All about crapemyrtle workshop

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2014-70006-22632 titled "Integrated Pest Management Strategies for Crape Myrtle Bark Scale, a New Exotic Pest".

Team Members

Mengmeng Gu  Mike Merchant  Laura Miller  Erfan Vafaie  Yvette Zhang

Jim Robbins  John Hopkins  Yan Chen  Allen Owings  Gary Knox

Overview of New Lagerstrostemia Series and Cultivars

Allen Owings – LSU AgCenter
Jason Stagg – LSU AgCenter

Landscape Use / History

- Southern USA since 1790s
- Premier Summer Flowering Tree in SE & SC USA
- Multi-Trunk and Single Trunk Standards
- Old Varieties – Watermelon Red, William Toovey, Near East, Griffith (Griffin) Weeping Pink, etc.
- Texas Superstar – Basham’s Party Pink
- US National Arboretum Varieties – Natchez, Muskogee, Tonto, Tuscarora, Acoma, Sioux
- Minis, Dwarfs, Semi-Dwarfs, Intermediates, Tall
Hot Topics

- New Varieties / New Breeding Efforts
- Crape Myrtle Bark Scale
- Armillaria Root Rot
- Powdery Mildew, Cercospora & Bacterial Leaf Spot
- Crape Myrtles and Pollinators
- ‘Anti-Crape Myrtle’ Contingency
- “Crape Murder” Pruning Habits
- Is it “Crape myrtle, Crape Myrtle, Crepe Myrtle or Crepemyrtle”???? Is it important?

And Others

- Whitcomb (WHIT) Varieties from Oklahoma – Pink Velour, Dynamite, Raspberry Sundae, Red Rocket, Tightwad Red, Burgundy Cotton, Siren Red, Rhapsody in Pink, Double Feature
- Dazzle Series / Varieties from Gardeners Confidence (Plant Introductions) – Cherry Dazzle, Berry Dazzle, Dazzle Me Pink, Diamond Dazzle, Strawberry Dazzle, Sweetheart Dazzle
- ‘Bayou View’ – SFA Gardens / LSU AgCenter

Breeding

- Dwarf and semi-dwarf growth habits
- Burgundy, black foliage
- Improved red and purple flowers
- Companies desiring own plants
- More northern adaptation

Early Bird Series

- Plant Development Services, Inc. (SLPC)
- Developed by John Davy, Panhandle Growers
  - Dwarfs (4 ft.)
  - Early bloomers
  - Early Bird Lavender
  - Early Bird Purple
  - Early Bird White

“New” Crape Myrtle Varieties and Series

- Magic Series (8) – Bailey Nursery / First Edition Plants
- Delta Series (7) – PDSI / Southern Living Plant Collection
- Princess Series (5) – Greenleaf / Garden Debut
- Black Diamond (9) / aka Ebony (5) Series – J Berry Nursery / USDA-ARS
- Barnyard Series (3) – Plant Introductions / Gardeners Confidence
- Early Bird Series (3) – PDSI / Southern Living Plant Collection
- Enduring Summer Series (5) – Ball Oramentals
- New Miss Series – USDA (3) – Cecil Pounders, Poplarville
- Mississippi State University New Series (5)
- Freedom and Kitty’s Purple – Stan Brown (2)
- Barista(6) – Walters Gardens
- Infinitini (3) – Spring Meadow Nursery / PW (Magenta, Orchid, Brite Pink)
**Delta Series**

- Plant Development Services, Inc.
- Southern Living Plant Collection
- Delta Jazz (aka Chocolate Mocha)
- Recent additions to varieties:
  - Delta Breeze (light lavender)
  - Delta Eclipse (lavender)
  - Delta Moonlight (white)
  - Delta Flame (red)
  - Delta Fusion (hot pink)
  - Delta Fuchsia (fuchsia)
Dr. Cecil Pounders (USDA-ARS) – Ebony Series
Black Diamond Series - J. Berry Nursery, TX
Same plants, different names……
5 varieties originally; no new Ebony varieties
But, ‘Ebony Rose’ Greenleaf Nursery (Garden Debut)
Additions to Black Diamond series – 4 new ones
Black (darkest) foliage series
8-10 foot growers
Ebony Glow aka Black Diamond Blush

Ebony & Ivory aka Black Diamond Pure White

Black Diamond Variety Additions

‘Shell Pink’
‘Mystic Magenta’
‘Purely Purple’
‘Lavender Lace’

‘Ebony Rose’
Greenleaf Nursery

Barnyard Favorites

• Gardener’s Confidence Collection (McCorkle Nurseries, Plant Introductions aka Mike Dirr developed plants)
• Red Rooster – “something to crow about”
• Pink Pig – “squeal with delight”
• Purple Cow – creates an “udderly majestic garden”
Magic Series

- Developed at Plant Introductions in Georgia
- First Edition Program by Bailey Nurseries
  - Coral Magic (salmon pink)
  - Plum Magic (fuchsia pink)
  - Purple Magic (dark purple)
  - Moonlight Magic (white)
  - Midnight Magic (dark pink)
  - Ruffled Red Magic (glowing red)
  - Red Magic (red)
  - Twilight Magic (plum purple)

Enduring Summer Collection

- Ball Ornamentals
- Upright habit (6-10 ft. tall x 4-5 ft. wide)
  - Enduring Summer Red
  - Enduring Summer Fuchsia
  - Enduring Summer Pink
  - Enduring Summer White
  - Enduring Summer Lavender

Princess Series

- Greenleaf Nursery – Garden Debut Program
- Developed / Bred by Dow Whiting (MO) – Garden Adventures Nursery

Dwarfs
  - Holly Ann (cherry red)
  - Kylie (magenta)
  - Zoey (cherry red w/ cotton candy pink)
  - Jaden (lavender)
  - Lyla (rose pink)
Miss Series

- Developed / Bred by Cecil Pounders at USDA-ARS in Poplarville, MS
- Not sure who has in production
- More “traditional” crape myrtles
- Green foliage 15-20 foot growers
  - Miss Sandra (elite purple; tight vertical habit)
  - Miss Frances (superior red; nice green foliage)
  - Miss Gail (superior purple)

Mississippi State University Series

- Developed / Bred / Released by Wayne McLaurin and Patricia Knight at MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center
- Named for MS towns / counties:
  - Neshoba
  - Tishomingo
  - Shumaka
  - Sequoyah
  - Pascagoula

Stan Brown Releases

Blossomberry Nursery
Clarksville, Arkansas

‘Freedom’
‘Kitty’s Purple’
Field Evaluations

- Almost all these cultivars planted at the LSU AgCenter in Hammond, LA
- Field planting; started 2013; varieties continually being added
- Cold damage, height, flowering (first in bloom; weeks in bloom), leaf spot (*Cercospora* and bacterial), seed set, foliage color retention, visual quality ratings, etc.