

PROCEEDINGS OF



**RESEARCH
CONFERENCE**

Fiftieth Annual Report

2005

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We would like to extend our gratitude to all the researchers and nurserymen who attended the 50th Annual Conference and/or contributed to these *Proceedings* and continue to make this annual event an industry success.

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Good research is conducted under an exact set of controlled conditions, varying only the specific treatments which are to be evaluated. Results from the specific treatments are directly applicable to your operations only if all the conditions in your operation are controlled the same as in the research. Unfortunately, this seldom happens. However, this does not mean that you cannot benefit from the research. What it does mean is that you should use the research information on a trial basis if your plant species, soil type, watering method, size and age of plant, climatic region, etc. is different than that described by the researcher.

What an alert grower should expect to gain from these research reports is ideas – ideas as to the best control for insects, disease, nematodes and weeds – labor saving ideas such as chemical pruning and using growth regulators to minimize maintenance. Also, ideas on water management, nutrition, alternative growing media, new plants for landscaping and guides for improving profits and marketing skills can also be found.

Should you desire additional information on any report, please write to the author. We would like to extend an invitation to you to attend all sessions of the SNA Research Conference held in Atlanta each year in conjunction with *The World's Showcase of Horticulture*®.



50th Annual
Southern Nursery Association

Research Conference Proceedings 2005

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It is the fine men and women in horticultural research that we, the Southern Nursery Association, pledge our continued support and gratitude for their tireless efforts in the pursuit of the advancement of our industry.

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Richard Beeson Receives SNA Porter Henegar Memorial Award



*Richard Beeson (left)
Stuart Warren (right).*

The Southern Nursery Association (SNA) awarded Dr. Richard Beeson, Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC) at the University of Florida, the Porter Henegar Memorial Award during the 50th Annual SNA Research Conference held in conjunction with the SNA's Annual Convention and Trade Show in Atlanta, GA. Stuart Warren, a Professor at North Carolina State University and winner of the award last year, made the presentation to Dr. Beeson during the SNA Research Conference.

Originally known as the Research Award of Merit, the award was created in 1968 to honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to ornamental horticulture research. In 1972, the award was renamed the Porter Henegar Memorial Award in honor of one of SNA's former Executive Secretaries. SNA's Director of Research Dr. Bryson L. James and past award winners make nominations each year.

Dr. Beeson grew up on a dairy farm in central North Carolina which was converted to a rhododendron and azalea nursery in 1972 (Beeson's Rhododendron Nursery). His father and younger brother remained with the nursery until 2004, when his father retired and the nursery was bought out. Beeson spent his high school and college summers working at the nursery, and a distaste for pulling weeds led to an undergraduate research project with Dr. Ted Bilderback and Dr. Dan Weatherspoon of North Carolina State University (NCSU) in 1979 and 1980.

After completing the requirements for his B.S. in ornamental horticulture at NCSU in 1981, he immediately relocated to Corvallis, Oregon to begin graduate school in ornamental horticulture at Oregon State University under the direction of Dr. William Proebsting. There he obtained his PhD in ornamental horticulture in 1986, specializing in woody plant water relations and carbon metabolism.

In July 1986, Beeson moved to Quebec City, Quebec, Canada and worked as a contract assistant professor in the Center for Greenhouse Specialization at Laval University. In September 1989, Dr. Beeson joined the University of Florida faculty at the Central Florida Research and Education Center in Sanford, FL. He then began a new research program studying stress physiology of woody plants during production and in landscapes. This program continued with the consolidation of 3 research stations into one new site at the current Mid-Florida REC in Apopka in 2000.

The bulk of his early research was relating water stress to plant growth, both during production and in landscapes. Over the past 8-10 years, this shifted into developing and testing difference irrigation protocols and systems to improve irrigation efficiency in production nurseries. More recently, his research has focused on quantifying how much water is required to produce woody ornamentals, from shrubs in #1 containers to trees in #300 containers. In addition to quantifying these amounts, he has also sought to develop models predicting irrigation requirements based on plant size and daily changes in microclimate. Throughout his career, he has sought to understand the physiological responses of plants and apply this knowledge towards improving production practices.

The Bryson L. James Student Research Competition 2005 Awards

This long-standing program was renamed in August 1989, in honor of Dr. Bryson L. James, Director of Horticultural Research for the Southern Nursery Association. As Dr. James has been an active participant and leader in the annual Research Conference for more than 40 years, the award, named in his honor, is a tribute to his tireless efforts on behalf of the researchers, the association and the industry. Listed below are guidelines for the Student Competition as well as this year's winners:

1. Any student of a university or a college having researchers that participate in the Southern Nursery Association Research Conference, are not more than one (1) academic year removed from graduation and whose research was completed prior to graduation are eligible to compete.
2. Research is to be that of the presenter and a part of his/her educational studies. Contract work, unless a part of a thesis or classroom report (credit given), is not acceptable, as it may provide unlimited funding and an unfair advantage.
3. The number of student papers from a single university or college may be limited, should time restraints dictate.
4. The student must have submitted a title to the SNA Conference Editor by the deadline specified in the Call For Titles. The paper should then be submitted both to the Section Editor for the Student Competition and to the appropriate "topic" Section Editor no later than the specified deadline.
5. The paper must follow the guidelines for format and subject matter as stated in the Call For Titles for the SNA Research Conference.
6. Student and advisor should be listed as co-authors.
7. Oral presentation must be limited to seven (7) minutes. An additional three (3) minutes will be allotted for questions. A penalty of two (2) points per minute or part thereof for every minute over seven (7) minutes will be assessed.
8. Judging shall be based on preparation of the paper (50 points) and oral presentation (100 points) for a total of 150 points.

2005 Bryson L. James Student Competition Award Winners

B.S. Candidates

1st Place	-	\$500	Thomas Saunders, Virginia Tech
2nd Place	-	\$300	Lindsey Mullinax, University of Florida
3rd Place	-	\$200	Kimberly Strickland, University of Florida

M.S. Candidates

1st Place	-	\$500	Brian E. Jackson, Auburn University
2nd Place	-	\$300	Daniel S. Norden, North Carolina State University
3rd Place	-	\$200	Adam Newby, Auburn University

Ph.D. Candidates

1st Place	-	\$500	Richard T. Olsen, North Carolina State University
2nd Place	-	\$300	J.S. Owen, Jr., North Carolina State University
3rd Place	-	\$200	Krishna S. Nemali, University of Georgia

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
	21	CONTAINER-GROWN PLANT PRODUCTION
Ohio	22-25	Root Hardiness and the Influence of DNA Herbicides on Overwintered Containers. Michele M. Bigger, Hannah M. Mathers.
Alabama	26-28	Growth and Flowering Response of Crapemyrtle to Tree Shelters. Kevin M. Brooks, Gary J. Keever, Jeff L. Sibley, James E. Altland.
Oregon	29-32	Chemical and Physical Properties of Douglas Fir Bark Used in Container Production, Gabriela Buamscha, James Altland, Dan Sullivan, Donald Horneck.
Texas	33-36	Cultivar Selection and Species Affect the Salinity Tolerance of Crape Myrtles (<i>Lagerstroemia</i> spp.). Raul I. Cabrera.
Tennessee	37-38	Incorporated Substrate Amendments Reduce Water Use in Poinsettias. Christopher J. Catanzaro, Sarabjit M. Bhatti.
Tennessee	39-43	Nitrogen and Phosphorus Levels in Leachate from Container-Grown Willow Oak and Sweetbay Magnolia. Donna C. Fare.
Italy	44-47	Shading Effects on Growth and Leaf Gas Exchange of Some Container-Grown Shrubs. Francesco Ferrini, Piero Frangi, Manuela Baietto, Gabriele Amoroso, Alessio Fini.
Texas	48-50	Comparison of Controlled-Release and Water-Soluble Fertilizers for Greenhouse Production of Impatiens, Dianthus and Pansy. Derald A. Harp, Kenneth Byrd, Lonna Jochetz, Demorise Smith.
Georgia	51-53	Effects of Fall Fertilization on Cold Hardiness of Deciduous Versus Evergreen Azaleas. Frank P. Henning, Tim Smalley, Orville Lindstrom, John Ruter.
Alabama	54-58	Effect of Cotton Gin Compost and Pine Bark Substrate Blends on Root Growth of Two Horticulture Crops. Brian E. Jackson, Amy N. Wright, Jeff L. Sibley
Tennessee	59-63	Competitive Influence of Emerging Weed Threats for SEUS Container-Growers William Klingeman, Darren Robinson.
North Carolina	64-67	Nursery Production of <i>Helleborus x hybridus</i> Part II – The Substrate and Irrigation Story. Helen T. Kraus, Stuart L. Warren.
Alabama Tennessee	68-72	Nursery Use of Municipal Garbage Compost. Wenliang Lu, Jeff L. Sibley, Milton Schaefer, Xiaomei Yang.
North Carolina	73-77	Vermicompost: Improving Water Use Efficiency in Nursery Crop Production. Michelle S. McGinnis, Stuart L. Warren, Ted E. Bilderback.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Oregon	78-80	Evapotranspiration Rates from Trees Grown in Pot-In-Pot Culture. Gilda Medina, James Altland, Daniel Struve.
Mexico	81-83	Inoculation of <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> BEB-13bs Improves Fruit Quality (Firmness) in Tomato (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> L.). Hortencia G. Mena-Violante, Luis J. Saucedo-Arias, Blanca G. Ramirez-Zavala, Miguel A. Gomez-Lim, Victor Olalde-Portugal.
Georgia	84-86	Accelerated Production of Forced Remontant Hydrangeas Under Nursery Conditions. James T. Midcap.
Georgia	87-89	Forcing Remontant Hydrangeas for Spring Sales Under Nursery Conditions. James T. Midcap.
Georgia	90-93	Regulating Perennial Growth With Phosphorus Levels. James T. Midcap.
Florida	94-98	Relationship Between Leaf Area Index and Light Vnterception for <i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i> (L.) Ker-Gawl. Jeff Million, Tom Yeager, Joe Ritchie.
Florida North Carolina	99-102	Reducing Water and Nutrient Inputs to Clay Amended Substrates: How Low Can We Go? James S. Owen, Jr., Stuart L. Warren, Ted E. Bilderback, Joseph P. Albano.
Louisiana	103-105	Container Production Evaluation of Popular Garden Mum Cultivars. Allen Owings, Anthony Witcher, Wanda Ellis, Allen Broyles.
Louisiana	106-109	Reducing Blow-Over of Container Plants in Nurseries. Richard L. Parish.
Georgia	110-111	Nickel Formulations Influence Growth and Development of Mouse Ear on River Birch. John M. Ruter.
Virginia	112-114	Chipped Pine Logs: A Potential Substrate for Nursery and Greenhouse Crops. Thomas Saunders, Robert Wright, Jake Browder.
Florida	115-118	Response of <i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i> to Nitrogen Fertilization. Gisele Schoene, Thomas Yeager.
Florida	119-122	Effects of Benzyladenine Applied Alone or in Combination with Gibberelic Acid on Sweet Viburnum. Gisele Schoene, Thomas Yeager.
Georgia Virginia	123-126	Direct Measurement of Substrate Soluble Salts. Holly L. Scoggins, Marc W. van Iersel.
Alabama Mississippi	127-130	Development of Nursery Crop Substrates from Recycled Materials and Composted Poultry Litter. Jeff L. Sibley, Charles H. Gilliam, Wheeler G. Foshee, III, Amy N. Wright, Glenn B. Fain.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Texas	131-134	Salinity and Sodicity Tolerance in Roses: the Effect of the Counter-Ion. Alma R. Solís-Pérez, Raúl I. Cabrera.
Georgia	135-137	Commercial Production of English Ivy in Georgia – Propagation, Scheduling, and Economics. Forest E. Stegelin, Bodie V. Pennisi, Paul A. Thomas, Jean L. Woodward.
Alabama	138-142	Effects of Soil Level and Fertilization on Performance of Container Lotus. Daike Tian, Ken Tilt, Jeff Sibley, Fenny Dane, Floyd Woods.
Louisiana	143-147	Evaluation of Fertilizer and Irrigation Production Systems for Large Containers. Anthony L. Witcher, Edward W. Bush.
	149	FIELD PRODUCTION
Florida	150-152	Root Pruning and Transplant Success for Cathedral Oak™ Live Oaks. Edward F. Gilman, Patti J. Anderson, Chris Harcheck.
Florida	153-154	Effect of Planting Depth on Tree Growth and Quality in Containers. Edward F. Gilman, Christopher Harchick, Patti J. Anderson.
Tennessee	155-159	Evaluation of Cold Damage of Field-Grown Fruit Nursery Trees. D.E. Deyton, C.E. Sams, J.C. Cummins, D.W. Lockwood, M. Halcomb.
Texas	160-163	Response of Two Field-grown Redbud Varieties to Three Reference Evapotranspiration Based Irrigation Regimes. Thayne Montague.
Ohio	164-167	Field Caliper Tree Production Using Retractable Roof GreenHouse Grown Liners. Hannah M. Mathers, Luke T. Case, Elizabeth Grosskurth, Michele Bigger.
	169	ENTOMOLOGY
Alabama	170-172	Japanese Beetle Feeding Preference Among Sugar Maple Cultivars. Ken R. Blackwood, Jeff L. Sibley, Charles H. Gilliam, J. David Williams, Arnold W. Caylor.
Texas	173-176	Reducing Fertilization for Potted Mums: Implications for Western Flower Thrips Management. Amanda Chau, Kevin M. Heinz, Fred. T. Davies, Jr.
Michigan	177-179	Emerald Ash Borer: What Do We Know About its Biology, Host Range, and Control? Bert Cregg, David Mota-Sanchez, Deborah McCullough, Andrea Agius, David Smitley, Erik Rebek.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Virginia	180-181	<i>Pryeria sinica</i> Moore (Lepidoptera: Zygaenidae), A Newly Discovered Pest of <i>Euonymus</i> in North America. Eric R. Day, John W. Brown, Peter B. Schultz, Adria Bordas.
Kentucky	182-184	Integrated Pest Management for Nursery Crop Production. Amy Fulcher, Win Dunwell, Robert McNiel, Dava Hayden.
Arkansas	185-187	Japanese Beetle (<i>Popilla japonica</i> Newman) Feeding Preference on Eighteen Field-grown Birch (<i>Betula</i> L.) Accessions. Mengmeng Gu, James A. Robbins, Curt R. Rom.
Mississippi	188-190	Evaluation of Neonicotinoid Insecticides for Preventive Control of Wax Scales. David W. Held.
Florida Mississippi	191-193	Evaluation of Media Drenches: Another Tool for Management of the Strawberry Rootworm. Charles Hesselein, David Boyd, Charles W Meister.
Alabama	194-196	Insecticide Evaluation for Controlling Tea Scale on Camellia in Containers. Charles Hesselein, Joseph Chamberlin.
Texas	197-199	Protecting Unrooted Cuttings from Silverleaf Whitefly During Mist Propagation. Peter C. Krauter, Steven P. Thompson, Kevin M. Heinz.
Texas	200-202	Florida Wax Scale and Citrus Mealybug Efficacy Trials (IR-4 Super A Project). Scott W. Ludwig.
Texas	203-204	Fungus Gnat Management in Greenhouse Grown Edible Herbs. Scott W. Ludwig, Kim Engler.
Tennessee	205-209	Management Strategies for Asian Ambrosia Beetle in Commercial Nurseries. Jason B. Oliver, Frank A. Hale, Nadeer N. Youssef, Mark A. Halcomb.
Tennessee	210-212	Cool-season Applications of Baits and/or Chemical Drenches to Individual Mounds of Imported Fire Ants. T. Rashid, P. Parkman, J. Oliver, K. Vail.
Texas	213-217	Insecticides from Five Chemical Classes Differentially Affect Growth and Development of Potted Gerberas (<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i> var. 'Festival Salmon'). James D. Spiers, Fred T. Davies, Jr., Chuanjiu He, Carlos Bográn, Amanda Chau, Kevin M. Heinz, Terri W. Starman.
Texas	218-220	New Treatment Option for Leafminers and Mealybug. Steve Thompson, Peter C. Krauter, Kevin M. Heinz.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
	221	PATHOLOGY AND NEMATOLOGY
Tennessee	222-225	Effect of Biorational Products on Non-Target Microorganisms on Dogwood Foliage. Debbie J. Eskandarnia, Margaret T. Mmbaga, Frank A. Mrema.
Tennessee	226-231	Late Season Spray Program to Delay Powdery Mildew on Dogwood in Spring. Andrew Trivette, Margaret Mmbaga.
Alabama	232-233	Treatment Window for the Control of Powdery Mildew on Dogwood. John W. Olive, Austin K. Hagan, James C. Stephenson.
Alabama	234-242	Nitrogen Rate and the Incidence of Diseases of Dogwood. A. K. Hagan, J. R. Akridge, K. L. Bowen.
Tennessee	243-246	Seed-borne Diseases of Dogwood. Emmanuel Nnodu, Frank Mrema, Ainong Shi.
Tennessee	247-250	Development of Powdery Mildew on Resistant and Susceptible Dogwood Cultivars. Y. H. Li, M. T. Windham, R. N. Trigiano, D. C. Fare, J. M. Spiers, W. E. Copes3.
Tennessee	251-255	PCR-based Analysis of <i>Colletotrichum acutatum</i> in Flowering Dogwood. Ainong Shi, Emmanuel Nnodu, Margaret T. Mmbaga, Frank Mrema.
Tennessee	256-259	Biological Control of Powdery Mildew of Flowering Dogwood. F. A. Mrema, M. T. Mmbaga, A. Shi.
Mississippi North Carolina	260-264	Genetic and Physical Characterization of Binucleate <i>Rhizoctonia</i> Species Causing Web Blight on Azalea. T.A. Rinehart, W.E. Copes, M.A. Cubeta.
Alabama	265-267	Alternaria Leaf Spot on Impatiens and Its Control. A. K. Hagan, J. W. Olive, J. Stephenson.
Tennessee	268-274	Molecular Analysis of <i>Alternaria alternata</i> in Lilac. Ainong Shi, Margaret T. Mmbaga, Frank Mrema, Emmanuel Nnodu.
Tennessee	275-277	Resistance of Daylily Cultivars to Rust. Y. H. Li, M. T. Windham, R. N. Trigiano, D. C. Fare, J. M. Spiers, W. E. Copes.
Tennessee	278-279	Efficacy of Tebuconazole for Control of Black Spot of Rose. M. T. Windham, A. S. Windham, J. Mynes, D. McCammon.
Tennessee	280-281	A Leaf Spot Disease of African Violet Caused by <i>Corynespora cassiicola</i> . M. T. Windham, R. N. Trigiano, A. S. Windham, L. Vito.
Tennessee	282-284	Foliar Nematodes and Perennial Plants: The Silent Epidemic. Alan S. Windham, H. P. Conlon, Mark Windham.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Florida	285-288	Reported Ornamental Plant Diseases in North Florida from 2002 - 2004. Alejandro Bolques, M. Timur Momol, Hank Dankers, Venson Cunningham.
Alabama	289-292	Slug Damage Decreased with Common Fungicide. Jody M. Thompson, Jeff L. Sibley, Wheeler G. Foshee, III, Gary J. Keever, Arthur G. Appel.
	293	ECONOMICS AND MARKETING
Georgia	294-296	Economies of Scale in Foliage Production and Marketing. F.E. Stegelin, B.V. Pennisi, P.A. Thomas.
Tennessee	297-300	Changes in Market Value of Nursery and Greenhouse Crop Sales: An Examination of Available Historical Data. Enefiok Ekanem, Fisseha Tegegne, Safdar Muhammad, Surendra Singh.
Tennessee	301-304	Master Gardener Perception of Genetically Modified Ornamental Plants. William Klingeman, Charles Hall, Beth Babbit.
Florida Tennessee	305-310	Economic Impacts of the Environmental Horticulture Industry in the United States. Alan W. Hodges, Charles R. Hall, John J. Haydu.
Arkansas	311-313	Partial Return Analysis of Liner Size on Field Shade Tree Profitability. Ronald L. Rainey, Jim Robbins.
Tennessee	314-318	Marketing Practices within the United States Nursery Industry: The 2003 National Survey. Charles Hall, John Brooker, David Eastwood.
Tennessee	319-325	Structural Changes in the United States Nursery Industry: 1988-2003. Charles Hall, John Brooker, David Eastwood.
Florida	326-330	Four Decades of Change in Florida's Sod Production Industry: 1963 – 2003. John J. Haydu, Alan W. Hodges.
Alabama	331-334	Technical Efficiency in Alabama's Lawn and Landscape Sector. Moriah Bellenger, Deacue Fields, Valentina Hartarska.
Tennessee	335-339	Growth in the U.S. Greenhouse and Nursery Industry: Implications for Southern Growers. Safdar Muhammad, Fisseha Tegegne, Enefiok Ekanem, Chris Catanzaro.
Arkansas	340-343	Demographics and Characteristics of Arkansas Ornamental Sales and Service Firms. Ronald L. Rainey, Hunter Hauk, Jim Robbins.
Florida	344-347	Consumer Purchase Patterns in Florida. James L. Gibson, Lindsay Mullinax.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Mississippi	348-350	Socio-economic Characteristics of Horticulture Firms in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. B.C. Posadas, P.R. Knight, C.H. Coker, R.Y. Coker, S.A. Langlois, C. D. Veal.
Tennessee	351-353	Using Master Gardeners as Marketing Resources. Beth Babbit.
Alabama	354-358	Current Status of Bark Supply in the U.S. Wenliang Lu, Jeff L. Sibley, Charles H. Gilliam, Yaoqi Zhang, James S. Bannon.
359 ENGINEERING, STRUCTURES AND INNOVATIONS		
Georgia	360-361	Attributes Considered When Purchasing a Greenhouse Environmental Control System. Forrest Stegelin.
Alabama	362-364	Pelleted Poultry Litter Provides Viable Fuel Source for Greenhouse Heat. Oladiran O. Fasina, David I. Bransby, J. Raymond Kessler, Charles H. Gilliam, Jeff L. Sibley.
Mississippi	365-368	Levels of Technology Adoption Among Horticulture Firms in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Benedict C. Posadas, Patricia R. Knight, Christine H. Coker, Randy Y. Coker, Scott A. Langlois, C. David Veal.
Mississippi	369-371	RFID Technology for Plant Inventory Management. Richard L. Harkess.
373 GROWTH REGULATORS		
Florida	374-377	Ornamental Vegetable Growth Responses to Topflor and Sumagic. Lindsay Mullinax, James L. Gibson, Shannon Crowley, Susan Haddock.
Florida	378-382	Limiting Variability in Sumagic Liner Dip Treatments. Christopher B. Cerveny, James E. Barrett.
Virginia	383-386	Camellia Flower Bud Set Affected by PGR Application Timing. T.J. Banko, A.L. Landon.
Alabama	387-389	Height Control of Herbaceous Perennials Forced Outdoors Under Night-Interrupted Lighting. Amanda S. Holland, Gary J. Keever, J. Raymond Kessler, Jr., James C. Stephen
391 PROPAGATION		
Alabama	392-394	Use of a Thickening Agent for Application of Auxin to Cuttings of Hibiscus and Rose. Eugene K. Blythe, Jeff L. Sibley.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Kansas	395-397	Effects of Seedling Age, Basal Medium, and Explant on Shoot Production on Eastern Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>) In vitro. Caleb M. Call, Kenneth R. Schroeder.
Tennessee	398-400	Micropropagation of Two <i>Lonicera</i> Species for Genetic Engineering for Sterility. (Max) Z.-M. Cheng, Lori Osburn.
Tennessee	401-403	Redbud Germination Affected by Seed Treatment. Donna C. Fare.
Kansas North Carolina	404-406	Auxin Affects Adventitious Rooting of Snowbells (<i>Styrax</i> L.). Jason J. Griffin, F. Todd Lasseigne.
Alabama	407-410	Effects of Substrate Physical Properties on Rooting Stem Cuttings of the Endangered Species, <i>Clematis socialis</i> Kral. C. N. Johnson, D. J. Eakes, L. L. Bruner, A. N. Wright, J. L. Sibley.
North Carolina	411-413	Seed Germination of Seabeach Amaranth (<i>Amaranthus pumilus</i>) in Response to Temperature, Light, and Gibberellin A ₃ Treatments. Daniel S. Norden, Frank A. Blazich, Stuart L. Warren, David L. Nash.
North Carolina	414-416	Seed Germination of Seabeach Amaranth (<i>Amaranthus pumilus</i>) as Influenced by Stratification, Temperature, and Light. Frank A. Blazich, Stuart L. Warren, David L. Nash, William M. Reece
Tennessee	417-419	Stabilizing Dogwood Seed Supply through Proper Storage of Excess Seed. Sandra M. Reed.
Georgia	420-421	Stratification Improves Germination of <i>Camellia oleifera</i> . John M. Ruter.
Florida	422-426	Rooting of Cuttings of Yellow-flowered Cultivars of <i>Magnolia</i> . Jyotsna Sharma, Gary W. Knox, Maria Ishida.
South Carolina	427-429	Seed Germination Characteristics of Beach Vitex: An Invasive Coastal Plant. Ted Whitwell, Danielle Maddox, Matthew Cousins.
	431	WEED CONTROL
North Carolina	432-434	Preemergence Control of Winter Weeds in Overwintering Ornamental Crops. Caren A. Judge, Joseph C. Neal, Robert E. Wooten.
Florida	435-439	Doveweed, Florida Tasseflower and Eclipta Control Under Heavy Rainfall Conditions Using Granular Preemergence Herbicides. Robert H. Stamps, Annette L. Chandler.
Georgia	440-443	Control of Florida Betony with Herbicides. Mark Czarnota, Byron Rhodes, Tim Murphy.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Alabama Oregon Tennessee	444-445	Preemergence Control of <i>Marchantia polymorpha</i> . Adam Newby, James Altland, Charles Gilliam, Donna Fare, Glenn Wehtje.
Alabama Mississippi	446-449	A Non-Chemical Alternative for Weed Control in Container Nursery Crops. Ben M. Richardson, Charles H. Gilliam, Glenn R. Wehtje, Glenn B. Fain.
Florida	450-453	Container-Grown Ornamental Granular Herbicide Demonstration. L. M. Miller, J. Popenoe, R.H. Stamps, R.C. Miller, D. Lickfeldt.
Mississippi Oregon	454-456	Molecular and Morphological Characterization of <i>Cardamine</i> Species. Glenn B. Fain, James E. Altland, Timothy A. Rinehart.
Georgia Indiana North Carolina	457-463	A New Herbicide for the Nursery Industry Mark Czarnota, Darin Lickfeldt, Joe Neal.
Ohio	464-467	Oryzalin Movement in One-gallon Containers from Spray and Oryzalin-created Mulch Applications. Luke Case, Hannah Mathers, S. Kent Harrison, Sara Lowe, Alejandra Acuna.
Alabama Oregon Tennessee	468-471	Controlling Liverwort (<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>) Infestations. Adam Newby, James Altland, Charles Gilliam, Glenn Wehtje, Donna Fare.
Ohio	472-474	Field Evaluation of Various Herbicide and Mulch Combinations For Ornamental Weed Control. Hannah Mathers, Luke Case.
Texas	475-476	Effect of Compost Type on Bermudagrass (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>) Invasion. Derald A. Harp, Kevin Ong, John Sloan, Kristen L. McDowell.
	477	LANDSCAPE
Alabama	478-480	Effect of Exposure on Survival and Growth of Herbaceous Peonies. Wayne Chesnut, Amy N. Wright, Ken M. Tilt, Jeff Sibley, Arnold Caylor.
Louisiana	481-483	Initial Performance of Texas' Earth Kind Roses in Louisiana. Allen Owings, Gordon Holcomb, Anthony Witcher, Allen Broyles.
Alabama Mississippi	484-485	Landscape Application of a Manufactured Topsoil Composed of Harbor Dredge and Biosolids. John W. Olive, Jeff L. Sibley, Richard A. Price, James C. Stephenson.
Tennessee	486-488	Cold Hardiness of Encore Azaleas® in Zones 6a and 6b. M. T. Windham, R. N. Trigliano, L. Vito, J. Mynes, D.C. Fare.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Florida	489-493	Hardy Fern Trials in Northwest Florida. Regina B. Sisler, Mack Thetford, James L. Gibson, Shannon Crowley, Barry Ballard.
Florida	494-498	Begonia Trials in Northwest Florida. Regina B. Sisler, Mack Thetford, James L. Gibson, Shannon Crowley, Barry Ballard.
Louisiana	499-502	Landscape Performance of Coleus Cultivars – 2003 and 2004. Allen Owings, Anthony Witcher, Allen Broyles.
Virginia	503-506	Assessment of Nutrient Absorption Capabilities of Nine Ornamental Grasses for Bioretention. Sarah B. Dickinson, Gregory K. Eaton.
Mississippi	507-509	Landscape Evaluation of Ornamental Cabbage, Kale, and Greens. S.S. Harkness, R.C. Sloan.
Texas	510-512	Utilization of Dairy Compost to Establish Urban Landscapes. Cynthia McKenney, John Sloan, Wayne Mackay, Steve George.
Florida	513-516	Water Requirements for Shrub Establishment in Florida Landscapes. S.M. Scheiber, E.F. Gilman, K.A. Moore, M. Paz, S. Vyapari.
Texas	517-520	Production Plant Growth Regulator Applications During Greenhouse Production May Inhibit The Landscape Performance Of Cool Season Bedding Plants. Garry V. McDonald, Michael A. Arnold.
Kansas	521-523	Heat and Drought Affect Photosynthesis of Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>) Ecotypes. Jason J. Griffin.
Texas	524-526	Deadheading and Renewal Pruning Affect Subsequent Bloom of Chaste Tree. Garry V. McDonald, Michael A. Arnold, Jerry M. Parsons.
Italy	527-530	Effect of Nursery Production Method on Tree Establishment In Urban Sites. F. Ferrini, F.P. Nicese.
North Carolina	531-533	History of Beach Vitex Cultivation: A Potential Invasive Ornamental. Richard T. Olsen, Andrew C. Bell.
Florida	534-536	Irrigation Regime and Pre-emergence Herbicide Effects on Post-transplant Growth of Asiatic Jasmine Slabs Installed in a Landscape. Julie Kahoun, Richard C. Beeson, Jr., S. Michele Schieber.
Kansas	537-539	Turf Species Affect Establishment and Growth of <i>Cercis canadensis</i> and <i>Carya illinoensis</i> . Jason J. Griffin, William R. Reid, Dale J. Bremer.
Florida	540-543	Economic Impact of Communication Gap between Landscape Contractors and Regulators. Sudeep Vyapari, Charles M. Holder.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Virginia	544-547	The Potential for Stormwater Runoff from Model Landscape Surfaces. Brian J. Wolyniak, Gregory K. Eaton.
Alabama Virginia	548-550	Effect of Backfill Composition on Post-Transplant Root Growth. Amy N. Wright, Brian E. Jackson, Robert D. Wright, Jake F. Browder.
Louisiana	551-553	Influence of Planting Depth and Mulch on the Growth of Nine Species of Ornamental Plants in Landscape and Container Settings. Heather C. Pecot, Edward W. Bush, Allen D. Owings.
Florida	554-558	Evaluating Fifteen <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> taxa in North and South Florida. Sandra B. Wilson, Gary W. Knox, Laurie K. Mecca.
	559	WATER MANAGEMENT
South Carolina	560-563	Greenhouse Screening of Landscape Plants for their N- and P- Uptake Recovery in a Remediation System. Robert F. Polomski, Milton D. Taylor, Sarah A. White, Stephen J. Klaine, Ted Whitwell, William C. Bridges.
Florida North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee	564-566	Environmental Resource Management Systems for Nurseries, Greenhouses, and Landscapes: 2005 Update. Chris Catanzaro, Ted Whitwell, Joseph P. Albano, Donna Fare, Jim Owen, Stuart L. Warren, Ted E. Bilderback, Tom Yeager, Patrick C. Wilson, Milton D. Taylor, Sarah A. White, Robert F. Polomski, Stephen J. Klaine.
Texas	567-571	Mycorrhizal Fungi Increase Tolerance of Rose Plants to Bicarbonate in Irrigation Water. A.D. Cartmill, F.T. Davies, Jr., A. Alarcón, L.A. Valdez-Aguilar.
Italy	572-576	Wastewater Reuse for Plant Nursery Irrigation. Francesco Ferrini, Riccardo Gori, Claudio Lubello, Francesco Paolo Nicese.
Maryland Pennsylvania South Carolina	577-579	Irrigation Scheduling: An Overview of the Potential to Integrate Modeling and Sensing Techniques in a Windows-based Environment. Joseph D. Bowden, William L. Bauerle, John D. Lea-Cox, George Kantor.
Tennessee	580-583	Use of Plant Systems for Mitigating Environmental Impacts of Pesticides. E. Kudjo Dzantor, Deborah E. Long, Theophilus Amenyenu.
Georgia	584-588	Using Substrate Water Content to Control Irrigation of Containerized Maples and Elms. Marc van Iersel, Krishna Nemali, Sue Dove.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Arkansas	589-592	Acclimation to Prolonged Water Deficit in Four Birch Taxa: Gas Exchange and Growth. Mengmeng Gu, Curt R. Rom, James A. Robbins.
Florida	593-595	Nitrate Losses in Surface Runoff Water from Irrigation Events at Foliage and Bedding Plant Nurseries in South Florida. Miguel Mozdzen, Chris Wilson, Joseph Albano, Tom Yeager.
Florida	596-601	Seasonal Effects on Large Tree Water Use. Richard C. Beeson, Jr., Julie Kahoun.
South Carolina	602-605	Constructed Wetland Nutrient Removal Efficiency From Plant Nursery Irrigation Runoff Over Three Years. Sarah A. White, Milton D. Taylor, Jeff S. Gallagher, Ted Whitwell, Stephen J. Klaine.
Georgia South Carolina	606-611	Nitrogen and Phosphorus Discharge from a Constructed Wetland at a Commercial Nursery during Spring 2005 Growth Renewal. Sarah A. White, Milton D. Taylor, Stewart Chandler, Ted Whitwell, Stephen J. Klaine.
South Carolina	612-614	The Spatial Distribution of Water-use Efficiency: Understanding the Factors that Control Transpiration and Photosynthesis within Tree Crowns. William L. Bauerle, Joseph D. Bowden, G. Geoff Wang.
South Carolina	615-617	A Systematic Approach to Model Radiation Interception and Gas Exchange for Assessing the Water Requirements of Tree Nurseries. William L. Bauerle, G. Geoff Wang, Joseph D. Bowden, Shruthi Anantharamu.
619		PLANT BREEDING & EVALUATION
Tennessee	620-623	Genotyping of Coneflower Pollen for Linkage Analysis. A. Naseer Aziz, Russell H. Harrison, Christopher Catanzaro, Roger J. Sauve.
Alabama Mississippi New Mexico Oregon	624-627	Nectar Characteristics of <i>Lantana</i> and Butterfly Visitation. L.L. Bruner, D.J. Eakes, G.J. Keever, J.W. Baier, C. Stuart Whitman, P. R. Knight, J.E. Altland, E.M. Silva.
New York Tennessee	628-631	In Vitro Regeneration of <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> for Genetic Transformation Studies. Tingting Chen, Suping Zhou, Roger Sauvé, Sarabji Bhatti, W. Powell.
North Carolina	632-635	Using Molecular Markers to Investigate Parentage of Azaleodendron Hybrids. Ryan N. Contreras, Thomas G. Ranney, S.P. Tallury, Susana R. Milla.
Arkansas	636-638	Effects of Oryzalin Use on Buddleja. Bruce L. Dunn, Jon T. Lindstrom.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
Arkansas	639-642	Landscape Performance of Twenty-three Field-grown Birch Accessions at Fayetteville and Hope, Arkansas. Mengmeng Gu, James A. Robbins, Curt R. Rom.
Tennessee	643-645	Recent Developments in <i>Hydrangea</i> Interspecific Hybridization. Keri D. Jones, Sandra M. Reed.
Arkansas	646-647	Progress Towards Less Invasive <i>Buddleja</i> . Jon T. Lindstrom, Scott E. Renfro.
North Carolina	648-650	Heritability of Ornamental Foliage Characteristics in Diploid, Triploid, and Tetraploid <i>Hypericum androsaemum</i> L. Richard T. Olsen, Thomas G. Ranney, Dennis J. Werner.
North Carolina	651-652	Intergeneric Hybrids between <i>Gordonia lasianthus</i> and <i>Franklinia alatamaha</i> . Thomas G. Ranney, Thomas A. Eaker, Joel A. Mowrey, Nathan P. Lynch.
North Carolina	653-655	'Shiloh Splash' River Birch ^{PPAF} . Thomas G. Ranney, Thomas A. Eaker, Joel A. Mowrey, Nathan P. Lynch.
Mississippi Tennessee	656-659	Estimating Genetic Diversity within the <i>Hydrangea</i> genus using Molecular Markers. Timothy A. Rinehart, Brian Scheffler, Sandra M. Reed.
Georgia	660-662	Evaluation of <i>Hydrangea</i> Selections for Coastal Georgia. John M. Ruter.
Georgia	663-664	'Prince' and 'Princess' Ornamental Napiergrass. John M. Ruter, Wayne W. Hanna.
Mississippi	665-667	Ploidy Variation in <i>Hedychium</i> Species and Cultivars. Hamidou F. Sakhanokho, Cecil Pounders.
Tennessee	668-673	Low Temperature Regulation of Gene Transcription in <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i> , a Cold-hardy Shade Perennial. Roger Sauve, Suping Zhou.
Tennessee	674-675	Comparative Genotyping of Dark-Green Vegetables via Fluorescent-amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism. Kori Shaw, A. N. Aziz, R. Sauve, C. Catanzaro, D. Long .
Tennessee	676-678	AFLP Markers Identify Flowering Dogwood Cultivars. Naomi R. Smith, Robert N. Trigiano, Kurt H. Lamour, Ledare Habera, Mark T. Windham.
Tennessee	679-681	Identification of Cold-inducible Genes in <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i> Sieb. et Zucc. Suping Zhou, Roger Sauve, Tingting Chen, Abudullah Abudullah, Sarah Bhatti.

Table of Contents

Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
	683	FLORICULTURE
North Carolina	684-686	Effect of Plug Flat on Plant Growth and Prevention of Stunting. Aliya A. Donnell, John M. Dole.
North Carolina	687-691	Varying Application Practices of Flurprimidol Pre-plant Bulb Soaks. Brian A. Krug, Brian E. Whipker, Ingram McCall.
Georgia	692-697	A Novel Automated System for Irrigation and Simulating Drought Stress in Potted Plants. Krishna S. Nemali, Marc W. van Iersel.
Alabama	698-700	Production of Snapdragons in a High Tunnel in Southeast Alabama. Brad E. Reeder, Wheeler G. Foshee, III, Raymond L. Kessler.
Mississippi	701-702	Cut Flower Research in Mississippi. R. Crofton Sloan, Christine E. Coker, Susan S. Harkness.
Georgia	703-705	Scheduling & Economic Considerations in Commercial Production of Vinca. F.E. Stegelin, P.A. Thomas, B.V. Pennisi, J.L. Woodward.
Florida	706-709	Nutrient Deficiencies of Dwarf Creeping Chenille. Kim Strickland, James L. Gibson.
Virginia	710-713	Somaclonal Variation of <i>Astilbe</i> Microshoots. B. W. Trader, H. L. Scoggins, R. E. Veilleux.

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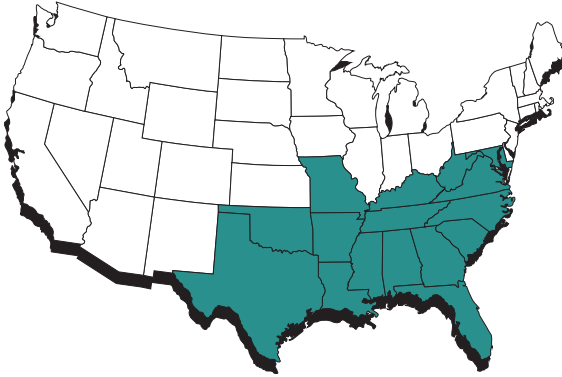
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