



HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

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Several of our American native plants, with professional breeding and selection, have provided some colorful displays during late spring in the Trial Gardens.



Verbena bonariensis, the purpletop vervain, sends up its narrow flower stems in our local fields and along roadsides in the late spring. The seed-grown 'Finess' (above), on the market from Benary, shows a more robust habit, wider leaves, and better flowering than the wild form. Plants grow to 4 feet, have stood up well to wind, and should be useful for floral arrangements. A new introduction from Proven Winners is 'Meteor Shower' (below). We have observed prolific production of lavender flowers on this compact variety of vervain in the Trial Gardens.



Salvia farinacea, the mealycup sage, is native to Texas and nearby states. The improved garden variety 'Mannequin Blue Mountain' (above) from Hort Couture (and developed by GardenGenetics) has shown a full habit and very good flower production on sturdy plants in container trials. Flowers of this variety are larger and a deeper blue than the wild form.



Echinacea purpurea 'PowWow Wild Berry' (above), developed by PanAmerican Seed from a U.S. native coneflower, is a 2010 All-America Selections winner and always a stand-out in our AAS Display Garden.



The South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station is located at 711 W. North St., Poplarville, MS 39470 (across from Pearl River Community College). From the intersection of Highways 11 and 26, go ½ mile north on Hwy. 11 and one block west on W. North Street. The Trial Gardens are open daily during daylight hours. Removal of plant materials is prohibited. For questions about the gardens, call 601-795-4525.

