

August 29, 2022

From: Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist – IPM for Greenhouse and Nurseries, Central Maryland Research and Education Center, University of Maryland Extension

Karen Rane, Plant Pathologist, Director of the Plant Diagnostic Clinic, University of Maryland Extension

Andrew Ristvey, Extension Specialist, Wye Research and Education Center, University of Maryland Extension

Suzanne Klick, Technician, CMREC, University of Maryland Extension

Special Commercial Cut Flower Growers Field Day

Coordinators: Stanton Gill, Suzanne Klick, David Clement, Andrew Ristvey, Karen Rane Alan Leslie, Kelly Nichols, and Ginny Rosenkranz

Sponsored by University of Maryland Extension **in cooperation with** the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers.

Each fall, we try to move the commercial cut flower tour around to growers' farms in various parts of Maryland. This year we are concentrating our field day on growers in Southern Maryland. This event is organized by the University of Maryland Extension faculty, in cooperation with the national Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers in Oberlin, Ohio. The field day will be held on September 27, 2022 (Tuesday).

The field day will start at the Hertzler Farm in Charlotte Hall, MD at 8:30 a.m. Registration/check-in starts at 8:00 a.m.

The tour will then move to Zekiah Ridge Farm, 11770 Charles St, La Plata, MD. The tour will run from 10:30 - 12:00 with lunch served at the farm. There will be an educational component at Zekiah Ridge Farm, after lunch, from Karen Rane, Alan Leslie, and Stanton Gill, University of Maryland Extension.

For a schedule and registration information, go to <https://22CutFlowerTour.eventbrite.com>

An Interesting Herbaceous Plant

By: Stanton Gill

Here is an interesting flowering plant that cut flower growers can try, *Talinum paniculatum*. It is commonly called Jewel of Opar, Pink Baby's Breath and Flame flower. It is native to much of North and South America and the Caribbean countries.

Cultivars include 'Kingwood Gold', 'Limón', and 'Variegatum'. The leaves are edible and have been used in traditional medicine in Asia. It has been used in home medicine as a diuretic, healing, emollient, vulval and anti-infective, it is also consumed in salads.



Talinum paniculatum is growing in a container
Photo: Stanton Gill

The plant adapts well to a range of soils with excellent drainage. It tolerates drought, but looks best with regular watering. My plants started flowering in May and have continued through August with regular blooming. The seed pods that forms after flowering are slightly shiny and appear jewel-like in the sunlight. It is a small flower that opens in the daylight.

This plant would work well as filler in a mixed bouquet.



**Close-up of *Talinum paniculatum* fruit
Photo: Stanton Gill**

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by University of Maryland Extension is implied.

Read labels carefully before applying any pesticides.

Photographs are by Suzanne Klick and Stanton Gill unless stated otherwise.

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.