HighLights

Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

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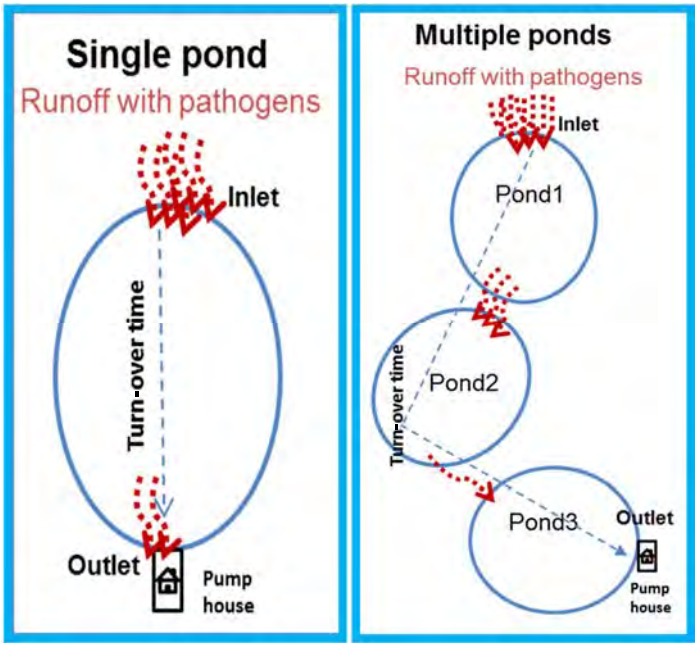
The **42nd Annual Ornamental Horticulture Field Day** is here! Join us on **Thursday, October 1**, at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Poplarville for research updates from scientists at Mississippi State University and the USDA-ARS Southern Horticultural Laboratory. Registration begins at 9:00 AM and the program begins at 9:30 AM. A $10.00 registration fee ($6.50 for students) includes lunch and refreshments. Topics scheduled for presentation are listed in the September 1 issue of HighLights, available in the HighLights archive at: http://msucares.com/newsletters/highlights/.

There's much to learn at Field Day! Top performers from the 2015 variety trials. Techniques of cuttings flowers for vase arrangements. Self-watering containers for growing All-America Selections vegetables. Milkweeds (*Asclepias*) for the garden. Becoming a Master Naturalist. Annuals, perennials, and edibles for attracting pollinators. And more!!



Phytophthora diseases have historically caused serious crop losses in ornamental plant nurseries, where *Phytophthora* species have been recovered from symptomatic leaf, stem, crown, and root tissues; and from organic growing media, soil, and waterways. Extended flow patterns from inlet to pumping station in nursery ponds (diagram, above) can promote the decline of *Phytophthora* zoospores. At our Field Day on October 1, Dr. Warren Copes of the USDA-ARS will discuss research on recovery of *Phytophthora* species from ponds on commercial nurseries in Alabama and Mississippi. [Text by Warren Copes. Diagram by P. Kong, H. Zhang, and C. Hong.]

A common disease of muscadine grapes is "ripe rot", so named because its pathogen causes rot of ripe fruit at harvest time. Ripe rot is caused by species of *Colletotrichum*, fungi which can also cause ripe rot diseases on many other fruits and vegetables. Rotting fruit are typically covered with salmon-colored masses of conidia (left). This disease proliferates in the warm, humid conditions found in the southeastern United States and the fungus survives from one season to the next in mummified fruit. Ripe rot can be reduced by the removal of mummified fruit before new growth begins in the spring or by spraying broad spectrum fungicides starting at the green berry stage. Interestingly, most purple muscadine grape cultivars are more resistant to ripe rot than bronze muscadine cultivars. At our Field Day on October 1, Melinda Miller-Butler of the USDA-ARS will discuss the identification and control of muscadine grape diseases.

[Text by Melinda Miller-Butler. Photo by Barbara Smith.]

MISSISSIPPI MAFES AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

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.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY COASTAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER