



# HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

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Ornamental vines can provide an amazing array of colorful foliage and flowers in the landscape, while new varieties of fruiting vines offer fresh opportunities for both home gardeners and commercial growers. From the vibrant foliage and stunning flowers of tropical vines to the flavorful crops of fruiting vines, choices certainly abound.



'Victoria Red', a seeded table grape recently released from Texas, is shown at left growing in the research vineyard at the experiment station in Poplarville. 'Victoria Red' fruits have a crisp texture and a relatively thin skin. Several other bunch grape varieties are currently being evaluated for performance, quality, and resistance to Pierce's disease.

Dr. Eric Stafne will be providing an update on trials with bunch grape varieties for the South at our Field Day on October 1. Be sure to join us for this informative event.

[Photo by Eric Stafne]



*Ipomoea batatas* 'SolarPower Red' (above, left) and 'SolarPower Lime' (above, right), performing well in the Trial Gardens from spring through summer, will be new for 2016 from Ball FloraPlant. These two cutting-grown, ornamental sweet potatoes readily cover the ground and produce colorful, deeply lobed leaves. 'Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Lime' (below), new for 2016 from Proven Winners, features heart-shaped leaves and a more restrained growth habit than other ornamental sweet potatoes. A few colorful flowers have been a late summer bonus in the Trial Gardens.



Hop vines (right) may be grown to produce a crop useful for brewing beer, supplying unique material for floral arrangements, or simply providing a lush, green effect in the garden. Although hops tend to be grown commercially on a special hop trellis to maximize production, hop plants may also be grown on a sturdy trellis or arbor in the home garden. Scott Langlois will discuss hops at our upcoming Field Day on October 1.

[Photo by Scott Langlois]



At left, bright yellow flowers of *Mandevilla* (*Dipladenia*) 'Summer Romance Vining Yellow' set this variety apart from red, white, and pink varieties of *Mandevilla*. This new, vegetatively propagated variety from Ball Ingenuity may be best used planted in containers and climbing on a trellis on a sunny patio. Plants perform best with lots of warm weather. During the winter, plants will need to be moved to a bright location that is protected from cold temperatures.



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.

