



# HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

Volume 3, Number 19

October 17, 2016

Published by Dr. Gene Blythe

Pineapple is the inspiration for several of the plants in our Trial and Display Gardens this year. From dramatic foliage colors to a fruiting, evergreen shrub to exotic, repeat-blooming bulbs, here are some plants to enjoy in the landscape and on the patio.



Coleus 'Premium Sun Pineapple Surprise' (above) is a new seed-grown coleus for 2017 from PanAmerican Seed that performed well in both sun and shade. Foliage shows a mix of pineapple yellow, green, and burgundy. Burgundy was more predominant in leaves of young plants and green showed up more on shade-grown plants. When flowers developed, we pruned back the plants to stimulate new growth.

The pineapple guava (*Acca sellowiana*; formerly *Feijoa sellowiana*) is an evergreen shrub (below) that is cold tolerant in our area. Showy flowers produced earlier in the season have given us a small crop of fruit this fall (inset photo below).



Nani



Maui



Leia



Tiki

*Eucomis* (pineapple lily) gets its common name from the flower spikes that are reminiscent of pineapples. Golden State Bulb Growers in California sent us bulbs of four varieties from their dwarf Aloha Lily series and we included them in our container trials under light shade this year. All four varieties were easy to grow and bloomed twice — first in late spring/early summer, and then again in late summer/early fall.

'Maui' (white) and 'Nani' (pink) started to flower first and were the most floriferous, followed by 'Leia' (burgundy) and 'Tiki' (sandalwood; plus speckled foliage). Once all of the flowers on the flower stalks had faded after the first flowering period, we cut off the old flower stalks at the base. We plan to trial these varieties in the ground next year. Bulbs are sold to home gardeners through [calbulbs.com](http://calbulbs.com).