



GNO Gardening Magazine

January 2020



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Cover Photo: Ripe rabbiteye blueberries.

Super Plant Spotlight – Rabbiteye Blueberries

Edible landscaping has become a gardening trend as people become more interested in where their food comes from and producing fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs at home. South Louisiana is a great place to attempt this and the Rabbiteye blueberry is an excellent addition to either existing landscaping or as a standalone crop.

Rabbiteye blueberry (*Vaccinium virgatum* or *V. ashei*) is native to the southeastern United States.

“Rabbiteye” refers to the pink coloration of the berries before they fully ripen to a blue color, similar to the color of the eyes of an albino rabbit. It is a deciduous shrub that exhibits bright red and orange fall

foliage, adding some visual interest to landscape beds. Rabbiteye blueberries produce bell-shaped white flowers in the spring and are a pollinator favorite, and birds will enjoy any berries not protected or picked in time. The berries are high in antioxidants, vitamins, and nutrients and are delicious fresh.

Rabbiteye blueberries grow to a height of up to six feet tall and can be up to six feet wide. Plan on planting them where they will have plenty of room to reach their potential. Space plants 4-6 feet apart, they can be grown as a hedge to save space. Plant in the dormant months to allow the roots to become established before the springtime. December through the end of January is a great time to plant any blueberry variety. Rabbiteyes are hardy from Zones 8-10. The extreme southern part of Louisiana at times may not get enough chilling hours to set bumper crops, but in average years Rabbiteye blueberries can

be counted on to produce lots of delicious berries.

Growing Requirements:

- Acidic soils. Soil pH of 4.2 to 5.5 recommended. New Orleans soils are usually 7.0-7.8, try planting blueberries in large containers full of soil and pine bark. Adjust pH by following the recommendations of an annual soil test.



“Rabbiteye” refers to the pink coloration of the berries before they fully ripen to a blue color, similar to the color of the eyes of an albino rabbit.

- Full sun throughout the day will ensure a good harvest.

Afternoon sun, however, can be a detriment in the summer months.

- Well drained soils are a must. Rabbiteye blueberry, like most woody perennials, needs good drainage to thrive and is very shallow rooted. Raised

beds and containerized plantings can help overcome this. Mix soil with sand and aged pine bark, then mound soil to a height of 6-10 inches.

- Rabbiteye blueberries produce best through cross-pollination. Have at least two or three varieties planted together to ensure adequate pollination can take place. This also extends your harvest season as not all berries will ripen at the same time.

Recommended varieties include Premier, Climax, Brightwell, Tifblue, Delight, and Powderblue. Prince is a variety with very low chill hour requirements that does well in extreme southern Louisiana.

Care and Maintenance:

- Ensure proper, even moisture. During drought, irrigate at least weekly with a slow trickle of water that reaches the entire root zone.

- Mulching helps to prevent weeds from competing with the blueberries for water and nutrients.

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January Vegetable Planting Guide

| Crop | Some Recommended Varieties |
|------------------|---|
| Beets | Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen |
| Broccoli | Arcadia, Diplomat, Gypsy, Packman, Premium Crop, Windsor Greenbelt, Patron |
| Cauliflower | Candid Charm, Cumberland, Freedom, Incline, Majestic, Snow Crown, Wentworth |
| Cabbage | Blue Vantage, Platinum Dynasty, Stonehead, Cheers, Blue Dynasty, Emblem, Rio Verde |
| Chinese Cabbage | None Given |
| Carrots | Danvers 128, Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Enterprise, Maverick, Sugar Snax 54 |
| Snow peas | None Given |
| Collards | Champions, Flash, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates |
| Kale | None Given |
| Kohlrabi | Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner |
| Lettuce | Esmeralda, New Red Fire F1, Nevada, Tall Guzmaine Elite |
| Mustard Greens | Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Tendergreen |
| Onions | Red: Red Creole, Southern Belle; White: Candy, Savannah Sweet; Vidalia: Candy Ann, Caramelo, Century, Georgia Boy, Mata Hari |
| Spinach | Bloomsdale Long Standing, Melody, Tyee, Unipak 151 |
| Radishes | Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross |
| Shallots | Matador, Prism |
| Swiss Chard | None Given |
| Turnip Greens | Alamo, All Top, Purple, Top White Globe, Seven Top, Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo Cross |
| Tomatoes (seeds) | Bella Rosa, Fletcher, Tribute, BHN 1021, Amelia, Dixie Red |

Super Plant Spotlight – Rabbiteye Blueberries

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Mulch yearly with a layer of 3-4 inches of pine bark or pine needles. Be sure to mulch in a 3-5 foot radius from the base of the shrub.

- Fertilize by following your annual LSU AgCenter soil test results. Rabbiteye blueberries need a low pH and nitrogen can be applied in the form of Ammonium nitrate using several smaller applications spaced throughout the growing season. Young blueberries are very sensitive to over-fertilization, so only apply what is needed. Complete fertilizer formulations for other acid loving plants like azaleas can also be used.

- Pruning can help to keep the bushes a manageable size and harvesting easier. Trim immediately after the fruit has finished being harvested, this will allow ample time for new growth and bud set for next year's crop. Prune out any dead sections in late winter or early spring, and remove any branches that touch the ground.

- Harvest berries as they ripen. This will take place

over several weeks. All fruits will not ripen at the same time, so plan on picking a little each day.

- Well-maintained Rabbiteye bushes can produce around ten pounds of fruit per year. Some older shrubs may produce up to thirty pounds of berries if cared for properly.

- Phytophthora root rot is an issue in Rabbiteye blueberry, ensure that the roots are not saturated and dry out adequately. This is one reason why good drainage is key.

-Iron deficiency can occur in blueberries when the soil pH is too high. Yellow leaves will appear on the younger growth points of the shrub. Check the pH and adjust it if you observe this. A soil test will provide information on how much sulfur is needed to reach an ideal low pH range.

For information check out the [Home Blueberry Production in Louisiana](#) publication from the LSU AgCenter.

~Anna Timmerman



A homeowner in Metairie, LA has no problem growing blueberries in his yard. He amended the soil heavily with pine bark mulch and sulfur to get it right for growing. Photo by Chris Dunaway

Insecticidal Soaps

What is a soap? Chemically, soap is a salt of a fatty acid used in a variety of products. Soaps are key components of most lubricants and greases. That may seem paradoxical since soap is what we use to wash grease off. What we usually call “soap”, are what the industry terms “toilet soaps”. These soaps

are made by mixing oils or fats with a strong alkali (potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide). This results in saponification – fats are converted to fatty acid salts and glycerol is released. Okay. Enough with the chemistry.

Soaps have been used in various ways for insect control for over 200 years. Their popularity waned as the production and use of chemical insecticides gained popularity. Recently, the concerns about overuse, environmental impact and development of insect resistance with these chemical insecticides has led to an increase in the use of softer ways of controlling insect pests. This includes horticultural oils, Neem, diatomaceous earth (see next month’s GNO Gardening) and insecticidal soaps. Commercially available insecticidal soaps will usually list potassium salts of fatty

acids as the active ingredient. These are long-chain fatty acids (10-18 carbon atoms). Shorter chain fatty acids tend to be phytotoxic meaning that they can cause damage to plants. This is a good reason to purchase commercial insecticidal soap products rather than going the homemade route. Supermarket soaps don’t tell you how long the carbon chain is and it can be challenging and costly to find out. Besides, commercial insecticidal soaps aren’t very expensive. Commercial insecticidal soaps come as concentrates

or RTU (ready-to-use). RTU’s typically contain 1-2% active ingredients. Concentrates are usually diluted to similar rates for use. Insecticidal soaps are strictly contact insecticides. That means that you need to achieve virtually 100% coverage to get good control. Be sure to apply to both sides of all leaves, plus the

trunk, stems, buds and developing fruit. There is also no residual activity. If the insect isn’t present and covered when you spray, then you get no control. Lack of adequate coverage is usually the reason users are disappointed with the results of using insecticidal soaps. Insecticidal soaps are most effective if applied when conditions are favorable for slow drying (e.g. early morning). The longer they persist in a wet condition on the plant, the better control you’ll get (don’t use on hot sunny days). Water conditions of diluting a concentrated insecticidal soap can also influence effectiveness.

Insecticidal soaps work best if diluted with soft water; hard water (high mineral content) will lead to reduced effectiveness, may increase the chance of phytotoxicity and could result in

“soap scum” (a precipitate formed when the metals in the water react with the fatty acids). Because insecticidal soaps have zero residual activity, they must be reapplied frequently. This lack of residual activity during high insect pressure can also lead users to believe that the product is not working. They spray their plants one day and two days later they are still covered with aphids. Because there is no residual activity, as soon as the product dries, new pests can move in to replace the ones killed by the insecticidal

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Insecticidal soaps can be applied using a hand pump sprayer, compressed air sprayers or hose end applicators like the one pictured above.

Insecticidal Soaps

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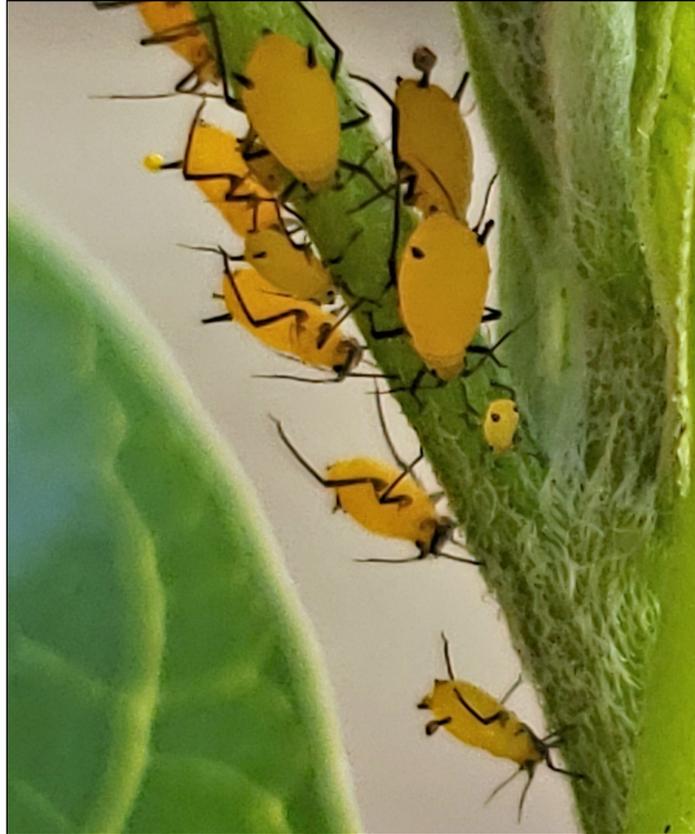
soap application and it looks as though the application had no effect. If you want to use insecticidal soaps, be prepared to reapply.

Insecticidal soaps are most effective against soft-bodied insects such as aphids, adelgids, lacebugs, leafhoppers, mealybugs, thrips, sawfly larvae, scale insects (particularly scale crawlers), plant bugs, psyllids, spider mites and whiteflies. Different products will have different lists of insects controlled on the label. Insecticidal soaps have little effect on insect eggs or hard-bodied insects. They have no mammalian toxicity but are toxic to fish and aquatic organisms and should not be used near bodies of water. There are several modes of action

associated with insecticidal soaps. The fatty acids disrupt the structure and permeability of the insects' cell membranes, the cell contents leak from the damaged cells, and the insect quickly dies. They can also block the insect breathing holes (spiracles) and suffocate the insect. They may also wash off the waxy coating on some insects which leads to dehydration.

Insecticidal soaps may cause phytotoxicity symptoms, such as yellow or brown spotting on the leaves, burned tips or leaf scorch on certain sensitive plants. Plant sensitivity can be influenced by pest pressure, cultivar, plant vigor, environmental conditions, spray concentration, pH of spray mixture as well as the timing, number and frequency of applications. Plants under stress such as those in hot (greater than 90 °F), humid or drought conditions, young transplants,

unrooted cuttings and plants with soft young growth are more likely to develop phytotoxic symptoms and should not be treated with soap. Do not apply to very sensitive plants such as horse chestnut, Japanese



Aphids like these feeding on a plant can be easily controlled with insecticidal soaps. Photo by Katrina Dunaway

maple, mountain ash, bleeding heart or sweet peas. Begonia, chrysanthemum, Crown of Thorns, cucumber, delicate ferns, narrow leaf evergreens (especially when stressed or when tender new growth is present), dieffenbachia, fuchsia, gardenia, impatiens, jade plant, lantana, ornamental ivy, palms, poinsettia, redbud, river birch, schefflera, Zebra plant and some succulents may be sensitive. The open blooms or flowers of many plants may also be injured. Glaucous bloom on spruces and waxy bloom on grapes may be altered.

When uncertain, spot treat a portion of the cultivar, and wait at least 24 hours to see if any phytotoxic symptoms develop before treating an entire group of plants. Rinse plants with a clean water spray if they show signs of wilting or leaf edge browning within a few hours of treatment.

Insecticidal soaps can be a very effective alternative to chemical insecticides if used properly and insect resistance will not occur. But remember: 1) they are contact insecticides and full coverage is requisite for good control: 2) there is no residual activity and reapplication will most likely be needed and 3) some plants are sensitive. There are a number of products available from Safer Brand, Espoma, Natria, Monterey and Bonide to name a few.

~Dr. Joe Willis

What's Bugging You? Citrus Leafminer

Spoiler Alert! It's a moth.

That's right. The silvery trails and the curled

citrus leaves are both caused by the same insect; the citrus leafminer *Phyllocnistis citrella*. The adults of the citrus leafminer are miniscule moths. With a wingspan of

only 4mm and a much smaller profile when resting, the adult leafminers are actually difficult to detect when they are active. In fact most of us will never see an actual leaf miner in any stage of development. When active, the adults will mate and the females will deposit their eggs on the surface of the underside near the midvein of a young citrus leaf. Immediately after hatching, the young caterpillar will bore through the epidermal layer of the leaf and begin feeding on the interior plant material of the leaf. As they move forward they eat all of the plant material in their path leaving behind only the waxy cuticle layer. This cuticle layer actually protects the tiny larvae

from predators as well as pesticide applications. The pathway will twist and turn as the larvae moves and feeds and grows to maturity. It takes between 2-3

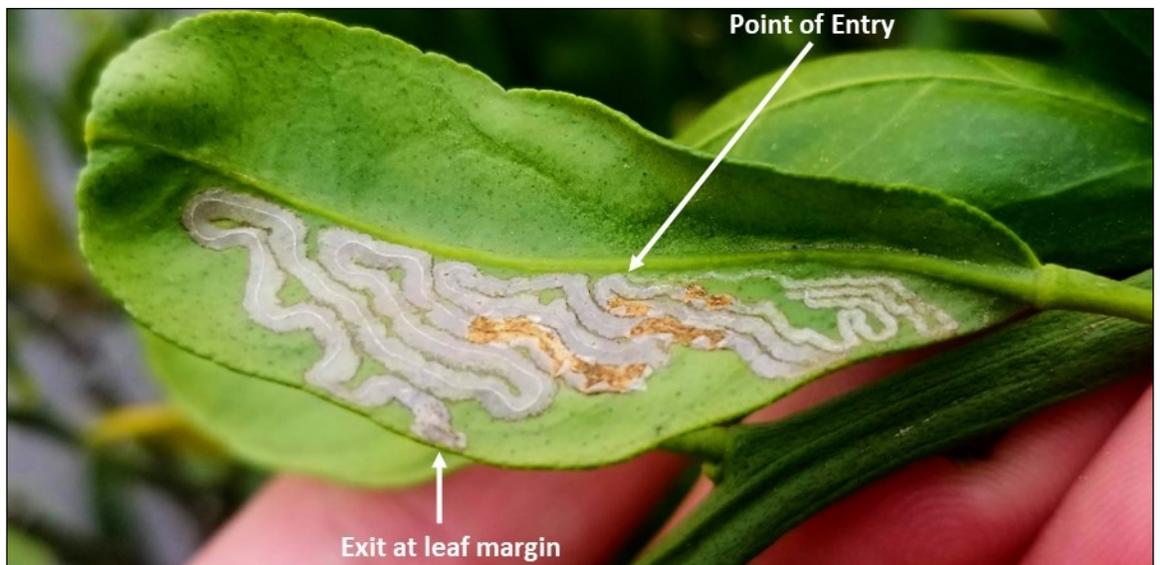
weeks to develop during which time the immature larvae will molt 4 times. When they are ready for the final transformation into adulthood the caterpillar will emerge at the leaf margin where it will use silk that it produces to fold over the edge of the leaf to create a shelter to protect itself where it pupates to undergo metamorphosis into an adult moth.

Typically the damage caused by citrus leafminers is not harmful to the tree and treatment is not necessary. However, young trees and years with abnormally heavy

infestations can have a negative impact and treatment may be warranted. Citrus trees typically have three distinct flushes of growth each year, all of which can play host to the larvae. The first flush in early spring is usually not heavily infested due to low adult populations following winter. It typically takes spring



Adult citrus leafminer, *Phyllocnistis citrella*. Photo by Lyle J. Buss, University of Florida.



Silvery serpentine trails on citrus leaves are a sure sign of leafminer infestation. Notice how the trail gets progressively wider as the young caterpillar grows. Photo by Chris Dunaway

and early summer for populations to increase to the point where gardeners see the damage. For very small trees you may examine the

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What's Bugging You? Citrus Leafminer

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fledgling leaves for the tale-tail trails and simply pinch the leaf at the distal end of the trail to squish the developing caterpillar inside. Homeowners may also obtain excellent control of citrus leafminers by using products containing spinosad formulated for use on citrus. These products may be found at local garden centers under different commercial names such as Conserve, Naturalyte Insect Control, Green Light Spinosad, Success, Fertilome Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer & Tent Caterpillar Spray, etc. Maximum protection for citrus leafminer on both commercial and home garden trees is obtained if sprays are applied when the new foliage is only half emerged and the first affected leaves are just beginning to curl.

~Chris Dunaway

Before you buy or use an insecticide product, first read the label and strictly follow label instructions.



An immature citrus leafminer feeding in a citrus leaf. Photo by Jake Price, UGA Extension

January Checklist/Garden Tips

Roses are generally pruned twice a year. In late January to early February and again in late August to early September. The classic pruning technique for hybrid teas and grandifloras is designed to encourage the production of, high quality flowers with long stems for cutting. This involves rather hard pruning, back to 18 to 24 inches, in the late winter. For most other types of roses recommendations are more relaxed and involve less severe pruning. Here's how to do it. Cut the bush back to the desired height. Make your pruning cuts just above a bud or new shoot, preferably facing away from the middle of the bush. Remove all dead wood, diseased canes and weak, twiggy growth. Floribundas, shrub roses, miniatures and old garden roses generally require only moderate pruning to shape them. Some rose cultivars (ramblers, some climbers and some old garden roses) bloom prolifically in the spring and early summer and then stop. These once blooming roses should not be pruned now. These roses bloom on growth they made the summer before and should be pruned, as needed, in midsummer soon after they finish their bloom season.

Seeds of tomatoes, peppers and eggplants should be started now through early February in trays in sunny windows, hotbeds, under lights or in a greenhouse for transplanting into the garden in spring. Many gardeners do not have the facilities to properly grow transplants from seed. Providing enough light is the most common limiting factor.

Hardy bedding plants can still be planted now for color through the spring. Choose pansy, sweet alyssum, viola, snapdragon, stock, dianthus, petunia, candytuft, lobelia, annual phlox and others available at local nurseries.

Proper Balled-and-Burlapped (B&B) Tree and Shrub Care

What is B&B?

Balled-and-burlapped plant material is dug out of the ground with the soil immediately surrounding the roots remaining undisturbed. The root ball with the original soil intact is then wrapped in burlap. This process allows the transport of healthy trees and shrubs to the consumer or landscape with intact roots and soil. There is a common misconception within the landscape industry that balled-and-burlapped plants tend to have productivity issues after transplanting into the landscape.

When proper care is taken, balled-and-burlapped trees are extremely hardy in the landscape and can experience reduced transplant shock.

Nursery handling

As with any growing style, starting with quality plant material is crucial. B&B plants are dug from the ground, and the roots are wrapped in burlap and tightly packed. A wire cage is used to hold the roots in place. After being dug, plants can be “cured” or “hardened off” for 10 to 14 days prior to delivery. This curing period is especially important for evergreens because these are the most likely to suffer digging stress. As with most woody landscape plants, fall and winter are great times to dig and transplant balled-and-burlapped trees because of dormancy. Balled-and-burlapped trees can be stored in shady areas safely

for weeks to months if properly watered and cared for prior to sale and planting. Once sold, it is important to secure the branches of the trees to prevent damage during transportation.

Landscape Handling and Planting

Never handle balled-and-burlapped material by the top or trunk. This will loosen the root ball from the trunk and reduce the contact between the roots and the soil, which is vital to the survival of the tree. balled-and-burlapped material should be moved using transportation



Rootballs are wrapped in burlap and caged with a wire to hold in place.

straps or by carefully rolling the plants. Once at the job site, ensure that plant material remains in an upright position and in the shade prior to planting. If shade is not an option, cover the plant material with fabric to prevent leaf scorch. Keep the root ball watered sufficiently prior to instillation. The planting hole should be dug two to three times as wide as the root ball and slightly less deep than the root ball. It is important that the root collar, or the area where the roots attach the trunk, remains at or slightly above ground level. If possible, dig a saucer-shaped hole. Slight tilling of the soil inside the hole will help promote rapid root growth. A hole that is not wide enough may cause the roots to “girdle,” or wrap around and constrict the trunk.

Place the tree in the center of

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Proper Balled-and-Burlapped (B&B) Tree and Shrub Care

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the hole and position upright. It is not necessary to remove the wire basket. The wire basket may be cut at the top, but removal can damage the root ball. Nails used to pin the burlap may be removed to pull the top of the burlap and expose the root ball if desired. If you must remove the wire basket, cut the basket in multiple locations. Do not, under any circumstance, attempt to pull the wire basket off without cutting, as this will damage the root ball. If traditional burlap is used, this material should be left in place on the root ball, of your new tree or shrub. Synthetic or vinyl burlap will need to be removed from the root ball because this will not decompose. The only time that the wrapping needs to be removed is if synthetic or vinyl burlap is used, as these will not decompose. Be sure to check with your grower to determine which type of burlap is used. Backfill soil into the pit and pack firmly around the root ball until the soil level is just below the root collar. Thoroughly soak the tree pit directly after planting,

approximately 5 gallons for every inch of trunk diameter is suggested. It is recommended to provide a layer of mulch at least 2-4-inches deep for the radius

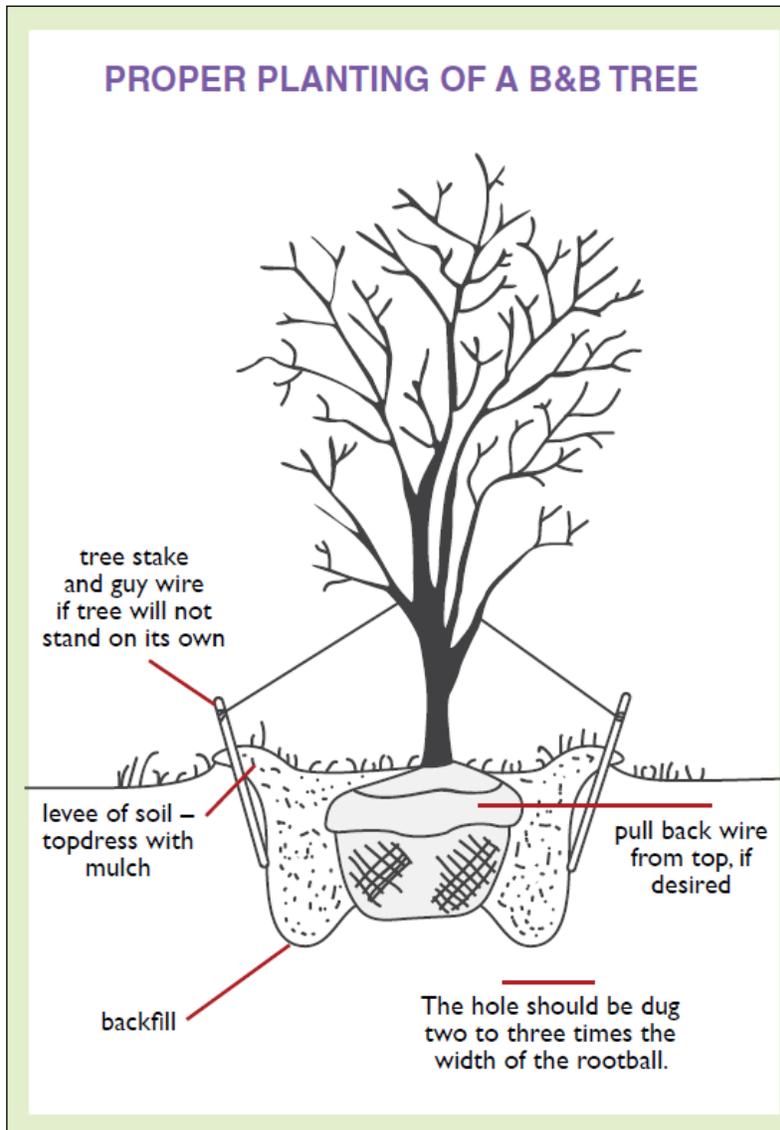
of the dug hole to help conserve soil moisture and control weeds. Mulch should not be piled directly on the trunk of the tree to prevent rotting.

Post-Planting Care

The vast majority of landscape plants that do not survive the first year die due to improper watering. It is optimal to use drip irrigation for the planting of trees. Plants should be irrigated two to three times a week on average with enough water to sufficiently wet the area. Often, hand watering through a hose will not wet the soil to the depth of the root ball. Landscape trees tend to need more water than expected for the first few months. If planted in the summer or hot season, even more water is required. It should also be noted that

during periods of heavy precipitation, irrigation can be reduced or stopped entirely until the rain slows.

~Dr. Jeb Fields



Proper Planting of a B&B Tree:

- Tree stake and guy wire if tree will not stand on its own
- Level of soil – topdress with mulch
- Backfill
- Pull back wire from top, if desired
- The hole should be dug two to three times the width of the rootball.

In the Kitchen with Austin

Blackeyed Pea Fritters

For my vegan friends out there, this recipe is a great addition to your repertoire. It is easy to prepare and pairs well with a variety of dipping sauces.

Ingredients:

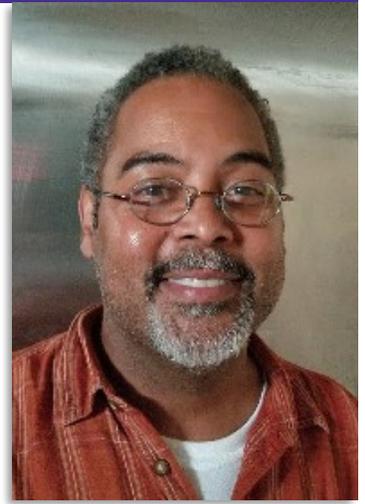
1 pound dried black-eyed peas
4 cups water or enough to cover the beans to soak overnight
1 medium onion, chopped

1 hot pepper, seeded and chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
salt and black pepper to taste
oil for pan frying

Directions:



Soak the blackeyed peas overnight in enough water to cover them. The next day, drain them and remove their outer skins by rubbing them together with the palms of your hands. Take the skinless peas and put them in a food processor or good blender. Puree peas to a fine paste—not too runny, not too thick. (Add water slowly while the processor is running to reach the desired consistency.) Add the onion, hot pepper, and garlic; pulse until they have become part of the paste. Season to taste with salt and a pinch of black pepper. Meanwhile in a pan, heat oil over medium-low heat until it is hot. Spoon the fritters into the oil, flipping them over once or twice, until golden brown on both sides. (It usually takes 5-7 minutes on medium heat.) Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Serve at room temperature and wait for the compliments.



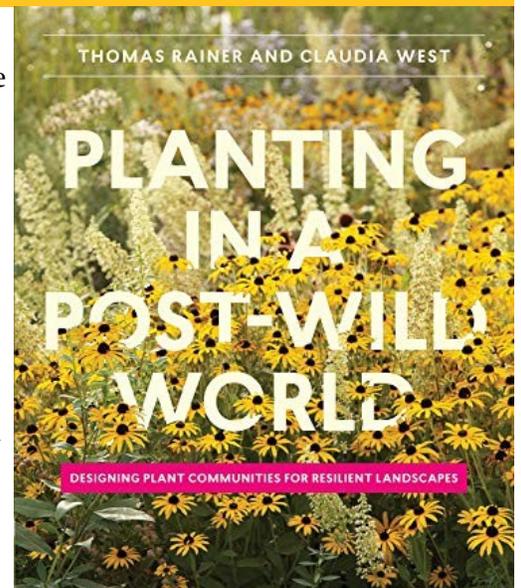
Bon Manger!

Coming Events

Post-Wild Authors Visit New Orleans

Meet Thomas Rainer and Claudia West, ecological landscape designers who are changing the landscape, or rather, restoring the landscape. Their landscape designs are built to sustain wildlife and ecosystems in addition to providing beauty and aesthetic appeal to urban settings. Urban landscapes have become food deserts for local fauna. These authors propose implementing dynamic planting communities that require less mechanical maintenance and can restore ecological functions and principles of natural selection to our green spaces. Gardens must move beyond mere aesthetics. Landscapes have growing practical responsibilities, such as cleaning and mitigating storm water, and providing much-needed food sources for birds and pollinators.

Rainer and West are being hosted by the Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans and the New Orleans Botanical Gardens for a Symposium on January 25th, 2020 at the Pavilion of the Two Sisters in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens. Tickets (\$25) for Thomas Rainer's lecture are still available, and can be purchased via www.npi-gno.org/events. Registration begins at 9:00 am; Lecture at 9:30 am; Q&A at 10:30 am. Both authors will be available for book signings after Q&A.



Coming Events

SOUL Tree Planting Riverbend/Leonidas

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Location to be announced

Cost=Free

www.soulnola.org

*Master Gardener Volunteer Hours

Longue Vue House and Gardens Volunteer Day: Ecological Landscaping Principles with Garden Manager Kasey Mitchell

Saturday, January 11, 2020 10:00 AM- NOON

7 Bamboo Rd., New Orleans LA

Cost=Free RSVP at kmitchell@longuevue.com

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2548949128668889/>

*Master Gardener Volunteer Hours and Education Hours!

Gulf States Horticultural Expo

January 15-17, 2020

1 S. Water St., Mobile, AL 36602

Cost=\$15 pre-registered, \$20 at the door

<https://www.gshe.org/index.cfm>

*Master Gardener Education Hours!

What to Know Before Purchasing a Camellia

Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 10:30-11:30 AM

New Orleans Botanical Garden, 5 Victory Avenue, New Orleans

Cost=\$10
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-to-know-before-purchasing-a-camellia-tickets-85182807069?fbclid=IwAR2qHYvIInCa6caiPh49LumChD35XOgYWnRNHpsKfodeKFCILZyv4hB3hm0>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-to-know-before-purchasing-a-camellia-tickets-85182807069?fbclid=IwAR2qHYvIInCa6caiPh49LumChD35XOgYWnRNHpsKfodeKFCILZyv4hB3hm0>

*Master Gardener Education Hours!

Arbor Day at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

4560 Essen Ln., Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Cost=Free

SOUL Tree Planting Broadmoor

Monday, January 20, 2020, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Location to be announced

Cost=Free

<https://soulnola.org/>

*Master Gardener Volunteer Hours!

Impacts of Protozoan Parasite on Gulf Coast Monarch Populations: New Research from Christen Steele of Tulane University

Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 6:30 PM

6690 Fleur de Lis Dr., New Orleans

Cost=Free

<https://www.facebook.com/events/573681463375972/>

*Master Gardener Education Hours!

Creating Edible Ecosystems with All You Need and Maypop Community Herb Shop

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 6:30- 8 PM

2701 St. Claude Ave., New Orleans

Cost=\$30

<https://www.facebook.com/events/785762458559426/>

*Master Gardener Education Hours!

Winter Open House at Mizell's Camellia Hill Nursery

January 24-26, 2020, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

12497 Josephs Rd., Folsom, LA 70437

Cost=Free

https://www.facebook.com/events/560804834492754/?event_time_id=560804844492753

Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 9-11:30 AM

New Orleans Botanical Gardens, 5 Victory Avenue

New Orleans

Cost=\$25

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/designing-plant-communities-for-resilient-landscapes-tickets-72098112395?fbclid=IwAR2qHYvIInCa6caiPh49LumChD35XOgYWnRNHpsKfodeKFCILZyv4hB3hm0>

SOUL Tree Planting Algiers

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Location to be announced

Cost=Free

<https://soulnola.org/>

*Master Gardener Volunteer Hours!

Camellia Club of New Orleans Annual Show

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 8:00 AM-3 PM

Delgado Community College Student Life Building

915 Navarre Ave New Orleans

Cost=Free

Contact Nick Piazza at npiazzajr@gmail.com for information.

Home Citrus Production Tips & Tricks

Saturday, February 1, 2020, 10:30 AM - NOON

New Orleans Botanical Garden, 5 Victory Avenue, New Orleans

Cost=TBA

<https://neworleanscitypark.com/botanical-garden/botanical-garden-adult-lectures-and-workshops>

*Master Gardener Education Hours!



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

January Checklist/Garden Tips

Planting cool season vegetables and bedding plants continues. Although exceptionally cold weather can cause problems, winter weather is mostly mild. Watch the weather and avoid setting out transplants when a hard freeze below the upper 20s is predicted.

During cold of winter weather the water coming out of the tap can be decidedly chilly. When filling up your watering can to water your indoor plants, don't just turn on the cold water tap. Turn on both cold and hot water and adjust the temperature of the water coming out of the faucet until it feels tepid or barely warm. This is healthier for tropical houseplants and will prevent the spotting of African violet foliage.

Resolve to pick more flowers from your garden for indoor arrangements this year. Most gardeners are too reluctant to harvest the flowers growing in their gardens, when flowers can enrich our home interiors in wonderful ways. Think how nice it would be to have a little vase of pansies, snapdragons or stock on the table beside you right now.

You must plant any spring flowering bulbs you have been refrigerating by early January, or you will be too late. You cannot keep the bulbs, such as tulips and hyacinths, and plant them next year

Now is a good time to make hardwood cuttings of such plants as pears, figs, roses and hydrangeas. Cuttings should be taken from the ends of branches and be 6 to 8 inches long.

Bare root rose bushes are arriving at local nurseries and garden centers. If you choose to plant bare root roses, January is the month to do it, or by the end of February at the latest. Containerized roses may also be planted as soon as they become available at the nurseries, but can be planted as late as April.

Add leaves falling from deciduous trees to your compost pile as they become available. Speed decomposition by chopping the leaves and sprinkling some nitrogen fertilizer over the leaves as you build the pile. Keep the piles evenly moist but not soggy. Turning the pile occasionally will also speed decomposition.

Whenever practical, continue to deadhead cool season annuals such as pansies, snapdragons and dianthus to keep them blooming through the spring.

Pansies and other cool season bedding plants may bloom less during the mid-winter period but should pick-up again in the late winter and early spring. If the foliage color is a good deep green and the plants seem to be growing well, you shouldn't need to fertilize now. Pansies are, however, heavy feeders. If the foliage is even slightly pale and if the growth is less vigorous, fertilize every two to three weeks with a 20-20-20 soluble fertilizer according to label directions until the color and vigor improves.

Root crops, such as radish, carrot, turnip and beet, should be direct seeded right where they will grow this month. Young plants may need some protection from temperatures below the mid-twenties.

After your Holiday cactus plant stops blooming, don't forget to move it into a sunny window for the rest of the winter. Keep it evenly moist but not constantly wet as this promotes root rot. In April, you may move it to a spot outside that receives morning sun for the summer.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

January is typically the least active month for lawn care. Now is a great chance to make plans and prepare for the coming growing season.

Do's:

1. You may apply selective herbicides to eliminate broad leaf weeds in the lawn.
2. Cool damp weather is ideal for the appearance of Large Patch Disease in your lawn.
[Click here to find information about large patch disease from the LSU AgCenter.](#)
3. Keep an eye out for insect pests and treat as necessary.
4. Mulch fall leaves and let them decompose in place if possible or collect them with a bagging mower and add them to your compost pile or use them as mulch in your gardens.
5. Take a soil test. Test kits are available in our offices in the Botanical Gardens, the Yenni Building, and New Orleans City Hall as well as local garden centers. Follow this link to see Dr. Joe demonstrate how to take a soil sample: <https://www.facebook.com/1030624690304124/videos/1452161988150390/>
6. Sharpen lawn mower blades and perform general maintenance on your lawn mower.
7. Make a schedule for pesticide and fertilizer applications.
8. Be prepared to apply pre-emergent herbicides next month if you have had problems with crabgrass or goosegrass in the past.

Don't's

1. Do not spread fill over the lawn until it is actively growing again in the spring.
2. Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn again until April.
3. Do not apply phosphorous winterizer to the lawn without taking a soil sample first. We have ample amounts of phosphorous in our soil already.
4. Do not attempt to install a new lawn until spring.
5. Do not aerate the lawn.
6. Do not dethatch the lawn.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

[E-mail us at: GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu)



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