

# Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research Research Grant Proposal – 2015

## **Project Title:**

*Research Support for Continuing the Evaluation of New Lagerstroemia (Crape Myrtle) Cultivars*

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If funded, grant check should be made payable to “LSU AgCenter” and sent to the attention of Allen Owings at the above address.

Grant Dollars Requested: \$3,700

By: 

Date: February 25, 2015

**Description of Research and Estimated Date of Project, Plant Collection Dates, Etc.:**

New crape myrtle cultivars are being evaluated at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA since 2013. 45 cultivars are currently in the replicated collection and plans are to add 12 more cultivars in 2015 to bring the collection to 57. Series and cultivars include Ebony (aka Black Diamond), Enduring Summer, Barnyard, Delta, Princess, Magic, Miss, an unnamed Mississippi State University series, and Early Bird. There are also new individual cultivars (not included in series collections) being studied – a new red from Arkansas, Bayou View world champion single trunk *L. fauriei* and more. Date of first flowering, length of flowering, seed pod formation, plant height, retention of burgundy and black foliage, leaf spot susceptibility, winter damage and more are being regularly monitored. We need a few additional funds to continue collecting a few more cultivars, to make a few of these cultivars (primarily Freedom Red from Arkansas; maybe LSHS 2016 plant release) available in Louisiana and to purchase supplies, mulch, landscape soil for expansion of the planting area. Plants are being evaluated long term – through at least 2018.

**Budget:**

*LHSR Funds Requested*

Travel - \$900

(Nacogdoches, TX, Clarkville, AR and various nurseries / government agencies in TX, MS, FL AL and LA obtain a few additional plants)

Mulch / Landscape Soil for Field Rows Where Crape Myrtles are Being Evaluated - \$1500

Horticulture Supplies (Fertilizer, Herbicide, Propagation Materials) – \$1,300

*Total Grant Dollars Requested - \$3,700*

*Matching Funds and In-Kind Contributions*

LSU AgCenter Faculty Time (Salary Match) - \$4,310  
(Jason Stagg and Allen Owings)

Previous Expenditures for Project Supplies, Plants by LSU AgCenter – approximately \$7,000

In-Kind Plant Contributions - \$3,420

Personal Funds Spent on This Project by Allen Owings - \$700

*Total Matching Funds and In-Kind Contributions - \$15,430*