Eastern Region IPPS
2015 Research Grants

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

The IPPS Eastern Region supports research through its fund with the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI). HRI is a nonprofit organization devoted to the support and conduct of research necessary for the advancement of the horticulture industry. At present, the Eastern Region has fulfilled eight funds with HRI named for individuals held in high esteem by the IPPS Eastern Region for their service and dedication to this Society. Each year, IPPS grants are awarded by HRI to fund research projects to further the ideals of the IPPS Eastern Region.

For every $15,000 donated by the Eastern Region, North America to HRI, a fund is named in honor or memory of an esteemed member. The honorees (whose bios can be found in the Research Grant portion of our website: www.ippseastern.org) are: L.C. Chadwick, James Cross, William Flemer III, Alfred J. Fordham, David F. Hamilton, Peter Orum, Ralph Shugert, Jr., William Snyder and James Wells.

The total IPPS Eastern Region grant allocation for 2015 is $4200 to be divided among four research projects:

- Dr. John Adamczyk, Jr. of the USDA-ARS Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory in Poplarville, MS, will research the **"Fate of Substrate-applied Neonicotinoids in Container Substrates for Commercial Nursery Crop Production."** Dr. Adamczyk will attempt to quantify neonicotinoid leaching in pine bark and whole pine tree substrates, the absorption of neonicotinoids in crops grown in pine bark and pine tree residual substrates under drip irrigation, and plant absorption of neonicotinoids in crops grown in pine bark and whole pine tree substrates under overhead irrigation. Total funding: $35,100; ER: $1500

- Dr. Robert Geneve at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY, is working on **"Optimizing Plant Growth and Water Use by Modifying Cyclic Irrigation Timing in Container Nursery Production."** This study will provide needed insights into the physiological response of plants to timing of cyclic irrigation and lead to recommendations on modifications to cyclic irrigation timing. Total funding: $15,000; ER: $1500

- Dr. Helen Kraus at North Carolina State University in Raleigh is **"Evaluating Controlled Release Fertilizers for Production of Herbaceous Perennials."** The project will result in recommendations for the best N:P:K ratio and N rate for the production of herbaceous perennials, determine if there is one best N:P:K ratio and N rate for all species or is N:P:K ratio and N rate dependent on species, and detail the influence of irrigation on growth and fertilizer efficiency. Total funding: $10,400; ER: $600

- Dr. James Owen at Virginia Tech in Virginia Beach is **"Rethinking Phosphorus Fertility in Container Nursery Production: Identifying the Fate and Lowest Rate of Phosphorus."** Increasing regulatory pressure throughout the United States challenges nursery producers to reduce non-point source contributions (namely N and P) to ensure they are in compliance with current and upcoming regulations. This project seeks to determine the optimal concentration of P needed in pore-water to produce saleable ornamental taxa in containerized crop production. Total funding: $18,000; ER: $600

The Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) will grant a total of $382,000 in financial support in 2015 for 15 new projects to investigate solutions in the areas of horticultural production, pest management, environmental stewardship, and business and marketing. Combined with an additional $125,000 for four pollinator research projects funded through the special Bee & Pollinator Stewardship Initiative and $20,000 in scholarship awards, the Horticultural Research Institute is investing $527,000 in the industry's future for 2015.