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NEWS
Since 1954

Solving Seasonal Labor Shortages

How to staff and grow your business through the H-2B Program.

See if you qualify

Solving Seasonal Labor Shortages

HOW TO STAFF AND GROW YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH THE H-2B PROGRAM

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The H-2B Program allows employers to hire foreign workers to perform seasonal labor in the U.S. The Lawn and Landscape Industry by far is the leading user of the program, advertising upwards of 85,000 positions each year. Louisiana is currently one of the top ten states utilizing the program.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

An employer must demonstrate to the Departments of Labor and Homeland Security that it needs workers on a temporary basis, usually tied to a particular season of the year, to qualify for the program. It must also prove that there are not enough U.S. workers willing and available to fill the job opportunity.

STEPS TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH THE H-2B PROGRAM

1. **Find a qualified consultant or immigration attorney** – An experienced consultant like Aztec Foreign Labor that is familiar with ever-changing program nuances is paramount to your success in the program.
2. **Strategize filing options** – Since there are a limited number of visas issued each year, being willing to participate in a number of filing strategies will only maximize your chances of obtaining the workers you need when you need them.
3. **Be patient** – Sometimes it takes a season or two to weed through workers before you find your “A-team”.
4. **Invest in your crew** – Once you find a good crew, be sure to invest in company culture and incentives, like offering more hours or rewarding good behavior by bringing family members.
5. **Maximize your free time** – Spending less time in field operations, you can now take time to strategically plan sales, marketing and administrative activities to grow your business.
6. **Grow the local workforce** – Having the right workers to manage will free up higher level jobs in management that might interest local US workers so that you can give back to the local workforce. **Each H-2B worker supports 4.64 American jobs.**

*The H-2B program and Aztec Labor's expertise on filing strategies has played a **pivotal role** in expanding our business, enabling us to meet increasing demand and seize growth opportunities.*

- **Matt Knick, Willowgrove Landscape**

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BRIAN BREAUX RETIRES

LNLA Congratulates Brian Breaux on his retirement from Farm Bureau after 43½ YEARS OF SERVICE

Throughout his career Brian has been very dedicated to the LFBF and the Louisiana agricultural industry. Brian started out in field services for 13 years and has been in the Commodity Department for the past 30 1/2 years, finishing up as the Commodity and Public Policy Managing Director for La Farm Bureau Federation Inc.

We wish Brian and his wife Lane a HAPPY RETIREMENT and best wishes!

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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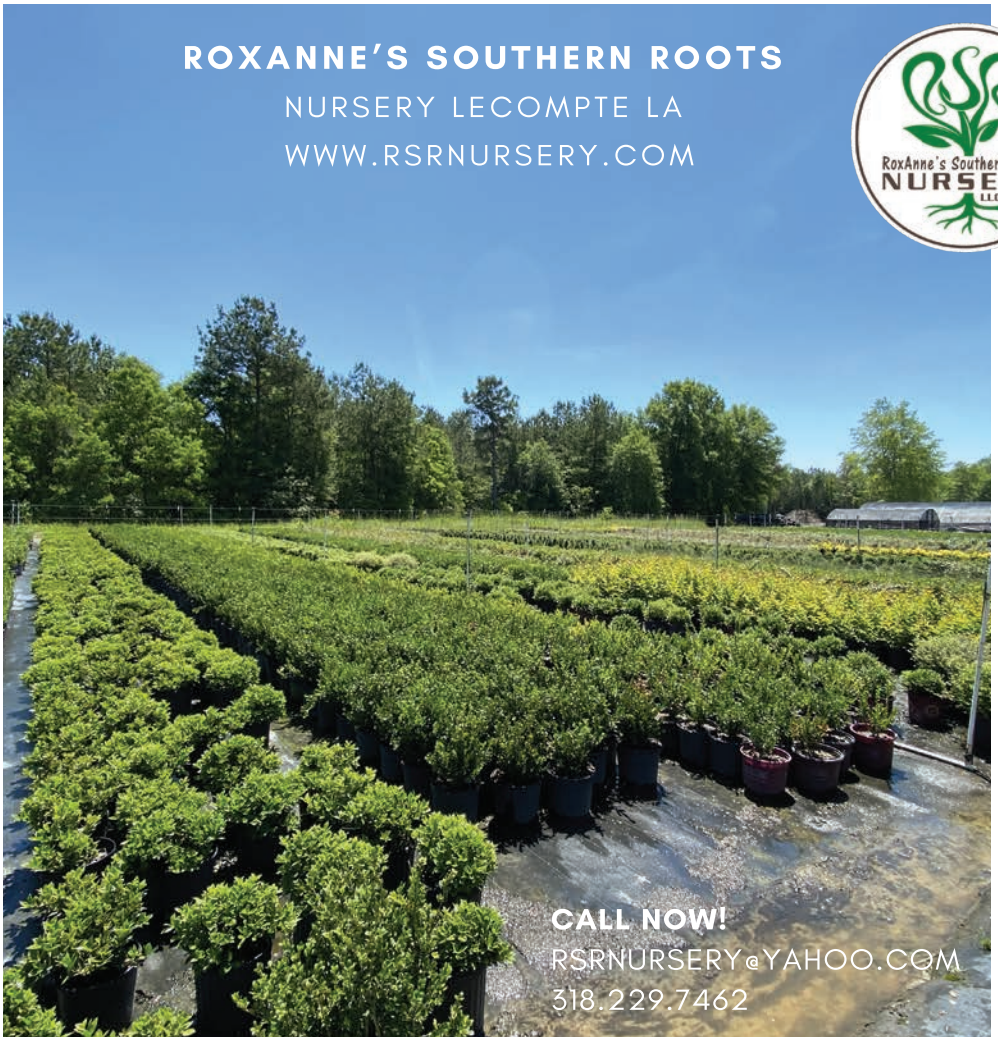
OUR MISSION

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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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Each season brings with it different obstacles and challenges and this spring did not disappoint. Only this spring it was not the typical weather-related or economical issues; it was political issues that we had to contend with. The 2024 regular session saw the Louisiana legislature moving fast and furiously towards passing legislation that could be viewed as detrimental towards our horticultural industry and many other industries across the state. In response, our relatively newly formed LNLA Legislative committee moved into action quickly. Their well- connected network of industry insiders and influencers provided timely information on the ins and outs of each and every bill that could negatively impact our horticulture industry and our team made the necessary decisions and commitments to tackle each one head on. They were successful at facilitating the horticulture industry's inclusion as one of only four industries to be granted an amendment to SB60. This amendment states that the Horticulture commission of Louisiana can continue to administer an examination as part of our licensure process. This ensures that the professionals conducting horticulture business around our state are highly qualified, well-educated, and proficient at their respective trade.

The legislative team, led by past president of LNLA Lisa Loup and current 2 nd Vice President of LNLA Jeff Reid, put in countless hours at the state capital in opposition to these many bills. They, among many others, sacrificed a tremendous amount of time away from their respective businesses in order to stand up for the rights of our industry and I want to personally thank them for their efforts. Oftentimes it is hard to believe that LNLA is a volunteer board when witnessing the amount of dedication and efforts put forth by its members. I am truly honored to be a part of such a dynamic and selfless team.

I saw first-hand that emails and phone calls to our politicians are a very effective means of showing either approval or disapproval for legislation on the docket as each has to be mentioned on the record. I also realized the true meaning of the quote I so frequently hear now regarding politics: "If you are not at the table, then you are on the table." So, please read the informative emails that our Executive Director sends out and do not blindly act upon them but rather use them to help make informed decisions that benefit our industry as a whole.

Lastly, one of the questions I receive most frequently from both LNLA members and prospective members alike is : 'What does LNLA do and why should I remain, or become, a member?' Clearly this means that we need to do better at communicating and sharing both our victories, and our shortcomings, as it relates to our efforts in all industry-related matters. My hope is that this is the beginning of that necessary communication that keeps us all more well-connected and better informed.

Thank you,
Michael Roe

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FIRE SAFETY IN THE LANDSCAPE: PINE STRAW IGNITION TRIALS

By Dr. Jeb Fields and Dr. Damon E. Abdi

We routinely combat the heat in the landscape, ensuring our plants (and our crews) are kept cool from the summer sun this time of year. With temperatures rising and clients calling, we may feel the heat of running around trying to put out a bunch of little fires. At the Hammond Research Station, we recently conducted some trials that quite literally involved putting out a bunch of little fires.

At some point in our careers, we may have encountered the misfortune of seeing a mulched landscape bed burn – a result of unintended ignition from any number of sources. The last thing any of us want is for our hot new landscape to literally burn up. We conducted a brief trial investigating the flammability risk of pine straw mulch, a staple feature in the southern landscape, when exposed to different ignition sources. These ignition sources included *hopefully* unrealistic situations, such as ignition from a propane torch or a lit match directly applying a flame to the mulch surface. We also investigated methods of ignition that are more likely to be encountered, especially this time of year – a carelessly discarded cigarette and a smoldering charcoal briquette. To perform this trial, we laid out 4′ x 4′ squares of pine straw and allowed the material to settle for approximately three weeks (during a relatively dry period with little to no rain). We then placed a welded steel square over the pine straw, within which were four sub-squares (appx 2′x 2′) – one for each ignition source. We set up a camera to record each trial, allowing us to "study the film" and time exactly how long it took for each ignition source to set the respective sub-square ablaze, how long it took to fully burn each sub-square, and to identify any patterns in burning. With our camera set up, a fresh pack of cigarettes, and the charcoal grill lit, the fun was ready to begin.

The propane torch and the lit match readily ignited the pine straw in our trials, quickly setting the respective quadrants on fire and rapidly engulfing the designated area. It came as no surprise that these unlikely-to-occur ignition sources quickly burned the area. What did come as a surprise was that the lit cigarette did not ignite the pine straw in our trials; however, many, if not all of us have seen from experience that this is still a major risk. Perhaps the most interesting was the charcoal briquette. The white-hot briquette was placed on the mulch, and while all seemed ok for the first ten or so minutes, the smoldering briquette eventually ignited and rapidly burned out the entire plot.

While it may have looked like we lived every teenager's dream for a day, we drew several insights from this project.

1: Pine straw, if ignited by anything, will rapidly burn, and can easily get out of control.

2: just because something does not immediately ignite pine straw, doesn't mean that you are in the clear (so make sure your guests use an ashtray, nobody likes littering anyway).

3: a smoldering charcoal briquette falling to the ground may be rare, but pine straw is certainly a medium that can ignite and turn your well-done landscape into a burnt and charred mess. As summer barbecue season heats up, make sure that you take steps to ensure that your landscape beds are not included on the menu… because unlike our favorite foods, pine straw is not enjoyed when it is slow smoked.

Dr. Raj Singh, Associate Professor and Director, Plant Diagnostic Center, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge

Southern Blight on Ornamentals

Louisiana's warm and humid weather provides a conducive environment for plant pathogens to quickly establish and spread. As a result, an important plant disease called southern blight has been detected in Louisiana ornamental production. Southern blight is caused by the soil-borne fungus, Athelia rolfsii (Sclerotium rolfsii). The pathogen has a wide host range and is known to infect over 500 plant species including economically important vegetables and ornamental plants. The fungus attacks the lower stem of plants at or near the soil line during warm and wet conditions. Initial symptoms appear as wilting and yellowing of leaves (Figure 1). The lower stem becomes necrotic and the whole plant eventually turns brown and dies (Figure 2). Closer examination of the base of a diseased plant reveals a lesion that girdles the stem. As the disease progresses, white fungal growth (mycelium) and small, mustard seed-like, tan colored sclerotia appear at or near the base of infected plants (Figure 3). Sclerotia turn reddish to dark brown as they age. The mycelium and sclerotia extend on the soil surface around the infected plant.

The fungus survives as mycelia or sclerotia on the plant as well as sclerotia in the soil where they can persist for several years. The disease is favored by hot and humid weather, which is common in Louisiana. The pathogen may spread by several means including, planting of diseased transplants, movement of infested soil, equipment, tools, and plant debris. Running irrigation water may also aid in dispersal of sclerotia.

Management of southern blight starts with avoiding planting susceptible crops in areas known to be infested with the pathogen for two or more years. Turn the soil to bury the sclerotia as deeply as possible (8 to 12 inches is recommended). For small plantings, aluminum foil may be wrapped around the lower part of the stem (from just below the soil line to approximately 2 inches above the soil); this provides a physical barrier that prevents the pathogen from reaching the plant. Remove infected plants and discard them properly. Do not compost the disease plants. Movement of infested soils should be minimized to prevent pathogen spread. Cleaning farm equipment to remove dirt is recommended. For information on fungicides recommended to manage southern blight, please consult LSU AgCenter Plant Disease Management Guide (Publication # 1802).

A bachelor's button (Centaurea cyanus) exhibiting initial symptoms of wilting caused by southern blight.

Presence of white mycelium of southern blight fungus on lower parts of a bachelor's button plant.

Presence of small, mustard seed-like, tan colored sclerotia near the base of an infected plant.

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WATER QUALITY FACTORS THAT INCREASE SUMMER POND PROBLEMS

By M.P. Hayes, PhD, Assistant Professor of Agricultural & Industrial Water Quality

With the summer heat and rain around the corner, it is never too early to identify the common factors that affect the health and sustainability of your pond. Good water quality is essential to maintaining a balanced ecosystem and there are many areas where property owners can locate potential problems. Whether you are operating a small ornamental pond or large irrigation, the culprits for pond problems typically remain the same: dissolved oxygen and nutrients.

Dissolved oxygen in the water will vary with agitation, number of fish and plant species, season, and water temperature. Oxygen is directly dissolved from the air or is also produced by aquatic plants during photosynthesis. Temperature and water movement have the most critical effect on oxygen. During the summer, high temperatures reduce the solubility of oxygen in water. This may cause of depletion of oxygen in the pond ecosystem affecting fish and plants. Additionally, the lack of water movements in shallow, stagnant ponds can also contribute to low dissolved oxygen levels. Aeration from mechanical sources (waterfalls, fountains, or aerators) can break the surface tension, allowing more water mixing which lets more oxygen diffuse into the water. While plants can also help increase oxygen during daytime photosynthesis, the clarity of the pond affects the level at which plants can grow. Turbidity from erosion, sedimentation, and algae growth can all decrease sunlight penetration into the pond. As the summers get hotter, make sure there is ample water movement through your pond system. For quick remediations, small solar-powered aerators can increase dissolved oxygen while a more permanent system is being designed.

Nitrogen and phosphorus compounds are nutrients that enter ponds during runoff events, through fish feeding and waste, and the decomposition of organic matter (plants and leaves). Nutrients are ultimately needed for the plant ecosystem, but when managed incorrectly or in excesses, can stimulate algal growth to cause blooms. The two major forms of blooms are free-floating (planktonic) or clingy, filamentous algae which can reduce pond clarity and deplete dissolved oxygen. If algal blooms are present in pond systems, the first step is for property owners to identify the source and then craft a plan to better alleviate the excess nutrients. For example, managing fertilizer runoff from greenhouses or surrounding areas can reduce nutrients that make it to the pond. This can be done by planting trees and vegetation or building water gardens will create buffers to reduce runoff to the pond system. Additional practices to reduce excess nutrients include avoiding over-stocking and over-feeding fish, using bio-filtration or flushing techniques for runoff, or adding bacterial water conditioners to ornamental ponds to speed up the nitrification process.

Many additional factors can affect pond health including residual pesticide runoff, erosion, the presence of organic waste, reduced vegetation from surrounding areas, and heavy fluctuations in water levels. For property owners, it is pivotal to recognize irregularities in your pond ecosystems like algae sheen, foul odor, murky water, dead fish, and lack of wildlife or vegetation. Recognizing the symptoms can expedite the mitigation practices to balance the ecosystem and keep your ponds healthy. In late fall, Dr. M.P. Hayes' Water Quality Extension Lab will be doing water quality surveys for ponds using deployable sensors and small remote-operated boats. For more information or questions regarding water quality, contact M.P. Hayes at mhayes@agcenter.lsu.edu.

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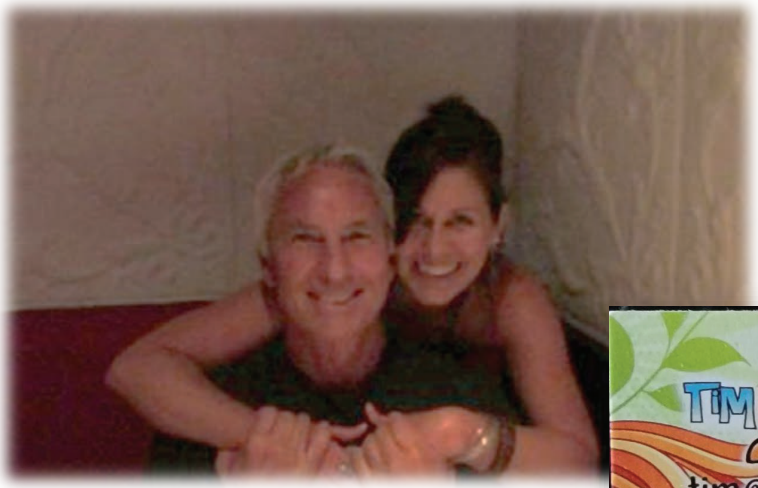

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LNLA SPONSORED INTERNS AT HRS SUMMER 2024

Damon Abdi and Jeb Fields

As we get into the swing of summer, we welcome several interns to the Hammond Research Station. The internships at the Hammond Research Station are a great opportunity for aspiring horticulturists to learn a whole host of skills to advance their knowledge and capabilities to serve the green industry. Our interns have the opportunity to work across several areas at the Hammond Station, from working in the gardens and greenhouses to assisting with nursery research and green infrastructure research. Our goal is to provide our interns with the tools to make an impact for the green industry, preparing them to help our stakeholders throughout the state and to be the next generation of Louisiana horticulture. The opportunities for our interns would not be possible without the support of the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, so we extend our gratitude for everything the LNLA does to help the Hammond Station and the green industry at large.

Among our interns, we have some familiar faces and some new names to learn.

Brianna Slade

Brianna has just finished up her undergraduate degree in Horticulture at LSU. A native of Ponchatoula, Brianna is joining us this summer where she will be working on green infrastructure research, focusing on water treatment technologies in the landscape. Her project will involve researching various raingarden medias, with the goal of reducing fertilizer lost to runoff water.

Kendall May

Our next intern spotlight shines on a familiar face, Kendall May. This is certainly not Kendall's first time at the HRS, as she has interned at the station for the past four years since her time in high school. A native of Tickfaw, Kendall is currently a student at Southeastern, studying Biology with a focus on plant science. In fact, her connection to the Hammond Station extends back to middle school, where HRS research associate Ashley Hickman was her science teacher.

Sarah Phillips

Coming from Covington, Sarah Phillips is joining us this summer to get some hands-on horticulture experience before classes commence this fall. Sarah is in her junior year at LSU, studying Horticulture. Sarah is particularly interested in greenhouse production, and she will certainly get plenty of experience with that at the station this summer.

We look forward to developing the skillset of the next generation of horticulture professionals, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to the LNLA for supporting this program.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SKETCHBOOK

∞ GREEN LAWS, DESIGN PRINCIPLES, DESIGNER PLANTS ∞

Prof. Buck Abbey, Landscape Architect, Abbey Associates Inc., The Green Laws Organization, New Orleans

Rebuilding Urban Forests

Robert Frost wrote in his poem Mending Wall a proverb that stated "good fences make good neighbors."

I might add that the design of fencing in landscape design is one of the most important tasks of the landscape architect. The best fences provide privacy, spatial flow, color and texture for the property owner.

However fences tend to clutter the landscape and divide urban property into little territories. For this reason alone it is important to address fencing as a serious concern to the designer as well as the property owner.

Fencing design begins with the site. First some basic facts must be determined. For instance, you must decide how much landscape fencing is required, what purpose or purposes it will serve and what type of fencing is required for the goals that need to be met to complement the landscape design.

Reasons For Landscape Fencing

There are of course as many reasons for landscape fencing as there are clients to serve. But a few examples will explain why thinking deeply about the design of fencing is important. One reason, but perhaps not the best is to define property edges and to use the fencing as a tool of personal protection and priovacy.

All too often people barricade themselves in more than they define the quality of the landscape design. This type of landscape fencing is seen more often in urban areas than in small towns and suburban neighborhoods. We have all seen "Fort Apache" and how that is used for personal protection. That is not what we want.

But a better reason is to make the entire landscape of the site more appealing, inviting and visually interesting. To do this, designers know that there are many ways to choose fencing that complements the landscape and meets the property owner's visual desire .

Landscape Fencing Styles

There are several landscape fencing styles. The most often commonly used fencing material is wood, often cedar or treated pine. Wood fences tend to clutter the landscape and divide urban property into little territories. Further, wood fences, unless constructed of the very best materials, must be maintained. And if vines are used to soften the fence they must be carefully selected. In our area we see Virginia Creeper as the type of vine that will adhere to wood fencing. Wood fences in particular need much care in the South since they tend to rot away in our subtropical, termite infested climate in very short time.

Many do not think wood plank fencing makes for good landscape design. However, the use of wood rail offers good design landscape solutions, especially if combined with hedge type vegetation as seen above.

Rails can be designed to be used in several ways. But think about useing them with vegetation. The old fashioned split rail fence can be attractively used in combination with flowering shurbs such as azaleas, spirea, gardenias, hydrangeas, mock orange, camellias or old fashioned weigela.

Farm field rail fencing, either wood or vinyl, can be creatively used. A three rail or five rail fence might be incorporated into or interweaved with an evergreen hedge of holly, box wood, oleander or loropetalum. These plants might be used in their natural form or clipped, hedged or even planted of mixed by species. Vegetation incorporated into a landscape fence on property edges or as spatial dividers can be a wonderful solution to enhance any residential or commercial property.

Often used, and not used very creatively is wire. Chainlink or "hurricane fences" can be used and are often overused. This type of fenceing rearly used in combination with vegetation. Vines however, such as English or Baltic Ivy as well as Carolina Yellow Jessmine, Fig Vine and certain climbing roses make this type of fence interesting.

Iron fencing is another common fence and stronger vines such a climbing roses or even the annual Hyacinth Bean work well to make this style of fencing colorful. Wall fencing with brick, block or stone is stronger and may carry agressive vine growth.

Walls can be enhanced with a grid of fine wire that will allow the use of Confederate Jasmine, Chinese Wisteria or Trumpet Vine.

What really determines which vine to grow is to understand the method that each vine uses to crawl and move about. Three methods are common. Some twine and others grip with tendrills special suction pads or aerial rootlets.

Know your fence material, your palette of vines and which type of movement devise each vine uses. Flowering vines are always the best.

Further, fences, unless constructed of the very best materials, must be maintained. Wood fences in particular need much care in the South since they tend to rot away in our subtropical termite infested climate in very short time. Vinyl has a limited lifetime. Wire is used and should carry a vine such as Confederate jasmine, climbing roses or Baltic Ivy that will completly cover the fence with leaves year round.

There are several ways hedges that can be used in landscape design. Hedges can be geometrically clipped, left to grow naturally or be combined with other materials. Vegetation used in combination with either wire, wood, rail, iron or wall makes a wonderful landscape fence. But many landscape architects consider the hedge in combination the best landscape fencing solution.

THE TORTOISE AND THE TAP ROOT

∞ A ROOT RACE TO ESTABLISHMENT ∞

Kristopher S. Criscione and Jeb S. Fields

When we grow our crops, we pay strict attention to detail to the size of the plant, the quantity and quality of flowers, or perhaps the pigmentation in the foliage. It's at these shoot developmental stages that we typically deem our container plants to be marketable and salable. Afterall, these are the plant characteristics that spark passion for horticulturists, gardeners, and landscape architects. However, how often is the root system checked for health, quality, and vitality?

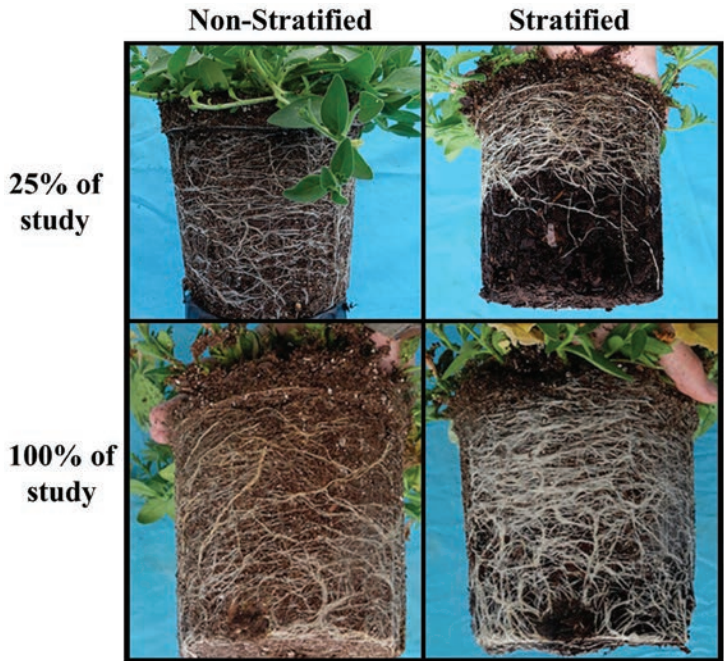
The roots are perhaps the most important thing we need to manage during production. We can consider roots to be our gate-keepers, controlling everything the plant does, from growth and development to health and quality. Roots are what determines how much water and fertilizer we apply. When either is applied in excess or insufficiently, the roots are the first to notice and the first to suffer. Upon inspection of a poor plant, the roots are nearly always the cause – for one reason or another. The substrate we choose is the rubber band that holds it all together, controlling how effectively water and fertilizer is held (and available for the plant) and dictating sustainability. Afterall, we don't want to 'dump' our money and resources down the drain. Thus, there is a complex and important relationship between the roots and substrate.

Kris filling the rhizobox

We have a reasonably solid understanding of how roots grow and explore in the ground; however, we are just at the forefront of understanding how roots grow in soilless production systems. Genetically, roots are controlled by the same genes dictating how they investigate their environment - whether in ground or containers. Yet, the soil and soilless environment are so vastly different, we can't assume that they will grow the same.

Regardless of substrate, when put in a container little water is held in the top (with gravity and surface evaporation having a leading influence). This stimulates our roots to grow downward in search of moisture – often finding it in the container bottom. As a result, roots tend to grow narrower and more tunneled. Once they hit the bottom, the roots then expand outward. A term we like to call the traditional "down-and-out". This growth pattern can be more dramatic in bark-based substrates given the larger air-filled pores. We believe because of this moisture gradient, the roots may thicken faster, which ultimately can reduce the amount of water and nutrients a plant can take up. So, sure, we are getting faster rooting to the container base, but is that necessarily better?

By now, I am sure many of you have heard of stratified substrates – layering different substrates within the container to effectively redistribute water and air balance. What if we were to say that this stratification can modify and manipulate our root growth to our advantage? When we place a finer substrate in the top of the container and coarser substrate below, we are essentially building a more robust root system. The finer particles are placed on top to improve water and fertilizer salt retention, making it more available / accessible for the roots. As said previously, these resources are quickly lost from the top of the substrate, basically forcing roots to grow downward. With a stratified substrate, it allows roots to grow more slowly and shallow at first, with the plant dedicating stronger investments in its root system. In some instances, after the roots have explored this upper strata, root proliferation explodes in the coarser sub-layer and fills out the container more efficiently.



Sequential growth petuniares

continued >

THE TORTOISE AND THE TAP ROOT

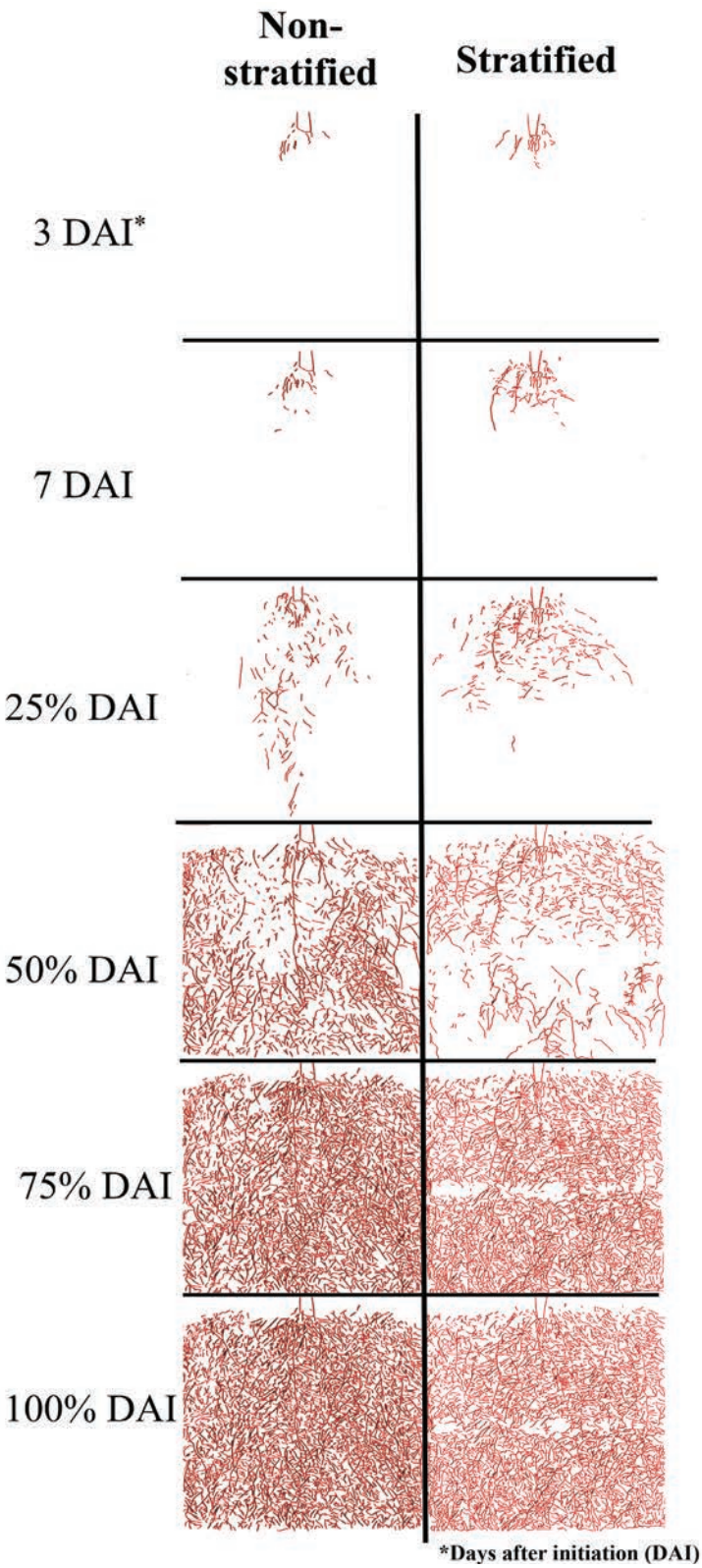
continued >

We've measured wider root distribution angles, where instead of growing continuously "down-and-out", they are growing sequentially out, fill and explore the top strata layer, and then down into the bottom sub-strata. With this wider root growth angles, it might compliment well with our standard top-down irrigation application or top-dressing of fertilizer, enhancing nutrients that are obtained via interception (direct contact with the root; most micronutrients) or mass flow (through water uptake; most other essential nutrients). Some nutrients like phosphorus or potassium are taken up via diffusion (very slowly through gradients), so maintaining adequate moisture in the upper strata may improve uptake.

We've noticed that stratified-grown plants have stronger establishment from the root plug / liner, even in our very hot and humid Louisiana conditions. Plus, building a more robust root system allows the plants to endure droughts and periods of low water applications. We continuously measure longer and thinner roots in a stratified system too, at least in the upper half. The longer roots highlights that the stratified system is really exploring its container environment and having more access to resources- even if water and fertilizer salts are not evenly distributed. The thinner roots (called fine roots) are associated with more uptake of water and mineral nutrients. Thus, we are engineering our roots systems to increase uptake capacities throughout the entirety of the container.

We have also observed overall healthier root systems. The "sequentially out" growth process observed in stratified substrate systems allows for much greater overall root mass. This means more roots in the same time period and container volume, or as we like to call it - the same time and space. The root response also helps prevent water stress from onsetting as quickly and allows for more effective plant recovery after stress conditions.

While we are just scratching the surface of container-grown root systems, the early efforts to understand the world below the surface of the pot have come back with very positive and strong results. Most importantly, we know that there is so much more we have to learn – an exciting insight as we continue to think about the future. Before we wrap this up, we need to recall our title – as we expect you're dying to know. Just like the old fable of the tortoise and the hare, quickly rooting to the bottom in standard systems might look exciting, but the slow and steady root growth and development observed in stratified substrate systems yield healthier plants, better transplant success, and can cut losses from stress or issues in the long run.



This article was developed to provide insight into Kristopher Criscione's Ph.D. research over the past five years at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. Kristopher is set to graduate in December 2024 where he will start his new position as the Virginia state nursery production specialist with Virginia Tech. It is with great pride and excitement that we both thank the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association as well as the entire Louisiana nursery industry for their support of our work over these past years.

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Please keep KK in your prayers!

Eric DeBoer, PhD - Louisiana State University AgCenter

Maximizing Herbicide Efficacy

If there is one thing I have learned in my research and extension capacity during my 11 months in Louisiana, it's that weeds are king. The most common questions I get from homeowners are something to the effect of "What is this weed, and how do I kill it?" Maximizing the efficacy of herbicide applications reduces the number of callbacks received, increases customer satisfaction, and is responsible and sustainable.

It is often said that the most important aspect of chemical weed control is properly identifying the weed in question. Other important factors that affect herbicide performance are proper timing, herbicide rate, and carrier volume. There are a multitude of resources available for determining which herbicides are labeled for controlling specific weeds. Rather than discussing specific products for specific weeds, let's investigate an often-overlooked area of chemical weed control: your spray water or herbicide carrier quality. Did you know that the quality of your spray water can have a huge influence on the efficacy of your herbicide applications? Successful chemical weed management depends on the interaction of herbicide active ingredients with water quality parameters that can influence efficacy. Here are some things to consider:

pH

Spray water pH is a critical water quality factor that influences herbicide performance. A lower- or higher-than-optimal water pH can result in decreased solubility or the dissociation of the active ingredient(s) into an inactive product, which will then affect herbicide absorption and translocation. Sulfonylurea herbicides like trifloxysulfuron, rimsulfuron, and metsulfuron-methyl will hydrolyze more rapidly to non-herbicidal molecules in an acidic spray solution vs. a more basic solution, which may result in reduced herbicide solubility, rendering the active ingredient less effective.

Many turfgrass herbicides are formulated as weak acids. Herbicides like clethodim, sethoxydim, glyphosate, and 2,4-D exhibit the greatest uptake through the leaf cuticle when sprayed in slightly acidic solutions compared with a basic solution. This has to do with the functional group of the active ingredient becoming non-ionic in lower pH solutions, allowing it to pass through the plant cuticle more readily than an ion carrying a charge.

To further complicate things, it has also been shown that the ideal spray water pH for a specific active ingredient can change based on the specific weed you're trying to control. Just as an example, the herbicide mesotrione showed increased horseweed (Conyza canadensis) control with acidic spray solutions compared with basic solutions, but control of barnyardgrass [Echinochloa crus-galli (L.) Beauv.] with mesotrione was increased with basic over acidic solutions.

Hardness

Hard water cations in spray solutions can have a negative effect on herbicide efficacy. The negative effects of hard water antagonism on weak-acid herbicide efficacy are well documented. Researchers have shown hard water antagonism with clethodim, sethoxydim, dicamba, 2,4-D, glyphosate, glufosinate, diquat, MCPA, and imazethapyr, to name a few. This is because the positively charged ions in hard water will react with the negatively charged herbicide molecules, forming a less soluble or inactive compound. Efficacy can again depend on the specific weed you're targeting. Something like glyphosate in a hard water solution may show better control of one weed vs. another.

Hard water can reduce the efficacy of weak-acid herbicides like glyphosate.

Temperature

Yes, even the temperature of your spray solution can affect the efficacy of your herbicide applications. Mainly, high solution temperatures can lead to rapid conversion of herbicide active ingredients into inactive compounds, and cold solutions will result in reduced solubility of active ingredients. High spray water temperature can reduce surface tension, viscosity, and spray-droplet size, resulting in increased vapor drift, reduced interception by targeted plants, and sub-optimum droplet coverage.

Turbidity

Sand, silt, clay, organic matter, and sediment suspended in spray water solution can bind to herbicide active ingredient molecules resulting in reduced efficacy. Spray water turbidity has been shown to affect the efficacy of glyphosate, diquat, paraquat, iodosulfuron, clethodim, sethoxydim, and foramsulfuron. Herbicides that exhibit low soil mobility or those that exhibit high soil adsorption can bind tightly to particles suspended in solution.

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Now what?

Most herbicides will perform best in a slightly acidic to neutral pH spray solution. Make sure to test your water's pH regularly with a pH meter or even just a pool test strip kit is enough to get a decent idea of your solution pH. For a solution pH that is too high, things like citric or phosphoric acid can help bring down the solution pH. Ammonium sulfate has been shown to help reduce the effects of high pH and hard water for spray solutions. According to Purdue University Extension, ammonium sulfate at 8.5 to 17 lbs. of sprayable dry ammonium sulfate per 100 gallons of water can counteract the effects of hard water. There are also spray adjuvant products that work as pH adjusters, killing two birds with one stone.

Controlling Virginia buttonweed is hard enough, make sure your herbicide spray solution isn't making your job harder.

Water temperature and turbidity will be a little more difficult to control. You can store spray solution water in tanks in the shade. Make sure when mixing herbicides that the water is decently warm but not scalding hot. If you deem turbid water to be an issue, investing in some sort of filtration system may help increase your herbicide efficacy.

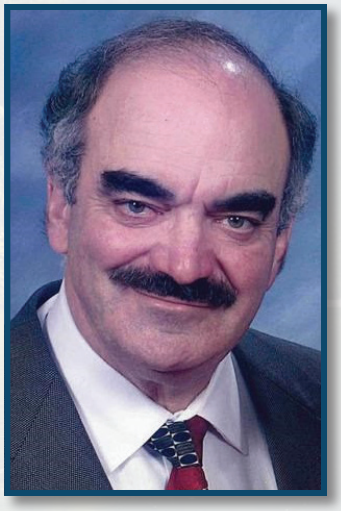
Hopefully, none of these problems are issues that you're facing, and all your herbicide applications work as expected. However, if you've been wondering about underperforming products or you keep getting calls because weeds aren't dying, look further into these areas to make sure you're not overlooking something as simple as correcting solution pH.

Ammonium sulfate added to hard water spray solutions can increase herbicide efficacy.

Sources:
Daramola, O. S., Johnson, W. G., Jordan, D. L., Chahal, G. S., & Devkota, P. (2022). Spray water quality and herbicide performance: a review. Weed Technology, 36(6), 758-767.
Patton, A. and Elmore, M. (2023) Turfgrass Weed Control for Professionals – Purdue University Extension

In Memorandum

Jim Stuppy



James (Jim) C. Stuppy of the well-known, 151-year-old business Stuppy Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri, died peacefully on Sunday, May 19. He was 79.

Born April 15, 1945, to George L. Stuppy and Helen G. Stuppy, Jim grew up in St. Joe, graduated from Christian Brother High School in 1963. He attended Creighton University, where he met Sue Tracy; they were married on August 17, 1968. He furthered his education at Oklahoma State University, where he earned a master's degree in economics. Jim also served in the United States Navy, reaching the rank of lieutenant.

Jim and Sue moved to Kansas City, where he joined Stuppy, Inc. in 1971 as the fourth-generation owner of the wholesale floral and greenhouse company. He became president and CEO in 1975. At the time, Stuppy was still growing flowers, as well as wholesaling them; Jim got them out of growing to focus strictly on wholesale floral distribution and greenhouse manufacturing. His son Matt, the fifth-generation of the family business, sold off the wholesale flower business due to major changes in the flower distribution market.

Jim is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sue; children, Matt (Kristen), Frank (Kelley), John (Stephanie) and Angela (Humberto); and 12 grandchildren

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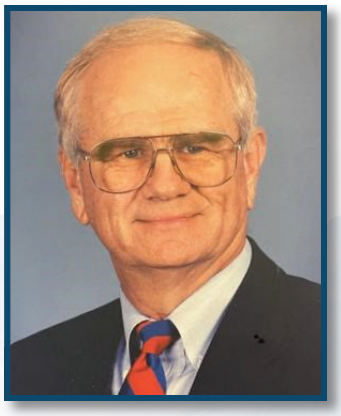
In Memorandum

Fredric Lee Hoogland



Fred was born on February 18, 1936, and passed away peacefully on April 22, 2024, following a lengthy illness. He lived most of his life in Ruston and said he never wanted to live anywhere else. He was a graduate of Ruston High School and graduated in Horticulture at Louisiana Tech University.

Fred was a dynamic force in our community. His entrepreneurial spirit, vision, and leadership profoundly impacted those around him. As a business owner in the nursery and landscaping trade, Fred's innovative ideas and dedication propelled his ventures to great success. His tireless efforts and time spent training others in the nursery and landscape field enriched the lives of countless individuals through employment and career opportunities.

Fred was a true leader in every sense of the word. He owned and operated Hoogland's Nursery and Landscape, Inc. and was very active in the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen, earning his way to being president of that association. He served in the Ruston Jaycees as president and was later named Outstanding Young Man of the Year in Ruston. Fred was on the Lincoln Parish Police Jury for sixteen years, serving as president of the jury for his last eight years. He was active in many other civic organizations including the Ruston Kiwanis, the Farm Bureau, and served on the Lincoln General Hospital Board (currently Northeast Louisiana Medical Center).

Beyond his many professional accomplishments, Fred was deeply committed to the betterment of our community. He generously contributed his time, resources, and expertise to various charitable causes, leaving a legacy of compassion and service. Fred's lifelong passion, dating back to his junior high school days, was his vision for Lincoln Parish Park. As Ruston's Glen Harris appropriately wrote in June of 2018, "If there ever was a visionary, a person who could look at something and imagine what it could become, it was Ruston's Fredric Hoogland." Fredric was one of those men that if he could dream it, he could build it. Whether inventing a means to streamline an operation at his nursery and landscape business or using his backhoe to build a ten-acre pond, dam, and spillway, or the thousands of yards he landscaped, Fred's talents and unwavering work ethic were unmatched.

As for our community, Fred's lifelong quest for the land acquisition and development for the Lincoln Parish Park was his crowning achievement. Over several years Fred spent countless hours and days walking the woods of Lincoln Parish in an effort to find the perfect location for the Parish Park. He succeeded. Fred oversaw the construction of our Lincoln Parish Park and turned a patch of woods on the Farmerville highway into the jewel it is today. Upon the opening of the park, Fred served as the first Lincoln Parish Park administrator overseeing and building pavilions, beaches, campgrounds, roads, playgrounds and much more. Fred's attention to detail ranging from the flower beds, to the park entrance, to the location of the BBQ pits in the campground was amazing.

Fred was most active in the lives of his two boys Mike and David. He built camps in the woods with catwalks running between the trees, rope swings for entertainment, and took the boys and their friends on many hunting and camping trips. His home on Highway 80 East was the place to be. The Hoogland's hosted huge July 4th cookouts with the famous washer-pitching tournament. From the camps he built in the woods to the involvement in Mike's and David's sports careers, Fred was involved in everything. He was a very caring man.

Later in life, Fred married the love of his life, Margaret Sims Dunn Hoogland. At their home on Ashland Street in Ruston, he turned a swampy cypress tree-bottom into a showplace with beautiful ponds, woods, and grounds.

Fred's magnetic personality and charisma drew people to him. His presence lit up any room he entered. While exuding confidence and strength, he also had a genuine warmth and generosity that endeared him to many.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, John and Winifred Hoogland, his brother Richard Hoogland, his daughter Cynthia Lee Hoogland, his son, Michael John Hoogland, and great granddaughter, Holly Diane Hoogland.

Fred was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. His survivors include his wife of 22 years, Margaret; his son David and wife Kellye and their children Jay and Will (Madison); his daughter-in-law Valerie and children John (Carlyle), Caroline (fiancé Brendan Lind), and Hunter (Olivia); Margaret's children Sonia Beatty, Susan Hermes and husband Randal, Tucson Dunn and wife Natalie, and their children and grandchildren. He is survived by great-grandchildren Wrenly Blaise Hoogland, Hays Holt Hoogland, and Marshall John Hoogland, two brothers Donald and Jimmy (wife Dorothy Etta) and one sister Jane McDermott (husband Tom).

Special recognition and gratitude to Fred's groundskeeper/friend D'Wesley Mardis for his three decades of hard work and loyalty and for making the grounds on Ashland Street look so beautiful. Also, a huge thank you to Rachelle Lathan of Rachelle Lathan and Friends Caregiving Service for taking such personal and loving care of Fred over the last 6 years.

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In Memorandum

Sumi Imahara

Sumile Jeannette Matsumoto Imahara was born on October 22, 1934 to the late Shiguru (Sam) and Shizu Imai Matsumoto in Salinas, CA, where she lived with her parents, grandparents and her two brothers.

Sumi was in second grade when Pearl Harbor was attacked and her Japanese American family was interned and sent to Poston, an internment camp in Arizona best known for its dust storms. She attended school while in camp and did not remember it as a bad experience for herself, but expect it was hard on her family.

When they were released after the war, the family decided to move to Oakland, CA and later to Berkeley.

Sumi attended and graduated from Mills College in Oakland in Liberal Arts. There was a great demand in California for teachers, so she took additional courses at San Jose State and taught in nearby schools at the same time under an intern program. She taught classes in California for 2½ years.

In 1961, teachers were being heavily recruited to go overseas due to the Berlin crisis and Sumi got a contract with the U.S State Department to teach 2nd and 3rd grade military dependent children at an Army post in Dachau, Germany. She had asked for a small school near a big city, so she was sent there since the school only had 3 teachers and it was near Munich. She met Walter, 1st Lieutenant, who was stationed there in the Army. They were the only two Japanese American at that Army post.

Sumi loved to travel. In 1962 she and another teacher purchased a used car and travelled all throughout Europe.

Sumi and Walter dated for 2 years when the decision was made to get married in 1963. Since they were in Germany, it required two ceremonies. The first was a German civil ceremony on May 29th and the second was held at the Army Chapel on May 30th.

Walter was discharged from the Army in October 1963 and they moved to Baton Rouge where Sumi began teaching second grade at Greenbrier Elementary School and enjoyed her new large Imahara family.

Sumi continued to teach and began helping at Imahara's greenhouses on Antioch Rd. When Imahara's Nursery and Garden Center opened in 1968, she also worked there on the weekends.

She had a great love for dogs and became very attached to their first dog Fuji, a German Shepard who was the watch dog for the nursery. This love continued throughout her life and their dogs brought her great happiness.

In 1976, Sumi was still teaching but was thinking she would like to travel more and would like to work for a travel agency. So after being a teacher for 13 years in Louisiana, she started a new career as a travel agent with Malcolm Travel Agency, and then later with 2 other agencies.

Every family should have a travel agent like Sumi who would happily take care of all your travel arrangements.

She and her good friend Bobby Spano both loved to travel, and over many years, they would end up making an astonishing 28 trips around the world together.

In 2002, the demand for travel agents had greatly diminished following the 9/11/2001 World Trade Center event, so Sumi retired in October of that year, having been a travel agent for almost 25 years.

Sumi was an excellent cook and was always thinking of others. For decades she would prepare and bring food several times a week whenever it was needed, both inside and outside the family.

Quiet and even-tempered, Sumi would always have a smile, bring a present, and have something nice to say. Sumi was greatly loved and admired by everyone that knew her and will be greatly missed.

At 7:37 am on Easter Sunday 3/31/24, at 89 year old and 60 years of marriage, Sumile Jeannette Matsumoto Imahara left this world to be with the Lord.

She is preceded in death by her parents Shiguru (Sam) and Shizu Imai Matsumoto, as well as her older brother Malcolm Matsumoto.

She is survived in death by her husband Walter, her brother Tony Matsumoto, and multitudes of nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to West Feliciana Humane Society Animal Shelter, P. O. Box 2032, St Francisville, LA 70775 and Imahara Gardens at Hemingbough, 228 East Greens, Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

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PHYTOPHTHORA WANTED

Over the last couple of years, the LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center has reported an increased number of Phytophthora root and crown rot diagnosed from container grown woody ornamentals in commercial nursery production. The growers have been using fungicides specific for Phytophthora species management but failed to effectively manage this problem.

We hypothesize that either there are new Phytophthora species emerging in nursery production or the existing Phytophthora species have developed resistant to these chemicals. Therefore, we are proposing a study to survey Phytophthora species isolated from container grown woody ornamentals in nursery production and determine susceptibility of these Phytophthora species to fungicides.

To conduct this study, we need small/large scale, wholesale/retail nursery growers (container grown woody ornamentals) as volunteer to participate in this survey. There will be no cost to the growers.
We will collect symptomatic woody plants from the nurseries and conduct the studies. All we need from growers are the plant samples. The nursery information will not be disclosed in the study and kept confidential.

If the LNLA members like to participate in this study, please contact Cian Butler (cbutler@agcenter.lsu.edu) at their earliest convenience. The results from this study will be published in peer reviewed journal articles and shared with green industry in the form of an extension publication.

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Dr. Jeb Fields, LSU AgCenter's Commercial Horticulturist, is the instructor for the manual review/training session.

The CNLP was established to provide a professional educational opportunity for 'Green Industry' professionals. Primarily, persons in the retail garden center and landscape contracting/maintenance areas of the 'Green Industry' participate. The manual review is also excellent preparation for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's landscape horticulturist license exam. An LDAF license is required to be in various landscape & nursery related businesses in Louisiana; the CNLP is not required.
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LNLA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST MEETING AND AWARDS BANQUET MINUTES

January 25, 2024 7-9am
GSHE, Mobile, AL

LNLA President Lisa Loup opened the meeting with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance. There were 68 in attendance according to the sign in sheets. 91 in attendance by table count.

Lisa asked those in attendance to take a few minutes to review the minutes from the last LNLA annual meeting from January 2023. Rick Webb motions to accept the minutes, Geoffrey Sandifer seconds.

All in favor.

LNLA Treasurer, Brian Bridges offered the financial report. Cash in bank $108K, petty cash $500, Edward Jones acct $110K. Total assets of LNLA $219,978. Highlights for 2023: dues are at $87k vs previous year at this time $53K … 39% increase. Income from GSHE $36,492 vs previous year at $29,256 .. 20% increase. Expenses tracked fairly close to previous year.

The LNLA donated $11,304.50 to the LNLFSR, sponsored FFA events for a total of $1500, Sponsored IPPS for $1500, and sponsored a summer intern at HRS with the foundation at a cost to us of $3000.

Total 2023 income for LNLA $200,555, total expenses $174,584 … leaving a balance of $29,971.

Please see proposed budget for 2024 on the tables. Motion to the accept the financial report and proposed 2024 budget from Danny Lefleur and second from Albert Durio. All in favor, no nays.

Lisa gave the presidents report. Lisa let everyone know what an honor it has been to serve as president of LNLA. I am super goal oriented and it has been a goal of mine to know what the other board members goals are for being on the board. We have had so many great collaborations and we have such a unique group of people wanting better.

You did it, it wasn't Lisa, it wasn't Cari Jane >>> YOU all did it.

We have gotten an economic impact study funded. We have a generation coming up that needs education and guidance. We want everyone to know we are doing our best to include all parts of the state in education and promotion of our professionalism.

Lisa addressed those in attendance that we would like to pay our deepest respects to those that have passed before us.

Lisa introduced Ricky Becnel, current president of the LNLFSR. Ricky gave a brief update to those in attendance about the "Foundation". Our main fundraiser the Gala XIV will be June 28, 2024 at City Park in NOLA. Ricky introduced and announced the six $2500 LNLFSR scholarship winners.

Lisa read the list of officers and directors for 2024. Lisa asked for nominations from the floor. Rick Webb motioned to accept the proposed slate of officers, Albert Durio second and all were in favor.

2024 LNLA Professional Award were presented.

Micheal reminded everyone about the social hour this evening. Danny Lafleur motioned to adjourn the meeting, Tom Fennell second and all were in favor.

1 LNLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Business: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Newsletter Preference *(Free to Regular & Associate Members ONLY)*
All other membership categories, add $40 annually for printed newsletters

■ Mail Only ■ Email Only ■ Both Email & Mail

Newsletter Total $ _____

2 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ **REGULAR MEMBER** (Voting) - $ Based on gross Sales per year (below)
A licensed or permitted business or person (in Louisiana only) engaged in one or more of the business types listed in the box on the right

DUES	ANNUAL GROSS SALE
☐ $200.00	$0 - $249,999
☐ $250.00	$250,000 or more

☐ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** (Non-Voting) - $150.00
Includes out of state business' plant items such as: chemicals, containers, equipment, fertilizer, garden decor, furniture, insurance, mulch, soil, stones, or etc. Product(s) sold _____

☐ Out of State - State: _____

☐ **AFFILIATE MEMBER** (Non-Voting) - $25.00
An employee of any horticulture business with a paid regular membership.

☐ **GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION MEMBER** (Non-Voting) - $25.00
An employee of a government or non-profit entity, having a job responsibility in horticulture or closely related field, College or University Education/Extension/Research, Educational/ Regulatory Government Agency, or Public Gardens or Parks

☐ **RETIREE MEMBER** (Non-Voting) - $25.00
Any person formerly actively employed in horticulture or closely related field and having been a paid member of LNLA before retirement from that employment

☐ **STUDENT MEMBER** (Non-Voting) - FREE
Full time student enrolled in a Louisiana university/ college in horticulture or closely related field.

University/College name &location (city): _____

Dues Amount: $ _____

ALL MEMBERSHIPS RENEW ANNUALLY ON JANUARY 1ST.

3 BUSINESS TYPE

Check up to 5 that apply.
(Regular, Associate & Affiliate Members Only)

☐ Arborist/Urban Forester
☐ Business Products and Services
☐ Equipment Sales or Rent
☐ Golf Course
☐ Interior Plant Maintenance
☐ Irrigation Contractor
☐ Landscape Horticulture
☐ Landscape Design/ Architect
☐ Landscape/Lawn Maintenance
☐ Pesticide Applicator
☐ Plant Broker
☐ Retail Nursery/ Garden Center
☐ Small Greenhouse/Field Grower
- grow/sell direct to consumers
☐ Sod/Turf Producer
☐ Wholesale Allied Supplies
☐ Wholesale Greenhouse Grower
- bedding/tropical plant
☐ Wholesale Field Grower
- balled/container woody plants, perennials

Does you company provide residential services
☐ Yes ☐ No

4

Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation for Scholarships & Research (LNLFSR) funds scholarships to deserving university/college horticulture/landscape students and grants for horticulture/landscape research/education, indicate amount and add the $$ to dues check. This donation is tax deductible.

LNLFSR Donation $ _____

SEND DUES & APPLICATION BY MARCH 1 TO BE IN ANNUAL MEMBER DIRECTORY

TOTAL AMOUNT: $ _____

Referred by: _____

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LNLA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 18, 2024

The LNLA Board of Directors met Monday, March 218, 2024 in a private room at the Watermark Hotel in Baton Rouge. The business meeting started at 4:30pm.

LNLA President, Michael Roe asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of allegiance and a prayer. Each board member around the room introduced themselves and the businesses they represent with a positive highlight. All board members were in attendance except Ruben Mitchell. Guests were: Toby Massengale, Scott Alford, Tina Peltier, Dr. Damon Abdi, Dr. Jeb Fields, Michael Called, Gerald Foret, Ricky & Stephanie Becnel.

Michael asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the last LNLA board meeting January 26th at GSHE. Tony Carter made the motion and Chad Everage second with all in favor.

Michael introduced those in attendance to the new handbook for our board of directors. Michael reported to everyone on the entrepreneur operating system LNLA is currently in the middle of adopting. LNLA has evolved over the years and volunteers are asked to commit more time and effort. We are so lucky to such selfless, committed board members and volunteers. Board members were given a new binder with the handbook, overview of EOS, core values, an accountability chart, the LNLA articles and bylaws, Roberts rules of order and current duties of LNLA staff.

Getting leaders of our organization 100% on the same page is critical to our association survival and growth.

It was mentioned we should reach out to florists for them to join our association. We will revisit this at another date.

Tony Carter, our marketing committee chair gave a recap of the raffle at GSHE. Very successful! We raised $10K in sponsors and $9000 in ticket sales. The expense was around $5500. The gun had 365 tickets sold; always the big money maker.

Items the committee has talked about for 2025 raffle are another Beneli shotgun and piece of jewelry or handbag. Tony motioned to have a budget of $6000 to purchase 2 items for the January 2025 raffle. Jeff Reid second. All were in favor.

Ewing has crawfish boils going on throughout the state. We should raffle a LNLA membership at each? Tony motions to raffle a LNLA membership … Kelly second, all were in favor.

Matt Knick gave a sales update. Membership, events and classes, manuals. Committee has had one meeting last week and another coming up this week. Year to date, 40 new members. CNLP we are on track with our revenue compared to last year. Have one more CNLP class will be added this year to bring manual sales up.

Brian Bridges, our LNLA treasurer gave an abbreviated financial report as the first quarter has not ended yet. Cash in bank $122,464.47. CD investments $115,263.43. Total assets $237,464.47. We are 8.1% over prior year as of March 31, 2023. We have not received GSHE income yet. This year we made over $5000 in our investments. GSHE expenses will be paid by the end of the month and raffle split with the foundation at $6K.

Tony motioned to renew CDs at a rate of 5.151% for one year. Matt Fennell second and all were in favor.

Jeff Reid, legislative committee chair talked about the day for tomorrow. We will have breakfast at the Lt. Governor's apartment. Each House and Senate member will have a plant on their desks in the chambers. Proclamation from House and Senate of Plants make a difference!

Jeff talked about a few bills that are in the state legislature this session. The LEAF act … expanded from just leaf blowers to more farm equipment and so on. Prevent fossil fuel engines. Jeff motions for LNLA to support, Chad second … craig asked if Farm Bureau was getting behind this legislation. No nays and LNLA will support.

Bills in legislation dealing with reciprocity. We are waiting to see how this is shaking out.

Tina Peltier with LDAF shared information about HB716 and SB60, both dealing with universal licensing. Do we oppose it? Without a preemption does it affect Title 3 (Ag).

HB346 has to do with the arborist be allowed to give CEUs through the arborist association and required to have work comp.

Tina also let the LNLA board know that there were 243 horticulture license exams given in 2023 … 38% pass rate.

Dr. Fields let us know Jason Stagg has moved from the Hammond Research Station to the Burden Center among lots of other things going on at HRS.

Dr. Abdi let us know about the great education event LNLA and LSU AgCenter hosted together at Burden this past month.

Bossier City we will be there in October or fall of this year. In 2025 hoping to go to the central la area for at least one of our symposiums.

Tony motioned to adjourn, Chad second and all in favor.

Hybrid Magnolia 'Jane'

Porterweed

Zinnia 'Zesty'

Illicium 'Florida Sunshine' Anise

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Coleus – Flamethrower series
Evolvulus 'Blue Daze,' 'Blue My Mind'
Gaillardia – Mesa series
Hibiscus – Luna series
Impatiens – Beacon Series
Lantana – Bandana series
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Supertunia Mini Vista 'Indigo'
Supertunia Vista 'Bubblegum'
Viola – Sorbet series

Shrubs

Althea 'Aphrodite'
American Beautyberry,
Azalea 'Conversation Piece'
Blueberries – Rabbiteye
Camellia 'Shishi Gashira'
Camellia 'Leslie Ann'
Distylium 'Cinnamon Girl'
Firebush 'Lime Sizzler'
Gardenia 'Frostproof'
Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight'
Hydrangea 'Penny Mac'
Muhly Grass
Rose 'Belinda's Dream'
Rose – Drift series
Rose 'Peggy Martin'
Viburnum 'Mrs. Schiller's Delight'
Virginia Willow 'Henry's Garnet'

Trees

Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
Chaste Tree 'Shoal Creek' *(Vitex agnus-castus)*
Evergreen Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Southern Magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora)*
Southern Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos)*

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