gerbing, Formosa and Fisher Pink azaleas.

Plant Density	G.G. Gerbing	Formosa	Fisher Pink
One liner	6.1 b ^y	6.1 b	7.0 b
Two liners	7.7 a	7.1 a	8.9 a

²Quality ratings: 1=poor and 10=superior

^yMean separation within columns by Duncan's new multiple range test, 5% level.

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After 32 years as LAN secretary, Dr. J. A. Foret retires

Even his name implies horticulture: *Forêt*, French for *forest*.

But on the basis of achievement alone, for 36 years, Dr. J. A. Foret's name has been synonymous with the nursery industry in Louisiana.

He began his career as a newly hired faculty member at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. A native of Litcher, Foret had just completed his Ph.D. in horticulture and plant physiology at Iowa State University. "My letter of appointment stated that I was to work with the nursery industry in whatever way I could," Foret remembers. "I was superintendent of USL's grounds, and spent half time teaching. The rest of the time I was on the road."

Foret was hired by USL President Joel Fletcher, who was himself an agriculturist with a strong interest in the nursery industry. At the time, Louisiana's nursery industry was beginning a major transition.

"About 1948-49, the nursery industry was beginning to grow. All of our plants were field grown, but container growing had begun in California. Some of our nurserymen got interested."

They needed advice about potting media, fertilization, irrigation, and all the other problems that go with container growing. Foret provided the advice they needed.

"Weed control was a big concern, as well as adjusting the soil mixes in container growing. Nurserymen in the Covington area had fertilizer problems with field-grown azaleas. In those lighter soils, the plants would develop iron chlorosis unless fertilized properly. I also worked with nurserymen in propagating — what time of year to take cuttings for a whole range of broadleaf evergreens, and certain deciduous magnolias.

"In the early days I tried to contact

every nurseryman in the state at least twice — more often if they had problems. We had about 45 or 50 wholesale growers, and about that many retailers as well. I made 'em all."

With increased interest in container growing came a new problem. "About 1952-53, because of increased worldwide demand, the price of peat began to escalate. This led to work on soil amendments to replace peat. We tried pine bark, rice hulls, manure and sugar cane bagasse."

In the past 20 years, pine bark has emerged as the most prevalent substitute for peat, but Foret remembers an even earlier potting medium that had wide popularity. "Pine bark didn't take off sooner because nurserymen had alternatives like ash from turpentine mills, where they ground up pine stumps. The ash had a lot of charcoal, plus

sand. It was sterile and free for the hauling."

In the Covington and DeRidder areas, pine stumps were blasted out of the ground with dynamite, or dug out by hand, to yield naval products like turpentine. But the stump supply gave out eventually and pine bark became the accepted potting soil medium.

About this time, Louisiana's nurserymen decided to secede from the Louisiana State Horticultural Association. "Nurserymen felt they were an entirely different industry from the florists (*the other major component of the LSHA*). We felt we were large enough to make it on our own."

In 1954 about 27 charter members formed LAN, and in 1955 they met for their first annual convention on the USL campus. Foret was educational program chairman. Membership doubled within several years, and by 1960 membership reached 100.

"By 1960, container growing really picked up. But we had a severe setback with the freeze of the

1962-63 winter. We didn't know anything about winter protection back then. Container losses were almost 100 percent. Temperatures were so low that mimosa trees were split wide open."

Part of Foret's contribution to the nursery industry has been the introduction of new plant varieties. In fact, he and his USL colleague Dr. Ira Nelson introduced the needlepoint holly to the nursery industry.

They found the plant growing on Avery Island, near New Iberia. Walter Mcilhenny, owner of the island and a world traveler, had received seeds for these plants from a missionary in China. He planted them as a hedge. "How the name *needlepoint* came about I don't know," Foret says. "Mcilhenny had named the plant after his gardener, Anicet Delcambre. Today it's registered with the American Holly Society as *Ilex cornuta anicet delcambre*."

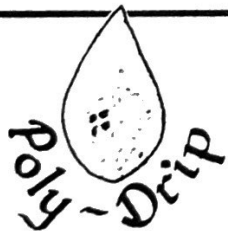
Currently the needlepoint holly is the number one cultivar of Chinese

Holly in the South.

Foret also discovered the weeping yaupon. "I found it growing in the fence rows southeast of Folsom, along an old logging road. They have a chance botanical growth habit. The stems grow upright for the first year, then secondary activity in the cambium causes the stems to bend downward. Once they turn down, they keep growing down. It's a useful plant in the trade."

With funding from the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research, Foret and Mike Richard (Live Oak Nursery) travelled to New Zealand in 1975 to acquire plant material for nursery use. They returned with viburnum and pittosporum varieties, which they tested and made available to the industry.

Foret's increasing duties at USL curtailed his annual visits to every nursery. He became head of USL's horticulture department, and in 1973 was named Dean of the College of Agriculture, a position he held until retirement from USL in 1981. During this period, he led the effort



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to acquire a new experimental farm for the university. He found a beautiful 600-acre site near Cade, and began a program of improvements on the land.

While he couldn't visit every nursery, he remained on call to those who had problems. He continued his consulting work for Hodges Gardens, a horticultural paradise near Many. He received the Arp Award from the Texas Association of Nurserymen, for his years of service to the industry, and to the Trade Show Policy Committee of the annual TAN-MISSLARK show.

And he continued his duties as LAN secretary — keeping the LAN books and minutes, assisting in a general manner with locating plant materials, helping put on the annual January conference, and working with just about any facet of the industry that requested his help.

But in January of this year, Dr. Foret retired from his LAN position. The LAN board has made him an honorary ex-officio member of the

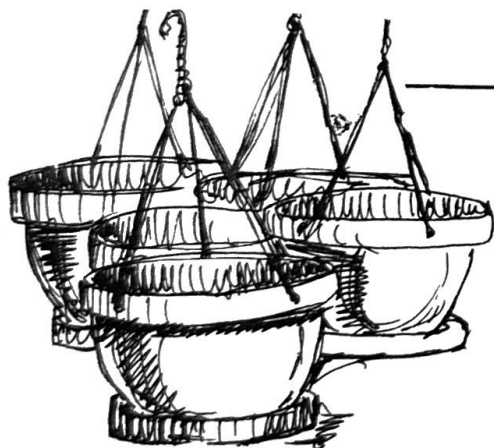


Presented with a cash gift at the LAN-MNA banquet, the retiring LAN Secretary couldn't believe that Earl Vallot (left) hadn't misplaced the decimal point on the check.

board. And despite shedding his duties with LAN and USL, he still finds work-related excuses not to go fishing: He and several other retired USL faculty members have formed Gulf Coast Agricultural Associates, a firm involved in evaluating damage to crops. They keep quite busy at this.

In recognition of his years of

services, Louisiana's nurserymen passed the hat and found they could present Dr. Foret with more than a gold watch. At the annual LAN-MNA conference, they gave him a check for \$5,700. He and Faye plan to apply that toward travel, and have scheduled a fall foliage trip to the East Coast—the first of many trips they hope to take.



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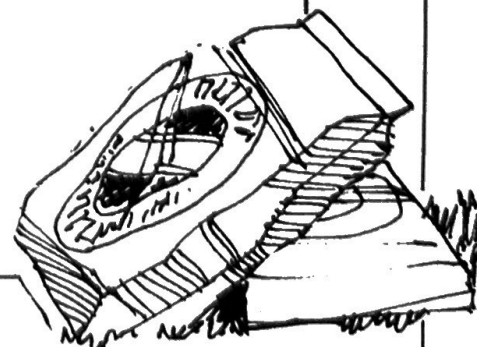
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Dr. Warren Meadows accepts the LAN secretary position

The man who replaces Dr. J. A. Foret as LAN secretary is no newcomer to the nursery industry. As early as 1952, Dr. Warren Meadows served as assistant to the chief agronomist of the National Plant Food Institute.

Like Dr. Foret, his name implies plants, too—not trees, perhaps, but certainly turfgrass.

And in the past several years, Meadows has played an increasingly important role both in LAN and in nursery research.

He co-chaired (with Walter Imahara) the hugely successful Baton Rouge LAN-MNA conference in January 1985, a conference that saw an almost threefold increase in attendance over any previous conference.

Since 1979, he has been resident director of the Burden Research Plantation, a Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station that conducts research in many nursery areas. (*The Burden Center's 1985 field day was the cover story for the Winter 1985 LAN magazine.*)

Dr. Meadows divides his time between extension work (slightly more than half-time), research (one-fourth) and administration (slightly

less than one-fourth time). Currently he is on two LSU doctoral graduate committees.

His 27 years within the Louisiana State University system have

turfgrass topics. He has also published five papers in the SNA research journal, as well as more than 50 research monographs and other articles.

A native of Innis, Meadows earned bachelor's through doctoral degrees at LSU. "I consider it a signal honor to have the opportunity to follow Dr. Jim Foret as secretary of LAN," Meadows says. "Jim nurtured the organization from the beginning, through good times and bad, to its current status as a vibrant and continually growing organization."

"Jim's contributions to the state's nursery industry are too numerous to mention, but

certainly among the major ones would have to be his role in the development of LAN. He lent a professional stature to the organization during its evolution, and he gave endlessly of his time and effort, to sustain it. I only hope that we can further develop upon the foundation which Jim has built."

Dr. Meadows can be reached at 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, 70809; (504) 766-3471.



included work as a horticulture specialist and project leader, as professor of horticulture, and as Burden Center director.

LAN's is not his first secretary appointment; he has served both the Louisiana Pecan Growers Association and the Louisiana Turfgrass Association as secretary-treasurer.

Meadows has authored dozens of Cooperative Extension Service bulletins, principally on pecan and

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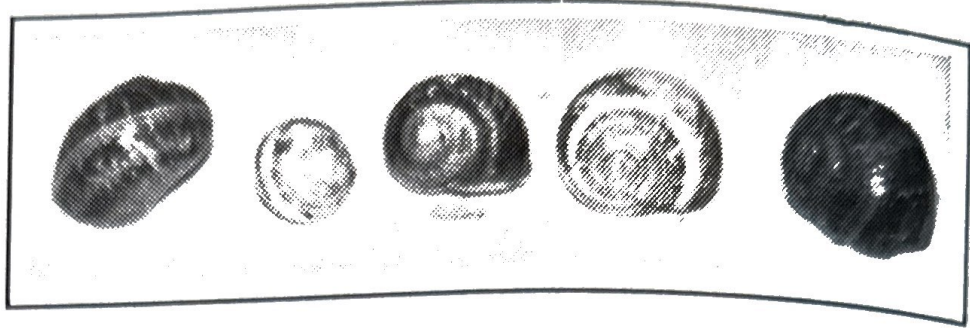


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Illegal aliens

The brown garden snail apprehended in two recent California nursery shipments



The detection of brown garden snails in two shipments of California nursery stock resulted in a six-day February embargo on all stock from that state destined for Louisiana.

This was not Louisiana's first snail scare — contaminated shipments from California had been discovered in 1985 and in 1983. The wide publicity given this latest incident served to remind many nurserymen about their vulnerability to a pest which is both voracious and difficult to control.

"Plant Industry News," a Florida

Growing up to 1 1/4" in shell diameter, the brown garden snail is a serious threat to agriculture on the Gulf Coast. It was originally introduced into the U.S. between 1850 and 1860 to be cultivated for food. It is not the species of snail that is a popular delicacy in Europe, however

Department of Agriculture publication, says that citrus growers in California pay from \$24 to \$68.50 an acre for poisoned baits to control the brown garden snail, and they may need to repeat this application up to three times per year in wet years.

On February 7, on a routine inspection, Louisiana Depart-

ment of Agriculture personnel found snails in a Lafayette discount chain store. That same day, another outlet of the same store called in a complaint to the Department of Agriculture about snails. Both stores, and 25 others, had received shipments from the same Orange County, California nursery.

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placed a stop sale order on all 27 Louisiana outlets of this chain that day. Subsequent investigation verified the snail in 19 of the outlets. The California nursery shipped chemicals for treating these plants.

On February 20, a single snail was found by Louisiana Department of Agriculture inspectors at an independent nursery. This shipment originated from a different California nursery, but it was also located in Orange County. Some 14 other independent nurseries in the state that had received shipments from this second nursery received stop sale orders.

That same day, the Department of Agriculture prohibited shipment of *all* California nursery stock into Louisiana. Subsequent trapping of independent nurseries revealed no additional snails, and six days later the ban was lifted.

The Department of Agriculture treated all contaminated shipments and eventually cleared these shipments for sale.

According to Louisiana Horticulture Commissioner Craig Roussel, the contaminated shipments had been certified snail-free by California officials.

Louisiana and California agriculture officials reached an agreement that all shipments originating in Orange County, California must be treated for brown garden snails within 72 hours of shipment to Louisiana.

In their further investigation of the two nurseries which shipped contaminated plants, California officials found brown garden snails in the nursery which shipped to the chain stores. They found none in the second nursery, but did find a snail on the road next to the nursery.

The brown garden snail is a general feeder, happy to eat anything from vegetables to citrus trees to nursery stock. It is quite well adapted to climates like Louisiana's. In fact, in its original European habitat it can be found as far north as Germany and

Ireland.

Poisonous baits are the most common method of control, but some snails take the bait, others don't. This merely keeps their numbers down. They do develop resistance to molluscicides.

One U.S. Department of Agriculture official who has seen the brown garden snail in

California remembers them as being sufficiently populous in one lettuce field that his every footstep would touch either a living or a dead snail.

Any nurseryman who suspects he has received a snail-contaminated shipment should contact the Louisiana Department of Agriculture, (504) 925-7772, as soon as possible.



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LAN profile



Dupont's Nursery

Bordered only by a crawfish pond and woods, the 32-acre rural Iberville Parish site of Dupont's Nursery seems an unlikely setting for a high-tech nursery.

But the Duponts keep a remarkable pace of adapting new technology. They poured the slab for their new 20,500 square-foot greenhouse on October 18, 1985. They made their first shipment of plants grown in this facility February 26 of this year. And on February 27 they're talking what changes they'll make in building their *next* greenhouses.

"We have high goals," acknowledges Rob Dupont. "We will build our next greenhouses ourselves, using new materials and design."

This is not to say that their current greenhouse is outmoded. Theirs is one of the few (if not the only) sawtooth-roof greenhouses in the state. The design allows summer ventilation without fans, yet the roof seals out the winter effectively, Rob says.

Placed in trays, plants grow in benches that can be flooded from two buried 2,500-gallon irrigation tanks.

Each bench has to be capable of holding 4,500 pounds of water. After immersing the plant's roots for a desired span of time, the nutrient-laden irrigation water is piped back to the underground tanks, where it can be reused.

The benches, constructed of aluminum, were designed by Danny Dupont, a former DOW engineer.

And yes, the Duponts have already redesigned the benches.

"We're going to a galvanized steel bench for greater strength," Rob says. "Our next benches will require less water depth for irrigation, as well."

The irrigation technique, known as an ebb and flow system, was pioneered by Dutch nurserymen. The Duponts saw the system in use in a Florida nursery, and decided it was for them.

Thus far they have had no problems with disease or root rot.

Bread and butter crops for Dupont's Nursery are four-inch potted annuals. In plant varieties as well, they experiment. "We grow the newest releases and we trial 1987 varieties for Ball Seed Company,"



Sawtooth-roof greenhouses provide economical summer ventilation; LP gas furnishes winter heat



A central conveyor system gets Dupont's Nursery plants out of the greenhouses (opposite page) and onto outside growing benches (above, right), where they harden against the elements before shipping.



Rob says.

Top crops are petunias, salvia, snapdragons, begonias, pansies, single and double impatiens, and hanging baskets with such plants as bougainvillea and lantana.

"I've always liked plants," says Robert Dupont Sr., father to Rob and Danny. "I got started in the nursery business in 1962. We had a dilapidated greenhouse that we built ourselves, and the bad freeze that year almost wiped us out."

Dupont continued a retail nursery/greenhouse/florist shop in downtown Plaquemine until 1970, when the death of a key employee convinced him to close the nursery and concentrate on florist work.

But in 1974 Rob reopened the nursery, and gradually built the operation to the point of a major expansion.

That expansion came last year with the acquisition of a 32-acre site about eight miles east of Plaquemine, and the construction of the ultramodern new facility.

The Duponts have kept both the
(continued on page 18)

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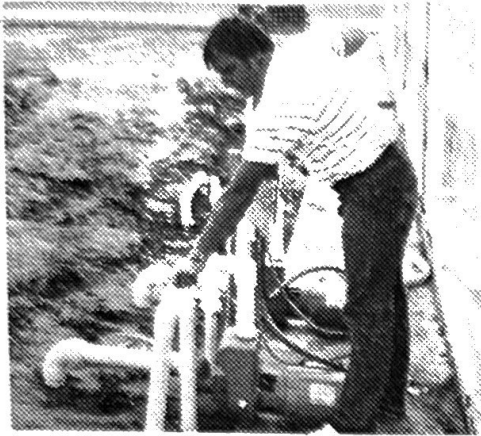
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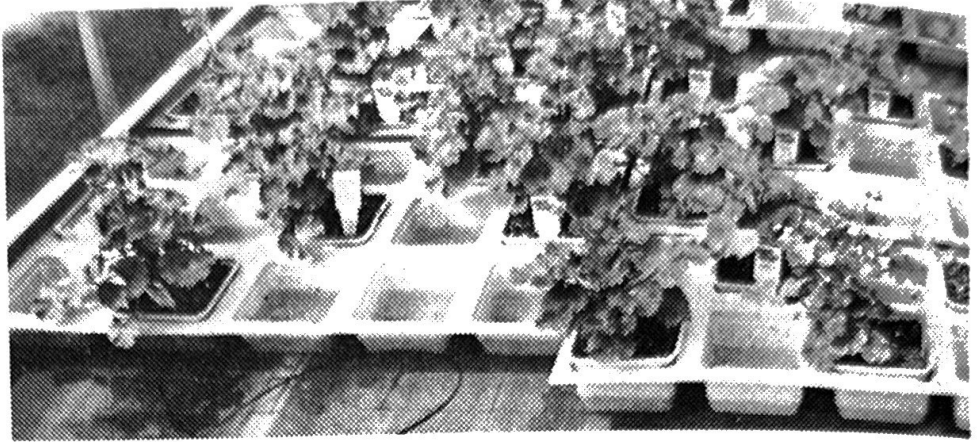
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Rob Dupont (above) turns the valve that floods growing benches (right). Once the plants are irrigated, the water returns to underground tanks.



downtown site and the retail site going, with Robert Sr. downtown and his sons at the new location.

They employ eight at the downtown location, and 11 at the greenhouse, including a full-time construction crew of five.

"We're pushing quality, and sell mostly to retail nurseries and garden centers," Rob says. "We ship mostly to Louisiana and Mississippi via bobtail truck. That allows us same-day delivery to the customer. Some people in Knoxville wanted us to ship them plants, but that's a little out of our range."

Before shipping, Dupont's Nursery plants are moved out of the greenhouse for hardening against the elements. "We believe in cool growing," Robert Sr. says. "Everybody says 'get Michigan plants, they're cool-grown.' But our snapdragons and pansies have been out in 20 degree weather, uncovered, with no damage."

Along with innovations in product and production methods, the Duponts have shown themselves capable marketers, as well. Their display won the Green Goods Award at the 1986 LAN-MNA joint conference.

"We hope we can grow enough to satisfy everybody," Robert Sr. says. "We really have to expand."

That's coming soon. The Duponts plan to add an acre of greenhouse space, and several more 2,500-gallon irrigation tanks, next year.

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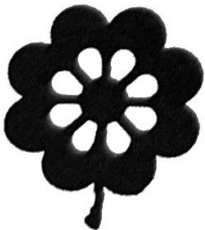
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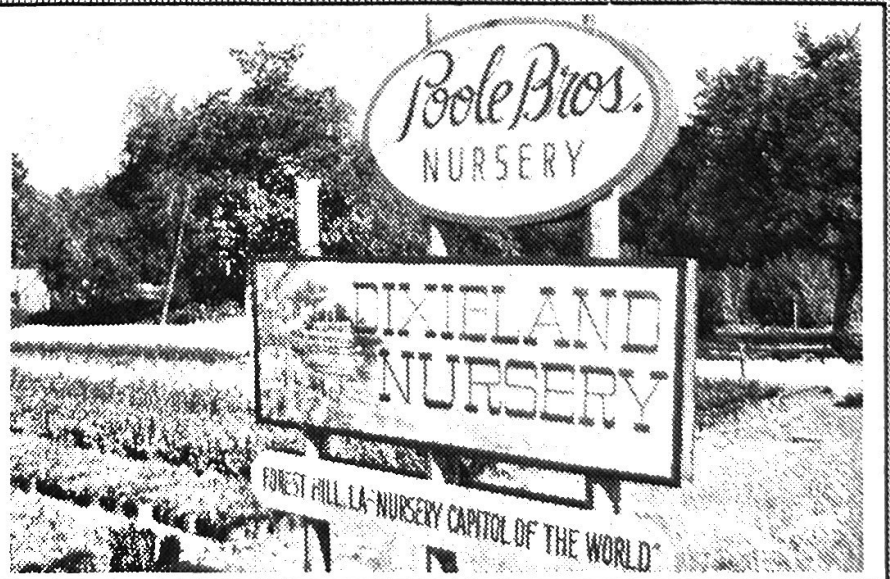
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At the 1986 LAN-MNA Conference, Bill LaCroix, center, was elected to continue as LAN President into a third year. Since LAN presidents normally serve a two-year term, and since the LAN-MNA conference alternates annually between Louisiana and Mississippi sites, future LAN presidents will be elected at the Louisiana meeting site. With LaCroix are, from left: Richard Odom, second vice president; Louis Parr, first vice president; Walter Imahara, treasurer; and Dr. Warren Meadows, secretary. Not shown is LAN past president Frank Akin.

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Horticulture laws to change

Extensive *revisions* are being proposed for Louisiana's horticulture laws. The proposals would more explicitly define what each horticulture professional can and cannot legally do. As this magazine went to press, the revisions were still being drafted. By the time you read this, however, drafts are probably available from your area *Horticulture Commission member*. Their phone numbers and professional representation are as follows:

Dennis McCloskey, Franklinton, (504) 796-9655, wholesale nurserymen.

Ralph Kelley, Farmerville, (318) 368-3834, retail florists.

Ronnie Sevin, New Orleans, (504) 733-6720, nursery stock dealers.

Jimmy Culpepper, Baton Rouge, (504) 925-4501, arborists.

Walter Imahara, Baton Rouge, (504) 767-2250, horticulturists.

William Hines, Shreveport, (318) 221-5172, wholesale florists.

Louis Parr, LaCombe, (504) 641-3600, landscape contractors.

Van Cox, Baton Rouge, (504) 388-1478, landscape architects.

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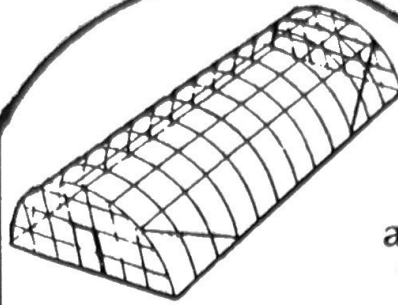
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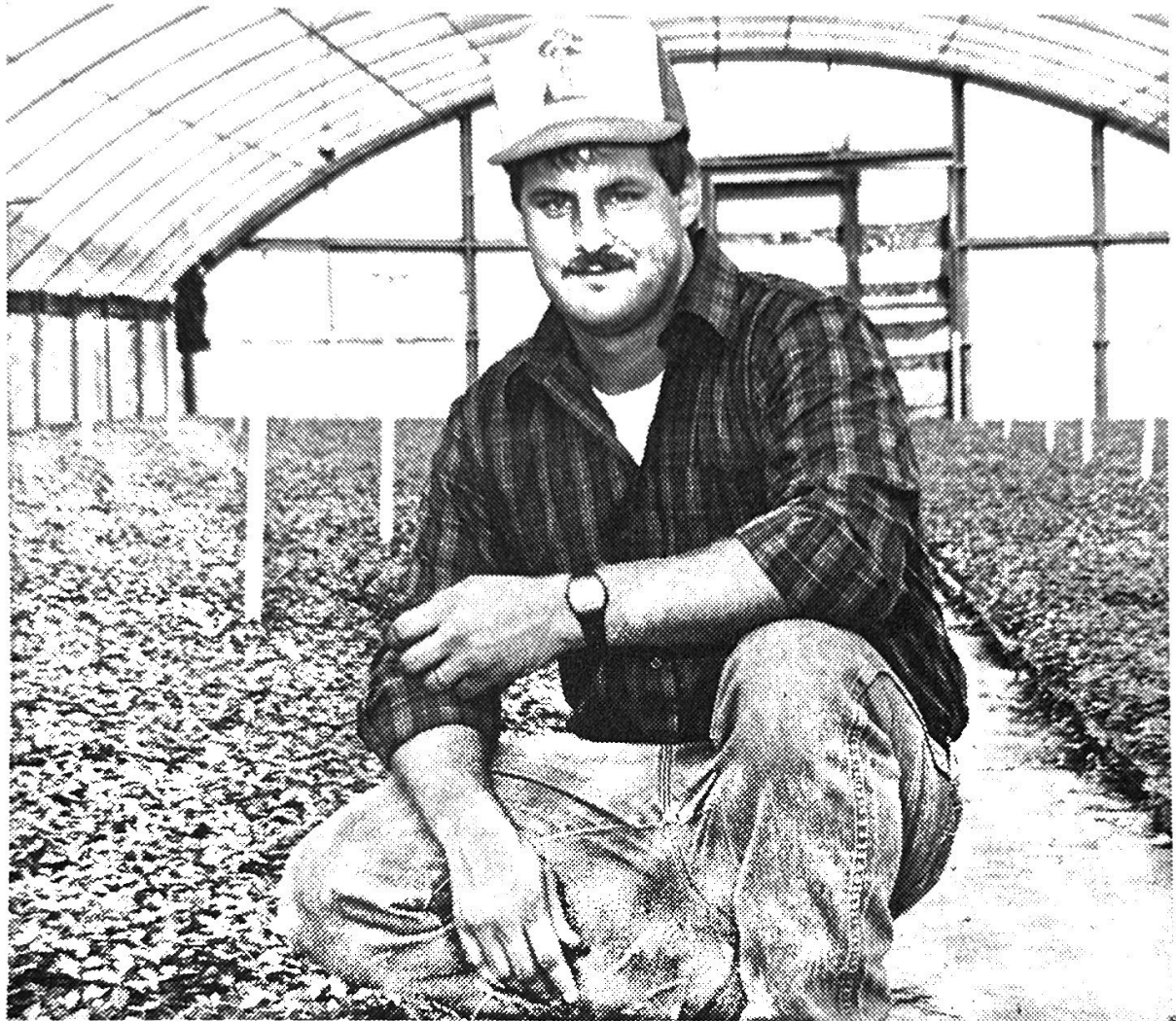
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