



GNO Gardening Magazine

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In This Issue:

Introducing New Super Plant: Jolt Dianthus

By: Dr. Jeb S. Fields, Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard, & Ashely Edwards.

Feed the Birds

By: Wendy Rihner

Super Plant Spotlight Swan Columbine

By: Dr. Joe Willis

What's Bugging You? Red Headed Azalea Caterpillar *Datana major*

By: Anna Timmerman

October Planting Guide

Farmer's Markets in the GNO Area

In the Kitchen with Austin

Upcoming Events

October Garden Checklist

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Cover Photo: Jolt Pink Dianthus from All-American

Selections

Introducing New Super Plant-Jolt Dianthus

Some of the best cool-season bedding plants we have available in Louisiana are interspecific dianthus, and the Jolt series dianthus is no exception. Jolt offers a more compact interspecific dianthus when compared to Amazon dianthus, which was named a Louisiana Super Plant in 2010.

Moreover, Jolt dianthus is one of the most heat-tolerant interspecific dianthus we have, making it a perfect addition to your Louisiana landscape. Jolt dianthus will continue to bloom into the early summer months, giving you that extra push to carry your landscape into the warm season. Jolt dianthus can be planted in early fall in Louisiana landscapes. Like most bedding plants, they are susceptible to



Jolt Dianthus Pink

extreme freezing temperatures in the winter, so be sure to take appropriate actions if it gets too cold. However, Jolt dianthus can tolerate temperatures into the low 20s Fahrenheit. Jolts can be planted in late winter for an amazing pop of

color throughout the spring and early summer. Aside from the striking bloom colors that come in Jolt Cherry, Jolt Pink and Jolt Pink Magic, Jolt dianthus has excellent dark green foliage that provides additional pop to the bloom color. Jolt dianthus makes wonderful cut flowers in flower arrangements. Jolt dianthus is also great for attracting butterflies in the later fall and early spring.

Requirements

- Plant in full sun to ensure continuous high-quality flowering.
- Place in well-drained soil with pH of 5.5 to 6.5.
- Thrives in raised beds, but ensure adequate water.

- Space plants about 8 to 12 inches apart.
- Hardiness zones 7 to 11.

Growth Habit

- Will grow to 16 to 18 inches tall and 12 to 14 inches wide.
- An upright mounding habit.
- Can be grown as a border planting or used in containers.
- Makes great cut flowers for arrangements.

Care and Maintenance

- A slow-release fertilizer incorporated into the soil at planting time will ensure uniform growth. Supplement with liquid feed as needed to keep plants looking their best.
- Jolt dianthus can be seed-grown or purchased in the fall or spring from local nurseries.
- Deadheading is not required but will promote additional flowering.
- Mulch 1 to 2 inches around bedding plants for best performance.

Varieties for Louisiana Landscapes

There are three colors in the Jolt series: Jolt Cherry, Jolt Pink and Jolt Pink Magic.



Jolt Dianthus Cherry



Jolt Dianthus Pink Magic

~ Dr. Jeb S. Fields, Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard & Ashley Edwards

October Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Beets	Bull's Blood, Detroit Dark Red, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen
Broccoli (transplants)	Packman, Windsor, Greenbelt, Arcadia, Diplomat
Brussels Sprouts (transplants)	Long Island Improved, Royal Marvel, Jade Cross
Cabbage	Blue Vintage, Platinum Dynasty, Asia Express, Farao, Tendersweet
Chinese Cabbage	Minuet, Rubicon
Carrots	Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Atlas, Nelson F1, Bolero F1, Rainbow
Cauliflower (transplants)	Snow Crown, Freedom, Incline, Skywalker, Cheddar, Graffiti
Collards	Georgia Giant, Champion, Top Bunch, Flash
Kale	Toscana, Redbor, Winterbor, Starbor, Red Russian
Kohlrabi	Vienna, Early Purple Vienna, Early White
Lettuce	Allstar Gourmet, Oakleaf, Muir, Red Lollo Rossa, Tango, Buttercrunch, Black Seeded Simpson
Mustard Greens	Red Giant, Greenwave, Savannah, Tendergreen
Snow Peas	Oregon Giant, Super Sugar Snap
Spinach	Space, Carmel
Radishes	French Breakfast, Rover, D'Avignon, Ping Pong
Shallots	Saffron, Conserver, Camelot
Swiss Chard	Bright Lights
Turnips	Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo

For more recommended varieties and supplier information click here to visit the [Recommended Varieties Database](http://apps.lsuagcenter.com/diseaseresistance/) on the LSUAgCenter website.

<http://apps.lsuagcenter.com/diseaseresistance/>

Feed the Birds!

Standing under a late-July Wisconsin sun, scanning the wide-open vista of a carefully restored prairie, I hear Kenn Kaufman suddenly report, “There, on the Canada Goldenrod! American Goldfinches in bright yellow summer plumage!” The renowned ornithologist, author and all-around great guy was already a highlight for the birders on a post-National Audubon Society convention field trip, Hiking with Kaufman. Watching Dicksissels and Henslow’s Sparrows flit and duck in native grasses like Switchgrass and Indian Grass that morning transported me back to the era of pre-European settlement when these birds had free reign in this prairie ecosystem. The wildlife gardeners on the field trip also reached their Nirvana as, standing quietly in waist high Bluestem, they watched butterflies bounce from purple Prairie Sweet Clover to Compass Plant to Hoary Vervain.

Isn’t that what wildlife gardening is all about? The great joy that comes from watching nature live freely as it has for eons? For me, I can think of no greater accomplishment than to know that my efforts at restoring habitat in my backyard offer food and a safe haven for birds, butterflies, and countless species of bees and other pollinators.

My neighbor was puzzled last spring as to why I emerged from the backyard with binoculars around my neck. I simply pointed to her beautifully expansive Live Oak that we “share”. Fall migration is upon us once again in Southeastern Louisiana, and the greatest native plant in all in my estimation, the Live Oak, is hard at work feeding the abundant Yellow Warblers that are migrating through on their way to

their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America. All of our native trees, especially the oaks, willows and wild cherries, host a good number of caterpillars, spiders and insect larvae that these migrating warblers need to replenish the fat reserves sequestered under their breasts and wings. Imagine flying across the Gulf of Mexico and not having enough protein!



A yellow warbler bird.

Live Oaks may not be in everyone’s personal garden scheme or budget, but there are lots of other native tree and shrub choices that can provide much needed bird food during this critical time of year. Parsley Hawthorn, with its bright red fall berries, makes a nice, understory tree in any yard. Arrowwood *Viburnum* is just the type

of thick shrub that provides great cover and protection for birds as well as nutritious dark purple fruits late in the year. Many bird species aside from warblers are migrating through our area in October and desperately need our help. Bird habitat is disappearing at a rapid pace, and in suburban areas like Metairie, where I live, concrete, grass lawns and exotic trees provide no food or respite for wildlife.

Nectar-feeding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrive in mid-to-late August and any native that sports a tubular bloom from red to purple will bring these flight masters into your yard. Cardinal Flower and its blue relative, Great Blue Lobelia, certainly have the color and the nectar source to appeal to hummingbirds. *Salvia coccinea* also attracts hummers, along with bees. Though its height might make it an unlikely attractant, a fantastic plant is Gulf Coast Penstemon. I watched one early April morning as a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Continued on page 5)

Feed the Birds!

(Continued from Page 4)

flit among the pretty violet blooms, dodging bees all the while. Finally, if space is no issue, then go for Red Buckeye, a hummingbird magnet, or any of the native vines like Crossvine, Trumpet Creeper or Coral Honeysuckle. Be careful where you plant these vines, they can really spread.

In the last few decades, ornithologists have marveled at how Southern Louisiana hosts wintering western species of hummingbirds. Last year, I had two Black-chinned Hummingbirds in the yard! Rufous, Calliope (and that is pronounced as it is intended to be), and Buff-bellied are a few other species that have been reported regularly to the LA hummingbird network, HUMNET. Since few of my natives bloom into mid-December and January, I supplement the nectar sources in my garden with tropical plants and hanging feeders to satisfy the wintering hummers.

Seed and fruit-eating birds are also making their way down south, and like the wintering western hummingbirds, many species stay the winter until instinct once again calls them back up north. One of the most difficult bird groups to identify easily, the sparrows, have several representatives arriving here in late fall and staying through winter. Song and White-throated Sparrows love tangles of blackberry and native grasses like Bluestem, Grama Grass, and perhaps the best seed-producing grass for birds, Switchgrass. As native plant advocates and habitat gardeners, we don't trim off our dead blooms to neaten our gardens but leave them on the plant, and

the American Goldfinch, the House and Purple Finches benefit! Nothing attracts seed eaters like finches than the dried seedheads of coneflowers, goldenrods, or sunflowers. Birds' bones are hollow, so



A ruby throated hummingbird collects nectar from a red buckeye flower.

it is no miracle that they can alight on a stalk without too much give on the part of the stalk.

Lastly, evolution programmed many species to alternate diets during migration when fruit sources are no longer available. So many species like Tanagers, Robins, and Red-winged Blackbirds will also eat insects. Even hummingbirds will eat spiders, aphids and other insects for the

protein and almost all birds feed insects, primarily caterpillars, to their young during nesting season. While birdseed feeders can supplement a bird's diet, birds clearly need the plants they have co-evolved with over eons along with the insect life those plants support.

While marveling at the work Madison Audubon has done to turn old farmlands into native Wisconsin prairies, a few of us conventioners chuckled at how true that cinematic cliché really is: *"If you build it, they will come."* We can all restore habitat in our backyards, no matter how small. The birds depend on it!

~ **Wendy Rihner**

Wendy Rihner is an English Professor at Delgado Community College and has been an avid birder for over 20 years. A member of the Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans and the Orleans Audubon Society, Rihner is an enthusiastic wildlife and habitat gardener in her yard in Metairie, Louisiana. For more information about gardening with Louisiana Native Plants, visit NPI-GNO.org

Super Plant Spotlight – Swan Columbine

Columbines are an old-fashioned favorite and for good reason. They possess superb garden reliability and hardiness, ease of cultivation, early springtime color and nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies. The Swan Series (*Aquilegia x hybrida*), displays large spurred, bi-colored blossoms that arch above lacy, blue-green foliage. The attractive foliage adds interest and texture to the winter flower garden, even when the plants are not in bloom. Flower color varieties in the Swan series are lavender/white, blue/white, burgundy/white, pink/yellow, red/white, rose/white, violet/white, white and yellow. These very beautiful, short-lived perennials grown as cool-season annuals deserve a place in every flower garden.

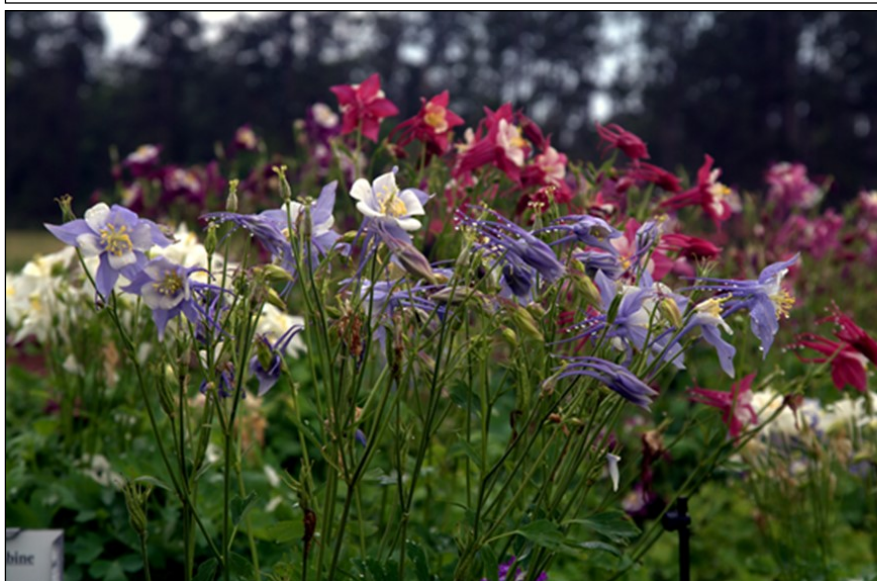
Columbine is a perennial that we grow as a cool season annual. Columbine plants aren't too particular about soil as long it drains well and is not too dry. While they enjoy full sun in most areas, they don't like it very hot. Therefore, growing them in partial shade with plenty of mulch to help keep the weeds down and the soil moist is a good idea. The Swan series plants will grow 20-24" tall and 12" wide. While the spectacular Spring blooms show up in March through May, PLANT THEM NOW IN MID TO LATE FALL. Swan columbine needs to be planted in Fall to give the plant a chance to get well-rooted, grow to mature size and set buds for the spring extravaganza.

~Dr. Joe Willis

*Remember, plant Swan Columbine in mid to late fall (October-December).



Lavendar and white Swan Columbine.



Swan Columbine growing at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station.



Violet and white Swan Columbine.



What's Bugging You?

Red Headed Azalea Caterpillar *Datana major*

Azaleas are an integral part of Louisiana landscapes, and the fall weather brings yet another pest to contend with. Red Headed Azalea Caterpillars are the larval form of a moth (*Datana major*). They tend to be found in our area during the months of August, September, and early October depending on the weather. These caterpillars feed on all azaleas and members of the *Rhododendron* genus, but seem to prefer Southern Indica hybrid cultivars.

The caterpillars are black and pale yellow in a longitudinal irregular striped pattern with a distinctive red head and feet, making them easily identified. They are ½-2 inches in length, with large and small sizes congregating together. They will raise their heads as

a group as a defense mechanism, but will not bite or sting when handled. The mature moth lays between 80-100 eggs on the underside of a leaf in late spring. The adult moth is brown with a two inch wingspan and is active from June through the end of the fall months. Two generations of Red Headed Azalea Caterpillar may occur in our area because of how far south we are.

These caterpillars will feed on azalea leaves,

skeletonizing them over time. They can defoliate azalea shrubs if not treated or removed, but the azaleas almost always recover and leaf out again. This slows the growth of the azalea, but does not impact blooming the following season. They can however cause unsightly damage and bare areas within the landscape. They are thought to be rather harmless

and provide a food source for nesting birds. Caterpillar parasites such as specialized wasp larvae also keep populations naturally in check.

If you have to control these pests, there are several simple options. Manual removal by knocking them off of the azalea and into a plastic bag works. Tie the bag and trash it. Sprays formulated to control caterpillars and other soft-bodied insects also provide an effective



Red Headed Azalea Caterpillar *Datana major* feeding on an azalea bush.

Photo by Dr. Joe Willis.

control. Look for products containing either Spinosad or Bacillus thuringiensis (BT) for organic control and Malathion or Sevin for synthetic control. Larger caterpillars are not as active and need to be sprayed directly since they won't ingest enough product to be effectively controlled through feeding activity.

Red Headed Azalea Caterpillars are a seasonal, rather harmless pest, but they just may be what's bugging you this month.

~Anna Timmerman

Coming Events

Fall Flower & Garden Festival at the MSU Truck Crops Experiment Station

Friday and Saturday October 11-12th, 9 AM – 2 PM
2024 Experiment Station Rd., Crystal Springs, MS 39059
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2280059208874745/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

Instar Farms at The Plant Gallery- Container Planting and Design Workshop

Friday, October 11th, 10 AM – 12 PM
9401 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118
Admission free, pots/materials market price.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/467558633832207/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

Greater New Orleans Iris Society Nursery Volunteer Day

Saturday, October 12th, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Nursery Island, New Orleans City Park (Harrison Ave. behind the police stables)
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2560674160622375/>
Master Gardener Volunteer Hours!

Birding Workshop at Sankofa Wetlands Project

Saturday, October 12th, 9 AM – 12 PM
64-1 Florida Ave., New Orleans, LA 70117
Free, RSVP on event page.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/436340780323142/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

The Abundant Fall Vegetable Garden at the New Orleans Botanical Garden

Seasonal cooking and planting in the garden.
Saturday, October 12th, 11 AM – 12:30 PM
5 Victory Ave., New Orleans, LA 70124
\$20 in advance.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/860017701063967/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

Wildflower Walk at Jean Lafitte Barataria Preserve

Saturday, October 12th, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
6588 Barataria Blvd., Marrero, LA 70072
Free, RSVP needed at 504-689-3690 Ext. 10
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2714563571887061/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

Southern Garden Symposium in St. Francisville, LA

Friday and Saturday, October 18th and 19th
\$80-\$280 depending on options selected.
<http://www.southerngardensymposium.org/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

Jefferson Beatification Fall Garden Show in LaSalle Park

Saturday, October 19th, 10 AM – 4 PM
6600 Airline Sr., Metairie, LA
Free
<https://www.facebook.com/events/421034108517066/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit! Fall Rhizome Sale with the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

Fall Rhizome Sale with the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

Saturday, October 19th, 10 AM – 12 PM
Longue Vue House and Gardens, 7 Bamboo Rd., New Orleans, LA 70124
Free
<https://www.facebook.com/events/501147213963349/>

Louisiana Farm to School Conference 2019

October 22nd-23rd
Pennington Biomedical Conference Center, 2328 Irene Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808
\$33, advance registration required.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/591089834713564/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

Introduction to Beekeeping

Thursday, October 24th, 7-9 PM
Rosalie Botanicals, 3201 Toulouse St., New Orleans, LA 70119
\$20-35 sliding scale, register in advance at 540-488-4425.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/395796871082847/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

Backyard Beekeeping 101 at Press Street Gardens

Saturday, October 26th, 10 AM – 11:30 AM
7 Homer Plessy Way, New Orleans, LA 70117
\$10
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2218950394900970/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

Demos and Tastings by The Herb Society of America- New Orleans Unit

Wednesday, October 30th, 11 AM – 1 PM
New Orleans Botanical Garden Outdoor Kitchen
5 Victory Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119
Free with pre-registration.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2303122456614732/>
Master Gardener Continuing Ed Credit!

Farmers Markets in the Greater New Orleans Area

Jefferson Parish

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 at Louisiana St.,

Westwego Daily Mon-Sat 8AM-8PM, Sun 8AM-6PM

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Ochsner West Campus

2614 Jefferson Highway, Ochsner Rehab Facility

Wednesdays, 3PM-7PM

Bucktown Farmer's Market

325 Hammond Hwy., Metairie

Weekly on Fridays, 3-7 PM

Orleans Parish

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Uptown

200 Broadway Street at the River, New Orleans

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, New Orleans

Thursdays, 3PM-7PM

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Bucktown

325 Metairie-Hammond, Highway at Bucktown Harbor

Fridays, 3PM-7PM

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Downtown

750 Carondelet St at Julia, New Orleans

Saturdays, 8am-12PM

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Rivertown

Williams Boulevard at the River

Saturdays, 9AM-1PM

Sankofa Market

5029 St. Claude St., New Orleans

Monday-Thursday, 9:30AM-4:00PM

ReFresh Farmer's Market

300 North Broad St., New Orleans

Mondays, 4:00PM-7:00PM

Vietnamese Farmer's Market

14401 Alcee Fortier Blvd., New Orleans East

Saturdays, 5:30AM-8:30AM

Marketplace at Armstrong Park

901 N. Rampart, New Orleans

Thursdays, 3PM-7PM

Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market

Comiskey Park, New Orleans

Market dates vary, check <http://midcityaf.org>

Treme Farmer's Market

814 N. Claiborne, New Orleans

Market dates vary, check <https://gloriastremegarden.com/treme-farmers-market/>

Laughing Buddha Farm Hubs

Bywater, Broadmoor, Lakeview, Irish Channel, Mid-
City, Algiers Point, Uptown Locations

<https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/events>

Second Saturday Community Market at the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center

11000 Lake Forest Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70127

Second Saturday of the month, 8:30-11:30 AM

Marketplace at Armstrong Park

901 Rampart St., New Orleans, LA 70116 (Between St.
Ann and St. Philip) 3-7 PM

St. Bernard Parish

St. Bernard Seafood and Farmer's Market

409 Aycock St., Aycock Barn, Old Arabi

2nd Saturdays, 10AM-2PM

In the Kitchen with Austin

Baked Cushaw

It's fall y'all...That means its pumpkin season! Although technically a squash, I grew up calling cushaw a pumpkin. It is wonderfully versatile; able to be prepared in either savory or sweet variations. This recipe is one of the sweet dishes. I know you'll love it.

Ingredients:

1 medium cushaw	1 cup sugar	1 Tbs. nutmeg
6 Tbs. butter	1 Tbs. cinnamon	

Directions:

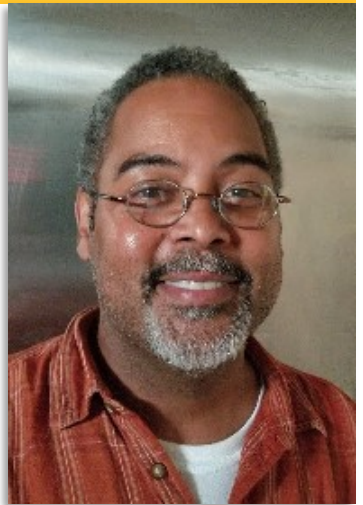
Remove ends of cushaw. Cut in half separating the neck from the belly. Peel, remove seeds, and cut into 1-inch chunks.



Place chunks in a large pot and cover with water. Cook over medium heat until fork tender-about 20 minutes. Drain well.

Mix sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg in a small bowl and set aside. Prepare casserole dish by coating evenly with 2 Tbs. butter. Place half the cushaw in the casserole dish. Dot with 2 Tbs. of the butter and sprinkle with half the sugar mixture. Layer the remaining cushaw, butter, and sugar mixture. Mix slightly and bake at 350 for about an hour or until nicely browned and topping is crusty.

Bon Manger!



Coming Events

Collect seeds from your warm annual flowers to plant next year. A few that have seeds relatively easy to harvest include cosmos, cleome, sunflower, abelmoschus, balsam, amaranthus, wheat celosia, marigold and zinnia. Do not save seed from hybrid cultivars.

November through February is the ideal season for planting hardy trees, shrubs, ground covers and perennials into the landscape.

October weather can be dry; water plantings as needed. Pay special attention to any newly planted areas. It is generally best to water direct seeded beds of flowers or vegetables lightly every day to make sure the seeds do not dry out.

If you intend to dig and store your caladium tubers and haven't already done so, it's time to do it now. Don't wait for the foliage die down and disappear since that will make it harder to find the tubers. Dig the tubers carefully leaving the foliage attached. Spread out in a well ventilated area to dry. When the foliage is dry and brown, remove it from the tubers and store them in paper or net bags indoors.

Fall is an excellent time to plant many herbs in the garden. A few herb plants provide a lot of harvest, so don't plant more than you can use. Herbs to plant now include parsley, sage, thyme, dill, cilantro, rosemary, oregano, borage, fennel, nasturtium, French tarragon, chives, mint and catnip.

October Checklist/Garden Tips

Flowers to plant in October and November include seeds or transplants of calendula, carnation, sweet alyssum, Chinese forget-me-not, clarkia, cornflower, dianthus, foxglove, hollyhock, larkspur, lobelia, nasturtium, nicotiana, pansy, petunia, phlox, poppy, snapdragon, stock, , sweet peas, bachelor's button, Virginia stock and wall flower.

Summer bulbs may still be growing, but colder weather is in the not too distant future and none of them should be fertilized now. Bulbs that are in active growth such as Louisiana iris, calla lily, Easter lily and spider lily (Lycoris) could be fertilized lightly now.

Azalea lace bugs will be active through November. These insects feed from the underside of the leaves causing small, white dots on the upper side of the leaves and dark brown spots on the back. Do not let a lot of damage occur before you treat. Once the damage occurs, the leaves will not turn green again even if you control the lace bugs. Spray under the leaves with Orthene (acephate), Malathion or horticultural oil every ten days or as needed.

Gardeners often place their tropical plants in containers outside for the summer and bring them indoors during winter. Move any plants you intend to winter indoors to very shady areas outside, such as under carports or trees, for the next three or four weeks. This will allow them to adjust to lower light intensities before you bring them inside where light is more limited. Make sure you place plants in front of bright windows when you bring them indoors. Also check them for insect pests and other hitchhikers before bringing them in.

Spray plants such as camellia, holly, gardenia, magnolia, privet and citrus with horticultural oil sprays to control scale and whitefly.

Dig, divide and transplant perennials such as daylilies, ajuga, daisy, rudbeckia, coreopsis, yarrow and others now through February. Keep plants well watered and mulched.

Water in newly planted bedding plants with a half strength fertilizer solution to get them off to a good start.

Don't forget that late October through early December is the time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Tulips and hyacinths are exceptions that are planted later. They must first be chilled in the vegetable bin of your refrigerator for six to eight weeks, and are planted in late December through mid January.

Plant sweet peas now through November. If you wait and plant them in the spring they will not have time to grow and bloom before hot weather sets in, so planting in fall is a must. Choose a sunny location at the base of something they can climb on such as a chain-link fence or lattice work. Sweet peas planted now will generally begin to bloom in March and last until early May.

Control aphids with insecticidal soap or horticultural oils.

Control caterpillars on cool season vegetables and bedding plants with applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (or BT for short). This bacterium is deadly to caterpillars but harmless to other organisms. So remember, not all caterpillars need to be destroyed. Citrus trees, for example, will recover from the feeding of orange dog caterpillars and the giant swallowtail butterflies that they become are a marvelous addition to your garden.

Now is the season of free mulch. Collect fallen leaves to use as mulch. Use a bagging mower to chop and collect them at the same time. Chopping the leaves makes for a more even look and they do not blow away in the wind.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do:

1. Make every effort to pull up or otherwise control warm season weeds going to seed now. If you let the flower set and drop seed your problems will only be worse next year. Do not put weeds with seeds on them in your compost pile.
2. Apply selective herbicides and sedge killers to kill off summer weeds and sedges.
3. Apply pre-emergent herbicides to prevent winter weed germination.
4. Continue to scout for insect damage and control with insecticides if necessary.
5. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass. Take a soil test.
6. Apply sulfur or lime to adjust the pH if necessary according to soil lab recommendations.
7. **Leave the leaves.** The leaves falling on the ground are an excellent source of organic matter for your soil. Use the mower to shred them and leave them in place to break down. You can also collect leaves to add to your compost pile. In the spring you can aerate the lawn and rake out the compost over the area and fill in the holes.

Do Not:

1. Do not apply fertilizer until mid-February or March of next year.
2. Do not lay sod.
3. Do not spread warm-season turfgrass seed.
4. Do not dethatch the lawn.
5. Do not aerate the lawn.
6. Do not overseed St. Augustine or centipede grass with winter ryegrass. In these lawns, ryegrass can compete with the turfgrass as spring comes on.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

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



Follow us on Facebook at [GNOGardening](https://www.facebook.com/GNOGardening)

For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

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