

Blue My Mind evolvulus is Miss. Medallion winner

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Many home gardeners look forward to this time of year to browse catalogs in search of great new plants to enjoy in their 2019 landscapes.

The group of plants I get excited about each year are the Mississippi Medallion selections. Every year, I promote this group of plants through Southern Gardening so you will look for them at local garden centers.

The Mississippi Medallion winners for 2019 are Whopper Begonia, a collar green, Blue My Mind Evolvulus, Nyssa sylvatica and Sweetie Pie blackberry. I'm going to highlight each plant individually this year.

Since it was established in 1996, Mississippi Medallion has recognized more than 70 great landscape and vegetable plants. It increases awareness of plant materials and promotes the sale and production of ornamental plants in Mississippi.

2019 marks the second time in Mississippi Medallion history that an evolvulus has been chosen. This year it is Blue My Mind.

The first evolvulus was Blue Daze, which has been around for a long time and was one of two plants chosen as the first Mississippi Medallion winners in 1996. Blue Daze has fantastic, true-blue, funnel-shaped flowers. I like the fast-spreading growth rate that makes Blue Daze a good ground cover in front of an Indian hawthorn planting in my front landscape.

As good as Blue Daze is, there's an even better evolvulus choice for 2019. Blue My Mind is a fantastic im-

provement of Blue Daze evolvulus. The individual flowers continue to be funnel-shaped, and they always form near the shoot tips. Blue My Mind is a prolific bloomer. Its foliage has a downy appearance, and the 1-inch flowers are sky blue.

The flowers only open for one day. They are brilliant blue in the morning but look quite spent by afternoon, especially in planting beds that face west and receive a high heat load each afternoon.

I've grown Blue My Mind

in my landscape as an evaluator for the past three years. I can attest that a little afternoon shade helps ease the summer heat load, but too much shade reduces total flowering.

Blue My Mind and Blue Daze need to be planted in well-drained soil that is consistently moist. Be sure to maintain fertilization to keep the flower production at its peak. I like using water-soluble fertilizer along with the irrigation.

As you shop this spring, be on the lookout for this great plant. You can ask your favorite garden center now to make sure they will have these plants available for your landscape.



Clover Corner
Holmes County 4-H News and Commentary
By Betsy Padgett

4-H offers so much more than the 4-H Livestock Program though this time of year you would not think so with all our attention focused on that. But, it is that time of year and what I refer to as "Livestock season." Hence, you will see for the next several weeks a lot of youth displayed with their animals having been successful at the various shows.

As I write this, this will mark only my 20th year in this role with 4-H, but I have seen or been a part of most of the county shows since the Lexington Jaycees built our show barn. (I could have been a toddler watching my 2 big brothers show their beef cattle, initially.) I do, however, remember showing sheep for the first time, and the love it gave me for this lifetime of 4-H.

It is my privilege to watch and experience the development of these youth. Many former exhibitors now have their own children and grandchildren in the ring.

They remember their experiences and what they learned. They, in turn, want this as a part of their children's lives, as well. This maybe why this program has become a tradition in our area for over 59 years.

I know that many question – just what is it that attracts these youth to 4-H. Is it the animal? It, certainly, is not the hard work. Whatever the attraction, the animal and 4-H provide relationships and a safe, family-oriented, and non-threatening environment for these youth to learn and develop positive pillars of character – trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring, and citizenship – all the while, they are just having fun and being with their friends.

I mentioned "hard work" – to be successful with these animals, these youth do, in fact, have to work hard. And, typically, those that have worked the hardest are rewarded in the end, if not by 4-H or the show ring, in life.

*Trojans

(Continued from page 1.) points. The Trojans played Oak Hill Academy on Friday, and nearly pulled off another stellar upset coming from double digits back to being just down four points late with the ball before some late free throws by Oak Hill

stretched the lead to a final of 48-40. Junior forward Wykece Johnson had 11 points.

The Trojan boys and girls again have a busy upcoming schedule. They played Winona Academy at home on January 22, and travel to Holly Springs to face off against district opponent Marshall Academy on Thursday, Jan-

uary 24, and are back home against one of the top girls teams in the state in 2A in Clinton Christian on Friday, January 25.

Next week, the Trojans travel to Winona on January 29, to face district rival Winona Christian School in the return game to cap off the regular season.

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