

STATE~BY~STATE
GARDENING

Mississippi GARDENER

MISSISSIPPI'S OWN GUIDE TO GREAT GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

What's New & Exciting for 2009!

ANYONE CAN COMPOST

*And We'll Show
You How!*

**HOW TO ENTICE
BIRDS TO YOUR
MISSISSIPPI GARDEN**

**THE TOP 10
HERBS FOR THE SOUTH**

Also inside!

**THE BEST VARIETIES FOR THE
MISSISSIPPI VEGETABLE GARDEN**

**A DO-IT-YOURSELF WATER
FEATURE IN 6 EASY STEPS**

MISSISSIPPI HOT PLANTS MISSISSIPPI MEDALLION PROGRAM OFFERS AN ARRAY OF 2009 WINNERS

mississippigardener.com



0 25274 96457 5

000000 FEBRUARY 2009

Contents

Vol. 9, No. 1 February 2009

Features

11

Our Feathered Friends
Attracting birds to the garden

17

New Plants for 2009

22

Chic Composting
Enclosed composters are must-have green accessories no matter where you live

28

6 Basic Steps to a Do-It-Yourself Water Feature

34

Detering Deer
Problem area solutions to keep these plant-eaters away

38

10 Most Popular Herbs
Details and growing information for your favorite herbs

41

Get Ready to Garden
Choosing your vegetable varieties

Departments

6

Ask the Expert
Advice for gardeners all over Mississippi

8

Region Reports
Gardening information specifically for your area

26

How To Do That
Adding privacy and fragrance to your yard with a screen of green

36

Uninvited Guests
Some caterpillars have defenses you don't want to find out about

44

Garden Profile
A true country garden

46

Landscape Design
Ambiance and romance in a southern woodland garden

48

Hot Plants
Mississippi Medallion Program offers an array of 2009 winners

54

Only in Mississippi
Litter in Mississippi: Can we do any better?



11



28



44



48



On the Cover

17

New Plants for 2009

This month we take a look at some new varieties being offered up by growers for the home gardener

Photo courtesy of Novalis® Plants That Work®

Mississippi GARDENER

MISSISSIPPI'S OWN GUIDE TO GREAT GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

Publisher

Steve Giddings

Associate Publisher/Managing Editor

Jennifer Estes

Art Director

Shane Darby

Graphic Artist

Melanie Koskie

National Ad Sales

Lisa Skains

Account Executive

Jim Vincent

Account Executive

Robert Sauber

Circulation Manager

Jessica Foreman

Distribution Manager

Maria Lucca

Receptionist

Lara Burns

Contributing Writers

Donna Hamlin Bellech

Dana Dobias

Margaret Gratz

Randy Graves

Gaye Rice Ingram

Kerry Johnson

Lelia Scott Kelly

Blake Layton

Jim Long

Karen Ott Mayer

Nellie Neal

Randy Parker

Barbara Pleasant

Rick Snyder

Mary K. Stickley

Norman Winter

Mississippi Gardener
(ISSN-1539-1809)

Mississippi Gardener is published monthly except January, August and December by The Team Advertising and Publishing, Inc. Copyright 2009, by The Team Advertising and Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without permission from the publisher. The views and opinions of the writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the magazine's management or owners. We will consider, but assume no responsibility for, unsolicited manuscripts, art and photographs. All such materials must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope or it will not be returned.

Periodical Postage rate paid at Ruston, Louisiana Post Office and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mississippi Gardener, P.O. Box 13070, Ruston LA 71273-3070.

Subscriptions: \$24.95 for one year (nine issues)

Our address:

State-by-State Gardening

PO Box 13070

Ruston, LA 71273-3070

www.mississippigardener.com

Call us at (318) 255-3149

or toll-free at 1-888-265-3600

Fax us at (318) 251-8882

or email: contact@statebystategardening.com



Nemesia Bedazzle™ 'Topaz'
from Novalis® Plants that
Work® By Color™.

Photo courtesy of Novalis® Plants that Work®.

Hot Plants for 2009

Exciting new plants for southern gardens

Story by Gaye Rice Ingram

Ask a southern gardener about his or her favorite garden plants and you are likely to hear the history of that Lady Banks rose that tumbles over the pergola (a great-grandmother brought it to Alabama from South Carolina in the 1840s) or the rain lilies that spring miraculously from the poor sandy soil at the foot of the back steps (the owner dug them from a family homeplace when she moved into her first home and they've been moving with her ever since). Every December my sister's Christmas cactus blooms its head off, just like its parent that grew next to our grandmother's front

door, a plant her mother had brought from Tennessee. Written in careful script across the bottom of an early photograph is not their names, but "The Japonica." An offspring of that *Camellia japonica* blooms faithfully in my garden today and accounts for the others that fill the garden's winters with bloom.

Like southerners in general, southern gardeners care deeply about their pasts. They preserve and nurture the old garden plants that have people and places attached to them and that have stood the tests of time.

On the other hand, no one loves new plants more than southern gardeners. Faced with long hot summers, mildew and blackspot, bugs and pests beyond number, southern gardeners are always on the lookout for improved varieties of old favorites or new plants that will add a little no-hassle pizzazz to the coming year. From the many fine introductions to the horticultural trade in 2009, we've selected a group we believe readers will find particularly useful in a year when gardeners are demanding more value for their plant dollars.

While we are thinking of shade plants, Terra Nova Nurseries this year is introducing two dramatic new varieties – the tropical begonia, ‘Curly Fireflush’™ begonia and a much-improved pulmonaria, ‘Silver Bouquet’™ pulmonaria. A spiraled design highlights ‘Curly Fireflush’™ and a red edge and center contrasts with the deep-green leaves. It thrives in humidity, and a single plant placed among ferns creates instant drama. Hardy in Zones 11-13, ‘Curly Fireflush’™ has a mounding habit that makes it a good summer bedding plant in most of the South, and the bright red coloration of emerging green leaves makes it a good container plant and mixer. In organic soil, it forms mounds of 25 inches. Imagine its picking up the color of a Japanese maple like ‘Fireglow’ (*Acer palmatum* ‘Fireglow’) or in a container with Festival Grass™ (*Cordyline hybrida bansii* x *australis* x *pumillo*), available from Tesselaar.

I think it’s hard to find a less-than-terrific pulmonaria. Despite warnings to the contrary, in my Zone 8 garden *Pulmonaria longifolia* ssp. grows disease-free and large, even when neglected in periods of drought. The mottled silver lance-shaped leaves shine and cool down summer heat and afford interesting contrast with hostas and other shade or part-shade garden plants. The pink and blue flowers that rise above the plants in early spring echo the color of flowering bulbs, roses, and perennials. The landscape value of this faithful plant extends to planting beneath high arching shrubs and in mixed borders, and it thrives in pots, where it can be easily root pruned. ‘Silver Bouquet’™ pulmonaria is an improved version of the species, bred for better markings, much larger flowers that turn from pink to blue, and more dramatic markings on its slightly shorter leaves that give the variety a more mounding habit. It also has increased mildew resistance.



Begonia ‘Curly Fireflush’



Pulmonaria ‘Silver Bouquet’

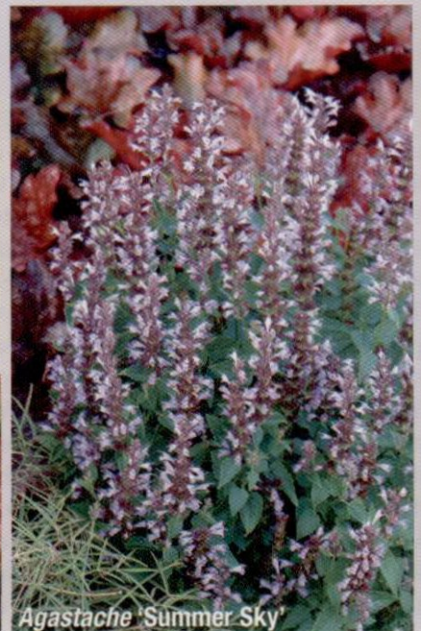
Other new plants from Terra Nova for 2009



Heuchera ‘Plum Royale’



Tiarella ‘Mystic Mist’



Agastache ‘Summer Sky’



Echinacea ‘Tomato Soup’

Photos on this page courtesy of Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc.