



HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

Volume 4, Number 9

June 30, 2017

Published by Dr. Gene Blythe

With plenty of warm weather (and certainly plenty of rain), numerous plants brought an early Fourth of July explosion of color to late spring in the 2017 Trial Gardens.

In our container trials, new colors in the Intensia® series of hybrid *Phlox* from Proven Winners were showstoppers. ‘Red Hot’ (photo at right/top) set off sirens with its fire engine red flowers, ‘White Improved’ (right/middle) provided a cool blast of snow white flowers, and ‘Blueberry’ (right/bottom) made a bang with its purple/blue flowers. (Plants of *Phlox Intensia*® ‘Red Hot’ will be available in garden centers in 2018; ‘White Improved’ and ‘Blueberry’ are currently on the market.)

New for 2018 from PanAmerican Seed is *Pentas* Lucky Star™ White (below/top). The white, star-shaped flowers are produced on compact plants.

Pentas are among the best choices for color in the hot summer.



Ornamental corn ‘Field of Dreams’ (below/left), with its striped, variegated leaves, has been a favorite for colorful foliage in the garden for several years. Left to mature, the small ears are ornamental and may be used for fall decorations.

