



HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

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Petunias are favorites during the spring season, with trailing varieties providing a mass of color and novelty varieties attracting a second look in the garden. Three trailing, seed-grown varieties in the Opera Supreme™ series (currently on the market from American Takii) and the unique, white-on-purple flowers of 'Night Sky' (new from Selecta and available as plants for 2017) have provided colorful displays during spring in the Trial Gardens.



Petunia Opera Supreme™ Pink Morn (above), an All-America Selections (AAS) winner for 2007, has been dependable for an abundant display of iridescent pink flowers in our AAS Display Garden. Petunia Opera Supreme™ Lilac Ice (below) has been flowering heavily in the Trial Gardens, the flowers showing light lilac tones with deep purple throats and venation.



Petunia Opera Supreme™ Raspberry Ice Improved (above) shows colorful raspberry red markings that radiate through the light pink flowers.

The white speckling on flowers of petunia 'Night Sky' (below) changes depending on day and night temperatures. The speckles were most abundant earlier in spring when daytime temperatures were lower. With the arrival of warmer weather, the speckles are fewer in number and the dark purple color is now predominant in the flowers.



The 2016 Blueberry Jubilee will be held in Poplarville on Saturday, June 11. The Trials Gardens at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station and facilities of the USDA-ARS Southern Horticultural Laboratory will be included on wagon tours that will depart from behind the courthouse in downtown Poplarville approximately every 30 minutes between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM, weather permitting. The tour lasts about one hour. Visitors wishing to walk through the Trials Gardens at their leisure may drive to the station at 711 W. North Street and park in the gravel parking area. For more information, visit www.blueberryjubilee.org.