



HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

Vol. 2 No. 1

April 20, 2015

Published by Dr. Gene Blythe

The 2015 season of spring and summer variety trials has begun in the gardens as the cool season variety trials draw to a close. The top performer in our cool season trials was the new 'Sorbet XP Lavender Pink' viola from PanAmerican Seed with an average score of 4½ (out of 5) over ten evaluation periods that spanned a full six months. Next in the ranking with an average score of just over 4 was 'Cool Wave Lemon Surprise' pansy, a spreading variety developed by PanAmerican Seed.



'Red Giant' mustard (above, top) and 'White Flash' pac choy (above, bottom) make tasty greens for a healthy meal, but they also provided attractive foliage in the cool season garden. Seed can be sown in late summer for early fall planting in the ground to provide dramatic foliage colors and textures.



'Sorbet Lavender Pink XP' viola (above) provided an excellent display of color from mid-fall through early spring in the 2015 cool season trials. 'Cool Wave Lemon Surprise' pansy (below) gave a good show of bright yellow flowers in the garden during the cool months.



An attention grabber in the cool season garden was 'Lacinato' kale (above). Kids like its common name, "Dinosaur Kale", but cooks recognize it as a mainstay of Italian cuisine.



'Dragon Tongue' mustard (above), with its twisted and serrated leaves, also did double duty as a cool-season vegetable and ornamental.

FIELD DAY

Mark your calendars for the 42nd Annual Ornamental Horticulture Field Day to be held at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station on Thursday, October 1, 2015. Variety trial results from Mississippi State University and research updates from the USDA-ARS will be included. Plus, the plant giveaway is always a favorite!



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.

