



Arkansas Re-leaf newsletter

Jim Robbins
Extension Specialist -
Ornamental
Horticulture

Jim's Corner

January is always a busy month for workshops and conferences and possibly our one moment to recharge before the growing season hits. This year is no different as we have the Arkansas Turfgrass Association Conference (ATA) in Hot Springs on January 7 and 8 and the Arkansas Green Industry Association (AGIA) Conference and Trade Show, also in Hot Springs, on February 1 and 2. I encourage all of you to attend these great in-state conferences and trade shows.



The Cooperative Extension Service will again this year offer its ever popular "Green Industry Spring Tune-up" from 6 to 8:30 pm on Monday, February 25. This workshop will originate from the Little Rock headquarters of the Cooperative Extension Service but be beamed out to satellite sites in Fayetteville, Hope and possibly West Memphis. Details on this workshop will be mailed out shortly or you can contact me at jrobbins@uaex.edu.

I hope that by the end of January the Cooperative Extension Service and the Arkansas Green Industry

Association will have completed development of a website that illustrates, using over 900 photographs, plant material featured in the Arkansas Certified Nursery Professional test. The website may also prove useful to the green industry in that it will include lists of plant material by their usage. For example, if you are looking for suggestions of broadleaf evergreens for

screening purposes, you can find a list of plants that fit that description. This information will be available through the Cooperative Extension website: www.uaex.edu.

Click on the Agriculture button, then the Horticulture button, then the Ornamentals button, and finally on the Plant Materials Information button. This same information will be available through the Arkansas Green Industry Association website: www.argia.org, also in late January 2002.

Arkansas Is Our Campus

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.uaex.edu>

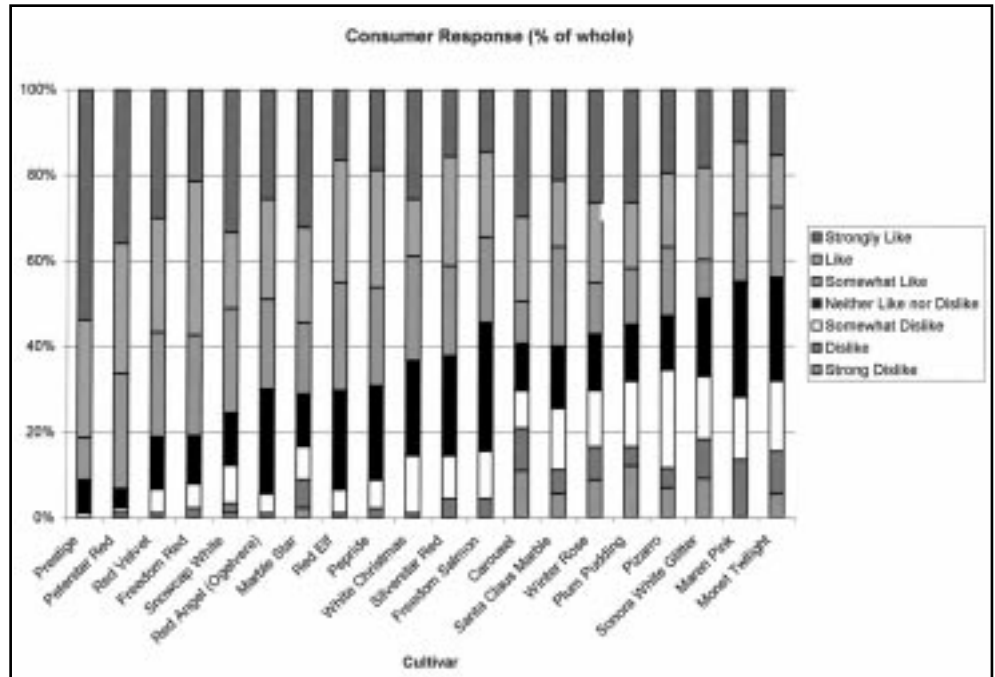
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Research Reports

Poinsettia Preferences, Dr. Gerald Klingaman, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas.

Janet Carson and Gerald Klingaman, along with Dr. Jeff Kuehny at LSU, conducted a poinsettia “beauty contest” as a part of a multiple state trial. The 100 consumers participating in the Little Rock portion of the trial overwhelmingly selected Ecke’s new Prestige as their hands-down favorite. The trial evaluated 20 cultivars, 10 of which were reds. Over half of the respondents gave Prestige the highest possible rating, and 90 percent gave it an overall favorable rating. By way of comparison, Freedom Red had an overall positive rating of about 80 percent, with about 20 percent giving it the highest possible ranking. Four of the top five cultivars were reds. Plum Pudding caused a strong reaction. It had the highest “strongly dislike” rating (about 15 percent), but 25 percent gave it the highest possible score.



What's Up?

Interesting websites!

Jeanne Wilson at Old Columbus Herb Farm and Soap Company has her website up and running!! The site is complete with a shopping cart. How many of you were aware that Jeanne has added a line of handmade soaps to her herb business? Great stuff!

William Bartram’s book *Travels* is available in electronic form at the Documenting the American South site: <http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/bartram/bartram.html>, an effort

by North Carolina University at Chapel Hill Libraries. Cool!

USDA Whitefly Knowledge-base: <http://whiteflies.ifas.ufl.edu/wfly0002.htm>.

Horticulture Industry Survey Coming in 2002!

Survey of Arkansas' Green Industry
Ronald L. Rainey
Extension Economist

What is the total size of the businesses that comprise Arkansas’ green industry? What is the value of sales and/or how many people do these firms employ? The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service (CES) hopes to answer these questions and many more

through an in-depth survey of Arkansas’ horticultural sectors in 2002. The results of the survey will be an important component of a study being developed by CES to assist industry representatives, university research and extension efforts. Representatives from the horticultural industry and academia are concerned that horticulture is not being adequately recognized for its contributions to the state’s overall agricultural picture.

CES is currently gathering existing data (USDA, Department of Commerce, etc.) to assist in the development of a report that summarizes and highlights the economic contributions of the industry. The survey is needed to assist in this data collection process to support an accurate reporting of your horticultural businesses. We need your

(continued on page 3)

NEW! Extension
Publication

FSA 6096 (revision)
Sources and References for the Nursery Industry - 2001

Plant Profile

The Climbing Aster *Aster carolinianus* Walt.

Dr. Jon Lindstrom, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas, Department of Horticulture
(tranell@comp.uark.edu)

Aster carolinianus Walt. is a native to swamps found on the coastal plain from North Carolina to Florida. It is one of the plants that are used to delineate wetlands in its native habit. Although readily available commercially, this desirable perennial is still not found frequently enough in the garden.

Unlike other asters, the climbing aster produces long clambering stems that, in our plants, reach 5 to 6 feet in length. The stems do not twine but billow out and cover a support. Our most effective planting is at the base of an *X Chitalpa tashkentensis*. By mid summer the base of the trunk of this tree is obscured by the aster and stems have reached the lower branches. Then, beginning in September, lavender-pink flowers cover the plant. Peak bloom is reached in late October, and the plants are effective in flower throughout November or even into early December, depending on the fall weather. The climbing aster is one of the last plants to flower in the Horticulture Display Garden.

Despite its origin in the swamps of the coastal plain, the climbing aster does not require overly wet soils. Plants in Fayetteville perform well in typical garden soil. However, irrigation is required during extended periods of drought. During 1999, one of our plants defoliated during the summer drought of that year. It recovered the following year and has done well since.

The climbing aster is hardy from Zones 6b to 10. In the colder zones, top growth will be killed to the ground. Farther south, aboveground portions are hardy through most winters. In any case, pruning

should be accomplished in late winter just prior to new growth. Full sun is required for best performance in the landscape. Propagation is easy from cuttings taken in June or July, treated with rooting hormone and rooted under intermittent mist. At Fayetteville, cuttings root within two weeks and begin to flower the same growing season.

Sometimes the perennial garden can be quite dull in November, mirroring the weather. For its late season flowering alone, the climbing aster deserves greater use. An extra benefit is its attraction to late season butterflies and bees, gathering their stores before winter finally closes in.



Horticulture Industry Survey (cont.)

assistance to assure a complete and accurate survey response. By completing and returning the survey, you help CES keep the cost of conducting the survey at a minimum and provide added confidence in the accuracy of the report's estimates. While a

summary of the report will be published, the confidentiality of your individual responses will be protected.

So we ask you to help CES in the development of this report by supporting the survey efforts.

University faculty and industry groups will use the report to assist with efforts to grow the state's horticultural industry. The report will also highlight the many economic contributions of the industry to the state's economy.



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Upcoming Events

Jan. 7-8, Arkansas Turfgrass Association
14th Annual Conf., Hot Springs Conv.
Cntr. Contact Anne Borg @ 501-
224-4840.

Jan. 11-12, 21st Annual Horticulture
Industries Show (HIS), Tulsa Comm.
College, Tulsa, OK. Contact at 1-501-
575-2603 or [http://home.okstate.edu/
Okstate/dasnr/hort/hortlahome.nsf/
toc/HIS](http://home.okstate.edu/Okstate/dasnr/hort/hortlahome.nsf/toc/HIS).

Jan. 19-21, 25th Annual Tenn. Nursery and
Landscape Assoc. Trade Show & Conv.,
Chattanooga, TN. Contact TNLA at 931-
473-3951 or www.TNLA.com.

Jan. 22-24. Mid-America Green Industry
Conv., BTA Conf. Cntr, Kansas City,
MO. Contact MAGIC Council @ 816-
561-5323 or <http://www.magicouncil.org>.

Jan. 24-26, Gulf States Horticultural Expo,
Arthur R. Outlaw Conv. Cntr., Mobile,
AL. Contact 334-502-7777.

Feb. 1-2, Plants 2002: Arkansas Green
Industry Assoc. Landscape and Nursery
Trade Show, Hot Springs Conv. Cntr.
Contact Anne Borg @ 501-225-0029 or
www.argia.org.

Feb. 9, Hot Springs Garden Show. Contact
Garland Co. Ext. office at 501-623-6841.

Feb. 16, Pine Bluff Lawn and Garden Show.
Contact Jefferson Co. Ext. at 870-
534-1033 or jivy@uaex.edu.

Feb. 23, Mountain Home Garden Seminars,
Baxter Co. Fairgrounds. Contact 870-
492-6767. Pre-registration required.

Feb. 25, UofA Coop. Ext. Green Industry
Spring Tune-up. Satellite viewing sites:
Little Rock, Fayetteville, Hope, and pos-
sibly West Memphis. For details contact
Jim Robbins at jrobbins@uaex.edu.

March 1-3, 11th Annual Arkansas
Flower and Garden Show, Statehouse
Conv. Cntr., Little Rock. Contact
at 800-459-SHOW or [http://
www.arhomeandgarden.org/
flower&garden/default.asp](http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/flower&garden/default.asp).

March 8-10, Jonesboro Flower and
Garden Show, Convocation Center on
the ASU campus.

March 15-17, The Arkansas River Valley
Lawn and Garden Show will be held
March 15, 16 and 17 at the Fort Smith
Convention Center. "Roots, Shoots,
Baskets and Boots" is the theme for

this year, and there will again be a
Flower Show sponsored by the
Greater Fort Smith Council of Garden
Clubs in conjunction with the Lawn
and Garden Show. Spectacular indoor
gardens, vendor booths, a kids' area
and educational seminars. Call the
Sebastian County Extension office,
501-782-4947, for details.

April 6-13, Grand Opening, Garvan
Woodland Gardens. Contact 1-800-
366-4664.

April 13, Saline County Garden Show.
Contact Saline Co. Ext. at 501-
303-5672

August 13, Multistate Plant Materials
Conf. Hosted by Univ. of Ark., details
forthcoming.

Dr. James A. Robbins
Extension Specialist - Ornamental
Horticulture