

HighLights

Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

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Published by Dr. Gene Blythe

There seems to be something to please everyone when it comes to new petunia varieties. Whether you prefer solid colors or blends, large flowers or small, spreading habit or compact, bright colors or pastels – you can find a petunia for every wish among recent and upcoming introductions.



Petunia 'Trilogy Red' (above), a seed-grown hybrid from Takii & Co., Ltd. and an All-America Selections winner for 2015, shows a compact habit and good flower cover. Although many petunia varieties can be planted in mid-winter in our area, we find that 'Trilogy Red' is best planted once warm weather has arrived for better establishment in the ground. Plants (even young ones) also perform well in containers with a bright display.



Some petunias are best appreciated close-up, such as 'Supertunia Picasso in Blue' (above), a new introduction from Proven Winners. Look closely at the flowers and notice the artistic green edging on the petals.



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Two of our favorites among the new petunia introductions sent to us by Proven Winners have been 'Supertunia Pink Star Charm' (above) and 'Supertunia Violet Star Charm' (below), both with a delicate yet showy star pattern in the flowers. These varieties can be readily enjoyed in next spring's garden when planted in containers or in the ground.



Calibrachoa 'Superbells Holy Moly!' (right) features a unique and eye-catching blend of flower colors. The yellow flowers appear to have been hand-painted with rose pigments that change pattern from one flower to another. This petunia relative is best grown in containers for top performance. This variety is being introduced by Proven Winners for next year's gardens.



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.

