

**PROCEEDINGS OF**



**RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**Sixtieth Annual Report**

**2015**

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**60th Annual  
Southern Nursery Association  
Research Conference Proceedings  
2014**

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Proceedings of the SNA Research Conference are published annually by the Southern Nursery Association.

It is the fine men and women in horticultural research that we, the Southern Nursery Association, pledge our continued support and gratitude for their tireless efforts in the pursuit of the advancement of our industry.

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© Published October, 2015

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## Acknowledgments

The Editor and Board of Directors of the Southern Nursery Association wish to express their sincere appreciation to Jim Robbins, Forrest Steglin, Scot Langolis, Alicia Bray, Donna Fare, Genhua Niu, Anthony LeBude, Ed Bush, Alan Windham, Tim Rinehart, Gene Blythe, Sam Dennis and Hannah Mathers for the fine job they did as Section Editors and Moderators. Special thanks go to Mengmeng Gu for her efforts in selecting and instructing judges, and overall coordinating and moderating the Bryson L. James Student Research Competition. Without the efforts of all these people, the conference would not happen and this year's Proceedings would not be published.

Special thanks are extended to the sponsors of the 2015 SNA Research Conference, Bennett's Creek Nursery and Lancaster Farms. Without the financial contributions of these sponsors, the conference could not be held.

We extend our gratitude to all the researchers and nurserymen who attended the 60th Annual SNA Research Conference and/or contributed to these Proceedings. You make this annual event a success.

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## **Using Research Data Safely and Effectively**

Good research is conducted under an exact set of controlled conditions, varying only the specific treatments which are to be evaluated. Results from the specific treatments are directly applicable to your operations only if all the conditions in your operation are controlled the same as in the research. Unfortunately, this seldom happens. However, this does not mean that you cannot benefit from the research. What it does mean is that you should use the research information on a trial basis if your plant species, soil type, watering method, size and age of plant, climatic region, etc. is different than that described by the researcher.

What an alert grower should expect to gain from these research reports is ideas – ideas as to the best control for insects, disease, nematodes and weeds – labor saving ideas such as chemical pruning and using growth regulators to minimize maintenance. Also, ideas on water management, nutrition, alternative growing media, new plants for landscaping and guides for improving profits and marketing skills can also be found.

Should you desire additional information on any report, please contact the author.

**THE PORTER HENEGAR MEMORIAL AWARD**  
**for**  
**HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH**

**James A. Robbins**



The Southern Nursery Association honored Dr. James A. Robbins with the Porter Henegar Memorial Award during the 60th Annual SNA Research Conference.

Originally known as the Research Award of Merit, the recognition was created in 1968 to honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to ornamental horticulture research and specifically to members of the association. In 1972, the award was renamed the Porter Henegar

Memorial Award in honor of one of SNA's former Executive Secretaries. Nominations are made each year by the SNA's Director of Research and past award winners.

Dr. Robbins received his Bachelor's degree in Horticulture in 1978 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his Masters degree with Dr. Michael Dirr at the University of Georgia in 1981 and his Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from the University of California-Davis in 1985. He started his career in the Horticulture Department at Kansas State University. In 1990 he was honored to be hired by Briggs Nursery in Olympia, WA as their first Manager of Research and Education. He was hired in 1994 as the Director of Horticultural Research for Professional and Consumer Products for IMC Vigoro, manufacturer of Vigoro™, Woodace™, and ParEx™ brands of fertilizer. In 1998 Dr. Robbins joined the University of Arkansas as an Extension Specialist and researcher for the commercial green industry. A hallmark of his academic career has been to work on issues that are driven by a need from the nursery industry such as substrates, fertility, and automation. Although without an official teaching appointment, his collaboration on the 'Virtual Nursery Field Trips' will help instructors of nursery crop production and management and related Horticulture classes across the nation.

Dr. Robbins has been an integral part of the SNA Research Conference, serving many years as a section chair, student judge, and publishing and presenting his research for 35 years.

Dr. Robbins is deeply grateful to the incredible mentors and friends in both academia and industry who have contributed to his success. He also thanks his graduate students for making the journey worthwhile.

## The Bryson L. James Student Research Competition 2015 Awards

This long-standing program was renamed in August 1989, in honor of Dr. Bryson L. James, longtime Director of Horticultural Research for the Southern Nursery Association. As Dr. James has been an active participant and leader in the annual Research Conference for more than 50 years, the award, named in his honor, is a tribute to his tireless efforts on behalf of the researchers, the association and the industry. Listed below are guidelines for the Student Competition as well as this year's winners:

1. Any student of a university or a college having researchers that participate in the Southern Nursery Association Research Conference, are not more than one (1) academic year removed from graduation and whose research was completed prior to graduation are eligible to compete.
2. Research is to be that of the presenter and a part of his/her educational studies. Contract work, unless a part of a thesis or classroom report (credit given), is not acceptable, as it may provide unlimited funding and an unfair advantage.
3. The number of student papers from a single university or college may be limited, should time restraints dictate.
4. The student must have submitted a title to the SNA Conference Editor by the deadline specified in the Call For Titles. The paper should then be submitted to the Section Editor for the Student Competition no later than the specified deadline.
5. The paper must follow the guidelines for format and subject matter as stated in the Call For Titles for the SNA Research Conference.
6. Student and advisor should be listed as co-authors.
7. Oral presentation must be limited to seven (7) minutes. An additional three (3) minutes will be allotted for questions. A penalty of two (2) points per minute or part thereof for every minute over seven (7) minutes will be assessed.
8. Judging shall be based on preparation of the paper (50 points) and oral presentation (100 points) for a total of 150 points.

### 2015 Bryson L. James Student Competition Award Winners

#### B.S. Candidates

1. Matthew Burrows Auburn University

#### M.S. Candidates

1. Kim Shearer Lattier Oregon State University
2. Dominic Gillooly North Carolina State University
3. JC Poythress University of Georgia

#### Ph.D. Candidates

1. Elizabeth D. Riley North Carolina State University
2. Jacob H. Shreckhise Virginia Tech
3. Jeb S. Fields Virginia Tech



## SNA Research Conference Vol. 60 2015

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Origin	Page(s)	Title and Author(s)
<b>Container Grown Plant Production</b>		
LA	2-10	Rice Hull Ash as Substrate Amendment for Growing Double-red Knock Out® Rose. Yan Chen, Anthony Witcher and Allen D. Owings
AL	11-18	Influence of Shading on Container-Grown Flowering Dogwoods. Matthew W. Burrows, Donna C. Fare, Charles H. Gilliam, D. Joseph Eakes
VA	19-27	Exploring the Influence of Particle Size on Plant Water Availability in Pine Bark Substrates. Jeb S. Fields, James S. Owen, Jr. and Holly L. Scoggins
VA	28-33	When to Fertigate: The Influence of Substrate Moisture Content on Nutrient Retention in Containerized Crop Production. Simon McPherson, James S. Owen, Jr., Julie Brindley and Jeb S. Fields
VA	34-40	Predicting pH of Sphagnum Peat moss and Pine Bark Substrates Amended with Ground and Pulverized Dolomitic Limestone. Jacob H. Shreckhise, James S. Owen, Jr. and Alexander X. Niemiera
NC	41-44	Dealing with the Poo: Utilizing Swine Lagoon Compost as an Amendment to Pine Bark. M. Terri Williams, Helen T. Kraus, and Elizabeth D. Riley
TX	45-51	Effect of Volumetric Water Content on the Growth of <i>Nandina domestica</i> . Youping Sun, Genhua Niu* and Donglin Zhang
FL	52-54	Labor Costs of a Routine Leaching Fraction Monitoring Program to Guide Irrigation in a Container Nursery. Jeff Million, Tom Yeager, Tom Saunders and Andrew Saunders
<b>Economics and Marketing</b>		
GA	56-59	Demand and Sales Forecasting Tools and Techniques. Forrest E. Stegelin
FL	60-64	Update on The State of the Green Industry: 2014 National Nursery Survey Results. Alan Hodges, Charlie Hall, Marco Palma and Hayk Khachatryan
TX	65-68	Costs And Carbon Footprint Associated With Selected Nursery Production Systems. Charles Hall and Dewayne Ingram
LA	69-71	LSU AgCenter Louisiana Super Plants – Program Update. Allen Owings
<b>Engineering, Structures and Innovations</b>		
AR	73-77	Comparison of Manual Inventory Counts to an Automated Approach Using an Unmanned Aerial System. Joe Mari Maja, Josué Nahún Leiva, James Robbins and Matthew Chappell

<b>Table of Contents</b>		
<b>Origin</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>	<b>Title and Author(s)</b>
<b>Entomology</b>		
TN	79-85	Preliminary Studies (2005 to 2009) to Develop a Pre-Harvest Insecticide Band Application for Quarantine Management of Imported Fire Ant in Field Grown Nurseries – Lessons Learned. Jason Oliver, Anne-Marie Callcott, Nadeer Youssef, Karla Adesso, David Oi, Karen Vail, Mark Halcomb, Xikui Wei, Christopher Ranger, Michael Reding and James Moysenko
AL	86-93	Can interactions between native and non-native plants in urban landscapes influence herbivore abundance and diversity? C.S. Clem and D.W. Held
TN	94-99	Insecticide Options for Japanese Maple Scale and Monitoring of Crawler Activity Periods in Middle Tennessee – An update. Karla M. Adesso and Adam Blalock
FL	100-105	Sultan™ Miticide Phytotoxicity Trial on Herbaceous Greenhouse Plants. Gary W. Knox and Marian Osiecki
FL	106-110	Recommended Plant Species for Augmentation of Ecosystem Services: A Website. Russell F. Mizell, III, Gary W. Knox and Holly K. Ober
TN	111-114	Investigation of a Botanical-based Product for Management of Two-spotted Spider Mites in Ornamental Nursery Production. Karla Adesso, Shannen Leahy, Kevin Trostel and Robert Behle
TN	115-120	<i>Plesiobaris albilatus</i> (LeConte), a New Pest of an Introduced St. John's Wort, <i>Hypericum calycinum</i> . F. A. Hale
AL	121-123	Tawny Crazy Ant: A Potential New Ant Pest in Container Nurseries. Jeremy M. Pickens, L.C. "Fudd" Graham, Kelly R. Palmer and John W. Olive
<b>Field Production</b>		
NC	125-127	Incidence and Severity of Buprestid Infestation in Field-Grown Acer platanoides Related to Cardinal Orientation of Understock Bud Union. Anthony LeBude and Craig Adkins
VA	128-137	Economic Impact of Recapturing and Recycling Irrigation Techniques on Horticulture Nurseries. Nathaniel Ferraro
<b>Pathology and Nematology</b>		
AL	139-142	Nuisance Fungi of Bark Mulches and Media. John Olive and Alan Windham
TN	143-145	First Report of Boxwood Blight in Tennessee. Alan Windham, Mark Windham, Anni Self, Bruce Kauffman and Tom Stebbins
TN	146-150	Impact of Mycorrhizae on Growth of <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> . David I. Yates and Kimberly D. Gwinn

<b>Table of Contents</b>		
<b>Origin</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>	<b>Title and Author(s)</b>
TN	151-157	A survey for soil-borne pathogens of woody ornamentals in mid-Tennessee Nurseries. L. A. Mackasmiel and M. T. Mmbaga
TN	158-164	Diversity of Endophytes in Flowering Dogwoods and their Potential Applications. Asha Maheshwari, M. T. Mmbaga, J. Joshua, S. Gurung and A. Alyamani
TN	165-166	A Best Management Plan for Rose Rosette. M. Windham, F. Hale, A. Windham, and Q. Cheng
<b>Plant Breeding and Evaluation</b>		
GA	168-174	Genetic Variation of <i>Magnolia sieboldii</i> K. Koch 'Colossus' and <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> L. 'Kay Parris' F1 Seedlings Using ISSR Markers. Mingmei Wang, Kevin Parris, Yujie Yang and Donglin Zhang
TN	175-180	Inheritance of Floral and Plant Size Traits in <i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> . Lisa W. Alexander
NC	181-185	In Vitro Polyploid Induction of <i>Ophiopogon planiscapus</i> . Dominic A. Gillooly, Darren H. Touchell and Thomas G. Ranney
OR	186-190	Fire Blight Resistance Among Interspecific and Interploidy F1 Hybrids of Cotoneaster. Ryan N. Contreras, Mara W. Friddle and Virginia O. Stockwell
OR	191-199	Genome Sizes and Ploidy Levels of Maples: Sample Handling and Preliminary Estimates. Ryan N. Contreras, Aleen Haddad, Kim Shearer-Lattier and Jason Lattier
TN	200-204	'Pam's Mountain Bouquet', 'Empire' and 'Red Steeple': Three <i>Cornus kousa</i> Introductions by the University of Tennessee. R. N. Trigiano, P. A. Wadl and M. T. Windham
NC	205-208	Developing Non-Invasive Callery Pears: Fertility and Reproductive Biology of Triploid Cytotypes. Whitney D. Phillips, Thomas G. Ranney, Darren H. Touchell and Thomas A. Eaker
OR	209-215	Chemical Mutagenesis of <i>Galtonia candicans</i> Decne. Results in Altered Morphology and Reduced Fertility. Kim Shearer Lattier and Ryan Contreras
TX	216-224	Thirty years of Plant Evaluation at SFA Gardens: A Retrospective. David Creech
<b>Propagation</b>		
MX	226-230	Effects of Auxins, Propagule Size, and Wounding on Adventitious Root Formation of <i>Echinopsis rodotricha</i> K. Schum. (Cactaceae) Cuttings. Andrés Adolfo Estrada-Luna, César Daniel Estrada-De La Rosa, Andrés Casasa Arroyo and Abraham A. Arellano-Perusquía
GA	231-234	<i>Camellia sasanqua</i> Cuttings Responds to Hormones and Magnetized Water. Xie Yun, Jiyuan Li and Donglin Zhang

<b>Table of Contents</b>		
<b>Origin</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>	<b>Title and Author(s)</b>
TX	235-238	Germination of Beach Primrose Seeds In Response to Light Exposure. Joey L. Beasley, Lauren M. Garcia, Sean T. Carver, Michael A. Arnold and Andrew R. King
<b>Water Management</b>		
TN	240-244	Water Quality Variability in Two Creeks of the Collins River Sub-Watershed. Anonya Akuley-Amenyenu, Sarah Hovis, Ravneet Kaur and Sam O. Dennis
NJ	245-249	Assessing Use and Management of Alternative Irrigation Water Sources for Green Industry Activities. Raul I. Cabrera, Susan Cooper, Genhua Niu, James Altland and Youping Sun
TN	250-260	A Cost Effective Tipping Bucket Assembly for Real Time Container Leachate Measurements and Irrigation Management. Quinn Cypher, Wesley Wright and Amy Fulcher
TN	261-266	Effect of Biochar on Water Conservation and Growth of Soilless Container Grown 'Green Velvet' Boxwood and Pinky Winky® Hardy Hydrangea. Nastaran Basiri Jahromi, Amy Fulcher and Forbes Walker
<b>Weed Control</b>		
FL	268-273	Cost and Effectiveness of Common Weed Control Techniques in Florida Landscapes. S. Christopher Marble, Andrew K. Koeser, Gitta Hasing, Drew McClean and Annette Chandler
AL	274-280	Mulch Type and Depth Influences Weed Control on Three Major Weed Species in Nursery Container Production. Paul Bartley III, Glenn Wehtje, Anna-Marie Murphy and Charles Gilliam
OH	281-283	Influence of Substrate Type on Weed Seed Germination. James E. Altland
<b>Landscape</b>		
GA	285-293	Cultivars of Native Plants Can Support Biodiversity in Landscapes. J.C. Poythress and James M. Affolter
NC	294-302	Substrate Impact on Nitrogen and Phosphorus Remediation in Rain Garden Systems. Elizabeth D. Riley, Helen T. Kraus, James S. Owen Jr. and Julie Brindley
MS	303-305	Summer Evaluation of Wax Begonias for Full Sun Landscape Use in Southern Mississippi. Eugene K. Blythe, Cecil Pounders, and Michael Anderson
TN	306-309	Evaluation of Camellias in Zone 6b. Donna C. Fare
LA	310-312	Plants with Potential 2015: Ornamentals for Industry Consideration. Allen Owings, Gina Hebert and Jason Stagg
MS	313-317	Crape Myrtle Cultivar Evaluations In Northern Mississippi. R.C. Sloan and S.S. Worthey