



# HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

Vol. 2 No. 7

June 29, 2015

Published by Dr. Gene Blythe

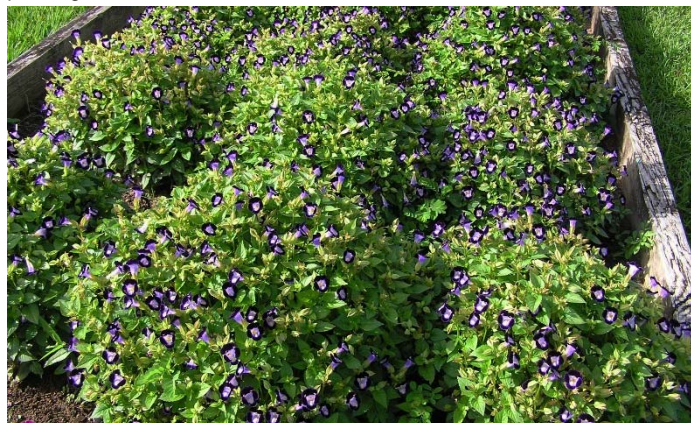
Independence Day is upon us and summer has arrived. Plants that can take the heat, both new introductions and established favorites, are exploding with colorful flowers (including red, white, and blue) in the Trial Gardens.



*Gomphrena* 'Fireworks' (above), from PanAmerican Seed, is a Mississippi Medallion plant from 2010 and a returning garden favorite. The electric pink flowers with bright yellow tips set this seed-grown variety apart.



*Gomphrena* 'Las Vegas White' (above), seed-grown and on the market from Benary, was sent to us for a second year of evaluation. Spreading plants grow 12 to 18 inches tall and are covered with miniature snowballs.



*Torenia* 'Kauai Deep Blue' (above), from PanAmerican Seed, provides some deeper flower tones on mounding plants. The Kauai series was a Louisiana Super Plants selection for 2014 and is easy to grow from seed.



*Pelargonium* 'Glitterati Ice Queen' (above), new from Hort Couture (and developed by GardenGenetics), has made a bang in our container trials. We have seen no burn on the variegated foliage in full sun. Plant breeding efforts are resulting in greater heat tolerance of fancy-leaved geraniums.

*Pentas* 'Graffiti Red Velvet' (at right) is a new addition to the Graffiti series from Benary. The flowers of this Egyptian star-cluster are an intense red and stand out well against the foliage on compact plants.

Be sure to visit our Trials Gardens during the summer to view the performance of more varieties of Egyptian starcluster.



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.

