

2000

## The SFA Mast Arboretum Plant Evaluation Program (Abstract)

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### Recommended Citation

Creech, David; Grant, Greg; and Parish, Dawn, "The SFA Mast Arboretum Plant Evaluation Program (Abstract)" (2000). *SFA Gardens Publications*. Paper 1.

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# Abstracts of the ASHS Southern Region 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 29-31 Jan 2000 Lexington KY

## The SFA Mast Arboretum Plant Evaluation Program

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## Abstract

The SFA Mast Arboretum began as a landscape plant materials class project on the south side of the Agriculture building in 1985. In 2000, over 20 theme gardens now occupy 18 acres. The garden is computer mapped and an accessioning system is in place. Theme garden developments include daylilies, herbs, a rock garden, a xeriscape, plants for shade, wetland, and bog conditions, a line of vines, an Asian Valley, conifers and hollies, and numerous gardens that trial and display herbaceous perennials. Recent developments include a children's garden and, the biggest project to date, an 8-acre SFA Ruby Mize Azalea garden, with a grand opening in Apr. 2000. Theme gardens are utilized to display collections. Significant assemblages include *Rhododendron* (400 cultivars and selections), *Acer* (168 cultivars), *Camellia* (210 cultivars), *Loropetalum* (18 taxa), *Cephalotaxus* (43 taxa), *Magnolia* (47 taxa), *Abelia* (37 taxa), *Ilex* (73 taxa), and others. Plant performance and observational information is recorded. Second author Grant has numerous plant introductions in the past 5 years, many that are well represented in the nursery industry and recognized by TAMU's Coordinated Educational and Marketing Assistance Program (CEMAP) as "Texas Superstar" promotions (trademarked). SFA Mast Arboretum plants are promoted via distributions, trade articles, and the Arboretum's website: [www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum](http://www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum).