

HighLights

Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

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Spring trials are in full swing, with petunia varieties putting on a great show in both ground and container trials. We plant petunias in the trial beds as early as February so that root systems can become established to support rapid top growth and flower production when warm days arrive. The early planting also extends the duration of the flower display before hot weather arrives.



All-America Selections Display Garden with orange-flowered 'African Sunset' petunia, a 2014 AAS Winner from American Takii, in the foreground.



'Supertunia Black Cherry' petunia from Proven Winners has been living up to its name with an abundance of flowers that are a rich burgundy red with a darker throat.



Excellent flower coverage, uniform plant habit, and more solid colors give an eye-catching display. Shown above are 'SUCCESS! Pink' (top) and 'SUCCESS! Rose' (bottom) petunias from Benary in trial beds.



A visitor favorite is Petunia Ooh La La Fuseables (from PanAmerican Seed). Plants are grown from formulated, multi-seed pellets containing 'Easy Wave Burgundy Star', 'Easy Wave Neon Rose', and 'Shock Wave Coconut'.

The 2014 Blueberry Jubilee (www.blueberryjubilee.org) will be held in Poplarville on Saturday, June 14. The Trials Gardens at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station and tours of the USDA-ARS Southern Horticultural Laboratory will be included on wagon tours that will depart from behind the courthouse in downtown Poplarville approximately every 30 minutes between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM, weather permitting. The tour lasts about one hour. Visitors wishing to walk through the Trials Gardens at their leisure may drive to the station at 711 W. North Street and park in the gravel parking area.



The Trial Gardens at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station are 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 gardens are open daily during daylight hours. Removal of plant materials is prohibited. For questions about the gardens, call 601-795-4525.

