

Louisiana's **NURSERYMEN**

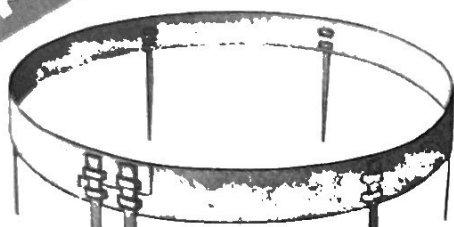
Official Publication of the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen, Inc. • Summer 1985



**Field growing: Is the
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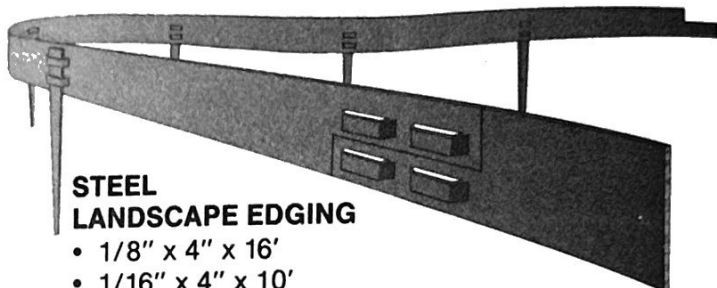
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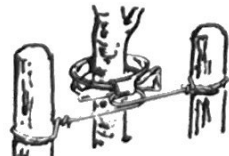


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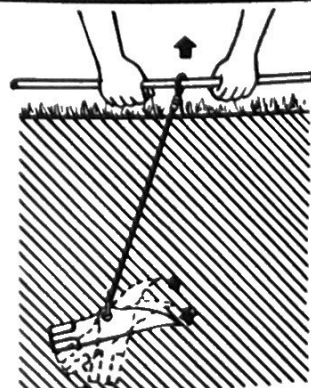


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Hammond Station issues progress report

The Louisiana Agriculture Experiment Station at Hammond has issued its printed progress report of research conducted from January 1983 through December 1984. The 200-page booklet describes experiments in floriculture, fruit, ornamentals, turfgrass, vegetables and weed control. According to the report, the research should assist growers in selecting varieties and cultural practices.

Floriculture research consists of a poinsettia study. Fruit studies were done on blueberries, brambles (blackberries, raspberries, dewberries, boysenberries), grapes and strawberries.

Ornamental research was carried out on fertilizers, growing media, milorganite, propagation, and spider mite control.

The Hammond Station researchers assessed turfgrass adaptability to shade and herbicides, and evaluated turfgrass cultivars.

In addition to dozens of vegetable trials, the Hammond Station pro-

gress report discusses weed control on many ornamental, fruit and vegetable crops.

The Hammond Station welcomes visitors Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to noon, and from 1 p.m. through 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Dr. Roy Constantin, resident director. The station is located six miles east of Hammond on Louisiana highway 1067.

Nursery Field Day set for October 17

The L.S.U. Agricultural Center's Nursery Research Field Day is scheduled for Oct. 17 at the Burden Research Plantation in Baton Rouge.

A review of nursery research in progress is scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m., followed by refreshments and a meal on the station grounds.

Research personnel from Burden, the L.S.U. horticulture dept. and the Hammond Experiment Station will be on hand to discuss current research projects at these locations.

In addition to container production research, nurserymen can view a field experiment to evaluate the "Gro-

Bag" concept of field production, as well as a new turf research area.

The Burden Research station is located at the intersection of Interstate 10 and Essen Lane. The nearby L.S.U. Rural Life Museum will be available for viewing.

Horticulture Symposium

The Third New Orleans Horticultural Symposium for professional arborists, landscape contractors and architects, landscape pest control operators, foliage interior maintenance personnel and other related horticultural professionals will be held Thursday, Oct. 24, behind the playhouse at Longue Vue Gardens, #7 Bamboo Road, New Orleans. The symposium begins at 8 a.m. and continues through 3:45 p.m.

Topics for presentation include nematode identification and control, turf grass selection and maintenance, the greenhouse environment, and arboriculture. The final presentation will be a walking tour of Longue Vue Gardens, and a discussion of plant design there.

A \$25 registration fee covers lunch at the symposium, and is due by Oct. 18. For further information, contact Dr. Severn Doughty at (504) 486-4054.

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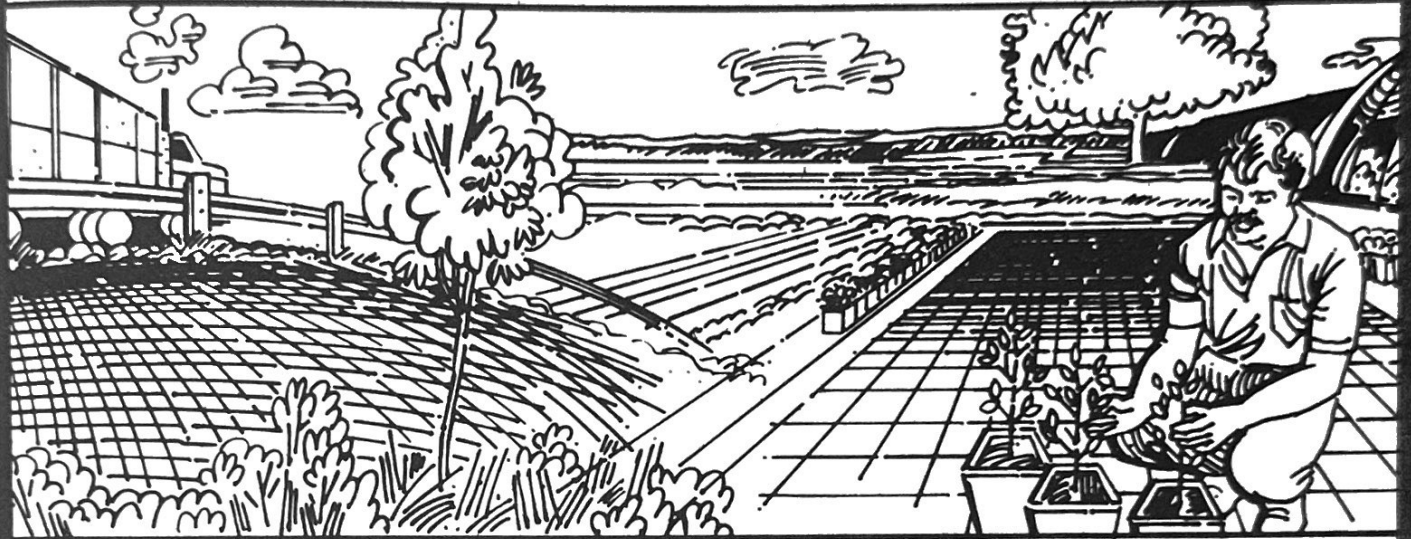
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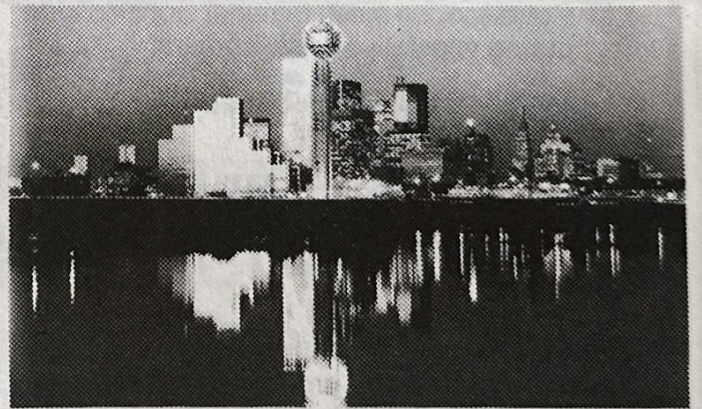
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TAN-Misslark August 10-13

The Dallas Convention Center will once again host the annual TAN-Misslark Show, August 10 through 13. Billed as the nation's largest nursery trade show, TAN-Misslark is in its 48th year. Some 10,000 visitors are expected. LAN will host its get-together for members and prospective members in President Bill LaCroix's suite from 7 to 8 p.m., August 10, in the Dallas Hilton. A room number has not yet been assigned, but will be posted at the Hilton.



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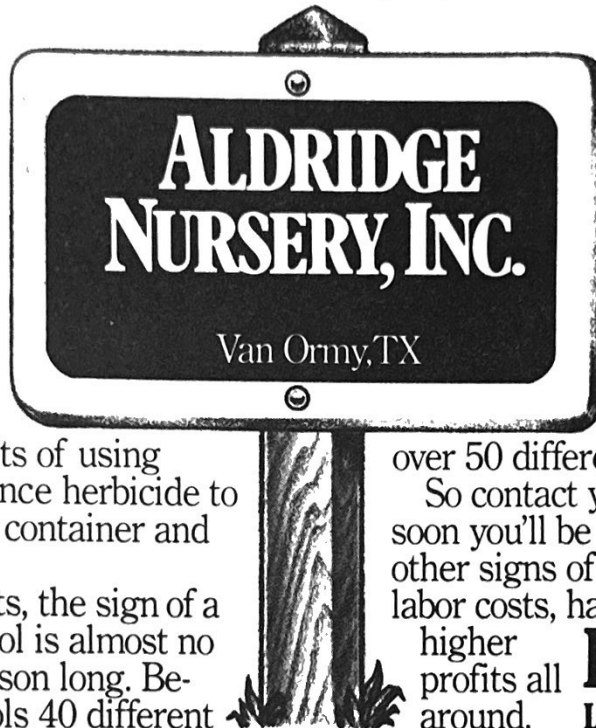
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Red Chokeberry for the landscape

by Dr. Severn Doughty

This little-known, greatly under-utilized plant would make an ideal ornamental for moist soils. Red Chokeberry was another plant featured at the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition and grew very well in moist Mississippi River sand at a pH of between 7.0-7.3.

In a review of the literature, the common name Red Chokeberry seems to be more common to the plant than the scientific name. The correct botanical name according to *Hortus Third* is *Aronia arbutifolia* (L.) Pers.

However, Brown and Brown (1972) and Vines (1976) list it as *Pyrus arbutifolia* and Radford, Ahles and Bell (1979) list it as *Sorbus arbutifolia* (L.) Heynhold. Other common names for the species include Chokeberry, Choke-pear and Dogberry. Red Chokeberry belongs to the *Rosaceae* (rose) family and is found practically all over wet woods and swampy areas in the Central and Eastern U.S. It extends from Texas east to Florida, north to Nova Scotia, west to Minnesota and south again to Texas.

Ornamentally, Red Chokeberry may be utilized for its attractive white to pink floral clusters in spring, brilliant red fruit in fall and winter, and colorful reddish-crimson or reddish-purple fall foliage. The plant does tend to be somewhat leggy, but massing it helps to create the illusion of fullness.

Red Chokeberry would also lend itself nicely to background screen plants. The rate of growth is fast if grown in moist sandy soils. However, Dirr (1983) stated that in the Midwest the growth rate was slow.

Aronia arbutifolia reaches a height of about 12 feet and displays a multi-stemmed upright, round-topped form with spreading-suckering shoots often forming colonies, particularly in wet sites. On drier sites the plant may spread to only 3.5 feet.

Red Chokeberry has deciduous, alternate, simple, elliptic to oblong leaves that vary from 1 to 3 inches long and from 1/2 to 3/4 inch wide. The



leaf margins are serrate and often black tipped. The upper leaf surface is smooth, lustrous (glabrous) and dark green. The lower leaf surface is densely gray-tomentose.

The flowers are borne in terminal clusters (cymes) and are 3/4 to 2 1/2 inches wide, appearing in Louisiana

from late March to early April.

The fruit matures in October, but may persist into winter. It is botanically considered a pome (similar in morphology to an apple). This bright red pome may be globose or somewhat pear-shaped, bitter in taste, and up to 1/4 inch in diameter with 1 to 5 seeds. The twigs are brown to gray and hairy (tomentose).

Several cultivars are listed by Dirr (1983): *Aronia arbutifolia* cv. 'Brilliantissima' has waxy, lustrous, dark-green leaves that turn brilliant scarlet in fall. *Aronia arbutifolia* cv. 'Erecta' is more upright in form. Red chokeberry fruit is an important wildlife food according to Vines (1976), in that at least 13 species of birds—including bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse and ring-necked pheasant—forage on the plant.

The fruit may also be used by man for making jelly and wine. Interestingly enough, the plant has been in cultivation since 1700.

Aronia arbutifolia may be propagated by seeds, division, softwood cuttings or layers. For seed propagation, pulp may or may not be removed; however, for sanitation purposes, pulp removal is recommended. Stratify seeds for 90 days at

temperatures between 33° and 41°F. in moist peat moss. Germinative capacity is about 70 percent, therefore as many as 10,000 plants may be obtained from 1 lb. of seed.

Dirr (1983), reported 92 percent rooting in six weeks in a sand medium from untreated cuttings taken in early summer. His suggestion for best rooted cutting results was to make the basal cut 1/2 inch below the node. Dirr also reported an 80 percent rooting success rate with *Aronia arbutifolia* cv. 'Brilliantissima' cuttings taken in June using 0.4 percent IBA quick dip in a peat: perlite medium under mist.

Cultivated Red Chokeberry apparently does well in a pH range from acid to neutral. It has a fibrous root system which lends itself to easy transplanting. For best berry production full sunlight is preferred; however, the plant can tolerate a light shady environment.

Being in the rose family, Red Chokeberry is subject to attack by boring insects and caterpillars. Leaf spot diseases as well as twig and fruit blights may also be a problem. Orthene 75S should control caterpillar attack, and copper based fungicides should control leaf spots and blight.

Red Chokeberry is rather scarce; however, Natives Nurseries in Covington, LA, has carried it in the past and Oak Haven Farms, Prairieville, LA, lists it in its current price list.

Be sure to add *Aronia arbutifolia* to your native plant collection, and if you don't have a collection as yet, why don't you start one? It will certainly add a refreshing accent to commonly cultivated plants, and something new will always generate interest and conversation, not to mention added beauty.

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6. Vines, R.A. 1976. *Trees Shrubs and Woody Vines of the Southwest*. Univ. of TX Press, Austin.

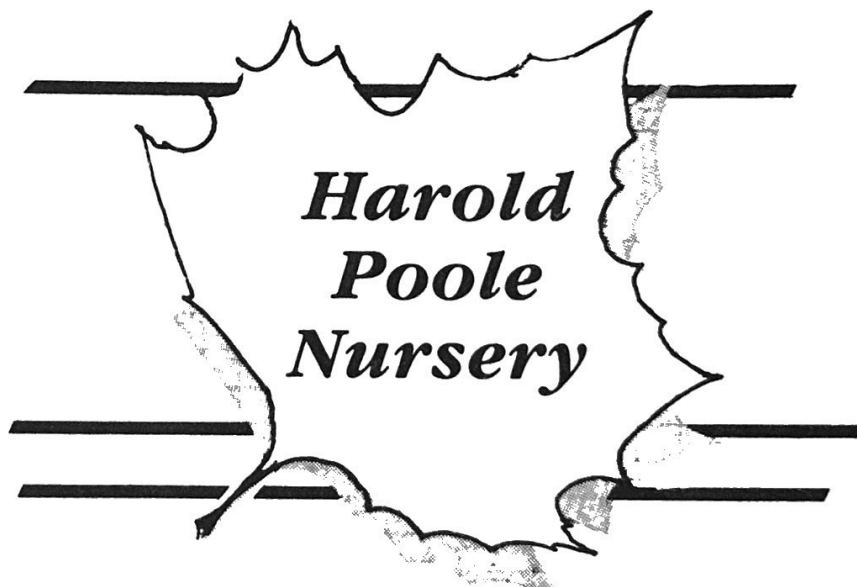
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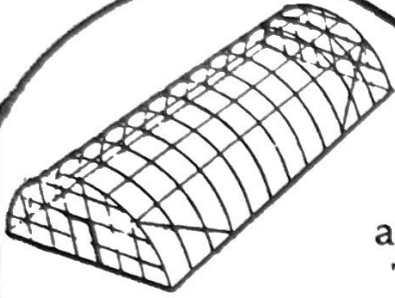
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Texas Publishes Greenhouse Books

Newly available from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service are two books, *The Texas Greenhouse Management Handbook* and *Entering the Greenhouse Business*. The former covers irrigation, cooling, growing media, fertilizer practices and other topics, while the latter includes information on marketing, pricing, inventory and other business concepts. Either book costs \$5, and is available from: Greenhouse Publications, Room 225 Horticulture/Forestry Bldg., Texas A&M, College Station Texas 77843.



New brochure available

The Northwest Louisiana Association of Nurserymen is offering a brochure which promotes the Fall selling season. The two-color brochure provides consumers with a simple, graphic explanation of the benefits of planting in the Fall. The brochures are available for \$100/1,000, which includes printing your logo on the back. For more information, contact Frank Akin, P.O. Box 5155, Shreveport, La., 71105; or call him at (318) 8689-2701. Akin, who is enthusiastic about the brochures, adds: "Wait'll you see the t-shirts we're doing."

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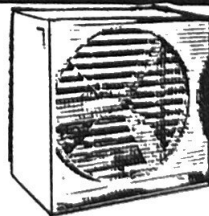
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Back to the earth

Nurseryman Kent Langlinois gives grow-bags a good review

Up 'til the 1950s, just about all landscape plants were grown in the ground. Then came containers, a new technology that produced plants quickly, offered easy "harvest" and handling, and no transplant shock. The majority of plant producers switched at least part of their operation to container growing, and many got out of field growing altogether.

Now a new technology promises to make field growing popular again. The grow-bag, a cylinder of treated fabric with a plastic bottom, offers many of the advantages of container growing without the high cost of irrigation, soil mixes and plastic pots required by container production.

Grow-bags are easy to use (see photos), and once in place they allow moisture to reach plant roots, while

restricting the roots to the area of the bag.

Grow-bags promise to greatly simplify harvesting, and to reduce transplant shock tremendously.

But do they work? In implementing any new technology, some jump right in and others wait. Kent Langlinois of Kent's Nursery, Youngsville, has tried grow-bags and he predicts they will go down in nursery history as the single greatest innovation in field growing.

"In the past, without the bags, a crew of 15 could dig 65 or 70 live oaks a day. Now, five men can dig 200 trees a day. And because the plants have a fibrous root system within the bags, their liveability is much greater.

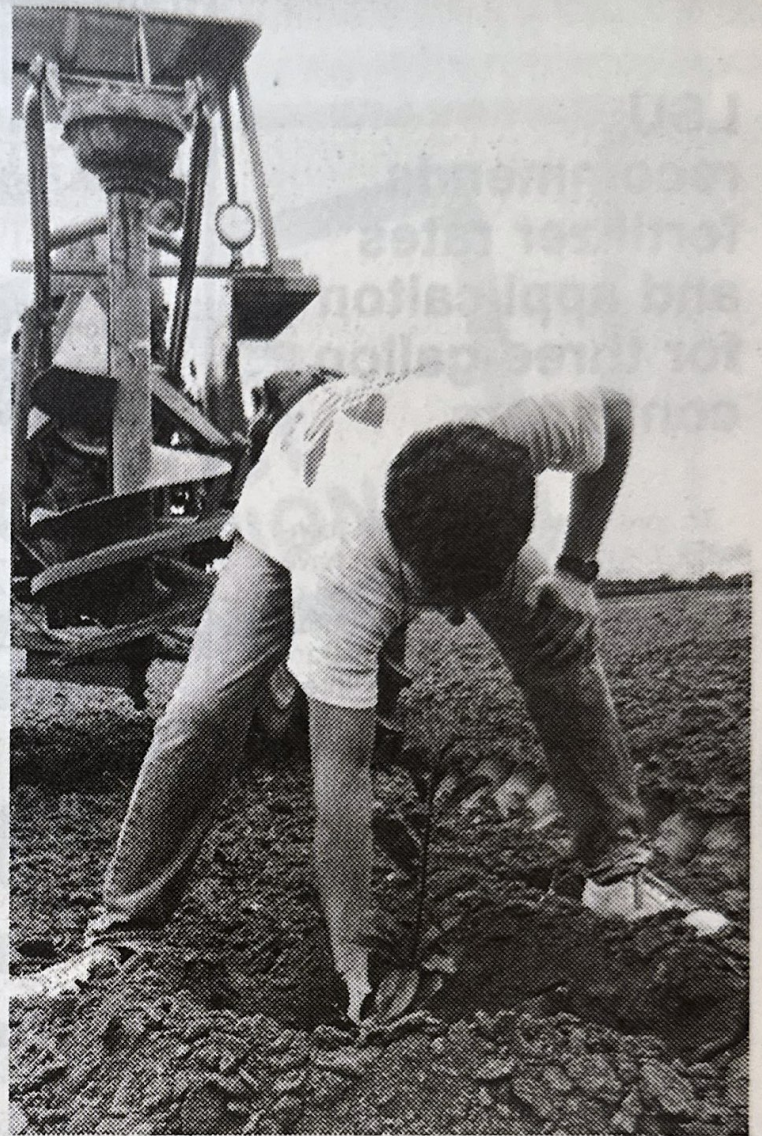
"Now we can ship crepe myrtles in

the summer with their foliage and color intact; previously we had to strip the plant and charge an extra \$2 for that."

Langlinois adds that he feels the grow-bag plants utilize fertilizer better, since their feeder roots are much more concentrated.

While grow-bags cost more than no bags, the grower pays a bit extra at planting time to realize much greater savings at harvest. Langlinois said his planting costs are running 50 to 60 cents a plant.

Langlinois now has 7,500 trees in grow-bags, including pecan, magnolia, redbud, ornamental pear, live oaks, river birch, cypress and ornamental plum. He also has 5,000 red tip photinia and wax myrtles. And he's planting more.



To plant within grow-bags, the nurseryman digs his hole, places his bag around a special applicator and keeps the bag from collapsing as it is filled with soil, buries the plant's roots, pulls out the applicator, and starts the cycle again. At left is a river birch at Kent's Nursery, growing within its bag.

LSU recommends fertilizer rates and applicaiton for three-gallon containers

To produce a three-gallon container plant, many nurserymen have abandoned the laborious method of transplanting liners into one-gallon containers, and then later transplanting the gallon plant into a three-gallon container.

Liners go directly into three-gallon containers these days. But how much fertilizer do you use, and where do you put it, to get optimum growth?

According to a recently completed study by Dr. Warren Meadows and Donald Fuller at the LSU horticulture department, there's little difference in applying fertilizer as a top dressing or in dibble application, but don't incorporate the fertilizer throughout your soil mix.

Meadows and Fuller studied fertilizer rates and placement on five cultivars of azalea: George Tabor, Formosa, Fisher's Pink, Judge Solomon and G.G. Gerbing. They dibbled, top dressed or incorporated 81 grams of fertilizer into different sets of three-gallon containers, and evaluated the results by rating the plants from 0 to 9.

Dibbling and top dressing produced 7.5 and 7.6 ratings, respectively, on the average for all five azalea cultivars. Plants with incorporated fertilizer got only a 4.8 rating.

The LSU horticulturists also applied fertilizer at the rate of 54, 41 and 27 grams, all in dibble application. These produced ratings of 7.2, 6.9 and 5.7, respectively.

The azaleas were grown in a pine bark medium amended with five pounds of dolomite per cubic yard and one and one-half pounds of Micromax per yard as a basic medium. The fertilizer was Osmocote 17-7-12.

Meadows and Fuller will present their results to the Southern Nurserymen's Association conference in Atlanta in early August.



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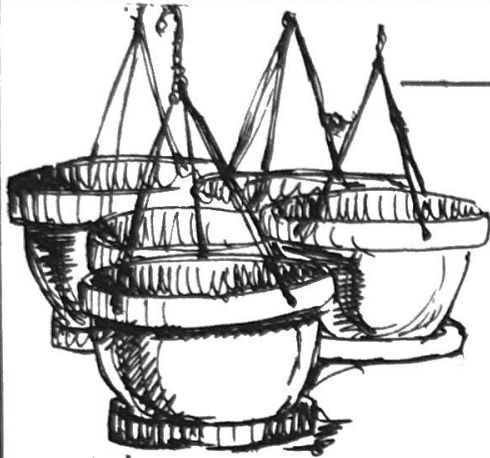
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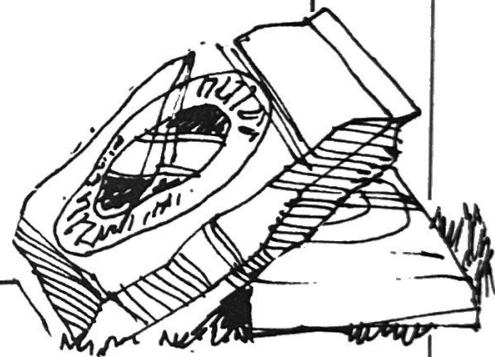
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Lynch's Botanical Gardens



Mary Courville

Like most nurseries, Lynch's Botanical Gardens is a place where anyone can enter and buy plants. But what is now considered state-of-the-

art in retail horticulture—maximizing profits through consumer research, well-placed media buys and the latest computer software for inven-

tory control—that spirit seems to have been hooted down by the cacophony of honking geese that roam the nursery grounds.

Lynch's is more accurately described as a living monument to beauty in many forms. Top billing goes to the orchids, and Lynch's is one of the larger orchid growers in the state. But there are bromeliads, ferns, cacti and a host of other unusual tropical plants.

Jungle birds sing counterpoint to the geese: peach faced lovebirds, cockatiels, zebra finches and parakeets. Pools contain tropical fish and six-foot diameter water lilies, natives of the Amazon Basin.

"The birds entertain the kids, and they add to the jungle atmosphere," says Mary Courville, who now manages Lynch's. "We have cardinals and wrens that move into the greenhouse every spring to nest. The outside moves inside, and I like that."

Mary's work is a continuation of the many horticultural and zoological interests of her father, the late John J. Lynch. Lynch was internationally known as a wildlife biologist, and in fact the first whooping crane ever hatched in captivity came into the world at Lynch's. He also did landmark research on the migratory habits of waterfowl.

But he also was interested in orchids, and plants in general—a trait he developed from his father, who



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was gardener for the governor of Rhode Island.

"Mother has two green hands, as well," Mary says. "Dad took care of the orchids and the Anthuriums, and called everything else 'weeds,' and they were mom's plants."

Mrs. Lynch, the former Zoe Sagrera of Esther, continues to work in the nursery with Mary.

Some of the plants at Lynch's are quite rare; the late Dr. Ike Nelson of USL would give John Lynch samples of plants he had collected on his expeditions to South and Central America. More than a few of the Lynch orchids are not for sale.

The plants that are for sale are exotic, but not hard to grow, Mary says. "We specialize in what grows well in south Louisiana. People are discovering that orchids are not difficult to grow. In the old days, the wealthy were the only ones with orchids, but prices have come down considerably and orchids are much more widely used. You see them now in offices, in homes and as cut flowers."

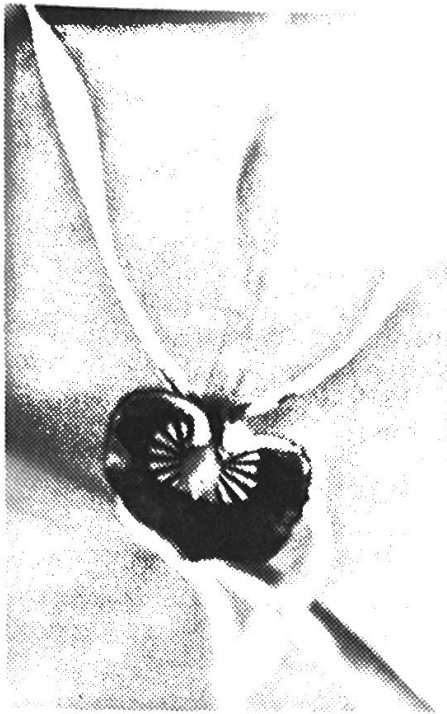
Courville also promotes the use of such native Louisiana wildflowers as phlox, lobelia, pinkroot and ruellas.

Lynch's is primarily a retail nursery, although Mary also rents greenhouse space to orchid fanciers, who pick up their plants when they come into bloom.

"At one time we grew almost every plant we sold, but now we buy some from large suppliers—although we still grow the majority of our plants."

Mary has become the plant lady—that's *the* plant lady—by doing a weekly television program on plants. Oddly enough, despite being raised in a household with intense interest in plants and animals, her formal training is in art.

And after 12 years of running Lynch's Botanical Gardens, Mary is about to embark on an ambitious



Below, a shopper is engulfed in the greenery at Lynch's, which gives a jungle ambience to the place.



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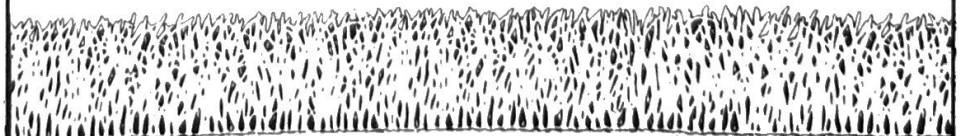
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new path with the nursery. In December 1984, she achieved non-profit status for Lynch's, as the first step toward remaking the nursery into a public-access gardens and wildlife sanctuary.

Her plans include remaking the nursery's four-and-a-half acres into a retail sales area (whose "profits" would benefit the gardens), a lily pond full of exotic fish and aquatic life, a conservatory, a wildlife museum, and a pathway through a swampy area at the rear of the nursery.

Part of the planned nature pathway would include an enclosure for

observing birds. Another part would overlook what Mary calls "goose grazing prairie habitat."

Goose grazing? Indeed, Lynch's is now home to dozens of blue and show geese, and a few speckle-bellies. Mary has continued her father's work of trying to establish a resident population of Louisiana-nesting geese.

More than 25 years ago, John Lynch was concerned that "short-stopping" geese in the states north of Louisiana would eventually result in no geese at all in the coastal marshes. As most hunters know, this has already happened with the Canada

goose, which at one time wintered in Louisiana in good numbers.

Lynch began raising Canada geese—work that continues today at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge near Grand Cheniere in Cameron Parish. Mary raises blues and snows, and when her 30 hatchlings reach flight-ready maturity, she will transplant them to Rockefeller. "If the goose hen is hatched here, she won't leave this area—kind of like most Cajun ladies," Mary says.

Lynch's is located on the Breaux Bridge highway near Lafayette; for more information contact Mary Courville at (318) 234-6339.

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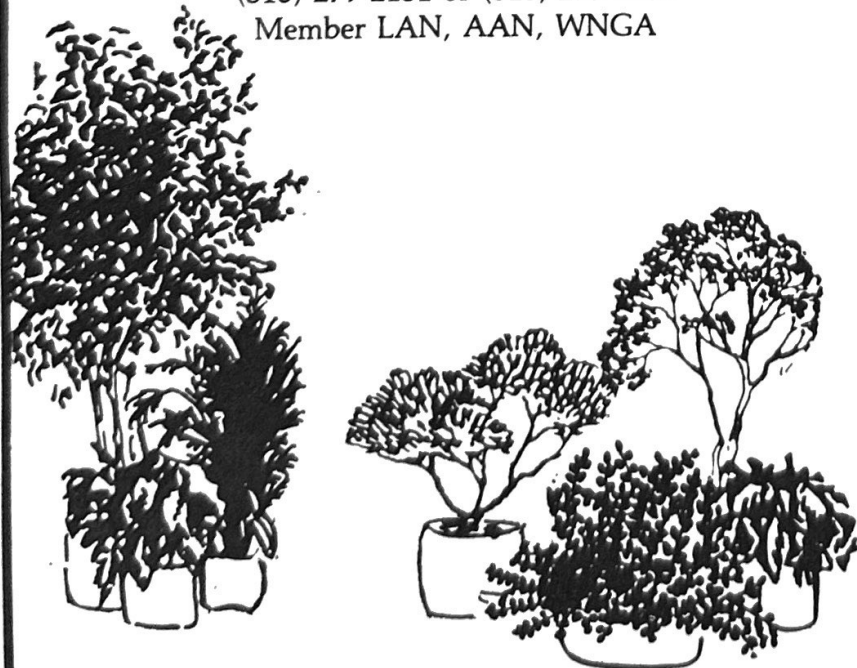
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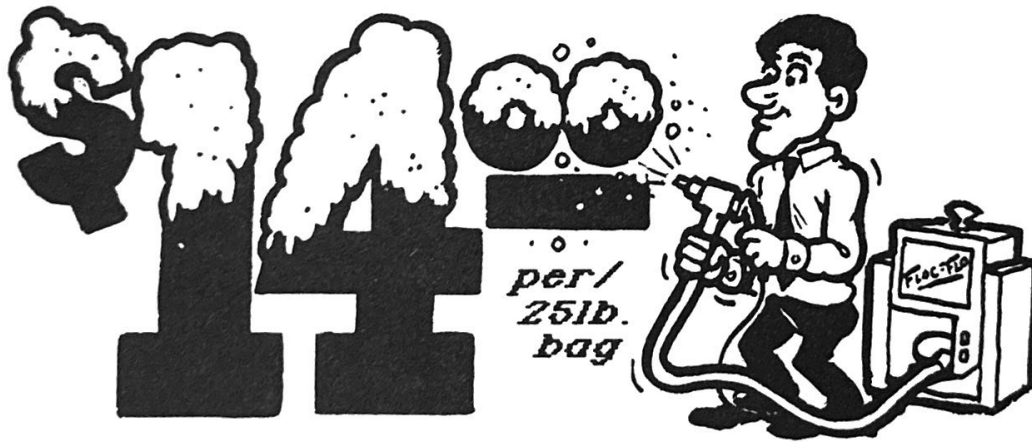
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People

Imahara sets new records

At the National Masters Weightlifting Championship held earlier this year in Los Angeles, former LAN president **Walter Imahara** broke two national records with lifts that now rank him first in the world in his weight and age division. Competing in the 132-lb. category, 45-49 age group, Imahara recorded a 203 lb. snatch lift and a 242 lb. clean and jerk. He received gold medals for these lifts, as well as a plaque for being the outstanding weightlifter for his age group, regardless of body weight.

Before the Los Angeles meet, Imahara was ranked second in the world in his weight and age division, in records kept by the U.S. Weightlifting Committee. His performance at that meet now ranks him first in the world.

Imahara is coached by **Ed Sandefer**, his landscape manager at Imahara's. He now holds six national weightlifting records.

Georgia transplant

This month, LAN member **Mike Massey** completed his first year as a Louisianian. The Georgia native is manager of the Pennington Seed branch office in Harahan. Massey, who earned a bachelor's degree in ag economics and an MBA from the University of Georgia, has been with the company for three years. Pennington is a wholesale seed company, but carries all kinds of retail nursery supplies, from chemicals to peat moss to mulch to fertilizer. Call 1-800-858-4967 for more information.



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