GNO Gardening

GNO Gardening Magazine

May 2019

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Be My Guest- Host Plants for Feeding Caterpillars

It has been an extraordinary year for monarch butterflies in our area. Gardeners throughout the state have been sharing stories of milkweed being eaten down to stubs and loads and loads of fat caterpillars stripping their plants bare. This early generation of monarch is the result of overwintering or returning migratory females laying their eggs, with successive generations moving further north as warmer weather advances.

A Gulf Fritillary butterfly collects water from the leaves of a plant leaf in the LaSalle Park Garden in Metairie.
Supplying clean water is another way to attract butterflies.

If your milkweed has been eaten down to nothing and there are still hungry monarch caterpillars about, you may need to purchase more. Local garden centers are carrying both tropical and native species due to increasing demand from gardeners. Look for plants with aphids on the tips, this is a good indication that these plants are not treated with any insecticides which has been an issue in past years. Monarchs may not like to switch from one species of milkweed to the other, but if left with no alternative, they will bite the milkweed, so to speak.

Butternut squash can also tide them over until they are ready to form a chrysalis. Larger, more mature caterpillars (5th instar) can feed on slices of the raw squash. Raw cucumber slices and pumpkin also works in a pinch. Reserve leafy milkweed plants for younger instar caterpillars and finish feeding the larger ones on alternative food sources if you are overrun.

Use a cage or net of some kind to cover your stubbier plants. This gives them a chance to leaf back out and recover without a new crop of caterpillars interfering. Rooting milkweed cuttings is also a good way to build your stock, cut pieces of stem with 3-4 nodes, wash the sap off the ends, and dip the bottom in a rooting hormone. Root it in water or moist potting soil or sand. Most milkweeds root readily and you can build a good supply using what you already have.

Remember to cut back tropical species of milkweed in June and October to encourage migration and stop the spread of OE (For more info please search for LSU GNO Gardening July 2018).

Feeding other species of butterfly is also a fairly easy endeavor. Monarchs seem to get all of the attention, but many other species of butterfly also enjoy plants that we grow in our gardens. Louisiana has 153 reported species of butterfly, many of whom make our state their home. Plant with them in mind, and the butterflies will come! Here are some of the more commonly seen urban environment-loving species and what host plants attract them:

Cloudless Sulfur *Phoebis sennae*: While there are many species of Sulphur in Louisiana, the Cloudless Sulfur is common in the GNO area. They are bright yellow, and seem to match the blooms of their preferred host plants. Their native host plant is the beautiful *Senna*, of which several types will grow in our area. *Sennas* and *Cassias* have been named interchangeably for years, but regardless of name, both will host Sulfur and other butterflies in this family. The tropical candelabra tree *Senna alata* is also readily available at local garden centers.

Eastern Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes*: Plant

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May Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety	Planting Depth	Spacing Inches	Days Until Harvest * from transplant date
Amaranth	None Given	⅛ inch	10-12	110-150
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna	¼ inch	18-24	80-85
Cucuzza	None Given	½ inch	24	65
Cushaw	None Given	½ inch	24-36	110
Eggplant	Dusky, Night Shadow, Epic, Santana, Calliope	⅛ inch	18-24	80-85
Hot Peppers (transplant)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla,	-	--	140
Lima Beans (bush or pole)	Dixie Butterpea, Jackson Wonder, Thorogreen Florida Speckled, King of Garden	½ inch	3-4 (bush) 12 (pole)	60-67 (bush) 77-90 (pole)
Luffa Gourd	None Given	½ inch	48	90
Malbar Spinace	None Given	¼ inch	12-18	Ongoing
Mirlitons	None Given	Special	-	30 days from flowering
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless	½ inch	12	60
Peanuts	None Given	1 inch	6	130
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer	½ inch	36-60	90-120
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus	½ inch	4-6	70-80
Soybeans	None Given	1 inch	4-6	45-65
Sweet Potato	Beauregard, Evangeline, Hernandez, Jewel	Special	12	90-120
Watermelon	Seedless: Cooperstown, Gypsy, Matrix, Millennium Seeded: Mickey Lee, Sugar Baby, Amarillo	¼ inch	48	90-110
Yardlong Beans	None Given	1 inch	24-36	75

Be My Guest- Host Plants for Feeding Caterpillars

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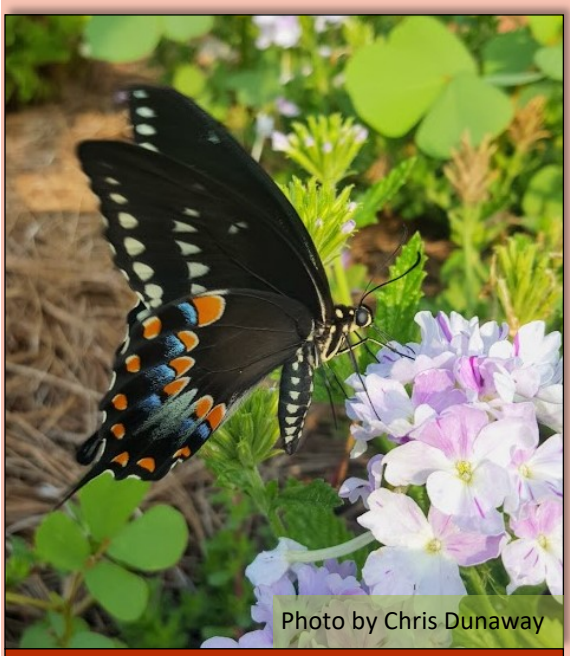
an abundance of parsley, chervil, rue, fennel and dill in your garden this spring to ensure that you'll have enough for your kitchen needs as well as the caterpillars that will appear. Green, black, and yellow striped like a monarch, but lacking the antennae, swallowtail caterpillars will host on members of the carrot family, including the above mentioned herbs. If you plant the native Queen Anne's lace *Ptilimnium capillaceum* or the introduced one *Ammi majus*, they also enjoy that, both make beautiful white wildflowers.

Giant Swallowtail *Heraclides cresphontes*: If you grow citrus in our area, chances are you've noticed the "bird poop caterpillar". They won't ever damage or defoliate your trees, so just leave them be. Move them to mature citrus trees if they are on younger, newly planted citrus.



Pipe-vine Swallowtail *Battus philenor*

Pipe-vine Swallowtail *Battus philenor*: Many local garden centers are carrying pipe vine, both the tropical *Aristolochia microphylla* and several native pipe vines, including wooly pipevine *Aristolochia tomentosa*. Avoid the tropical, showier pipevine, this has recently been discovered to be too toxic for the caterpillars to successfully host on past the first instar. Wooly pipevine has been available at several local nurseries this spring and seeds are easily ordered online.

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*: Fritillary caterpillars host on tropical and native species of passionflower vine. The native purple species *Passiflora incarnata* is readily found at most garden centers and the surrounding wild areas of New Orleans. This one is more cold hardy than the many tropical species available, but any type of passionflower will work well to host the bright orange, prickly-looking caterpillars.

The larvae of the Gulf Fritillary *Agraulus vanilae* may look scary but don't worry, these caterpillars do not sting.

Long-tailed Skipper *Urbanus proteus*: If you plant anything in the legume family, which includes peas and beans, you may be lucky enough to attract the beautiful long-tailed skipper. While there are many types of skipper, the long-tailed is common in our urban vegetable gardens. Skippers are "leaf-rollers" and hide within the leaves by using silk to create a protective area. They will also host on American wisteria *Wisteria frutescens* which is non-invasive.

Long-tailed Skipper *Urbanus proteus*

~Anna Timmerman

Staking Your Vegetables

Last month we talked about pruning your tomatoes. This month we are going to talk about staking your vegetables – tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, cucumbers and beans. Eggplants, peppers and cucumbers will often do quite well without any staking but will produce cleaner fruit and take up less space if staked. Tomatoes and runner beans, on the other hand, really require staking to produce a good crop of healthy fruit. And we can't forget mirliton of course.

Tomato cages work well for these determinate tomato plants.

There are several advantages to staking vegetables such as eggplant, pepper, cucumber, bean and tomato. It conserves space because it's vertical gardening; it keeps the fruit off the ground making it cleaner, straighter and less susceptible to disease; it increases air circulation within the plant canopy reducing disease incidence; it makes application of insect and disease control measures easier (you can spot them earlier too) and you don't have to bend over to harvest. There are many ways of staking your plants with many different materials. However, there are a few basic requirements no matter what you use or how you tie the plants. 1) The staking system must be strong enough to support the weight of the plants and fruits as they grow. Nothing is more disappointing than to have a lush crop of tomatoes loaded with fruit just beginning to ripen one day, and the next day have an afternoon shower and you come home to find the stakes broken, the tomato plants are slumped on the ground broken and bruised and the green fruit is knocked helter-skelter. Oversized is better than undersized. 2) The staking system must be tall or long enough to accommodate the variety of vegetable you are growing. If you put Kentucky Wonder pole beans on a three-foot tall pyramid, they will reach the top, grow down and back up again before you get your first harvest. That's not much different from just having them grow on the ground. You lose most of the benefits of trellising. For vining veggies like beans, cucumbers and indeterminate tomatoes, six-foot tall supports are the minimum height you should use. 3) Use ties and support twine strong enough and soft enough to do the job. If you use the Florida weave method for your tomatoes employing twine with a 6-8 lb. tensile strength, I guarantee that the system will crash from the load at some point during the season. Likewise, if you use thin wire to tie your tomatoes to the support, at some point the wire will strangle or cut through the stem and you will lose everything above the tie. Here again, overdoing it is better than having a garden disaster. Now let's look at some of the common staking systems you might want to use.

First let's talk about the ubiquitous "tomato cage" that every garden center and big box store carries – in multiple colors. Are these cages worthwhile? These are usually sold in sizes from around 4 feet to 5 feet high. Consider that you'll be pushing 8 to 12 inches of the cage into the ground to stabilize it so you really only have about 3 to 4 feet of actual support. That much height of support will be sufficient for peppers, eggplants and some determinate tomato varieties. Push the cage firmly into the soil with your vegetable plant in the center. As the plant grows, you will occasionally need to push some of the limbs to the inside of the cage. It's also a good idea to tie the plant to the cage wires at multiple sites as it grows. But

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Staking Your Vegetables

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these cages just don't have enough height for vining vegetables or indeterminate tomatoes.

There are other designs of cages available and you can make your own using heavy gauge steel welded wire. The best opening size for accessibility and harvesting is the 4"x 4". This wire comes in rolls with widths of 34" to 50". Make a circular cage with these and train your plants by attaching to the wire at multiple points as the plant matures. You will need to anchor the cage to the ground using large landscape cloth staples or you can make your own. The anchors should go a minimum of 8 inches into the ground – the deeper the better. Again, these will work fine for eggplants, peppers, and determinate tomatoes but not so well for indeterminate tomatoes, cucumbers or beans.

A simple way of staking peppers and eggplants is to use a strong single stake and then tie the plant stem to the stake as it grows. Just push the stake 8" or so into the ground about 2" from the base of the plant. Make sure the stake is perfectly straight and securely in the ground. Tie the mainstem to the stake and use longer lengths of twine to tie the branches to the stake for support as they become weighted with fruit.

For cucumbers, indeterminate tomatoes and runner beans, staking support should be a minimum of 6 feet tall.

Tying each plant to separate long stake is a simple way to grow tomatoes and other plants. Be sure to use a size appropriate stake.

This clever gardener has designed a trellis tepee with each leg ending in a container planted with running beans.

Even at that height, many varieties will reach the top of the support and then begin to trail downward. One type of support that can work with cucumbers, tomatoes, and beans is trellising. Strong, sturdy support such as welded wire works best but nylon netting will also work if the supporting posts are sufficiently strong. Attach the trellis to supporting perpendicular posts. Cucumbers and beans both have tendrils and can self-attach to the trellis. Cucumbers may occasionally need to be tied to keep it growing upward. Trellising works great with tomatoes if you are pruning them to one or two mainstems. If you do not prune them, then trellising will not be your best choice of support. Tomato stems will have to be tied to the trellis regularly since they do not have tendrils for climbing and clinging.

Tepee towers made using 4 to 5 long (8') bamboo or similar stakes make good support for cucumbers and runner beans. Space them equally in a circular pattern and tie the tops together to form a tepee shape. Beans will climb the stakes but cucumbers will need to be attached as they grow.

Another common type of support for used for tomatoes, peppers and eggplants is commonly known as the Florida weave. With the Florida weave, a stake is spaced every two plants (sometimes, but rarely, three). Eight-foot stakes work best,

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Staking Your Vegetables

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driven into the ground at least 12 inches leaving six feet or more height above ground. Support wire or string is run between the stakes with the first line being installed about 8" off the ground. Tie the twine to the first stake and run it to the next while weaving it between the two plants between the stakes and wrapping it securely around each stake before proceeding to the next. When you get to the last/ terminal stake, wrap the twine around the stake twice and run the twine back in the opposite direction in an opposing weaving pattern so that the plant stem gets sandwiched between the two side-by-side strands of twine. The first strand should be installed when plants are over 8" tall but less than 20" tall. Add additional strands as the plants grow spacing them about every 8".

Photo by Chris Dunaway

The Master Gardeners working at the demonstration garden at LaSalle Park in Metairie demonstrate the Florida weave on tomatoes growing in this raised bed.

It is important to use large diameter (1/4") twine or other soft material to tie the plant stems to the support. Using wire or thin string can cut or damage the stem. Wrap the twine around the plant stem in a figure eight pattern and tie it loosely to the plant support leaving room for the stem diameter to enlarge as it grows.

No matter which staking system you use, if you give your veggies a little support, they will reward you with a clean, healthy and bountiful harvest.

~Dr. Joe Willis

NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK
BOTANICAL GARDEN

Pelican Greenhouse 2019 Plant Sales

May 11 June 15 July 20 August 24	Fall Garden Festival Botanical Garden October 5, 2019 - 10 am to 5 pm October 6, 2019 - 10 am to 4 pm

The Pelican Greenhouse is located at @2 Celebration Drive, City Park. Just South of the I-610 overpass. For additional information, call 504/483-9464.

Visit our website at www.neworleanscitypark.com, or e-mail to plants@nocp.org

Why Do We Have Monarchs All Year?

It's the beginning of May and first generation monarch butterflies should be hatching and beginning their journey North.

Why then will we have monarch butterflies all year? Why will we see some here instead of in the Corn Belt like the rest of the Eastern Migration? I've puzzled over this for a number of years. After all, there are costs associated with staying in NOLA past the March-to-May migratory visit. Summer brings increased predation and disease. Wasps, yellow jackets, lizards and ants, all feeders on monarch eggs and caterpillars, proliferate. Pathogens, including the well-studied protozoan parasite called OE, build up on milkweed foliage. Summer brings Zika mosquito spraying. Why don't the monarchs get out before these hazards?

Mirror Image? Two monarch butterfly caterpillars are making quick work of consuming a milkweed leaf.

My initial theory arose from participating in a citizen science project at Tulane in which I caught and tested wild butterflies for OE infection. NOLA OE infection rates, I learned, rose from a small percent in June to almost100% in November during both 2017 and 2018. OE kills or deforms seriously infected butterflies but a mild infection causes simple overall weakness. A few flight-impaired monarchs in May, I supposed, might result in large numbers of butterflies too weak to fly distances in summer and fall. Answer 1: too sick to fly.

In a late summer 2018 conversation with Linda Auld, owner of Barber Laboratories and longtime NOLA area amateur entomologist, another idea surfaced: that actual migratory monarchs fly north by mid-May, but are replaced by "nursery-industry" butterflies trucked in from out-of-area. Any casual shopper can find monarch eggs and caterpillars on tropical milkweed *Asclepias curassavica* sold at big box garden centers and the larger nurseries, all summer long. Answer 2: immigrants.

Dr. Chip Taylor, founder and director of Monarch Watch, explained on a 5/5/18 blog that northward migration is powered flight. It generates high body temperature—unlike the southbound migration that uses a great deal of gliding. Ideal temperatures for powered flight are the high sixties and low seventies. Once temperatures exceed the low eighties, migratory flight shuts down. On a 3/18/19 podcast, Dr. Taylor confirmed this means the butterflies fly when wind and temperature permit and then look for milkweed, not the other way around. They can and "often" do out-fly milkweed, resulting in high mortality. A low eighties migration flight ceiling suggests our NOLA area summer butterflies are here because they are grounded. Answer 3: too hot to fly.

I asked Dr. Taylor about Gulf Coast Louisiana, since his podcast concentrated on Texas and Oklahoma. He characterized our locale as a minor spring breeding ground, saying the migrators "...breeze through your area at 50 miles a day." Regarding OE, he observed that most tropical milkweed is in gardens, and the OE spore load could be minimized if we were to cut back our milkweed twice a year. This is the advice butterfly conservationists have been giving for several years.

Migrating monarchs need milkweed from March to mid-May in our area. After that, they are gone. In

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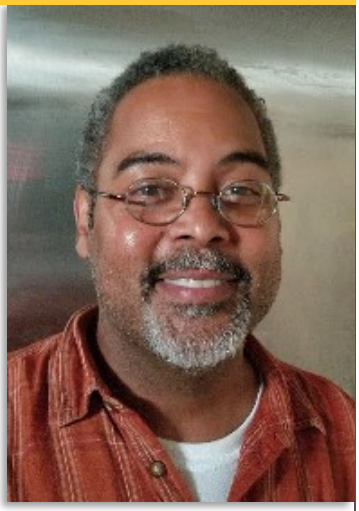
In the Kitchen with Austin

Homemade Ricotta Cheese



Sometimes fruit and vegetable dishes need a co-star to tie flavors together. Ricotta is a perfect example! It combines easily with other ingredients to create both savory and sweet dishes. Just remember...the best ricotta is made using the highest quality whole milk available.

Ingredients:

½ gallon whole milk • 3 Tbs. fresh lemon juice • pinch of salt

Directions:

Line a colander with several layers of damp cheesecloth, making sure the cloth extends over the sides of the colander. Set the colander over a large bowl. In a saucepan bring the milk to a gentle boil. Add lemon juice and cook over low heat; stirring gently, until curds form, about 3 minutes. Remove saucepan from heat, cover and let stand for 5 minutes.

Using a slotted spoon, scoop the curds into the colander. Let curds drain for 30 minutes. Gather the ends of the cloth and twist gently to extract more liquid. Transfer the ricotta to a bowl and stir in the salt. Ricotta may be stored for up to 3 days in the refrigerator.

Serving Suggestions:

Ricotta is delicious on toast with sliced fruit and a drizzle of honey. It may be added to pasta for a creamy finish, or even as a substitute for cream cheese in your favorite cheese cake recipe.

Bon Manger!

Why Do We Have Monarchs All Year?

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their fall return, they need only nectar flowers for fuel and trees for roosts, as they are not breeding.

How should we think about our summer-fall grounded butterflies? They are lovely to see. Given continued access to milkweed, they will breed in place and spread out among our flowering nectar gardens. They will be susceptible to predators, pesticides and diseases, especially OE. By November, almost all will be OE infected. Will any try to migrate to Mexico? We don't know. Will they pose an infection hazard to fall migrators? We don't know but several conservation organizations fear it. Can they become a long-term resident population that does not migrate, like those on the southernmost tip of Florida? I asked this of Dr. Jerome Howard, UNO Biological Sciences Associate Professor, in February of 2018. He emailed, "Louisiana is still too cold-seasonal in the winter to support year-round populations; all it takes is a hard freeze every 4 -5 years to wipe out residents...." He also called OE "... a threat graver than most people realize."

Personally, I'm going to cut back my milkweed by June 1, native and non-native alike. I'm going to keep it well trimmed and stay alert for new information. Meanwhile, I'll make sure my passion flower vines, fennel plants, cassia trees and camphor trees are all in good health for some of the other Louisiana butterflies like: gulf fritillaries, sulphurs and swallowtails.

~Ginna Hoff, LMG

What's Bugging You? – Leaffooted Bug

If you haven't seen them yet, you surely soon will. Leaffooted bugs are related to stink bugs and are in the genus, *Leptoglossus*. There are several species that can be found in Louisiana but all adults have the same appearance - just as its name implies, the back legs of this insect have leaf-like projections easily seen by the naked eye. As a member of the Hemiptera, they have piercing/sucking mouthparts which are inserted into a plant to suck juices. The adult leaf-footed bug is about three-quarters of an inch in length, has an elongated body with a triangular thorax, and is brownish in color. Some have a light-colored marking across the mid-section. The young (nymphs) look just like the adults, but are smaller, have no wings, and are orange to light brown in color. Leaffooted bug nymphs are often mistaken for assassin bugs (good guys of the Hemiptera).

Leaffooted bug nymphs are flightless and can readily be found feeding on developing tomatoes.

The adult leaffooted bug lays tiny golden brown eggs in a single-line row, often along the vein or midrib of its host plant. They mature quickly and there can be four to five generations per year. Leaffooted bugs overwinter as adults so a mild winter, like the one we just had, usually leads to large populations of these pests. Leaffooted bugs have piercing-sucking mouthparts that extend more than half of the length of the narrow body. They use this mouthpart to probe into leaves, shoots, and fruit to suck plant juices. The depth of the probing depends on the size of the bug: small nymphs feed shallowly on superficial plant juices, whereas adult bugs probe deep into fruit in search of seeds. If a hard seed is found, such as an pecan kernel, the bug excretes digestive enzymes from its mouthparts to liquefy a small part of the seed so that it can be ingested. Leaffooted bug mouthparts are also known to carry a fungal yeast, *Eremothecium coryli*. When leaffooted bugs feed, this yeast can be introduced into fruit causing a variety of symptoms usually related to discoloration. However, the yeast causes no damage that would limit the ability of the fruit to be harvested and consumed. This infection is most predominant when rains are abundant. Feeding on tomato fruit causes a hard, granular glob to form inside the fruit which stays white even when the fruit ripens and diminishes the fruit quality. Leaffooted bugs are non-discriminatory feeders and there seems to be few plants that some species of *Leptoglossus* doesn't feed on. Most of the time, the populations are low and the feeding doesn't cause enough damage to notice. However, if they are feeding on your fruits and vegetables, they are definitely noticed. Leaffooted bugs feed on tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, okra, cucurbits, persimmons, pomegranates, potatoes, pecans and citrus in addition to many ornamentals and weeds.

Discoloration on tomatoes is caused by yeast introduced into the fruit by feeding leaffooted bugs.


Eastern leaffooted bug (*Leptoglossus phyllopus*) adult.

Leaffooted bugs tend to gather in groups during their life cycle. This makes manual control easier. You can pick them off by hand or use a portable vacuum to suck them off your plants and then dump them in water or oil to drown them. Insecticidal sprays aren't usually warranted but they can be controlled with carbaryl (Sevin), pyrethrins and pyrethroids or neem oil.

~Dr. Joe Willis

How To...Turn a Compost Pile

Like ourselves, the micro-organisms that break down our compost need food, water, and oxygen to survive. The food, of course, comes from the kitchen scraps, leaves and other waste material that we put into the pile. The oxygen comes from the air that is trapped in the pile as you add material. The water can come from some of the material, from rainfall, or can be added by us. It can be a little tricky getting the moisture level right. Too much or too little water can slow down the composting process. The material in the pile should be moist enough to hold together but you should not be able to squeeze out water.

When we give instruction on composting we say that you should turn your pile. But what does it mean to turn a compost pile? "Turning" is simply a term used to describe the process of mixing or stirring the material in the pile in some way to reintroduce fresh oxygen and moisture into the process.

One easy way to turn a compost pile is to simply take apart your pile and move it from one spot to another.

#1 Whether you are using a manufactured composter or just a mound on the ground turning a pile is the same.

Clear out an area adjacent to the current pile where you can relocate to.

#2 If you are using a composter or bin, move it to the new location.

This pod type composter does not have a bottom. It easily lifts off of the compost contained within.

#3 Now use a pitchfork to load the composting material back into the composter.

A good composting or manure fork with a long handle and wide spread tines works best.

#4 To add moisture to the pile, I set up a garden hose to direct a fine spray of water into the composter.

As you add material, each scoop will get a little shower.

#5 If some of the material is ready for use in the garden, you may use a screen to separate it out before adding the non-finished material back to the pile.

~Chris Dunaway

Coming Events

Date	Event	Cost	Link
Saturday, May 4th 8:30 AM– 11:30 AM	Children's Garden Festival @ LSU AgCenter Botanic Garden 4560 Essen Ln, Baton Rouge, LA	$10 per vehicle	https://www.facebook.com/events/691456984584815/
Saturday, May 4th 9 AM—Noon	Hopewell Garden Tour, hosted by Keep Covington Beautiful 75343 River Road, Covington, LA	$15/person, advance registration required	https://www.facebook.com/events/1293391030814639/
Saturday, May 4th 9 AM—5 PM	Open House @ Ninth Ward Nursery 2641 Deslonde, New Orleans, LA	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/260114918203971/
Saturday, May 4th 9 AM—1 PM	Edible Plants @ Vermilionville 300 Fisher Rd., Lafayette, LA	$30 in advance	https://www.facebook.com/events/308134256551951/ *Master Gardener Continuing Education Hours
Saturday, May 4th 9 AM—1 PM	Summer Plant Sale by Pistil and Stamen Flower Farm 4600 Marais St. New Orleans, LA	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/449309982565292/
Saturday, May 4th 11 AM—4 PM	Art, Nature, and Birds at Crevasse 22 8114 Saro Ln., Poydras, LA	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/2837769682916422/ *Master Gardener Continuing Education Hours
Sunday, May 5th 1 PM—5 PM	Backyard Habitat Garden Tour @ LSU Hilltop Arboretum 11855 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA	$20/person	https://www.facebook.com/events/1733124493501061/ *Master Gardener Continuing Education Hours
Tuesday, May 7th 5:30– 7 PM	Creating Edible Ecosystems @ All You Need Hosted by Grow On 2358 Urquhart St., New Orleans LA	$20 in advance, space limited	https://www.facebook.com/events/2065127913791756/ *Master Gardener Continuing Education Hours
Saturday May 11th 9 AM—11AM	2nd Saturday Composting @ All You Need Hosted by Parkway Partners 3700 Toledano St., New Orleans, LA	$5	https://www.facebook.com/events/615209005663215/ *Master Gardener Continuing Education Hours
Saturday, May 11th 10 AM—2 PM	AgMagic on the River @Docville Farm, 5124 E St Bernard Hwy, Violet, LA	Free	https://www.facebook.com/agmagicontheriver/
Saturday, May 11th 10:30 AM—Noon	Build a Magical Fairy Garden @ New Orleans Botanical Garden 5 Victory Ave., New Orleans LA	$35/person	https://www.facebook.com/events/2420812831472985/

Coming Events

Wednesday, May 15th 5:30—7 PM	Intro to Permaculture @ All You Need, Hosted by Grow On	$20/person in advance	https://www.facebook.com/events/2391923064161014/
May 17th—May 19th	Bogs, Baygalls, Birds, Butterflies, Botanical Bliss, and Big Orchids @ Allen Acres 5070 Hwy 399, Pitkin, LA	See website	https://www.facebook.com/events/860779240923754/ *Master Gardener Continuing Education Hours
May 17th—May 19th	River Ridge Bromeliad Society Spring Show 4436 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, LA	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/284765265788351/
Saturday, May 18th 8:30 AM—12:30 PM	Community Garden Spring Cleaning! @ Algiers Behrman Community Garden 615 Opelousas Ave, New Orleans LA	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/363267324536086/ *Master Gardener Volunteer Hours!
Wednesday, May 22nd 5:30– 7 PM	Backyard Farming @ All You Need Hosted by Grow On 2358 Urquhart St. New Orleans LA	$20/person	https://www.facebook.com/events/595029337668421/
May 31—June 2	The New Orleans Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale Lakeside Shopping Center, Metairie, LA	Free	http://neworleansorchidsociety.org/

May 11 10AM-2PM

Click for more info

15 minutes from downtown New Orleans

Docville Farm

5124 E. St. Bernard Hwy.,

Violet, LA

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Families visiting Ag Magic on the River will see first-hand how and where their food, shelter and some clothing originates. This hands-on learning opportunity will link food, fiber, forests, field crops, farm animals and Louisiana seafood to your everyday life.

Farmers Markets in the Greater New Orleans Area

Jefferson Parish	Where	When
Fat City Farmer's Market	3215 Edenborn, Metairie	Every 2nd and 4th Sunday, 9AM-1PM
Gretna Farmer's Market	739 Third Street, Gretna	Every Saturday, except the Saturday of Gretna Fest, 8:30AM-12:30PM
Kenner Rivertown Farmer's Market	2115 Rev. Richard Wilson Drive, Kenner	Every Saturday, October-July, 9AM-1PM
Nawlins Outdoor Market	1048 Scotsdale Dr., Harvey	Every Saturday & Sunday, 9AM-5PM
Old Metairie Farmer's Market	Bayou Metairie Park, Between Metairie Lawn Dr. and Labarre	3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:30PM-7:30PM
Westwego Shrimp Lot	100 Westbank Expressway, Westwego	Daily Mon-Sat 8AM-8PM, Sun 8AM-6PM
Crescent City Farmer's Market-Bucktown	325 Metairie-Hammond, Highway at Bucktown Harbor	Fridays, 3PM-7PM
Crescent City Farmer's Market-Rivertown New Orleans	Williams Boulevard at the River	Saturdays, 9AM-1PM
Crescent City Farmer's Market-Ochsner West Campus	2614 Jefferson Highway, Ochsner Rehab Facility	Wednesdays, 3PM-7PM
Orleans Parish	When	Where
Crescent City Farmer's Market-Uptown	200 Broadway Street at the River	Tuesdays, 9AM-1PM
Crescent City Farmer's Market-Bywater	Chartres and Piety, at Rusty Rainbow Bridge	Wednesdays, 3PM-7PM
Crescent City Farmer's Market-Mid-City	3700 Orleans Avenue	Thursdays, 3PM-7PM
Crescent City Farmer's Market-Downtown	750 Carondelet St at Julia	Saturdays, 8am-12PM
Sankofa Market	5029 St. Claude St.	Monday-Thursday, 9:30AM-4:00PM
ReFresh Farmer's Market	300 North Broad St.	Mondays, 4:00PM-7:00PM
Vietnamese Farmer's Market	14401 Alcee Fortier Blvd.	Saturdays, 5:30AM-8:30AM
Marketplace at Armstrong Park	901 N. Rampart	Thursdays, 3PM-7PM
Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market	Comiskey Park,	Market dates vary, check http://midcityaf.org
Treme Farmer's Market	814 N. Claiborne	Market dates vary, check https://gloriastremegarden.com/treme-farmers-market/
St. Bernard Parish	When	Where
St. Bernard Seafood and Farmer's Market	409 Aycock St., Arabi	2nd Saturdays, 10AM-2PM

May Checklist/Garden Tips

During dry weather don't forget to keep your compost pile evenly moist. Dry organic matter will not decompose. Do, however, avoid keeping the pile saturated as this will create bad odors.

Powdery mildew on many ornamentals (crape myrtles, roses, euonymous) and vegetables (squash, cucumbers) continues to be a problem due to dry weather. Treat with chlorothalonil or other labeled fungicides.

Birds will peck holes in tomatoes just before you decide they are ripe enough to harvest. If birds are a problem, cover your plants with bird netting or harvest the fruit in the pink stage and ripen them inside. Bird netting also works well to protect fruit crops, such as blackberries, blueberries and figs, from bird damage, and is available from local nurseries

Grow cucumbers on trellises to save space, increase production and improve the quality of the cucumbers produced.

Constant watering rapidly leaches nutrient elements from the soils of container grown plants. To replace them it is best to use either soluble fertilizers or slow release fertilizers. Soluble fertilizers are easy to apply especially when you use a hose end applicator, but they must be applied every two weeks to maintain a constant supply of nutrients. Slow release

Cannas that have brown, deformed leaves with holes in them have been attacked by canna leaf-rollers, a caterpillar that is devastating to cannas in our area. Control is difficult and requires regular spraying all summer. If you decide to treat, use a systemic insecticide such as acephate and make weekly applications.

Plant basil plants now and enjoy a wonderful fresh seasoning for summer cooking. Many herbs already in your garden, such as thyme, sage, oregano, lavender, dill, cilantro and parsley, are at their most productive now and will play out as the weather gets hotter. Harvest freely and dry or freeze the extras.

Remove the developing seed pods from such plants as Louisiana irises and amaryllis when they finish blooming. This keeps the plants more attractive and prevents them from wasting effort on seeds that are not needed. It would be better for the plants to put that energy into growing leaves and roots.

Watch azaleas for azalea lace bug damage. Small white spots on the upper surface and small dark brown spots on the back of leaves indicates they are present. Spray with a broad spectrum insecticide getting under the leaves thoroughly.

Caterpillars will feed on the foliage and flowers of ornamentals and the foliage and fruit of vegetables. The tomato fruit worm eats holes in tomatoes. Sevin, spinosad and BT regularly applied will keep them in check.

Termite mating season is upon us and millions of sexually mature Formosan termite alates will be seen flying around light poles at night for the next several weeks. Although termites are active year round, the heightened activity makes it more easy to find the harborages in which they live. Check for the soil and debris that the termites use to hide themselves on local structures and trees.

Click here for more information on termites in trees.

Take the LSU AgCenter Tree Assessment Survey

https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5APSTSTr35UlGrr

This assessment will help to guide education programs and outreach related to urban tree management in the GNO Area.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do:

1. This is the prime planting season for warm season grasses such as St. Augustine, centipede, bermuda and zoysia.
2. This month is the last chance to apply broad leaf weed killers before the weather gets too hot. Button weed is particularly troublesome around the state. This low, mat-forming weed has one inch pointed leaves and small, four petaled white flowers. Most people don't notice it until July, but it is beginning to grow now. LSU AgCenter trials show Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone to work best, especially when applied to young plants in early summer.
3. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass. Click here to find information about large patch disease from the LSU AgCenter.
4. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches.
5. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Keep an eye open for insect pests and treat if necessary.
8. Spread fill soil and compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
9. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.

Annual bluegrass is still very prevalent in local lawns. Collect the clippings with a bagging mower and dispose of them. If you see this in your lawn now, be ready to apply pre-emergent herbicide in September.

Don't's

1. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time.
2. Do not let winter weeds go to seed in the lawn. Use the bagging mower to collect clippings and dispose of them if seed heads are present.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

E-mail us at: GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

Follow us on Facebook at GNOGardening

For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

Joe Willis
Orleans Parish
Horticulture Agent
(504)483-9471

Anna Timmerman
Jefferson Parish
Horticulture Agent
(504)736-6519

Chris Dunaway
GNO Area
Extension Associate
(504)736-6519