



GN Gardening Magazine

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**In This Issue:**  
**Mallow Madness!!!**  
By: Tammany Baumgarten  
**AgCenter Gardening Course Reaches More Than 35, 000**  
By: Rick Bogren  
**Seeding for Fall Gardens, Tips and Tricks**  
By: Anna Timmerman  
**Growing Broccoli**  
By: Dr. Joe Willis  
**What's Bugging You? Cabbage Palm Caterpillar**  
By: Dr. Joe Willis  
**August Planting Guide**  
**In the Kitchen with Austin**  
**August Garden Checklist**  
**Lawn Care Do's & Don't's**

Cover photo:  
Luna hibiscus with Cora vinca  
Photo by Allen Owings

# Mallow Madness!!!

We enjoy our Spring gardening season so much here in the deep Gulf South, but once we get to July and August and into the real dog days of summer, with near constant tropical deluges and sauna-like heat, our gardens can just look tired and not at their best. Many of the garden plants we use for seasonal color and pizzazz don't manage our summertime combination of heavy rainfall and oppressive temperatures very well, but as usual - *there's a native plant for that!*

Some of the most dramatic and colorful native plants for our area, with flowers sometimes as much as 8-10" across, are our native hibiscus species. These plants, in the *Malvaceae* family, also answer to common names like

Rose Mallow, Swamp Rose Mallow, Crimson-eyed Mallow and yes, Marsh Mallow. The genus *Hibiscus* includes four species (*aculeatus*, *grandiflorus*, *lasiocarpus*, and *moscheutos*) that are native to Louisiana plus *H. coccineus* that is native to the United States but perhaps not Louisiana. Also garden worthy is *Kosteletskyia virginica*, our native Saltmarsh Mallow. Found naturally in moist to wet areas up the eastern seaboard from Louisiana to New Jersey, all of these easy-to-grow plants shine in the summer heat and thrive here in our gardens.

Native mallows are herbaceous, long-lived perennial plants. Flower colors often vary in nature from white to shades of pink and even bright red in the case of *Hibiscus coccineus*, better known Scarlet Rosemallow

or Texas Star Hibiscus. *Hibiscus aculeatus*, the Pineland Hibiscus or Comfortroot, can be a soft white to butter-yellow, reminiscent of an okra flower. *Hibiscus moscheutos* and *H. lasiocarpus* are usually "crimson eyed" having a distinctive red throat on white flowers. Halbeardleaf Hibiscus, *H. laevis*, is distinguished by its' leaf-shape and can be found in



Photo by Allen Owings

A flower from the Luna Swirl hibiscus. An LSU AgCenter Super Plant.

many color variations. All have an impressive pollen-coated stamen that protrudes from the flower, making them particularly attractive to people and bees alike. Lots of breeding has been done with our native hibiscus species. Hybrids and cultivars abound in the nursery trade, including the LSU Super Plants, the *Luna* series.

In the wild, mallows occur in ditches, in or near swamps, lakes or

rivers showing off their love for moist to wet, rich soil. While they are well suited to wet and moist areas, pond edges, and rain gardens which makes them the perfect stormwater management plant, they are equally as happy in the average sunny garden bed with adequate moisture. This time of year, it is often easy to spot these plants along our roadsides in ditches or in swampy areas. I often see pink mallows on the Lake side of the Bonne Carre' spillway and have recently been seeing pale yellow Comfortroot on the sides of Highway 25 near Folsom blooming in wet swales.

Native mallows differ from non-native tropical hibiscus in that they go completely dormant in winter, leaving only upright tan-colored, hollow

# Mallow Madness!!!

stalks standing. I find these stalks dramatic and interesting in the winter garden and rather than clip them down, I leave them standing. This not only marks where the plant is in the garden, but also provides perfect nesting spaces for native bees that rely on hollow plant stalks for rearing their young. I have also seen birds shred the dried, woody stems to make nesting material.

Most native mallow species can get quite tall, as much as 6-8' or more, but the plants can be encouraged to branch by pinching the growing tip at an early stage before they set flower buds. As a plant matures, more and more flowering stalks will emerge each year from the crown, making for a bushier, fuller appearance. When flowering is finished, the large dry seed pods are easy to harvest, each containing many seeds to collect



A field of Saltmarsh Mallow (*Kosteletskyia virginica*).

and share. They are super easy to grow and sprout

quickly in regular potting mix, with no special preparation, under just a bit of soil. For some summer sizzle in your sunny garden, try these excellent, easy natives.

~ Tammany Baumgarten

*Tammany Baumgarten is a New Orleans Master Gardener and the current President of the Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans. The Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans will be hosting Mallow Madness, a native hibiscus give-away, on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8-10am, at First Grace Methodist Church, 3401 Canal Street in New Orleans. See the website, [npi-gno.org](http://npi-gno.org) for updates and more info.*



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Plants in the Mallow family prefer moist to wet soil making them perfect additions to raingardens and other stormwater management features like this Scarlet Rosemallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*) growing in a roadside bioswale in Alexandria, Louisiana.

# August Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Bell Peppers	Aristotle XR3, Blushing Beauty, King Arthur
Broccoli	Green Magic, Everest, Castle Dome, Packman
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved
Cabbage	Bravo, Rio Verde, Caraflex, Blue Vantage
Cauliflower	Snow Crown, Cumberland, Incline, Freedom
Chinese Cabbage	None Given
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates
Cucumbers	<b>Slicers</b> = Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare HG, Indy <b>Pickler</b> = Calypso
Irish Potatoes	<b>Red</b> = Dark Red Noland, Red Lasoda <b>White</b> = Kennebec, Yukon Gold, Autumn Gold
Kale	Siberian, Vates
Lima Beans	Dixie Buttercup, Fordhook 242, Jackson Wonder
Luffa Gourd	None Given
Mustard	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Savannah
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Rutabagas	American Purple Top, Laurentian
Shallots	Matador, Prisma
Snap Beans	Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Contender, Derby, Lynx
Squash	<b>Zucchini</b> = Declaration II, Justice III, Payroll <b>Straight Neck</b> = Multipik, Patriot II, Liberator III <b>Crook Neck</b> = Destiny III, Gentry, Medallion
Tomatoes	Bella Rosa, Sun Chaser, Florida 91, Phoenix, Solar Fire, BHN-216, Solar Set
Turnips	Royal Crown, Purple Top White Globe,

# AgCenter gardening course reaches more than 35,000

It started as a way to address the number of telephone calls and emails that had increased to hundreds a day as people stayed home as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and had myriad questions as they started gardens — some for the first time.

“We weren’t able to conduct a regular Master Gardener class,” said Chris Dunaway, horticulture agent in St. Charles Parish. And with a waiting list in the hundreds, Dunaway, along with Anna Timmerman, horticulture agent in Jefferson

Parish, and Joe Willis, horticulture agent in Orleans Parish, decided to offer an online course.

“We thought ‘we can do this. We can make a class,’” Dunaway said.

Timmerman started with a statewide survey and discovered widespread interest.

The agents decided to offer a 10-week series of online classes at no charge to participants. And in early June, they started with a signup process on Eventbrite.

But the LSU AgCenter horticulture agents in Greater New Orleans soon found their idea for an online home gardening certificate course ballooned to tens of thousands of participants from around the country and even across the globe.

Registration was opened on a Friday afternoon with the expectation of 250 participants, which filled so quickly the organizers increased the number to 500.

Then more.

By the time the first session was offered less than 10 day later, more than 25,000 people had registered. Now, the number is more than 35,000.

The registration information was shared with



LSU AgCenter extension agents Anna Timmerman, Dr. Joe Willis and Chris Dunaway.

Mississippi cooperative extension, then word spread to Alabama and eventually farther afield, Timmerman said. Participants are from all over the country, including New Jersey, Michigan, Arkansas and Pennsylvania.

“We even have foreign students,”

Willis said. “Some are in Australia, where the climate is similar to Louisiana.”

The 10-week course includes two sessions per week. The programs include lectures with slide presentations, in-field demonstration videos, lab sessions people can do at home plus voluminous reference material for students who want to dig deeper. This is all posted to a separate webpage set up for the course on the LSU AgCenter website. “The assistance from AgCenter technical experts on campus like Liz Black, Anna Ribbeck and Randy LaBauve have been invaluable. We couldn’t have done this without the AgCenter being in full support”, Willis said.

One lab on soils asked participants to dig cores of soil 6 inches deep, the soil in a glass, add water and shake it up. “When the soil settles, you can see layers of

# AgCenter gardening course reaches more than 35,000

sand, silt and clay,” Willis said.

The participants used the information from their soils lab to determine the type of soil in their gardens. Students post their lab results and participate in class discussions on a Facebook page setup specifically for the course.

Another lab asked participants to dissect a flower. “We started with the basics — soils and botany — and went on from there,” Willis said.

The labs are things people can do at home, Timmerman said. And the agents worked with Willis’s wife, Paula Barton-Willis, a science teacher, to improve their teaching skills and develop teaching materials appropriate for older children who are taking the course. Barton-Willis also presented some of the lectures and lab sessions.

“We have all levels of people participating with various interests, abilities and experiences,” Barton-Willis said.

The New Orleans area horticulturists recruited other AgCenter specialists to contribute video

presentations, including agent Mary Helen Ferguson, horticulturists Ed Bush, Heather Kirk-Ballard and Kiki Fontenot, turf specialist Ron Strahan, Michael Breithaupt from the soil and plant analysis lab, and AgCenter plant doctor Raj Singh.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Dr. Joe demonstrates how to take a soil sample in the class on soils.

Master Gardener volunteers also play important roles, including editing closed captioning for the videos and moderating the Home Gardening Certificate Facebook page.

All volunteers are Master Gardeners, who are required to provide 20 hours of volunteer work and 6 hours of continuing education to maintain their credentials, Dunaway said. With COVID-19, participation and volunteering in the program meet those requirements.

“This provides an opportunity for Master Gardeners to meet their volunteer commitment and serve as a refresher,” Timmerman said.

The certificate program started with a pretest to gauge participants’ general knowledge of gardening, and the participants will be asked to take a posttest to see how much knowledge they gained.

“We initially thought we would evaluate



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Anna Timmerman demonstrates how to plant seeds and up-pot transplants.

# AgCenter gardening course reaches more than 35,000

everyone for the certificate,” Dunaway said. “But with the number of people who are participating, we’re using the honor system.”

The entire course will be available online. [Click here or go to https://bit.ly/GNOhomegardening](https://bit.ly/GNOhomegardening).

Dunaway, Timmerman and Willis have improved on many of their skills as they have produced the materials.

“I learned from Paula how to make learning more fun by creating better slide shows —more pictures and fewer words,” Willis said.

Dunaway said he has improved his skills at recording and editing video.

Timmerman learned in real-time to coordinate the tech aspects and student communications element of the course,

which can amount to hundreds of emails a day.

“This has been a challenge,” Timmerman said. “We had no idea of what we were getting into.”

The team agrees, however, they will never forget their experience during the summer of COVID-19.

~ Rick Bogren



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Chris, Anna and Dr. Joe use a tag-team approach to the lecture on vegetables.

## In the Kitchen with Austin

### Watermelon Yogurt Popsicle

Everybody loves watermelon during the summer, so why not take advantage of its flavor in a different way? These popsicles are refreshing after a long day of gardening, and they are virtually guilt-free.

#### Ingredients:

3 cups cubed watermelon  
½ cup plain Greek yogurt

¼ cup granulated sugar  
1 Tbs. lemon juice



#### Directions:

In a blender, blend together the watermelon, yogurt, sugar, and lemon juice until smooth.

Transfer the mixture into your popsicle molds or small paper cups and insert sticks. Freeze until firm, about 4 hours (24 hours is preferred to allow the flavors to develop).



*Bon Manger!*

# Seeding for Fall Gardens Tips and Tricks

It is pretty darn hot out now and if you are like me, this is no time to be intensively gardening. I am in a holding pattern of harvesting my okra and cowpeas, weeding, and pruning before the sun

plants you need to succeed for the fall vegetable and herb growing season. My strategy for maximizing space in my urban garden is to keep on harvesting my summer crops (okra, eggplant, watermelon, peppers,

cowpeas, basil) as long as possible, while giving my fall crops a jump start in containers, in a protected area, until I'm ready to pull out those warm season crops. My fall garden is the "lady in waiting" while my summer rock stars keep cranking out tons of veggies and herbs for my kitchen.

For fertilizer rates, spacing recommendations, and planting depths, please refer to the newly updated Louisiana Vegetable Planting Guide (<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/bneely/articles/page1481835882715>).

## What to Plant in August for Southern Louisiana Gardens



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Planting seeds for transplanting is a good way to get a jump start on the growing season. In the photo above, Anna Timmerman demonstrates how to plant cauliflower seeds. [To see the video, click here or go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E\\_LT2FPhmU&t=2s.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E_LT2FPhmU&t=2s)

gets too brutal. July and August are "down time" for south Louisiana gardens, comparable to December and January in northern areas of the country. Up there, they plan for spring. Down here, we plan for fall, our best growing season.

August is the time to knuckle down and get your seeds and transplants going for the fall and winter growing season. What we plant this month will last and be enjoyed through spring in years with a mild winter. Many crops will survive those rare frost events and keep on producing. Fall gardens seem to experience fewer pest and disease pressures compared to spring, though this varies from year to year and issue to issue depending on where you garden.

Seed companies are mostly restocked, and local garden centers are carrying the right seeds, sets, and

Cauliflower	Collards
Broccoli	Rutabagas
Brussels Sprouts	Collards
Cabbage	Mustard Greens
Chinese Cabbage	Turnips
Swiss Chard	Parsley
Celery	
<b>Seeds to grow for Fall transplants.</b>	

I seed all of the vegetables listed in the table below into 4" pots using a good quality sterile potting mix with some fertilizer mixed in. I use a little 8-8-8 incorporated into my potting soil, you may choose to use fish emulsion, or a water-soluble fertilizer weekly

# Seeding for Fall Gardens Tips and Tricks

as needed to keep your transplants growing properly in pots while your garden continues with warm season crops. These vegetables can hold in 4" pots for 4-6 weeks before they either will need to be planted into the garden or bumped up into a gallon pot to continue to wait for space in the garden. I have done both with success. Keeping the transplants healthy and providing them with adequate soil nutrition is key if you plan on holding them in pots for more than 4-6 weeks. If they become leggy, stressed, or nutrient-deficient, it will be very hard for them to catch up to where they would be at growth-wise if they had been transplanted earlier. Many of these vegetables can also be direct seeded into the garden (collards, swiss chard, mustard, etc.) but by seeding them in pots, I get a 1-2 month jump on my fall crop. Often, I will direct seed a second, staggered crop later in November to sustain me through to January, and I'll seed a final round. This ensures a continued harvest, though most of these vegetables would continue to produce if they harvested properly and regularly (such as picking the lower, older leaves first) and fertilized, protected from pests/disease, and we experience mild winter conditions.

Carrots	Shallots (from bulbs)
Beans (Lima, pole, bush, fava)	Turnips for roots
Beets	Asian greens like mesclun, baby mustard, and mizuna
Collards	
Turnip and Mustard Greens	Arugula
Irish Potato Pieces	Tatsoi, Bok Choy, and Napa Cabbage
Radishes	

**Direct seed** or plant into the garden now (if you have room!) or wait until later in August.

I typically hold off until early September to direct seed the vegetables in the table above, but you can

get away with seeding them later in the month of August if things begin to cool off or you have a section in your garden with afternoon shade.

Often our summers linger well into October in the New Orleans area, which means some of these crops, such as carrots and beets will burn out without protection from the afternoon sun. If things do start to cool off, I still wait for my summer crops to

wind down and then dedicate space to these vegetables after pulling the old crop, adding compost and fertilizer to the soil, and smoothing my beds out for seeding. Some years this is around the end of August, other years I do not get to it until early October. The LSU Vegetable Growing Guide has a range of dates to refer to. In our area we are on the later end of those dates for the fall growing season. Also, plant these in August to enjoy a "second summer" of flavor:

- Tomato plants (heat set varieties)
- Summer Squash and Zucchini
- Pumpkins
- Cucumbers

Tomatoes should be heat set varieties and should have been started from seed in July. Well established transplants can be placed out in the garden August and into September for a fall tomato crop. Cucurbits



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Plant carrot seeds or thin seedlings to proper planting distance to avoid crazy carrots.

# Seeding for Fall Gardens Tips and Tricks

with a quick turnaround are also a sure bet for fall. Vine borer pressure should be diminishing in the fall months, so go ahead and direct seed another round of summer squash, zucchini, and cucumbers. It's pretty late in the game for the winter squashes, but some years they will make a crop providing we do not get an early freeze. In the past I have planted butternut, acorn, and blue Hubbard squash in August for a January harvest. Pumpkins can also still be planted, though they needed to be seeded in mid-July to be ready in time for Halloween. Plant them now for Thanksgiving decorations, pumpkin pie, and other autumn or holiday recipes.

## Some Tips for Success:

Keep your trays and pots of transplants protected from heavy downpours and mid-day/afternoon sun. An outdoor location is best. When transplants are started indoors in the air conditioning and low-light environment of a home they tend to transition poorly to conditions outdoors and risk becoming leggy as they reach for light. Legginess can be avoided if a grow light is utilized, along with "hardening off" by placing trays in the morning sun for several hours daily until planting. Ideal outdoor locations for seed starting include overhangs like under a balcony or carport, shade houses with 50% shade cloth, or a protected area of a porch. Keeping the heavy summer rains from washing trays and pots out is key. Protecting young plants and small containers that can dry out quickly from the midday and afternoon heat and sunlight is also key. If your yard is prone to flooding, keep your trays and pots up on a table or shelving unit. This also helps to keep snails and slugs from devouring tender



Photo by Chris Dunaway

This 50% shade cloth awning keeps Anna Timmerman's young seedlings protected from intense sunlight and heavy rainfall.

seedlings. Monitor your fall transplants daily and take protective measures against pests as needed.

## Things to Wait On:

Though it is tempting to start some vegetables, be sure to look at the seeding dates for our area. Lettuce, spinach, dill, cilantro, cress, English and snow peas, nasturtium, borage and other true cool season vegetables and herbs will not handle the next 1-2 months of extreme summer temperatures. In the greater New Orleans area, I wait to plant these when the nighttime temperatures are reliably in the 60's. I got tired of wasting seed and have found that patience is a good gardening tool! By that time, I will be sick of okra, the freezer will be full of cowpeas, and I will have plenty of room for new flavorful vegetables to use in seasonal recipes.

~ Anna Timmerman

# Growing Broccoli

As the sweltering heat of August continues in our area, it's hard to imagine that the time has arrived to begin our Fall cool season vegetable gardening preparations. Part of those preparations is purchasing and starting our transplants for various crops, especially the Crucifers. One favorite for many home gardeners is broccoli. Broccoli is one of the diverse members of the *Brassicae olearacea* species which includes kale, cauliflower, collards, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, Savoy cabbage and kohlrabi.

Broccoli can be direct seeded in the garden but is most often grown as transplants. The optimum germination temperature is 60-85°F but it can germinate at temperatures as low as 40°F and as high as 95°F. But starting seed outside the optimum range will produce lower germination rates and may produce weak transplants. At the optimal temperature, broccoli seeds will germinate in 5-6 days.

Transplants can usually be put into the garden when they are 3-4 weeks old. Broccoli has a shallow root

system so maintaining constant soil moisture is important for best production (about 2" per week) – constant moisture not constant flooding. Avoid overhead watering. Use of a quality mulch (2-3" layer) will help to control weeds and maintain soil moisture (see GNO Gardening January 2018 for an article on mulch). This weed control also helps you to avoid damaging the shallow roots that could result from weed control cultivation practices. Water availability is of critical importance



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Broccoli harvested by Louisiana Master Gardener Volunteers from a garden in the of New Orleans

**Cultivation:** Broccoli is a cool season crop that likes cool days (70-80°F) and cool to cold nights (40-50°F). Temperatures have to drop below the mid-20's before there's any danger of freeze damage. Like virtually all of our vegetables, a daily minimum of 6-8 hours of direct sunlight is needed for the best production. It grows best in well-drained loamy soils but can do pretty good in heavier clay soils. Broccoli doesn't do very well in sandy soils. Soil pH between 6.0 and 7.0 is ideal but it can do well in soils with pH's slightly higher and lower.

during the head formation stage. Broccoli transplants should be spaced anywhere from 12-24" apart. The wide range is due to the multiple varieties available that require different spacing.

The AgCenter mantra, "Don't Guess, Soil Test", is a good idea when do any gardening but particularly when vegetable gardening where a high level of growth and production is the goal. Generally, 1.5-2.0 lbs. of 8-8-8/100 ft<sup>2</sup> applied 3-4 weeks after transplanting and again 2-3 weeks later would be the basic requirement.

# Growing Broccoli

**Harvesting:** Broccoli should be harvested once the head forms while the flower buds are still tight and before they begin to open. Usually, the individual buds are BB size or smaller at harvest. Harvest is best done during the cool part of the day for optimal produce flavor and quality. After harvesting, keep heads cool until ready to prepare for eating. Broccoli can be consumed raw, steamed, roasted, pickled, creamed or almost anyway you can imagine. It also freezes well for long term storage.

Depending on the variety, you can start harvesting broccoli heads 50-70 days after transplanting. Many of the varieties will also produce multiple side shoots after the main head has been cut, providing a continuous supply of fresh broccoli. Broccoli leaves are edible as well and can be prepared like collards.

**Nutritional data:** Raw broccoli contains almost 90% water, 7% carbs, 3% protein, and almost no fat and is very low in calories, only 31 calories per cup. The nutrition content for 1 cup of raw broccoli is: 31 calories, 2.5 g protein, 6 g carbs, 1.5 g sugars, 2.4 g fiber and 0.4 g fat. Broccoli is high in many vitamins and minerals, including folate, potassium, manganese, iron, and vitamins C and K1. Broccoli is high in many plant compounds that have been associated with health benefits. The most abundant one is sulforaphane. For most people, broccoli is usually well tolerated digestively.

**Common pests:** Some pests that are common on broccoli include aphids, armyworms, cut worms, flea beetles, loopers, thrips and whitefly. Many of these have natural predators that keep them in check on



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Broccoli flowers are very attractive to honeybees and other pollinators. Leave a few flowering plants in your garden at the end of the season to keep the pollinators coming to your garden so they will be there to help fertilize your warm season veggies.

healthy broccoli plants. Bt is an effective control for loopers, armyworms, cutworms and other lepidopteran insect caterpillars. Azadirachtin (GNO Gardening December 2019) has been shown to be effective against all the pests mentioned above. Other chemical options include: bifenthrin, carbaryl, diazinon and imidacloprid.

**Common diseases:** Alternaria leaf spot *Alternaria brassicae*, Black rot *Xanthomonas campestris*, Powdery mildew *Erysiphe cruciferarum*, and Downy mildew *Hyaloperonospora parasitica*. Using disease-free seed and transplants, resistant varieties, good

weed control, good nutrition and moisture management and good sanitation practices go a long way in helping to keep disease incidence low. There are some broad-spectrum fungicides labelled for use on broccoli if needed. These include chlorothalonil and copper.

Broccoli is listed as one of the Super Foods in most listings (but aren't all fresh fruits and vegetables). It can be a tasty addition to any vegetable garden whether in-ground, in raised beds or even in containers.

~ Dr. Joe Willis

# What's Bugging You? – Cabbage Palm Caterpillar

Sitting under a palm tree last week and having these guys dropping down the back of my shirt caused me to choose the Cabbage Palm Caterpillar (*Litoprosopus futilis*) as this month's "What's Bugging You" spotlight pest. I thought that I may not be the only one experiencing the aerial assault.

The cabbage palm caterpillar is the larva of an owlet moth. The larvae feed on the cabbage palm flowers and flower stalks. The mature larva is about 1.5 inches in length. The body has yellow and black horizontal stripes with a shiny black

cervical shield (area just behind the head). The larvae have extremely long, strong, white primary setae (hairs) that arise from shiny black conical tubercles (wart-like projection). Mature caterpillars drop to the ground on a silk thread and crawl about seeking a place to pupate. During periods of high infestation, the mature caterpillars

may invade structures, including homes, seeking pupation sites. The caterpillars incorporate any

available fabric, such as draperies, rugs, stuffed furniture, bedding and clothing, when making their cocoons. Though the white hairs may look ominous, the caterpillars **do not sting**.

The adult moth is usually light yellowish-tan with a wingspan of about 2 inches. However, color variations exist. A dark eyespot about 3/16 inch in diameter

is found on each hind wing. Within each spot are two approximately parallel, white dashes.

Control measures are rarely needed or employed regarding the cabbage palm caterpillar. However, if they become a nuisance entering homes and buildings, the most effective control is to block their entrance. The caterpillars are also killed by Bt if control on the trees is desired.

~ Dr. Joe Willis



Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

A cabbage palm caterpillar crawling on Dr. Joe's arm.



An adult owlet moth.

# Local Independent Garden Centers

Orleans	Address	Contact
Urban Roots	2375 Tchoupitoulas St., New Orleans	(504) 522-4949
The Plant Gallery	9401 Airline Hwy., New Orleans	(504) 488-8887
Harold's Plants	1135 Press St., New Orleans	(504) 947-7554
We Bite Rare and Unusual Plants	1225 Mandeville St., New Orleans	(504) 380-4628
Hot Plants	1715 Feliciana St., New Orleans	www.hotplantsnursery.com
Delta Floral Native Plants	Pop Up Locations	(504) 224-8682
Pelican Greenhouse Sales	2 Celebration Dr., New Orleans	(504) 483-9437
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans	(504) 644-4713
Jefferson Feed Mid-City	309 N. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans	(504) 488-8118
Jefferson Feed Uptown	6047 Magazine St., New Orleans	(504) 218-4220
Jefferson		
Perino's Garden Center	3100 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie	(504) 834-7888
Rose Garden Center	4005 Westbank Expressway, Marrero	(504) 341-5664
Rose Garden Center	5420 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero	(504) 347-8777
Banting's Nursery	3425 River Rd., Bridge City	(504) 436-4343
Jefferson Feed	4421 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson	(504) 733-8572
Nine Mile Point Plant Nursery	2141 River Rd., Westwego	(504) 436-4915
Palm Garden Depot	351 Hickory Ave., Harahan	(504) 305-6170
Double M Feed Harahan	8400 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan	(504) 738-5007
Double M Feed Metairie	3212 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie	(504) 835-9800
Double M Feed Terrytown	543 Holmes Blvd., Terrytown	(504) 361-4405
Sunrise Trading Co. Inc.	42 3rd St., Kenner	(504) 469-0077
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie	(504) 887-4336
Creative Gardens & Landscape	2309 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey	(504) 367-9099
Plaquemines		
Southern Gateway Garden Center	107 Timber Ridge St., Belle Chasse	(504) 393-9300
St. Charles		
Plant & Palm Tropical Outlet	10018 River Rd., St. Rose	(504) 468-7256
Martin's Nursery & Landscape	320 3rd St., Luling	(985) 785-6165
St. Bernard		
Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette	(504) 682-9911
Soil Vendors		
Schmelly's Dirt Farm (Compost Only)	<a href="https://www.schmellys.com/compost-sales/">https://www.schmellys.com/compost-sales/</a>	
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie	(504) 887-4336
Reliable Soil	725 Reverand Richard Wilson Dr., Kenner	(504) 467-1078
Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette	(504) 682-9911
Rock n' Soil NOLA	9119 Airline Hwy., New Orleans	(504) 488-0908

We recommend that you call before visiting to enquire about operating hours or special instructions.

# August Checklist/Garden Tips

Small, yellow aphids on your butterfly weed or milkweed will not damage the plants or affect the feeding of adult and larval monarch butterflies. Do not use pesticides.

Spider mites and white flies are abundant now and many gardeners are experiencing heavy outbreaks. Make several applications of Year Round Oil or All Seasons Oil before they get too out of hand. Spray the underside of the leaves for best control, and spray in the early morning when it is cooler.

Begin to order spring flowering bulbs from catalogs for delivery in October.

Remove flowers on coleus, and pinch back vegetative growth to prolong new foliage production.

Prune ever blooming roses back about one third their height in late August or early September. Also remove any dead canes and weak spindly growth. This pruning prepares the roses for the outstanding blooming season in October and November. Do not cut back once blooming roses that only bloom in spring and early summer and stop, as you will reduce flowering next year.

After a summer of vigorous growth outside, some containerized plants may be pot bound. Check and repot into larger containers if necessary. Also, plants in pots sitting on a brick surface or soil may grow roots out of the drainage holes into the ground. Prevent this by lifting the pots occasionally or boost them up on pot feet or pieces of brick.

Fine, silvery webbing on the bark of area trees is being caused by tiny insects called psocids or bark lice. These scavengers are completely harmless to the trees and no control is needed.

If your spring planted eggplant and pepper plants are still in good condition, they can be generally be relied on to produce a fall crop. Control pests and keep the plants well watered and fertilized as needed. They will begin to set more fruit as the temperatures become cooler.

Transplant fall tomato plants into your garden by mid-August. Be prepared to spray with insecticides and fungicides since insect and disease pressure is usually greater in the fall than in the spring. The cultivars that have produced satisfactorily in the fall are Mountain Pride, Mountain Delight, Hawaiian Hybrid, Pelican, Bingo, Whirlaway, Floradel, Celebrity, Pacific and Solar Set.

If you need to, dig and divide Louisiana irises, Easter lilies and calla lilies this month.

Many bedding plants that will continue to bloom through fall were planted months ago and may be somewhat leggy and overgrown by this time. Cut them back by about 1/3 to 1/2 to produce stockier, fuller plants for the fall blooming period. Fertilize after you cut them back to stimulate new growth. This is often done to bedding plants such as impatiens, begonia, lantana, blue daze, verbena, pentas, salvia and periwinkle.

As your flowers and vegetables grow, they deplete the soil of organic material. Be sure to add plenty of compost to your garden plots before planting your Fall crop. You should also take a soil test and add fertilizer and amendments according to the test results

Many banana trees in the area have fruit this year. Wait until the fruit reach full size, cut off the whole stalk and hang it up somewhere convenient. Pick the fruit from the stalk as it turns yellow.

# Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

## Do's:

1. You may fertilize at this time if you have not already done so. Look on page 5 of the [Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices Guide](#) for information on the correct timing and application rates.
2. 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.](#)
3. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. The best time to water is in the morning. It is safest, from a disease standpoint, not to keep a grass wet all night long. Watering established sod during midday is discouraged because of extra loss from evaporation
4. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
5. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
6. Keep an eye open for insect pests. We have received calls lately about chinch bugs and sod webworms.
7. Spread a mixture of course sand 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.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.
9. This is the last month to lay sod Bermudagrass.

## Don't's

1. Do not apply selective herbicides to the lawn.
2. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time.
3. Do not try to grow grass in deep shade.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

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