



# HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

Vol. 2 No. 15

August 24, 2015

Published by Dr. Gene Blythe

Flowers in cool shades of blue, purple, and violet provide welcome additions to the garden on a summer day, a pleasant companion to flowers of pure white, and a soothing contrast to flowers in warm shades of red, orange, and yellow.



Plants of vinca 'Jams 'N Jellies Blackberry' (above), from PanAmerican Seed and an All-America Selections (AAS) Winner for 2012, are currently putting on a show in the AAS Display Garden. Flowers are a deep, velvety purple (almost black) with a white eye, set above dark green foliage.



*Ruellia simplex* 'Mayan Purple' (above), developed at the University of Florida, thrives with heat. Plants are now starting to come into full bloom. This patented variety does not produce seed (unlike older, seed-producing varieties, which can be invasive). Planted in spring 2014, plants died to the ground in winter and most resprouted this spring.



*Browallia* 'Endless Illumination' (above), growing in part shade, has shown steady production of violet flowers and rich green foliage on compact plants, even in hot weather. 'Endless Illumination' is one of our favorites in the Trial Gardens and will be new for 2016 from Proven Winners. Plants should also do well in containers and baskets with regular watering. *Browallia* is commonly known as bush violet, amethyst flower, and sapphire flower.



*Salvia guaranitica* 'Black & Bloom' (above), new for 2016 from Ball FloraPlant, produces flowers with a blue corolla and black calyx along the black stems. A little shade can be helpful on the hottest afternoons. 'Black & Bloom' features some improvements over the older variety 'Black & Blue'. *Salvia guaranitica* is commonly known as the blue anise sage or Brazilian sage.



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.

