



# HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

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A formula blend of double-flowered zinnias, changing colors of marigolds, contrasting colors in flowers of *Calibrachoa* (million bells), plus variegated foliage and multi-colored flowers of an ornamental milkweed have provided attractive spring displays in the Trial Gardens.



Double Zahara® Brilliant Mixture zinnias (above), a seed-grown mix from PanAmerican Seed, will be available for gardens in 2017. In past years, the Double Zahara® zinnias have always been dependable for warm-weather color and disease resistance in our Trial Gardens.

French marigold 'Strawberry Blonde' (below), from PanAmerican Seed, produces flowers that change color as they mature. The transition in flower color (which can also include burnt orange, tangerine, and salmon shades) is slower in cooler weather, so this variety is best used in early spring and fall plantings. With the arrival of warmer weather in our region, golden yellow flowers currently predominate on plants in the Trial Gardens.



A yellow star pattern adds interest to flowers of *Calibrachoa* Superbells® Cherry Star™ (above), a new variety from Proven Winners, in our container trials.

The two-toned orange flowers of *Asclepias curassavica* 'Monarch Promise' (below), new in garden centers from Hort Couture, are produced above the green and cream (and pink-tinged) foliage of this colorful milkweed.

