PROCEEDINGS OF

RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Fifty-Third Annual Report

2008

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53nd Annual
Southern Nursery Association

Research Conference Proceedings 2008

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We extend our gratitude to all the researchers and nurserymen who attended the 53rd Annual SNA Research Conference and/or contributed to these Proceedings. You make this annual event a success with international recognition.

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Using Research Data Safely And Effectively

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 contact the author.

THE PORTER HENEGAR MEMORIAL AWARD

for

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH

The Southern Nursery Association (SNA) has honored Dr. Joseph C. Neal, a faculty member at North Carolina State University, with the Porter Henegar Memorial Award during the 53rd Annual SNA Research Conference held in conjunction with SNA's Annual Meeting and Convention in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Gary Keever, winner of the award last year, made the presentation to Dr. Neal during the SNA Research Conference.

Originally known as the Research Award of Merit, the recognition was created in 1968 to honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to ornamental horticulture research and specifically to members of the Association. In 1972, the award was renamed the Porter Henegar Memorial Award in honor of one of SNA's former Executive Secretaries. Nominations are made each year by SNA's Director of Research and past award winners.

Dr. Neal is Professor of Weed Science and Extension Specialist for weed management in landscapes, nursery crops and Christmas tree production in the Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University. He received his Ph.D. in Weed Science from NC State University in 1984.

Dr. Neal has over 25 years of experience in nursery and landscape weed management research and education. His current research interests include: longevity of herbicides in container nurseries, biology and management of common and newly introduced weeds, development of specific management guidelines for “hard-to-control” weeds, and biological control of weeds with plant pathogens.

His Extension programs have emphasized the importance of weed scouting and knowledge-based weed management decisions. He has published more than 150 articles including Weeds of the Northeast and Weeds of Container Nurseries in the United States. Dr. Neal is past president of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, serves on the Weed Science Society of America board of directors, and has received numerous awards for his extension publications and research.

The Bryson L. James Student Research Competition 2008 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 50 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.

2008 Bryson L. James Student Competition Award Winners

B.S. Candidates

1st Place	M. Kate Lee	University of Georgia
2nd Place	Irene Palmer	North Carolina State University

M.S. Candidates

1st Place	Dennis Carey	North Carolina State University
2nd Place	Jeff R. Jones	North Carolina State University
3rd Place	Elisabeth Meyer	North Carolina State University

Ph.D. Candidates

1st Place	Amy Fulcher	University of Kentucky
2nd Place	Jongyun Kim	University of Georgia
3rd Place	Jason Hansen	University of Tennessee

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AL	12-15	Utilization of Spent Tea Grinds as a Substrate Component in Greenhouse Crop Production. Daniel E. Wells, Jeff L. Sibley, Jay L. Evers, Charles H. Gilliam, and William A. Dozier, Jr.
FL	16-18	Plug and Container Production of Softhair Coneflower (*Rudbeckia mollis* Elliott). James H. Aldrich, Gary W. Knox and Jeffrey G. Norcini.
FL	20-23	Resource Management Tool for Container Production. Jeff Million, Tom Yeager, Claudia Larsen, Joe Ritchie, Craig Warner, and Joseph Albano
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NC	29-31	Gibberellin A3 Treatment of Seeds, Container Volume, Substrate pH, and Nitrogen Source and Rate Influence Growth of Containerized Seabeach Amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus).* Daniel S. Norden, Stuart L. Warren, Frank A. Blazich, and David L. Nash
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