



**Summer 2011**  
**Volume 18, Number 2**

If you missed the FNGLA Nursery Tours, they are documented on YouTube at the extension district site: <http://www.youtube.com/IFASCDistrict>  
Or you can get to them individually on the links below:



[Batson's Location 2](#)



[Batson's Greenhouses](#)



[Connor Farms, Inc.](#)



[NGM Productions](#)



[Salmon Foliage](#)



[Reinholt's Greenhouses](#)

## Upcoming Educational Programs

For more information and links to most programs and agendas go to: <http://cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu> or the UF Extension Calendar at <http://calendar.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/index.htm>

**Seminole County Farm Tour. Apr. 5, 2011.** Self-guided tour. LaFleur Nurseries, Meriwether Farms, C.O.D. Trees U-Pick Blackberries, The Yarborough Ranch, Pappy's Patch U-Pick Strawberries, and South Seminole Farm and Nursery. Call (407) 665-5560 for registration/information.

**Lake County Farm Tour. Apr. 8, 2011.** Self-guided tour. Wilson Training Center, Uncle Matt's Organic Peaches and Citrus, Silver Spring Citrus Processing Plant and Cherry Lake Tree Farm. <http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/> for more information.

**Ag Literacy Day. Apr. 26, 2011.** Your local elementary school. Promote agriculture by reading to the students. <http://www.flagintheclassroom.com/agliteracyday.html>

**Southeast Pest Management Conference. May 4, 2011.** Gainesville. [http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/sepmc/registration\\_pop\\_1a.htm](http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/sepmc/registration_pop_1a.htm)

**Lake County Listening Session. May 10 & 12, 2011.** Your input is needed for long range planning. <http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/>

**Orange County Listening Session. April 1, 2011.** Your input is needed for long range planning. <http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu/>

**Seminole County Listening Session. May 21, 2011.** Your input is needed for long range planning. <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/coopext/>

**Expanding Your Plant Palette. May 11, 2011.** Leu Gardens, Orlando. Edible Landscaping—Bringing Your Back Yard to the Front. Contact Maggie Jarrell (352) 343-4101. Flyer at Central FL web under Calendar of events or by credit card at: <http://2011expandingyourplantpalette.eventbrite.com/>

*(Continued on page 2)*

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**Florida State Horticulture Society Annual Meeting. June 5-7, 2011.** Vinoy Renaissance Resort, St. Petersburg. <http://fshs.org/>

## **Pesticide Applicator Training**

**Limited Certification Licenses Review and Exam. Mar. 23, 2011.** Lake County Extension Office, Tavares. Contact Maggie Jarrell at (352) 343-4101 or register on-line at <http://lakelimited.eventbrite.com>

**Private Applicator/Ornamental and Turf. May 19, 2011.** Osceola County Extension Office, Kissimmee. Contact Jennifer Welshans at (321) 697-3000 or register on-line at <http://osceola.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/Commercial%20Horticulture/Private%20Applicator%20LO%20Kiss%20May%202011.pdf>

## **CEUs**

**CEU Day. June 9, 2011.** Osceola County Extension Office, Kissimmee. Contact Jennifer Welshans at (321) 697-3000. More details will be at [http://osceola.ifas.ufl.edu/comm\\_hort.shtml](http://osceola.ifas.ufl.edu/comm_hort.shtml)

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## **Poinsettia Trials**

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The National Poinsettia Trial Program is a cooperative program with Jim Barrett at the University of Florida and researchers from NC State that evaluates new poinsettia cultivars each year. The program allows breeders, suppliers, growers, and consumers to evaluate the cultivars in two open houses each year. The results are in and this year 18 new cultivars were introduced that should be available in 2011 – however, not all new cultivars are listed in the breeder company catalogs. If you see a cultivar you want to try but isn't listed yet, please contact your supplier.

It comes as no surprise that most of the new cultivars are red, considering the movement of the consumer market back towards red in the last few years. Most of the non-red cultivars are major

improvements of older cultivars and two are significantly new. Below is a selection of some of the cultivars that tested better in Florida. You can see them for yourself in a virtual field day at: [http://virtualfieldday.ifas.ufl.edu/poinsettias/new\\_poinsettia\\_varieties.shtml](http://virtualfieldday.ifas.ufl.edu/poinsettias/new_poinsettia_varieties.shtml)

### **Red Cultivars**

**'Christmas Beauty' (Selecta/Ball).** Bracts were rounded with smooth edges and medium-red in color. Plants flowered midseason and had strong, thick stems and habit with a nice uniform shape. Performed well in UF post-production trials and has the potential to work well in small to medium-sized con-



◆ **Production Times** is brought to you by:

*Juanita Popenoe, Ph.D.*  
Commercial Horticulture, Lake County Extension

*Liz Felter, M.S.*  
Production Horticulture & Exploration Gardens,  
Orange County Extension

*Matt Lollar, M.S.*  
Commercial Horticulture, Seminole County Extension

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(Continued from page 2)

tainer sizes with very little PGR needed.

**'Christmas Day' (Selecta/Ball).** Nice upright growth with strong stems. Rounded bracts were medium-red and lay flat. Young bracts were dark red. The medium vigor plants flowered midseason and would work well in a wide range of container sizes.

**'Christmas Season Fire' (Dümmen).** Medium-sized bracts with a nice bright red, slightly orange, color. Uniform plants were moderately upright and flowered early to midseason. Foliage was dark green. Plants should work well in most container sizes.

**'Encore' (Dümmen).** Long pointed bracts were held flat to slightly upright and were bright-red with dark-red young bracts. Good branch strength with a slightly spreading plant habit. Plants had medium vigor and flowered midseason.



**'Jubilee Red' (Ecke).** Performed well in the warmest production areas as a replacement for 'Freedom Red' because it has

stronger stems and does not stretch as much. Bracts were medium-red in color. Younger bracts tended to lay flat while the older bracts hung down, producing the ball of red effect.

### Pink Cultivars

**'Infinity Pink' (Dümmen).** The medium-pink bracts turned more salmon color as they aged. The bract veins were dark pink and there was some ruffling. Plants should work best in medium to large containers.



### Novelty Cultivars

**'Premium Ice Crystal' (Dümmen).** The rosy red bracts had pale pink to apricot centers spotted in red. Plants were medium to low in vigor producing the classic ball of color. Plants flowered midseason and are low in vigor. The plants showed sensitivity to PGRs. 'Premium Ice Crystal' was released two years ago, but this was the first year it was entered in the National Poinsettia Trial Program.



## Research Updates

*Summarized by Juanita Popenoe*

### RFID Imbedded in Plants?

Researchers tested imbedding radiofrequency identification microchips in the stems of high value roses to track nursery inventory information. They were trying to determine how small the stem diameter could be and still be successful.

#### *Knowledge Gained:*

- They found that the wound would heal over the microchip when larger diameter stems (>1/3 inch) were used. Smaller diameter stemmed plants were killed by the process.
- This would only be worthwhile in high value crops.

(Continued on page 4)

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## Do Mulches Affect More Than Weeds? Smooth Pots or “Air” Pots?

Researchers evaluated the effectiveness of biodegradable mulches for weed control in container-grown giant arborvitae and measured the effects of mulches on evaporation and substrate temperature. They tested chemical control (oxadiazon), non-mulched/non-treated, natural fiber disc (coconut, agave and jute fiber mixed with natural latex), and textile industry waste materials (90% vegetal, 10% synthetic fibers). They also tested two levels of irrigation (daily to container capacity and daily to 30% container capacity), and hand weeding three times during the season compared to no weeding.

*Knowledge Gained:*

- Mulches limited weed growth the same as chemical control.
- Mulched plants had higher shoot dry weight than non-treated and non-mulched in one year, but no differences in next.
- The black color of the 3 L pots was probably the main factor in substrate temperature – mulching had no effect.
- Container water content was unaffected by mulching materials.

## Hot Water Dips for Cuttings

Submerging terminal leafy cuttings of Azalea cultivars in 122°F water for 21 min was previously shown to eliminate Rhizoctonia that causes azalea web blight. To better understand rooting response and tissue sensitivity of evergreen azalea, terminal cuttings of azalea cultivars were collected and submerged or not submerged in 122°F water for 20, 40, 60 and 80 min with various amounts of leaf removal.

*Knowledge Gained:*

- 60 and 80 minute dips caused varying amounts of leaf damage by cultivar.
- 75% or greater removal of leaf area did not affect rooting, but damaging leaves with 122°F water did reduce rooting.

Little leaf linden and elm bare root seedlings were grown in three different pot types over two years. Pots were Superroots® Air-Cell™ (similar to the air-root pots available in the US), square deep pots with interior ridges to guide roots down, and square deep pots with smooth sides. Plants were first potted in one quart pots and after one year transplanted to the same type of pot in 3-L size. At the end of each growing season, some plants were harvested to examine the root systems.

*Knowledge Gained:*

- For both species at the end of the first growing season, the worst root architectures were seen in the smooth sided pots while the other two pot types reduced the number of deformed roots.
- At the end of the second season, both species in Air-Cell pots still had good root structure, but the pot with the interior ridges only helped the linden to have a good root structure.

## Planting Depth From the Beginning

Oak and Linden liners were planted in 13 gal containers with the first main root at soil level or 4 or 8 inches below soil level. Trees were grown in the pots for 2 years and then in a simulated landscape for 3 more years. At transplanting, the plants were set with the same treatments or “remediated” by removing some of the soil and roots to get to the top structural root and planting it at the soil level.

*Knowledge Gained:*

- In species that form adventitious roots (oak), these roots may assume the role of structural roots and diminish the effect of circling root systems formed during container production.
- For plants that do not form adventitious roots (linden), remediation is necessary even if it slows growth at first, to avoid future problems.