



Creating Extraordinary Displays



Longwood takes ordinary plants and makes them extraordinary. To provide these extraordinary plants we produce many of them in our production facilities.

Through exceptional care and dedication, our production staff and volunteers create huge blooming plants which are all of the highest quality. Hours are spent pinching, disbudding, and staking to create these unique display forms.

“Standard” is the name we give to plants trained into the form of a “tree”.

The form has a single main stem with no branches and an upper part with many branches pruned into a rounded form.

The upper heavily branched crown of the standard is often referred to as the “head”.





We currently use this training method on about 30 different kinds of plants. We continually evaluate new plants to see if they are adaptable to this technique. The plants range from familiar varieties such as chrysanthemum or poinsettias to unusual species such as Senna and *Clerodendrum*.



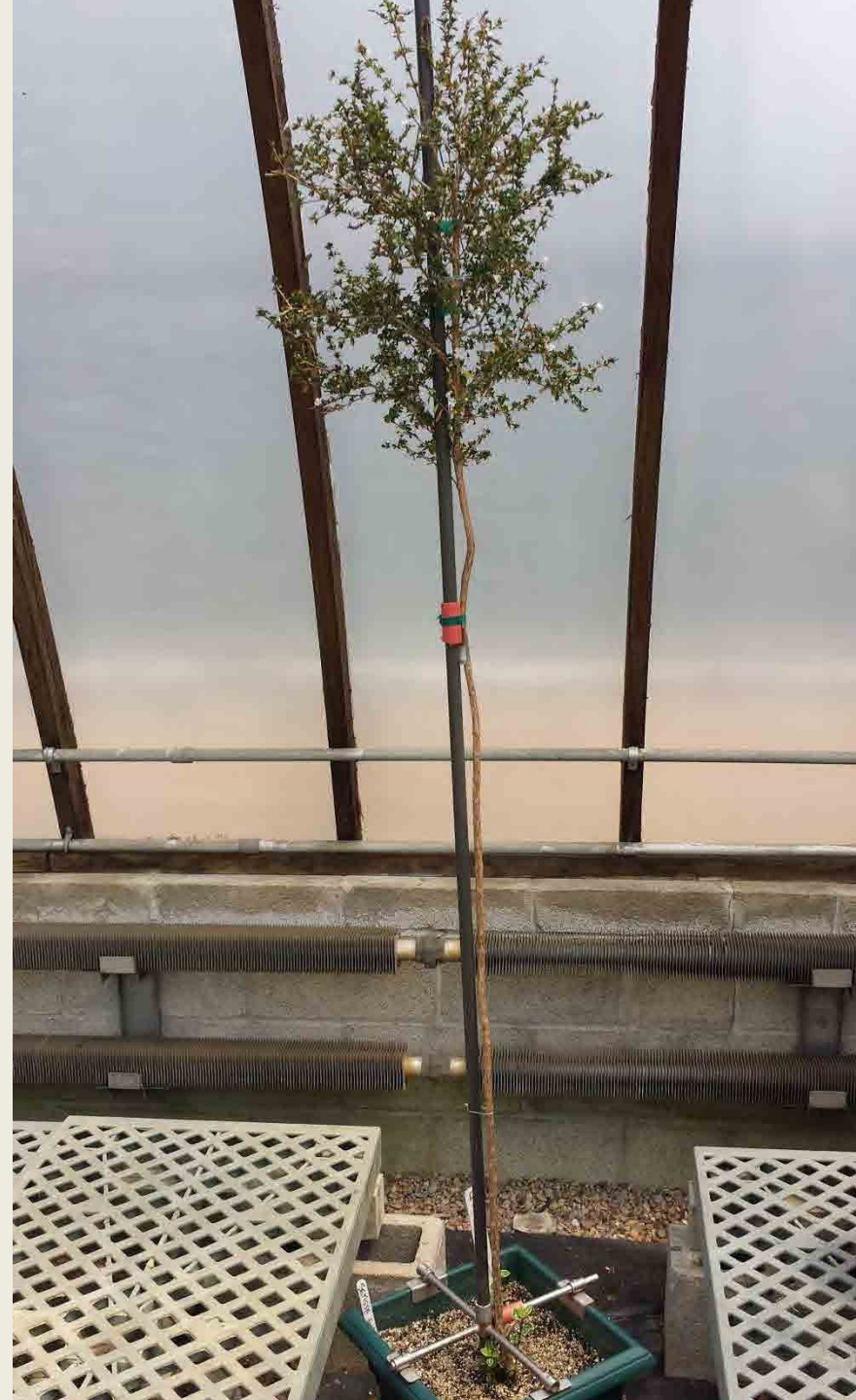
Production is experimenting with training *Bougainvillea* to see if they can create a standard form.



In the first phase, we take a newly propagated plant, just starting to grow, and train it as a very straight single upright stem.

All side branches formed on it are pruned or “pinched” off (between thumb and finger) when they are very small.

Only the shoot tip at the apex of the main stem is allowed to continue growing.



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Once the plant reaches a height slightly taller than where the bottom of the “head” will be, phase two begins.

We want to encourage as much branching as possible to create a dense head with many flowers.

Branching is encouraged by repeatedly pinching the tips of the side branches. As the form of the head develops, the branches are pinched at appropriate lengths to make the head a rounded form.



These young *Anisodonta* plants will grow to be the mature specimens below in about eighteen months.



The time it takes to produce a plant this way varies depending on the species and the size desired for the finished product.

This marguerite daisy has been growing for more than three years to reach this size.

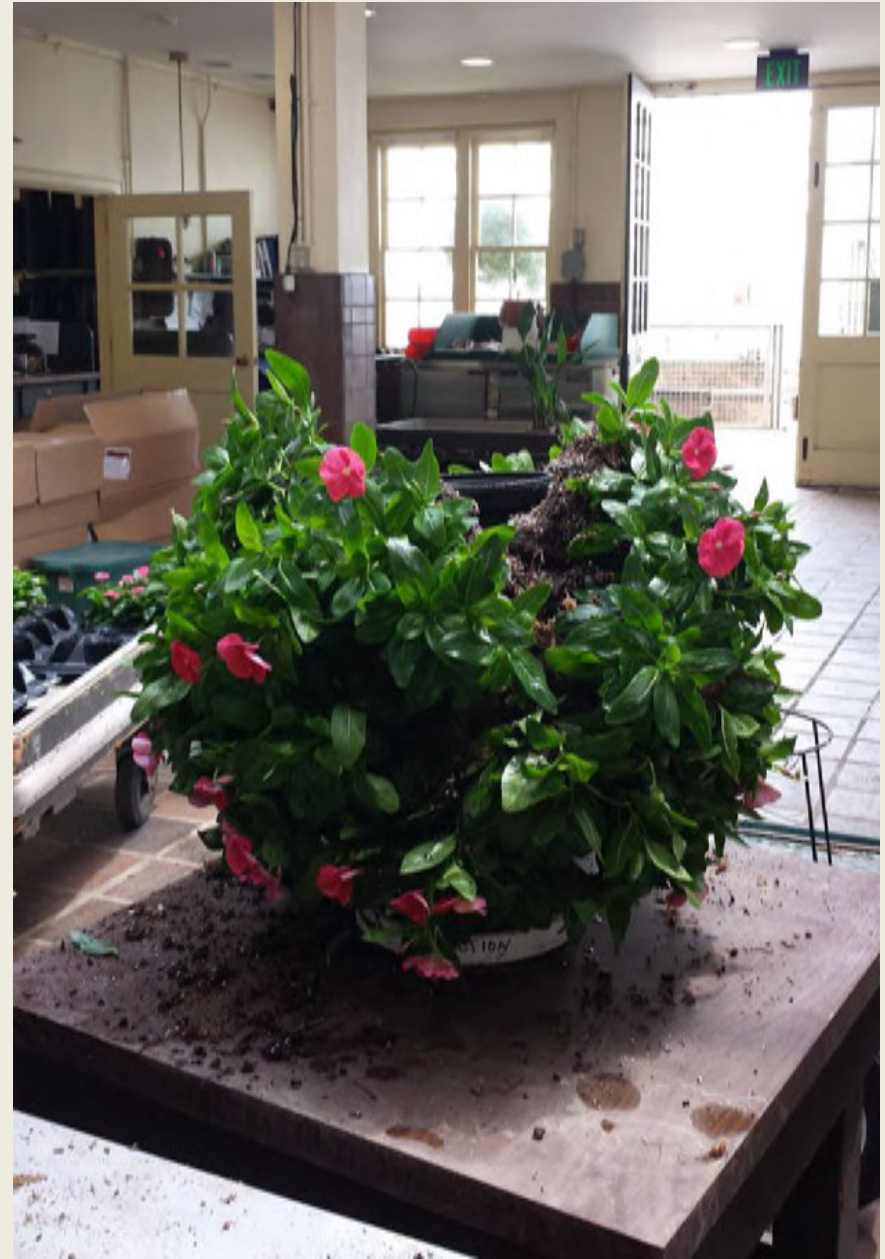


Many plants are trained as standards, bedding plants and hanging baskets all at the same time.

This chenille plant, *Acalypha hispida*, is a great example.



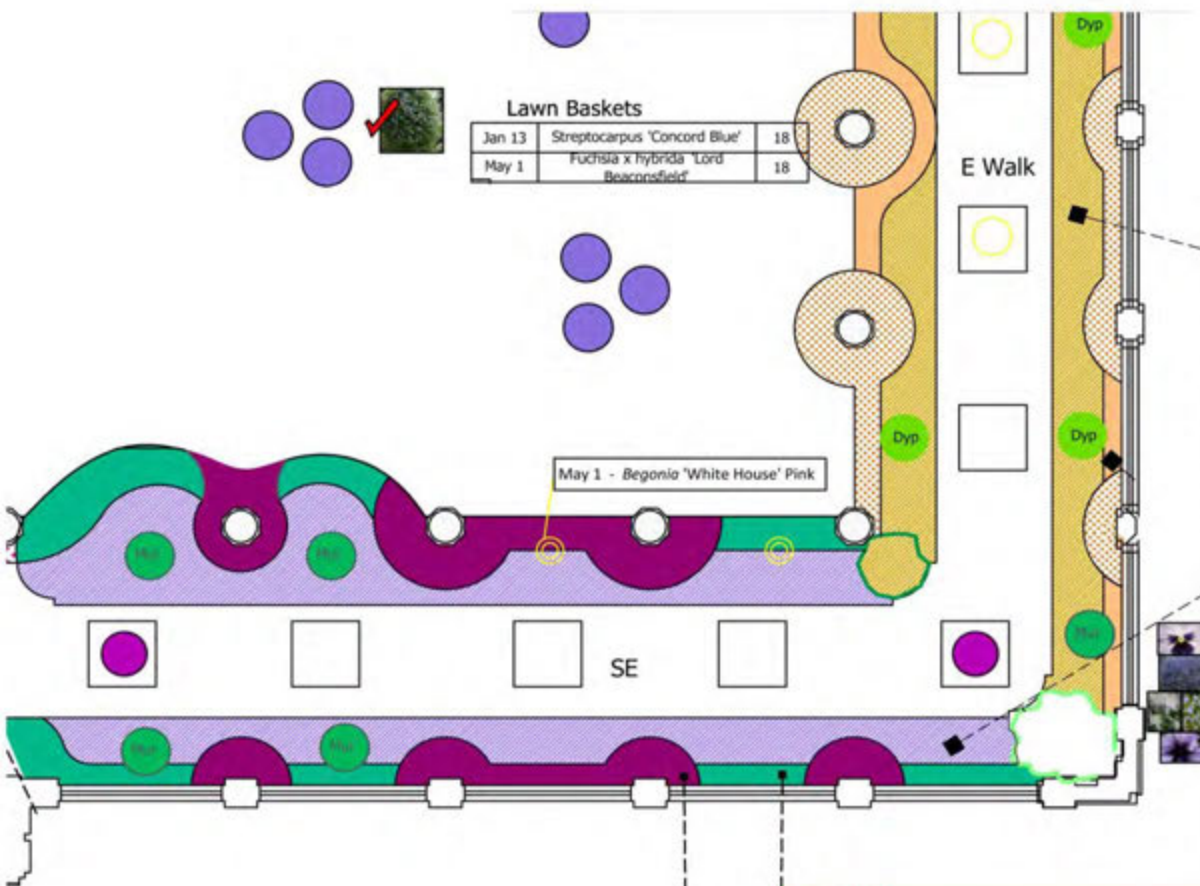
Our large hanging baskets are created using many small plants which are placed in peat moss all around the metal basket form.





The designs for the Conservatory displays are laid out more than a year in advance. We produce 65% of the plants used for display – 80,000 pots ranging from small peat pots to large topiary standards. The plant production process is scheduled far in advance to time plantings for arrival in the display when needed to provide fresh color and new designs.





Orangery

Southeast Walkway
January - September
2014



An ever-changing display of beauty throughout the year









