



High Lights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

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Mandevilla Tropical Breeze™ ‘Velvet Red’ (PPAF) has quickly become a favorite tropical flowering vine at the experiment station. The large, intensely colored, velvet red flowers are show-stoppers. The plants are well-branched and have shown no disease problems. Planted into containers last summer, we overwintered the plants in a greenhouse where they flowered non-stop through the winter, continued flowering through the spring, and show no sign of stopping.

We also planted 15 plants in the ground last summer. Although not expected to survive the winter, we were surprised to have 9 plants emerge from the ground in the spring. (The past winter was relative “mild” with 50 nights having minimum temperatures below 40°F. This included 22 nights with minimum temperatures at or below 32°F, with the 7 coldest nights at 27°F.)

We also loaned some container-grown plants to the USDA-ARS Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory for temporary decoration of their lobby around Valentines Day. The plants did not mind the reduced light levels and continued to flower during 2 to 3 weeks of interior use near a large-windowed wall.

Mandevilla Tropical Breeze™ ‘Velvet Red’ was developed in Florida by Oglesby Plants International. Plants were kindly donated for our trials by Takao Nursery (Fresno, California).

