

# LSU AgCenter's Ornamental Horticulture E-Mail Update May 2, 2011



## *topics and events of nursery, landscape and floriculture interest to Louisiana's green industry*

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### **Ornamental Plant of the Week for May 2, 2011 – SunPatiens (from Allen Owings)**

If you like the flowering habit of shade-loving impatiens, you'll be excited to know a new type of impatiens on the market will thrive in our Louisiana summer heat and humidity – SunPatiens.

SunPatiens have been around for a few years now, but growers are just now growing them in larger numbers, and landscape contractors have started using them.

You get the best of both shade-loving impatiens and the larger-flowered and variegated foliage of New Guinea impatiens with SunPatiens, a hybrid bred by Sakata Seed that thrives in our summer landscapes in full sun.

They not only have survived and performed well the last couple summers around the state, but they were one of the few varieties of summer bedding plants that seem to have the potential to excel from midspring through the fall.

This low-maintenance annual is available in three distinct series – two spreading varieties, seven compact varieties and five vigorous varieties. In our growing conditions, the spreading and vigorous types grown up to 24 inches tall and a bit larger in width. The compacts are a bit smaller all around. One plant will fill an entire container, but you can add a trailing flowering plant to cascade over the side. Overall plant size is influenced by soil fertility, irrigation and light exposure. Choose the appropriate plant height for bedding, containers and hanging baskets.



Of the three groups of SunPatiens, the compact group is the smallest-growing and reaches 2-3 feet tall with an equal spread. Colors in this size range are blush pink, deep rose (*pictured*), coral, white, orange, magenta and lilac.

A spreading group only includes two colors, but both have variegated foliage – white and salmon. The spreading types get 3 feet tall by 4 feet wide.

The tallest and widest growth on SunPatiens is in the vigorous-growth varieties. Colors are coral (with variegated foliage), lavender, magenta, red, white and orange. These plants can get 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide by fall.

Regardless of the variety or size, flowers of all the SunPatiens are large and showy and are easily seen above the dark, green, glossy foliage.

SunPatiens will bloom from mid-April through first frost. Plants perform best when they receive full sun. If grown in semi-shady conditions, prune in midsummer to maintain a bushy growth habit because plants otherwise will become lanky and produce fewer flowers. In fact, consider growing regular impatiens instead. Allow plants to slightly wilt between watering, and mulch to conserve soil moisture.



**Plant problems? We can help!**

Routine Diagnostic \$20

The LSU AgCenter's Plant Diagnostic Center is a one-stop shop for all your plant health problems. The center provides rapid, accurate diagnosis of the cause of the problem and delivers best management practices recommendations for long-term management.

**LSU AgCenter**  
Research & Extension

**LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center**

For more information, visit our website: [LSUAgCenter/PlantDiagnostics](http://LSUAgCenter/PlantDiagnostics)

### **Diversity at Hackney Nursery**

*(Used with editor's permission from the April 2011 issue (The Big Ten Insert) of Nursery Management magazine)*

Things have changed significantly over the past several years at Hackney Nursery in Quincy, Fla., and its sister company, Windmill Nursery in Folsom, La.

Owner George Hackney simplifies it this way: “We used to grow a lot of a few different things. Now we grow a few of a whole lot of things.”

The company is growing this diversity of product to satisfy retail customers, as the landscape market in the Southeast remains tight. But fitting the new business model into the existing infrastructure wasn't easy.

“The way we're set up, we have long beds. Even our propagation houses are set up to root 20,000 dwarf Burford hollies at one time. The irrigation systems are made to water large blocks, so we have to be smart about what we group together,” Hackney said.

Deciding what to grow isn't all that simple either.

"We need to be smart when we decide what to grow and how much to grow of it," Hackney said. "It used to be easy. Now you have to go through your inventory with a fine-toothed comb to make sure you don't miss anything. You have to meet with the sales guys to discuss what they think they can sell, and that's now a two-day meeting."

Shipping and logistics are also key issues addressed by Hackney. The company now delivers all of its product on racks, opposed to stacking it on enclosed trailers.

For more: [www.hackneynursery.com](http://www.hackneynursery.com). 800-622-8605.



*Did you know?*

Hackney Nursery Co. recently purchased a retail facility, Banting's Nursery, in Bridge City, La. Owner George Hackney said operating this facility has given the company new insight into better serving its retail customers.

*Specifics:*

Name: Hackney Nursery Co.

Founded: 1991 by George Hackney, Richard Hackney and Joe Marion.

Locations: Quincy, Fla. Sister company Windmill Nursery is in Folsom, La.

Crops: Container ornamentals.

Acres: About 400.

Employees: Ranges from 120 to 170.

*Quotable:*

"The nursery that solves shipping and logistics is going to win." – George Hackney

## **Sustainable Landscape News Articles (from Allen Owings, Dan Gill and Kyle Huffstickler)**

Mowing – April 29

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news\\_archive/2011/april/news\\_you\\_can\\_use/Mowing-habits-affect-lawn-growth.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2011/april/news_you_can_use/Mowing-habits-affect-lawn-growth.htm)



### **The Three Southern Living Loropetalums (from Allen Owings)**

Purple Diamond (Intermediate grower. 4-5 feet tall. 4-5 feet wide. Pink flowers early spring. Retains purple foliage in summer.)

Purple Pixie (Dwarf. Ground cover. Cascade. Container possibilities. Deep purple foliage. Pink blooms in spring. 1-2 feet tall. 3-4 feet wide. Occasional by-pass shoots. Planting procedure important.)

Emerald Snow (Green foliage. White flowers. 4-5 feet tall. 4-5 feet wide. Good spring bloom. Light fall bloom some years.)

## **Cold Damage on Crape Myrtles in South Louisiana (from Allen Owings)**

Some of us have been surprised to see some cold-related damage to crape myrtles over the past couple of weeks. We noted a month or so ago bark split and some minor indication of cold damage to azaleas, and now as we move further along into spring, some tip dieback and bark damage to crape myrtles have been noted in the Baton Rouge area, Lafayette, Hammond and Amite. Reports from our LSU AgCenter horticulture agents in north Louisiana indicate no cold damage of significance in the northern regions of the state. (Less temperature fluctuations occur there, and trees normally stay more dormant for longer periods of time.)

Cultivars with cold damage that we have seen include Natchez, Griffin Pink and Acoma. Damage has been seen in residential landscapes, commercial landscapes and wholesale nurseries. Younger, actively growing, recently planted crape myrtles have more damage than older, established plants.

This winter was similar to last year in terms of cold temperatures. We did have significant cold



spells. Chilling hours were considerable – although this winter-temperature indicator has little, if anything, to do with cold damage to plants. It must have been cold enough, and tissue must not have been hardened off adequately, at the time that significant temperature changes occurred. Crape myrtles with tip dieback should have the stems removed to the point of new growth. Crape myrtles with significant bark damaged need to be monitored for the next year to see how the trees recover.

## **LSU AgCenter on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/LSUAgCenter>

## **Success with Vinca (from Allen Owings)**

- Plant into landscape beds late April through early May at the earliest.
- Landscape bed soil pH needs to be 5.5-5.8 and well-drained.
- Plants need full sun.
- Minimize irrigation, especially overhead watering.
- Mulch with pine straw to reduce splashing of rainfall and irrigation water.
- Avoid planting in the same bed in consecutive years.
- Consider Nirvana (vegetatively propagated) and Cora (seed-propagated) cultivars if root rot has been an issue in recent years.



## **More New Lantanas (from Allen Owings)**

Plant Introductions Inc. has release five new lantanas recently to join the Chapel Hill cultivars released a couple years ago. The total collection now includes:



Chapel Hill Yellow – 2008  
Chapel Hill Gold – 2009  
Vanilla Ice – 2010  
Sunny Side Up – 2011  
Sunset Orange – 2011  
Apricot Sunrise – 2011  
Miss Tara – 2011

We have successfully grown Chapel Hill Yellow (pictured), Chapel Hill Gold and Sunny Side Up at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station

and are attempting to obtain plants of the other three cultivars for landscape evaluations. There is limited information on the Plant Introductions Inc. website – [www.plantintroductions.com](http://www.plantintroductions.com).

## **Calendar of Events**

*The LSU AgCenter and affiliated groups offer numerous educational opportunities for green industry professionals. In addition, many garden shows and related events for home gardeners are offered continually throughout the year. Some educational programs having multi-state impact and, attendance are also listed. Be sure to check with the contact person listed for more specific information on each event.*

### **May 6, 2011**

11th Annual Nursery & Landscape Golf Shootout  
LSU Golf Course  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact Allen Owings at [aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Contact Allen Owings at [aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu) or Annie Coco at [acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu)

### **May 7, 2011**

SELNA Crawfish Boil  
Dogwood Hill Nursery  
Folsom, La.  
Contact Annie Coco at [acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu)

### **June 16, 2011**

Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research Gala II  
Location TBA  
Contact Allen Owings at [aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu)

### **May 10-11, 2011**

Louisiana Irrigation Association  
Irrigation Basics Certification and Re-Certification Class  
Ewing Irrigation  
Shreveport, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at [scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

### **June 22-23, 2011**

Mid South Green Industry Conference  
Eagle Ridge Conference Center  
Raymond, Miss.  
[www.msnla.org](http://www.msnla.org)

### **May 21, 2011**

Baton Rouge Landscape Assoc. Meeting  
Imahara's Southern Garden  
St. Francisville, La.

### **August 18-21, 2011**

Nursery/Landscape Expo  
Dallas Convention Center  
Dallas, Texas  
[www.nurserylandscapeexpo.com](http://www.nurserylandscapeexpo.com)

### **May 24-26, 2011**

LSHS Spring Tour to S. Miss.

### **September 1, 2011**

NW LA Nursery Meeting  
Location TBA  
Shreveport, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at [scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**September 8, 2011**

Baton Rouge Landscape Assoc. Meeting  
Location TBA  
Baton Rouge, La.

**September 9, 2011**

SELNA Trade Show  
Magnolia Park  
Folsom, La.  
Contact Annie Coco at  
[acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:acoco@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**September 22-23, 2011**

LNLA CNLP Review and Exam  
Ira Nelson Horticulture Center  
Lafayette, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com) or Dan Gill at  
[dgill@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:dgill@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**October 5, 2011**

Louisiana Irrigation Association Annual  
Meeting and Re-Certification  
Ralph and Kacoo's  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**October 5, 2011**

Ornamental and Turfgrass Commercial  
Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification  
Location TBA  
Lafayette, La.  
Contact Karen Nix at  
[knix@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:knix@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**October 13, 2011**

Landscape Horticulture Field Day  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.  
Contact Regina Bracy at  
[rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**November 9-10, 2011**

Louisiana Irrigation Association  
Irrigation Basics Certification and Re-  
Certification Class  
Ralph and Kacoo's  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**November 16, 2011**

Ornamental and Turfgrass Commercial  
Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification  
Location TBA  
Kenner, La.  
Contact Karen Nix at  
[knix@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:knix@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**November 17, 2011**

NW LA Nursery Meeting  
American Rose Center  
Shreveport, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**January 18-20, 2012**

Gulf States Horticultural Expo  
Mobile, Ala.  
[www.qshe.org](http://www.qshe.org)

**March 14-15, 2012**

Louisiana Irrigation Association  
Irrigation Basics Certification and Re-  
Certification Class  
Ralph and Kacoo's  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**November 7-8, 2012**

Louisiana Irrigation Association  
Irrigation Basics Certification and Re-  
Certification Class  
Ralph and Kacoo's  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact Severn Doughty at  
[scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

**Gardening Workshops and Field Days  
for Home Gardeners****May 7, 2011**

Herb and Garden Festival  
Sunset, La.  
[www.sunsetherbfestival.com](http://www.sunsetherbfestival.com)

**May 21, 2011**

Garden Stroll  
Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, La.

Contact Regina Bracy at  
[rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**June 4, 2011**

Daylily Festival  
Abbeville, La.  
Contact Stuart Gauthier at  
[sgauthier@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:sgauthier@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**June 18, 2011**

Burden Center Garden Festival  
Burden Center  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Contact Jeff Kuehny at  
[jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**October 21-22, 2011**

Fall Flower and Garden Festival  
MSU Truck Crops Station  
Crystal Springs, MS  
<http://msucares.com/fallfest/>

**Horticulture Lunch and Learn at  
Louisiana House – 2011**

Contact Kyle Huffstickler at  
[khuffstickler@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:khuffstickler@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**May 6, 2011**

Building Healthy Soils – Dan Gill

**Reflections in the Garden by the Burden  
Horticulture Society – 2011**

[www.burdenhorticulturesociety.org](http://www.burdenhorticulturesociety.org)  
or call Burden Center at 225.763.3990

**May 2, 2011**

New and Exciting Warm Season Annuals –  
Mitch Mayes

**June 6, 2011**

Landscape Shapes and Textures to  
Tantalize the Soul - Steve Wilson

**July 11, 2011**

Bob's Best for the Rest of the Summer and  
Fall – Bob Souvestre

**August 1, 2011**

Gardening Green: Low Input/High Output –  
Dan Gill

**September 12, 2011**

Shade Gardening in Louisiana's Capital City  
– Marion Drummond

**October 3, 2011**

Cool Colors for the Fall Garden – Bill  
Rountree

**November 7, 2011**

Bringing Mother Nature Inside for the  
Holidays – Emily Stich

**December 5, 2011**

Grow Your Own Fruit for Stocking Stuffers –  
Charlie Johnson

**Arborist Workshops – 2011**

Contact Hallie Dozier at  
[hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**May 6, 2011** – Camp Grant Walker, Pollock,  
La.

**July 8, 2011** – Chicot State Park, Ville  
Platte, La.

**August 12, 2011** – Lake D'Arbonne State  
Park, Farmerville, La.

**August 13, 2011** – Lake D'Arbonne State  
Park, Farmerville, La.

**September 16, 2011** – Delgado Community  
College, New Orleans, La.

**October 21, 2011** – Burden Center, Baton  
Rouge, La.

**January 20, 2012** – Lamar Dixon Expo  
Center, Gonzales, La.