



HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

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Wax begonias (fibrous-rooted begonias) offer bright flowers and glossy green or red foliage; however, many varieties decline during our hot, humid summers, especially if planted in full sun. Fortunately, plant breeders have developed hybrid varieties that do perform under these challenging condition, including the BabyWing series and the larger-leaved BIG series and Whopper series, which have been evaluated in our Trial Gardens over the years.



Begonia 'BabyWing Pink Bicolor' (above) and 'BabyWing Red' (below) have stood up to the summer heat and are currently in full bloom in the Trial Gardens. Both of these varieties will be new for 2016 gardens and landscapes from PanAmerican Seed.



As with many members of the Lamiaceae (mint/sage family), flowers of basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) are favorites of insect pollinators in the garden. Shown above are 'Dark Opal' (left), an All-America Selections Winner from 1962, and 'Blue Spice' (right). Mike Anderson will discuss a variety of annuals and perennials for pollinators at our Field Day on October 1. Registration begins at 9:00 AM and the program begins at 9:30 AM.



Above, a lone survivor stands among a crop of *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' (redbud) attacked by ambrosia beetles at a production nursery. Ambrosia beetles have a wide host range, including many ornamental and fruiting trees. At our Field Day on October 1, entomologist Christopher Werle of the USDA-ARS will present research findings on the use of kaolin clay as a deterrent for ambrosia beetle attacks at nurseries. [Photo by Christopher Werle]



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.

