

Choose excellent Sweetie Pie blackberry for Mississippi

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This week, I want to spend our time considering the last of the 2019 Mississippi Medallion selections, Sweetie Pie blackberry.

When I first moved to the South in the late 1970s, we lived in a rural area of up-state South Carolina. I remember how one of my favorite things to do in the summer was pick the wild blackberries that seemed to grow everywhere.

You see, I grew up agriculture-deficient in the suburbs of Detroit, and picking wild blackberries was just not an option there. Besides enjoying the fresh-picked fruit, I also learned more than I wanted to about thorns, poison ivy, ticks, chiggers and the occasional snake that would scare the heebie-jeebies out of me.

So, I've come to appreciate homeowners who want to grow this delicious fruit -- especially the thornless selections -- in the relative safety and convenience of their own gardens.

Sweetie Pie blackberry was bred by the USDA in Poplarville, Mississippi, so it tolerates heat very well.

This thornless plant has a vigorous growth habit, which is reflected in its copy-

*Judge Barnes

(Continued from page 4.) Justice Waller in November selected Judge Griffis to lead the Court of Appeals, then the Governor selected Judge Griffis to fill the Supreme Court vacancy that will occur with Chief Justice Waller's retirement.

Judge Barnes and Judge Virginia Carlton of Jackson were sworn in as Presiding Judges of the Court of Appeals on Jan. 2. They are the first women to serve as Presiding Judges of the Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Griffis chose them for the leadership roles.

Judge Jack L. Wilson of Madison will join Judge Virginia Carlton as a Presiding Judge of the Court of Appeals on Feb. 1.

Presiding judges preside over panels during oral arguments and during the internal discussion of cases. The Court of Appeals handles cases in three-judge panels, although all 10 judges of the court vote on decisions.

Gov. Barbour appointed Judge Barnes to the appellate court on July 26, 2004. She was elected in November 2006, and re-elected in November 2010 and November 2018.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Mississippi, summa cum laude, with majors in classical civilizations and English. She earned her Ju-

ous production of large, very sweet fruit.

Sweetie Pie is an excellent choice for homeowners who wish to grow their own fruit and for you-pick operations and farmer's markets. Like most blackberry plants, Sweetie Pie has a perennial root system but biennial canes, meaning they fruit only on the second year's growth.

Peak fruit production starts to occur in year three.

Sweetie Pie has its ripening season in the middle of or late in the blackberry-growing period, which for most of Mississippi is mid-to late June.

In addition to its excellent fruit quality, Sweetie Pie is resistant to double blossom. Also called rosette, this is a condition caused by fungus that is problematic of some blackberry cultivars.

Blackberries are among the easier fruiting plants to grow. Here are some tips for success with all blackberry selections grown in Mississippi.

Remember, good management reduces overall plant stress and keeps the plants productive.

Set blackberry plants in the ground 3 to 5 feet apart in an area that receives full sunlight. February and March are good planting times, so if

you've ever wanted a blackberry, plant one or two now.

Raised beds with consistent irrigation produce the best results. Another option is to grow them in large containers.

Blackberries are self-fertile, so there is no need to plant multiple cultivars unless desired. Bees are the primary pollinators, so encourage their activity as much as possible.

Supply fertilizer and irrigation to substantially enhance the amount and quality of fruit. Be sure to soil test at least every three years. Make sure you follow fertilization recommendations, and keep soil nutrients in the optimal ranges.

Usually, a cultivar bears fruit for 2 to 4 weeks. Blackberries need to be harvested when fully ripe, since they do not ripen after harvest. Refrigerate berries as soon as possible after harvest, and do not let harvested fruit sit in the sun. The fruit is best when consumed immediately or frozen, as it will not store fresh for long periods.

Sweetie Pie's availability will be limited, but don't let that stop you from growing blackberries this year.

Other good thornless selections for Mississippi include Arapaho, Navaho, Ouachita and Natchez.

Mississippi Judicial College Board of Governors and the Criminal Code Revision Consulting Group. She is a former member of the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission and the Judicial Advisory Study Committee.

Judge Barnes was born in Natchez, Mississippi, to Ouida Eldridge Barnes and the late Charles C. Barnes. She graduated from Adams County Christian School and

*Lady Trojans

(Continued from page 1.) scorers with 15, while Breann Bell pitched in 12 points. The Lady Trojans placed four girls on the All-Tournament Team including Breann Bell, Cameron Martin, McKaylee Polk and McKenna Polk. Senior center, McKenna Polk averaged eight points and 14 rebounds, and senior forward, Laura Kathryn Rutledge averaged eight points, 11 rebounds and three steals for the tournament.

The Lady Trojans will advance to the State Tournament which will be held at Benton Academy. They will play Centreville Academy at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, at Benton Academy. If they win, they will play Friday and Saturday. The official bracket is posted on the school web site (www.chestrojans.com) and on the school Facebook page.

The Central Holmes boys played an outstanding game in the opening round of the North State Tournament against #1 seed and eventual North State Champion, St. Joseph Catholic School.

The Trojans led the entire game and as much as by 12, until St. Joseph was finally able to take the lead with 2:08 to play. The St. Joe team was briefly able to stretch their lead to six before the Trojans pulled back within two points with the ball in the waning seconds, but it was not the Trojans night as they fell 64-61.

Senior guard Noah Burton led all scorers with 32 points, while senior forward Lake Melton had 13 points. This game concluded the Trojan boys' season.

was a member of First Baptist Church of Natchez until her move to Tupelo. She is a member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Tupelo. She also is a member of the Mary Stuart Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



3 CEMETERY transfer of Trust Receipt
PLOTS in Odd Fellows and warranty deed for
Cemetery, Lexington, Lot 606. \$1500 total.
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Includes a Trust Receipt, No. 376, held in trust by the City of Lexington accept bid 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 706 N. Washington Street, Durant. Call 662-602-0648, Donna. 2-21p
Call Bruce Hill at 662-417-9944 to arrange for

City of Durant EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: February 5, 2019
POSITION: Part-time City Worker
CLOSING DATE: February 28, 2019
EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

Education:
• Graduation from a standard four-year high school or equivalent.

Requirements:
• Applicant must possess a Valid Mississippi Driver's License.
• Certified lineman preferred but not required.
• Applications may be obtained from City Hall and should be submitted directly to the City Hall for processing, before the closing date.
• Citizen of Durant preferred.

The City of Durant is an equal opportunity employer.

CITY OF DURANT EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: February 5, 2019
POSITION: Part-time Police Officer
SALARY: Pending
CLOSING DATE: February 28, 2019
EXPERIENCE/EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
Education:

• A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited four-year college or university in criminal justice. Accounting, sociology, social work, psychology or related field;

OR
• Graduation from a standard four-year high school or equivalent;

AND
• One (1) year of work related experience.

Note: In all cases, the applicant must successfully complete the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Program as mandated by the State of Mississippi.

Applicants who possess a valid certificate of completion from the Mississippi Board of Law Enforcement Standards and Training may not be required to attend the afore mentioned training program.

Applicant must have typing skills and have knowledge in using Microsoft Work and Power Point.

Applicants must be 21 years of age or Older and Possess a Valid Mississippi Drivers License

Applicants must not have been convicted of a felony charge or Convicted of Misdemeanor charge or DUI or Domestic Assault.

Applicants must be able to work alternating shifts. Substitution Statement: Related education and related experience may be substituted on an equal basis.

Application may be obtained from the City Clerk office and should be submitted directly to the City Clerk's office or Police Department for processing before closing date.

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