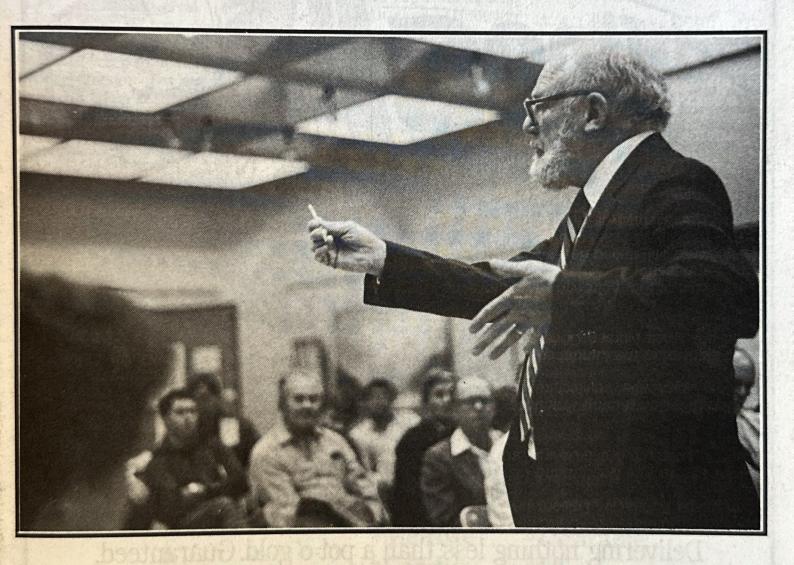
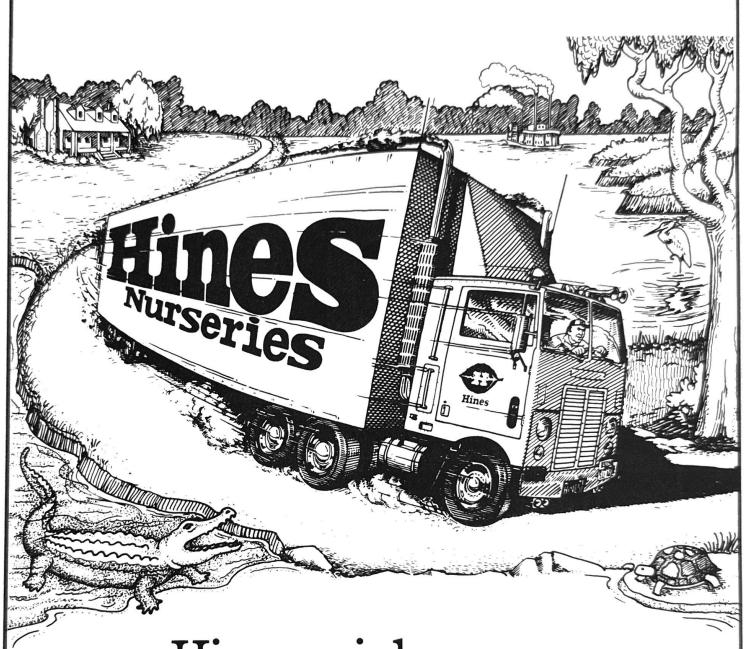
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Inside: Cash Flow • Strawberry Bush • Akin



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Scions of the times

Nursery Festival March 18-

annual Forest Hill The Louisiana Nursery Festival will feature plants and native crafts at more than 300 booths. Festival planners will have live entertainment during both days of the festival. parade begins on Saturday, March 18 at 10 a.m. evening at 8 p.m. a street dance will commence. For more information contact Mary Kennedy at (318) 748-8726.

New Orleans Garden Show to Change

The 10th Annual Spring Garden Show will change in both location and concept this year. It will be modeled on a Chelsea Flower Show, and will have exhibits housed in varioussized tents. Set for April 1-2, it

will be held at the New Orleans City Park Botanical Garden. Actual in-ground exhibits will display flowering plants in a landscape setting. Also new this year will be the sale of plants and merchandise by exhibitors. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Admission is \$2 for adults and free for children under 12. information, contact Nannette Simmons or Severn Doughty at the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, (504) 486-3736 or 486-4054.

New Column begins in this Issue

Warren Purdy, a veteran of 42 years in all segments of the nursery industry, becomes a contributor to this regular magazine in this issue. Purdy has been management

consultant to nurserymen since He has presented many seminars to LAN and to individual nurseries throughout the South. His presentations stress businesslike, professional running approach to profitable nursery.

D. A. Leblanc Dies

Popular Abbeville nursery-man D. A. Leblance died Nov. 10. A great lover of life, he died of a heart attack while square dancing. Leblanc managed a garden center and landscape nursery since 1952. He served in the National Guard for 37 years, and upon retirement in 1981 he devoted his full time to the nursery. He was a former LAN board member. D. A. Leblanc Nursery will continue under the management of his widow, Annie, his son Leslie, and Leslie's wife Denise.

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Working for Profits

Cash Flow

by Warren Purdy

The words cash flow have baffled many individuals and firms over the years. They have come to the forefront in recent times because of their importance. But what does cash flow really mean? What are the effects on our business? How do we deal with it in our day-to-day operations?

First let's define cash flow. The dictionary defines *cash* as "current money in hand or eadily available"; *flow* is "to move steadily in an agreeably effortless or rhythmic way."

To translate this into our operations, I would define cash flow to mean, "to move readily available cash smoothly through our daily business

operations." This all sounds fairly simple until we see what comprises the cash side of the term.

The cash in cash flow

Cash is comprised of three things: original capital, net profit after taxes, and depreciation expense. Below are three examples of typical cash flow problems:

•Nurseryman A does not capitalize his company for enough money to really take care of start-up needs. His company should be capitalized for about \$50,000. But like most businessmen, he starts with only \$1,000 to \$5,000. This is how the term *undercapitalized* developed. The company starts with a cash flow problem since there is not enough cash to flow.

•Nurseryman B does not make

much profit from operations because he doesn't know the costs of doing business. He is under the impression that his overhead and costs are less than his competitor's, because the competitor is larger. He tries to do everything himself, which only compounds the cash problem.

 Nurseryman C does not make money on depreciation expense. This is the only expense that is paid out to anyone. not Therefore, it is prudent to invest this money and earrn interest on it until needed. Unfortunately, Nurseryman C is already living off his depreciation. This can lead to insolvency. At that point, there is no cash flow at

Flow problems
If any of you have any of the

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THE WARREN F. PURDY COMPANY

2357 S. Gessner, Suite 209 Houston, Texas 77063 (713) 780-4857 above cash problems, you will more than likely have flow problems as well. Let's assume for a moment that you have done everything competently and you feel confident that everything is under control, and that you have no cash problems. This could very well not be the case when you look at the flow side of the term.

Below are three typical pitfalls managers make when cash is plentiful:

•Overexpansion of the existing business, which requires more cash than the net profits can support. Usually with overexpansion comes a disproportionate increase in costs, which reduces net profit. Many firms fail because cash cannot keep up with flow, even though the firm is profitable.

•Collection of accounts receivable becomes haphazard when cash is plentiful. Many firms become fat, dumb and happy about the profit margins

and relax their collection policies. That is when the flow problems increase. Remember, your profits at the end of the month are converted to accounts receivable and not cash in the bank until those receivables are collected.

•The purchase of equipment or land or other fixed assets is the third most common problem in the flow system. If you apply too much of your cash to equipment when your profits are good, you will surely run out of flow at year's end, when Uncle Sam wants his cut. The purchase of nonessential and little-used equipment is a complete mismanagement of cash.

If anyone happens to be guilty of the three problems above, it is not difficult to understand why there are tremendous flow problems.

Combine that with the three sins of cash and you have a monumental and almost insurmountable cash flow problem.

What can you do?

From reading the above, you should now know what cash flow is and the problems that go along with it. But how can you avoid cash flow problems? Try the following:

 Capitalize your company with the proper amount of money.

•Make a profit from the very beginning of your operations by knowing your costs of doing business and add a fair profit, at least a 35% minimum gross profit on sales, allowing for 10% administrative costs for a bottom-line net profit of 25%.

•Invest your depreciation expense monthly and make money in order to offset inflation when it comes time to replace equipment.

 Keep expansion under control so as not to exceed cash flow (less taxes). Be extremely careful of hiring extra personnel so that costs will not increase disproportionately.

• Collect receivables in a timely manner by requesting good-faith money up front and collect the balance if the contract exceeds 30 days.

• Equipment or other fixed assets should be purchased very carefully. Too many companies are "equipment-poor." You must have a real need and/or constant use for equipment before you should tie up current assets for fixed assets. If the equipment does not pay for itself over a period of years, you should rent on an "as-needed" basis.

If you follow the simple rules above, you will not have to worry about cash flow. You will have managed your cash with prudence. Good luck and keep your cash flowing!

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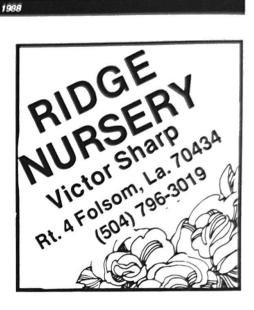
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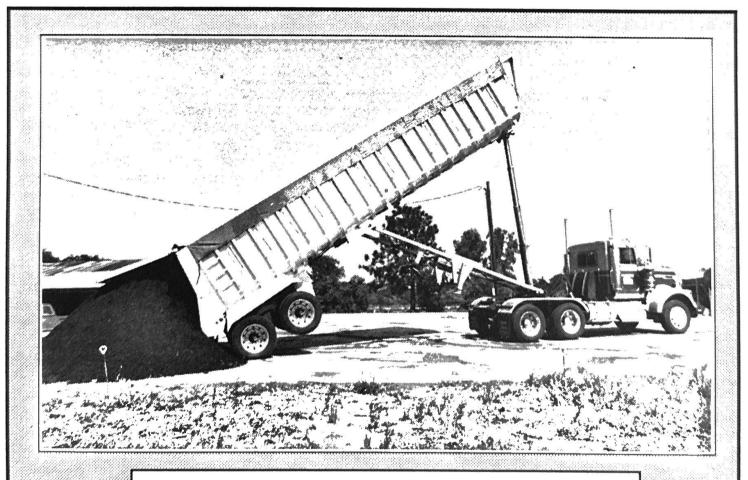
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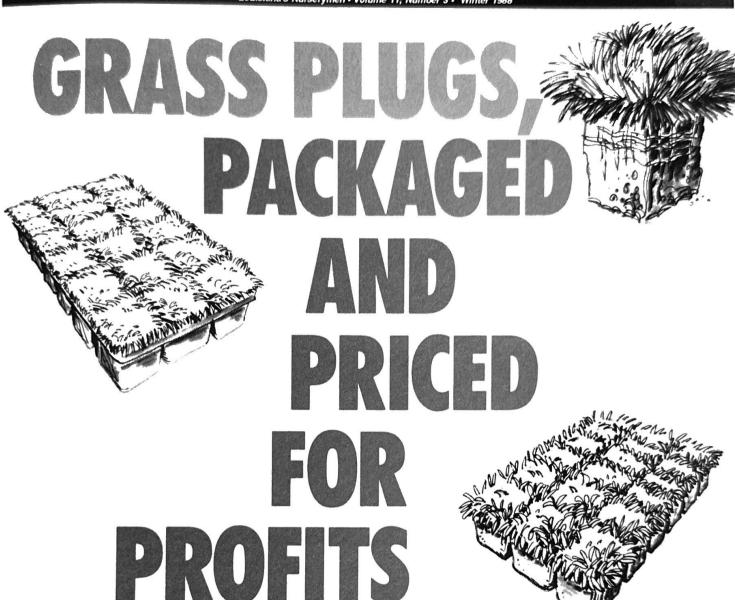




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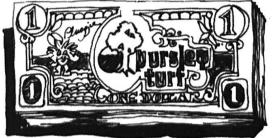
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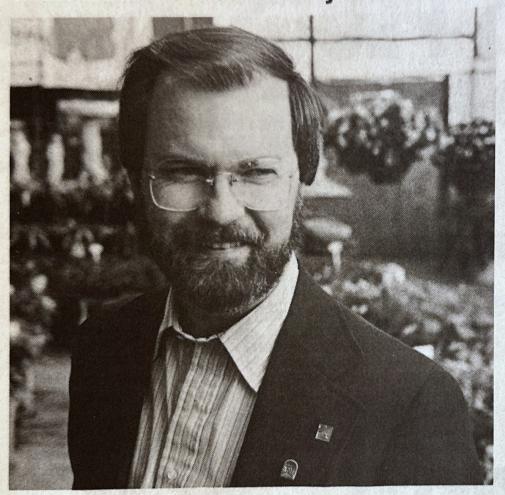
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Akin Leaves the Nursery Business for a Higher Calling



As he was preparing for an outof-town business trip, Shreveport native Frank Akin had a sudden change of heart. A dam broke inside him, so to speak.

He decided that he wanted out of the business he was in. He would enter a new and totally different field. He would move six hundred miles away and study three years to enter this new field, almost as soon as he and his new wife could pack their bags.

Not an unusual story, perhaps. Everyone changes course in life, particularly the recently married.

But Frank Akin was in the nursery business, and his business trip was to the Southern Nurserymen's Association annual trade show.

Frank was going to Atlanta because he was president of the Southern Nurserymen's Association.



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Crowley, LA (318) 783-3505 Houston, TX (713) 975-7365 Greenville, TX (214) 455-9439 Bay City, TX (409) 245-4825 It was his show, and it would attract ten thousand people from all over the U.S.

He had been in the nursery business for 25 years. He had held every office in LAN. In 1994, by the traditional rotation of offices, he was due to become president of the American Association of Nurserymen.

Not many professionals reach the pinnacle of leadership in a field they've given 25 years to, only to abandon it and start afresh as a student, preparing for a totally different profession.

Akin's retail nursery business was in fine shape, the result of decades of good community relations and the initiative of a young, energetic staff.

Why did he leave?

"It just takes a long time for God to work on some people," Akin said in a telephone interview. "It's not when you're ready, it's when He's ready."

Akin left the nursery business for the pulpit. He is now studying to be a Methodist minister.

"I think I was born to be a minister. It's kind of a historical thing in our family. My great-great-grandfather and my grandfather were Methodist ministers, as well as my uncle and a cousin."

Akin says he first felt a calling to the ministry about seven years ago, but a specific incident told him his time had come.

"I simply made a one-line prayer to God that if He would help me financially to go, I would go. Three days later a man came to me with a proposal that would have allowed me that financial independence. I went home and told my wife what had happened and to start getting everything together. We were moving."

Akin enrolled at the Warren

A. Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Emory is located in Atlanta. He never returned from his business trip to SNA; he had taken on a new business.

"We moved here on faith in August of this year, five days before the SNA convention. We had boxes everywhere.

"It's exciting. We've made a lot of friends here and the school is great. It's like getting manna every day.

"It's interesting to put your brain back into academia after 25 years, especially religious academia. My bucket was pretty empty and I had a lot to learn.

"After we'd been here six weeks the reality hit me and I called my dad and said, 'I'm home.""

Akin is in a three year program, "unless I manage to cram it into four." He says he doesn't know what the future

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holds. "We just know we're supposed to be here, and He'll tell us where to go and what to do."

He is negotiating the sale of Akin's Nursery to Foster Cook, his general manager, and Donna Timms, his landscape manager. They and assistant manager Joyce O'Hern have been running the nursery since August.

He has resigned his position on the AAN board. Dennis McCloskey of Windmill Nurseries in Franklinton replaces him.

"I've never been more contented," Akin says. "I will use the gifts that I've gained through the nursery industry in my ministry. We really don't want to be out of the nursery industry. It'll always be a part of me. I told AAN that I hoped they'd need a chaplain one day.

"Tell everybody back home that we love 'em all."

Frank and Leslie Akin can be reached at 1097 Oakdale Road, N.E.; Atlanta, GA 30307.

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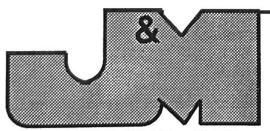
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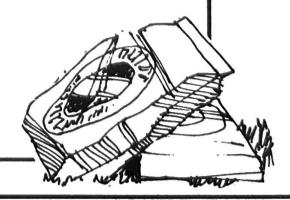


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Tentative topics below; final itinerary not available at press time

Landscape Contractors

Landscape Pest Management—A Necessity to Maintaining Resource Aesthetics

Dr. Abe Oliver, plant pest control consultant, Baton Rouge

Water Management from a Landscape Approach

Tom Shannon, district manager, Rain Bird Sprinkler Manufacturer, Canton, GA

Marketing Your Artistry

Judy and David Frossard—David Frossard Landscape Contractor, Folsom, LA

Interior Landscape Design and Installation William T. Arterburn, Mesa Design Group, Dallas, Texas

Cooperative Contracting Practices Van Cox, Landscape Architecture, LSU

Weed Control in the Landscape
Dr. Brison James, Nursery Consultant,
McMinnville, TN

Panel: Use of Plant Growth Regulators in the Landscape

Wayne Wells, Hammond Research Station Dr. Adolf Laiche, Mississippi State University Industry Representatives

Greenhouse Growers

Micronutrient Problems in the Greenhouse and

Developing a Fertilizer Plan for Greenhouse Production

Dr. Paul Nelson, Dept. of Horticulture, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C.

Weed Control in the Landscape
Dr. Larry Kuhns, Dept. of Horticulture, Penn State

Ebb and Flow

Dr. Donald Fuller, LSU Burden Research Plantation, Baton Rouge

Modern Technology: Bedding Plants and Plug Culture

Billy Powell, Powell Plant Farm, Troup, Texas

Water Quality

Terry Wilbourne, W. R. Grace Co., Brandon, MS

Suwannee River Success Story: Marketing Hydroponic Vegetables Through a Cooperative

Daniel Diaz de Arce, Suwannee Growers, Lake City, FL

Retail Garden Centers

Merchandising in Today's Market Sonny Panzico, Sonny Panzico's Nursery, Monroe, LA

Specialized Off-Price Merchandising
Roger Mayes, Louisiana Nursery Outlet, Baton
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Marketing Perennials
Cor Nordemeer, Dallas, Texas

Sign Design for the Garden Center
Susan Barton, ornamental specialist, University of
Delaware Cooperative Extension

Building Today's Garden Center Billy Martinsen, Jackson, MS

Increasing Your Sales in 1989 and How the Independent Can successfully Compete Against the Mass Merchandiser In Today's Marketplace

Dr. Charlie Dunn, Garden Center Institute, Roswell, GA

Wholesale Growers

Marketing in Today's Economy

Will Irwin, nursery consultant, Houston, Texas

Trickle Irrigation of Field Grown Nursery Stock

Mike Goree, Poly Drip, Walker, LA

The Small Specialized Nursery

Jim Gaston, Fernwood Nursery, Semmes, AL

Propagation Practices

Jim Berry, Flowerwood Nursery, Loxley, AL

Industry Experience with Gro-Bags and Nursery Weed Control Practices

Dr. Brison James, nursery consultant, McMinnville, TN

Research with Gro-Bags

Dr. Donald Fuller, LSU Burden Research Center

Nursery Practices which Influence Growth and Survival in the Landscape

Dr. Larry Kuhns, Penn State University

Nursery Insects and Their Control

Dr. A. D. Oliver, plant pest control consultant, Baton Rouge

Landscape Architects

Design with Native Plants and Wildflowers

Dr. Chuck Fryling, LSU School of Landscape Architecture

Coastal Preservation and Restoration

Dr. Dave Chambers, director, Office of Coastal Restoration, Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources

Louisiana's Coastal Vegetation Program

Dr. Bill Good, head, Coastal Vegetation Program, Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources,

Design for Wetlands

Dr. Dale Posey, vice president, Edward D. Stone Jr. and Associates, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

1988 ASLA Awards Program: A Review of Projects

Dr. Neil Odenwald, director, LSU School of Landscape Architecture, and Bill Daly, partner, Daly & Ibert Landscape Architects

Green Laws for Louisiana

Keith Villere, Natives Landscape Corp. and Buck Abbey, LSU School of Landscape Architecture

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- Ladies' Luncheon (Saturday, 11:30)
- AAN Luncheon (Sunday, noon)
- Panel Discussion on Marketing = Success for the Green Industry (panelists Will Irwin, Mark Van Tillburg, Dr. Charles Dunn and Pat Moore)
- Social Hour and Banquet (Saturday, 6 p.m.) featuring Cajun Humorist Dave Petitjean.
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Registration costs \$25 per individual for both days of the conference, or \$15 for one day only. The Saturday evening banquet is \$20. Registration hours are from 1-6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, from 7:30 a.m. through the day Saturday, and from 7:30 a.m. through noon Sunday.

Registration will be in the lobby of the Bellemont Great Hall; no preregistration. A few trade show booths are still available. For more information, contact Dr. Warren Meadows, LAN secretary, at (504) 766-3471.

Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible! Singles and doubles are \$48. Call the Bellemont, (504) 357-8612, for reservations. To reach the Bellemont from Interstate 12, take the Airline Highway (Hwy. 61) exit north; the Bellemont will be four miles on your left. Those coming from the north on Interstate 110 should take the Airline Highway exit south; the Bellemont will be four miles on your right.

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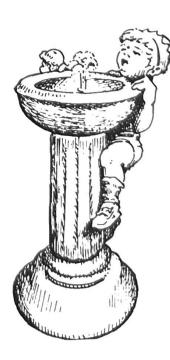


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Strawberry-Bush

A native Euonymus

By Dr. Severn Doughty

This lovely small understory shrub is a far cry from the Golden or Silver Euonymus in the trade. If you're not familiar with Strawberry-Bush, I hope you'll soon be.

Strawberry-Bush has a number of other common names,

including Wahoo, American Euonymus, Bursting-Heart, Hearts-a-Bustin', Brook Euonymus, Spindle Bush and Fish-Wood. It belongs to the *Celastraceae* (Staff-Tree) family, and is scientifically known as *Euonymus americana* L. (Hortus Third, 1978).

According to Vines (1976), it ranges from Texas north through Oklahoma to Nebraska, then east to New York and finally south to Florida. It encompasses all the southeastern states.

Strawberry-Bush prefers shade and can be seen growing along streams at wood's edge, in rich soils high in organic matter and even on bluffs. It really isn't picky about soil types because I'm growing two of them, one in Sharkey clay, the other in a mixture of clay, sandy loam and river sand. Both are doing fine.

Strawberry-Bush has a slow to medium rate of growth and is fairly easy to transplant, especially during winter. However, since the plant only grows to about six feet, it should be easy to obtain most of the root system of any size plant at digging. It also does well in containers.

Strawberry-Bush has a fine to medium texture. It grows upright to oval in form and may sometimes become open and irregular. Massing them would be ideal, especially in a naturalistic setting. They also can be used for background plantings where you might want your view to recede.

Not many plants, especially in south Louisiana, will give good fall color, but this one will.



It turns a beautiful orange-red and, if massed, the grouping will become a sea of color.

Strawberry-Bush leaves are simple, opposite and light to medium green with crenate to serrate margins. They may range from about to almost four inches in length and from $^5/_{16}$ to $1\,^1/_2$ inches wide. The leaves may be oblong, lanceolate or broadly oval. The mostly green

to brown warty stems provide additional character to the plant.

The perfect half-inch flowers are not obvious, but are quite interesting on close inspection. One to three flowers appear during May and June on slender stalks (peduncle) arising from

the leaf axils and often resting on the leaf blades. The petals are rounded and are attached to a round disk in the center. Arising from the disk are five sets of very short filaments and anthers. Floral colors may range from a creamy yellow-green to green, to a purplish-green.

The very ornamental fruit, one inch in diameter, appear from September to October and persist through December. They are somewhat depressed, globose, warty capsules that are split into three to five strawberry-colored lobes. Brilliant crimson to orange seeds three to five in number prodtrude from the capsule, providing a very showy and unusual visual display. A number of books are available with good color prints of the plant in fruit. (Gupton

1987, Justice and Bell 1983, Oefinger and Halls 1974, Campbell, Hutson and Sharp 1984, Stupka 1965).

Strawberry-Bush can be propagated in many ways. A large clump can be divided easily in winter. Layering can be rather easy during the growing seasons, and root cuttings also can be taken in the late fall. Dirr (1987) suggested

taking seeds and providing a three-month warm /three-month cold stratification period to break the apparent double dormancy. He further recommended taking cuttings in September and allowing them to soak in 20 or 60 ppm IBA for 24 hours. Up to 98% rooting could occur within four to five weeks.

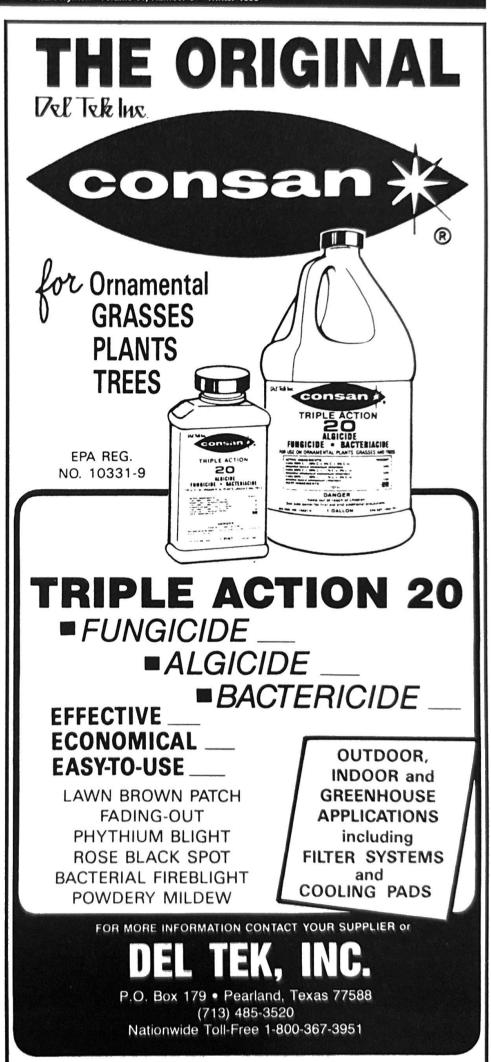
There are virtually varieties of wahoo listed in the literature except for E. americana var. angustifolius (Pursh) wood which is an upright, narrow-leaved, halfevergreen type that may be somewhat taller than the species (Krussman 1977, Vines 1976).

Wahoo is particularly prized white-tailed deer (Halls and Ripley 1972, Oefinger and Halls 1974). According to Halls Ribley, it is heavily browsed during late winter into The high crude early spring. protein content of the leaves and stems is highly beneficial to Because Strawberry-Bush is not abundant, it seldom contributes more than about 2% Birds also of a deer's diet. relish the fruit.

Strawberry-Bush may poisonous. Although no poisonings have reported occurred with E.aermicana, known poisonings have been reported in Europe for europaeus fruit. Some in this country use E. atropurpureus bark as a medicinal, which has caused poisonings.

Euonymus europaeus contains a number of toxins, which led Hardin and Arena (1974) to declare, "all species should be suspected of potential danger."

Several insect pests can be a problem, unless controlled early. I have seen quite an infestation of euonymus scale on some of the stressed plants featured at the Louisiana Native Plants exhibit at the 1984 World's Fair. However, they were controlled by spraying Orthene



75S and superior horticultural oil.

Halls and Ripley (1972)reported that caterpillars can periodically defoliate the plants. but have no apparent permanent injury. To control caterpillars try Orthene 75S, or one of the biological controls such Dipel, Thuricide or Biological Worm Control.

Wehlburg et al. (1975)reported that a number of diseases attack the whole They list several leaf genus. anthracnose, powdery spots, mildew, thread blight caused by Rhizonctonia and wilt caused by Verticillium. However, not many have been reported on Strawberry-Bush in Louisiana.

Strawberry-Bush is scarce, but the following nurseries carry it: Haven Farms, Blythe Rd., Prairieville, 70769, (504) 622-1058; Jenkins Farm and Nursery, Rt. 2, Box 140A, Amite, LA 70422, (504) 748-7746; and **Natives** P.O. Box 2355. Nurseries. Covington, LA 70434, (504) 892-5424.

Don't overlook the possibility of including this plant in your materials choice of production or landscape design. Remember, it's one of the few plants that provides good fall unusual fruiting and characteristics.

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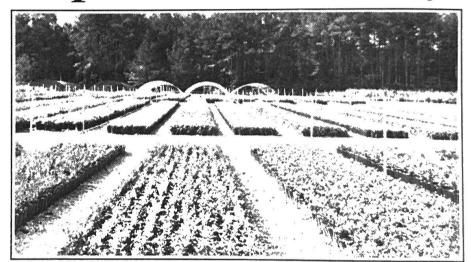
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fruit Studies of crops, ornamentals, turfgrass, vegetables and weed control are detail the in reported recently issued Progress Report Hammond Research the branch of Station, the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station.

"Production of all horticultural crops appears to be on the increase Louisiana," the in report says. The writer attributes this to farmers' seeking additional income in Louisiana's depressed economy, but also to homeowners' greater interest in growing their own food for health reasons.

Among the findings reported:

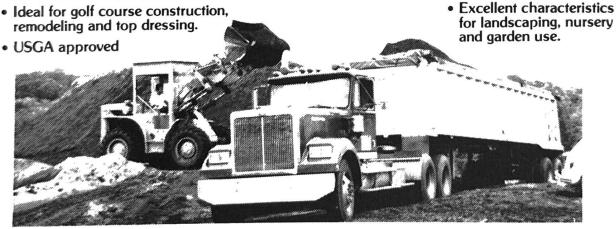
 Blueberry trials revealed Tifblue, Bluegem and Woodard as the top three producers, with the Tifblues producing 17.2 pounds of berries/plant, or 10,404 pounds/acre.

American bunch Among grapes, Miss Blue produced the highest yields, 56.8 pounds/ Top muscadine varieties are Fry, Carlos and Jumbo, all producing more tons/acre.

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 Strawberry studies include reports on fertilizers, fungicide, frost control and irrigation.

 The report gives results of fertilization and growth

regulators of poinsettias.

• In studies of slow-release fertilizers on azaleas, holly, juniper and ivy, Osmocote outperformed SREF in producing both desirable size and color. Dibble application outperformed general incorporation throughout the potting mix in

terms of growth and color, although incorporated fertilizer produced the highest-quality root ratings.

 In testing five fertilizer regimens for five-gallon container plants, researchers grew cypress, Chinese fringetree, "Pink Camellia" azalea, weeping willow and gardenia. The regimen top incorporation of four pounds of dolomitic limestone, three pounds of 13-13-13 and three ounces of FTE 555 into a cubicyard mixture of 10 parts pine bark and one part sand. This was followed by three monthly surface applications of 17-10.6-10.6 beginning one month after planting.

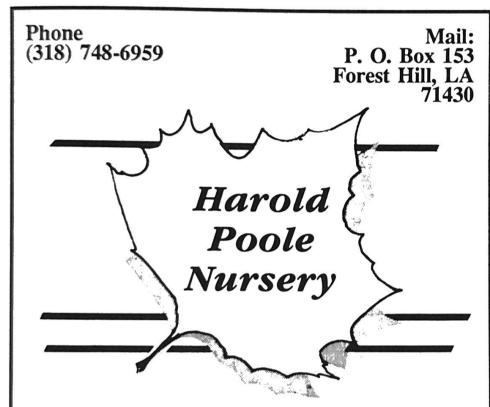
• Sierra Controlled Release Nutrients (SCRN) outperformed Osmocote in size ratings of three-quart potted azaleas, holly, camellia and juniper; however Osmocote produced a higher color rating.

 Growth regulators produced little success in reducing freeze damage following a warm period during late winter or fall (such warm periods reduce the "hardening off' effects previous cold periods). Plants tested were Carror and Carla azaleas, pittosporum viburnum. Growth regulators were B-Nine, A-Rest, Clipper, Cutless, Embark and RSW-0411. some treatments reduced freeze damage, they also reduced size ratings.

•The new "rootpruning" pots manufactured by Imperial Plastics produced little advantage over standard pots in growing redbud, oak and pecan trees, in both the one-gallon and threegallon containers tested. Only in the one-gallon redbud did the rootpruning pot give significantly better performance.

•A new zoysiagrass introduced from California, El Toro, offers good establishment rates, early spring greenup and good fall color retention, as well as tolerance to zoysia rust. It competes well with weeds and other turf speces after establishment, but bermudagrass can infest it during sprig or plug establishment.

•Physical weed barriers for large containers need improvement. Carpet pads allow windblown weed seed to germinate on top of the pad. Roofing felt shrinks with age. Woven fabric gave good results, but all physical barriers are laborintensive to cut and fit. Pre-cut fitted barriers with specially designed retainer rings are needed, the report says.



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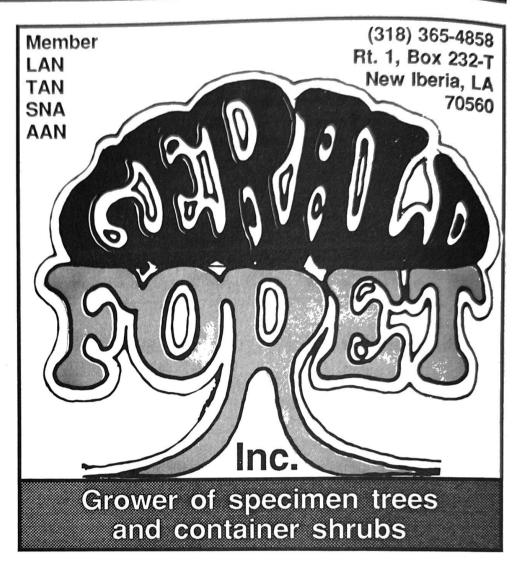
Of the chemical treatments on redbut and red maples in large containers, "Roundup provided best overall control weeds....Poast existing also gave excellent post control of grassy weed species. Goal and Surflan gave longest residual control, although Ronstar was also effective."

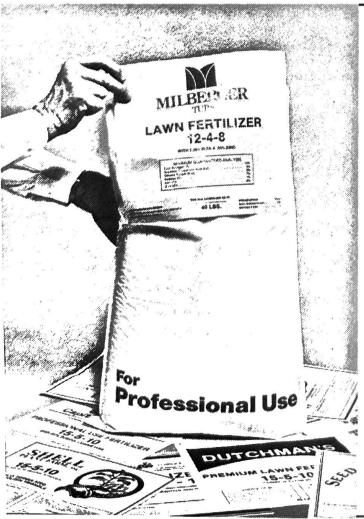
The report is available from the Hammond Research Station, 5925 Old Covington Highway, Hammond, LA 70403.

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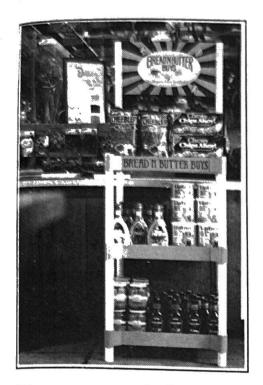
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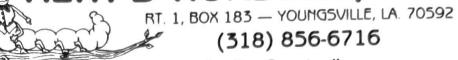
One of the more interesting exhibits at the TAN-MISSLARK show was the "Bread 'n Butter Buys" promotion of the J. Gabriel Food Corp. JGF will sell you food and grocery products to generate impulse sales, and to provide an additional revenue stream.

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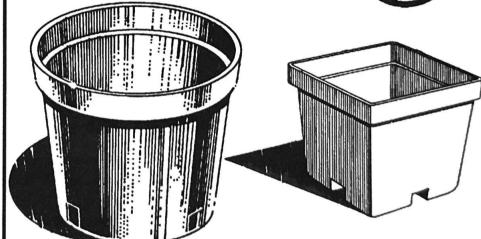


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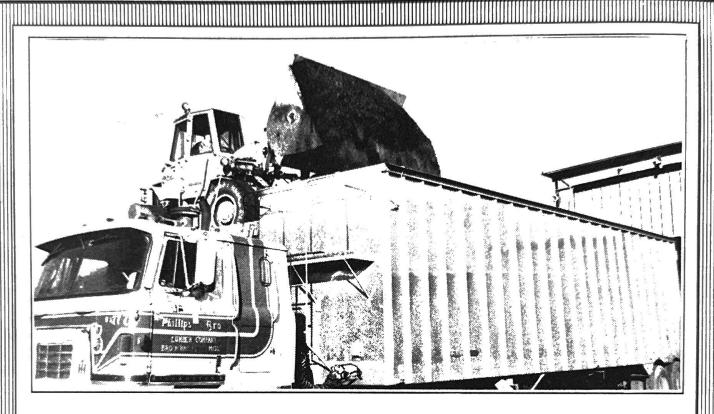
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