



GN O Gardening Magazine

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Cover photo:

The bright yellow flowers of Yellow Jessamine  
(*Gelsemium sempervirens*).

Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

## Look At Me

# Yellow Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)

**I**t started blooming in our area last month but is still catching the eye of many passersby. This is the beautiful native vine *Gelsemium*

*sempervirens* – common names: yellow jessamine, yellow jasmine, Carolina jasmine, Carolina jessamine, evening trumpetflower. It is a twining vine native to subtropical and tropical America from Honduras to southeastern and south-central U.S.

*Gelsemium sempervirens* is an evergreen vine that can grow from 10 to 20 ft. high if given support. It has dark green, lustrous lanceolate leaves about ½” wide and 2-4” long. Sweetly scented, golden yellow flowers borne in clusters cover the cascading, fine textured foliage from February to April. The trumpet-shaped blooms have 5 lobes, are 1 to 1½ inches long, 1” wide and are attractive to both butterflies and bumblebees. The fruit is a 1½ in. long capsule.

Yellow jessamine tolerates either full sun or partial shade. Flowering is more prolific and foliage growth is denser in full sun. This vine is very adaptable and will grow in a variety of conditions. For best results, plant it in rich, well-drained soil. Moist soil is ideal, but the vine is able to withstand periods of drought once

established. Yellow jessamine grows well in USDA Zones 6 to 9.

Space plants 3 feet apart as a ground cover, and 4 to 8

feet apart for fence or trellis climbers. Fertilize while the plant is actively growing with moderate amounts of a slow-release, balanced fertilizer, such as a 12-6-6. Do not overfeed, since excessive fertilizer can reduce flowering.

Older vines that become top heavy or sparse can be pruned back to a few feet above ground level after flowering. Remove dead or broken branches and shape the plant each year after bloom.

Insects or diseases are rarely a problem on yellow jessamine. Deer and rabbits will not eat it.

You’ll see this lovely vine climbing trees, covering a fence, scaling

walls, adorning a trellis and gracefully arching over an arbor. Driving along the highway, it may suddenly spring forth from somewhere deep in the forest. Yellow jessamine is also the state flower of South Carolina and of course they know it better as Carolina jessamine.

One precaution about *Gelsemium sempervirens* - all plant parts contain gelsemine and gelseminine. These are strychnine-related alkaloids and very toxic if



Photo by: Dr. Joe Willis

*Gelsemium sempervirens* adorning a wrought iron fence.

# Look At Me

## Yellow Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)

consumed. These aren't dermatological toxins except for sensitive individuals; therefore, pruning the vine and collecting flowers for display should cause no problems.

Some cultivars have been developed and include:

- **'Pride of Augusta'**: This is a popular double-flowered cultivar that stays in bloom longer than the species. The flowers are very attractive at close range, and look like miniature roses. This cultivar may also be listed as 'Plena'.
- **'Margarita'**: This cultivar has slightly larger & more prominent



Photo by: Dr. Joe Willis

Gorgeous clusters of bright yellow flowers set against a lustrous evergreen background.



Photo by: Dr. Joe Willis

Attractive bright yellow buds are equally eye-catching. Note the lustrous green lanceolate foliage.

flowers, and is more cold hardy than the species.

- **'Pale Yellow'**: May also be listed as 'Woodlander's Pale Yellow' or 'Woodlander's Light Yellow'. The flowers are creamy-yellow and larger than the species. This cultivar is not as cold hardy, and is best grown in USDA Zone 8 and southward.
- **Butterscotch™**: This cultivar flowers 2 to 3 weeks later than the species and repeat blooms in the fall.
- **Lemon Drop™ ('Conrop'; PPI1956)**: This vine is more compact with shrub-like habit and with softer yellow flowers.

~Dr. Joe Willis

# March Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Vates
Cucumbers	Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Indy, Olympian, Sweet Success, Sweet Slice
Cucuzzi	None Given
Eggplant	Dusky, Night Shadow, Epic, Santana, Calliope
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner
Lima Beans (bush or pole)	Dixie Butterpea, Jackson Wonder, Thorogreen Florida Speckled, King of Garden
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Peppers, Bell (transplants)	Aristotle X3R, Jupiter, Lilac, Plato, Tequila
Peppers, Hot (transplant)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla,
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross
Snap Beans (bush or pole)	Bush-Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Derby, Lynx, Strike Pole-Blue Lake, Kentucky Blue, McCaslin
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Summer Squash	Gold Rush, Justice III, Multipik, Patriot II
Sweet Corn	Merit, Silver Queen, Honey 'n Pearl, Ambrosia
Swiss Chard	None Given
Tomato (transplant)	Better Boy, Big Beef, Cupid, Pink Girl, Juliet, Sweet Milton, Bella Rosa, Carolina Gold
Winter Squash	Honey Bear, Sweet Mama, Table Queen, Tivoli

# Louisiana Lawns Part III - Fertilizing

The next big question that we get is when to fertilize, what to use and how much.

Incorrect fertilizer application is also one of the biggest problems that we see. Late or dormant season applications do more to help the weeds to grow than the desired turf grass. Overapplication of lawn fertilizers are also a huge contributing factor to water pollution. Many people also have the false impression that fertilizer has magical properties that can cure all

lawn issues overnight.

The first thing that you should know is that turfgrass primarily needs the addition of nitrogen with little to no phosphorous and just a little potassium.

Furthermore, most of the soil in the New Orleans area has high levels of phosphorous and potassium present. Therefore you should purchase a high nitrogen fertilizer like urea (46% nitrogen) or ammonium sulfate (21% nitrogen). Commercially available “Lawn Food” or “Lawn Fertilizer” can also be used. These product typically contain about 30% nitrogen with 0 phosphorous and about 4% potassium. Furthermore, some of the nitrogen in

these mixes is in a slow release form so they will continue to provide nutrients over a longer time period.

The amount of fertilizer needed depends on the variety of grass that you are growing. See table 1 for the amount and timing of fertilizer application. As



Image of someone using a broadcast spreader to apply a granular product to a lawn.

you can see, Hybrid Bermudagrass is the heaviest feeder with centipede grass requiring the least amount of fertilizer. If you use a fast-release nitrogen, such as urea or ammonium nitrate, apply no more than 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. You can achieve this proportion by using about 2 pounds of urea (46-0-0) or 4.75 pounds of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) per 1,000 square feet. Higher rates of nitrogen with a fast-release source will result in excessive grass growth, may “burn” the grass, build thatch and can predispose the grass to pest damage. Slow-release nitrogen may be put on at higher rates because of its time release factor.

Month	March	April	May	June	July	August
Bermuda	0.5-1	0.5-1	0.5-1	0.5-1*	0.5-1	0.25-0.5*
Zoysia and St. Augustine	0.5-1		0.5-1		0.5-1*	
Centipede	0.25-0.5		0.25-0.5*		0.25-0.5	

Table 1. Suggested nitrogen fertilization rates and schedule for commonly grown turfgrass varieties. Rates are given in pounds per 1,000 square feet. \*=These applications may be eliminated if color and growth are satisfactory.

# Louisiana Lawns Part III - Fertilizing

To calculate the amount of a particular fertilizer needed to supply 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet, you must read the nutrient analysis on the fertilizer bag. The analysis is in the form of three numbers (for example, 13-13-13, 8-8-8, 0-45-0 or 0-0-62). The series of three numbers refers to the percentage by weight of nitrogen (N), phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and potash (K<sub>2</sub>O), in that order, in the fertilizer. Dividing the first of these three numbers into 100 gives the number of pounds of fertilizer needed to supply 1 pound of nitrogen. Therefore, 3.3 pounds of 30-0-4 will supply 1 pound of nitrogen (100 divided by 30 = 3.3).

The next important thing to know is when to fertilize your lawn. It is best to apply in spring when the turfgrass is fully out of dormancy and has been mowed several times. Here in the New Orleans area, we can probably make the first application sometime around mid-March. Look at table 1 again to see the frequency of fertilization according to turf variety. Unfortunately, there is no soil test for nitrogen so indicators such as stand density or growth should be used to gauge nitrogen applications timings. While the application tables are helpful, they are not necessarily great indicators of environmental and growing conditions. Therefore, you will need to develop a better understanding of when and how to apply fertilizer properly to encourage the greatest sward health and reduce offsite movement of the nutrients.

## Tips for applying fertilizer

- Apply nitrogen fertilizer only when the turfgrass is actively growing
- Quick-release nitrogen fertilizers are more readily available for turfgrass uptake but can lead to flushes of growth; whereas slow-release nitrogen fertilizers provide nitrogen over time for more sustained growth.
- Apply granular fertilizer when the grass is dry.
- Apply irrigation after fertilizer applications to increase plant uptake and reduce fertilizer burn. Be careful not to irrigate to the point of runoff or leaching.
- Do not to apply nitrogen fertilizer if intense rainfall is forecast.
- Urea should not be applied during summer temperatures because of high volatility.
- Do not allow fertilizer application into open waters or non-permeable surfaces



Every fertilizer sold is required by law to display the guaranteed analysis of the content by volume of Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium. This bag of Vigoro Lawn Fertilizer contains 29% nitrogen , 0 Potassium and 4% Potassium.

- where fertilizer can move into sewer systems.
- Never apply more than 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet at one application.
- Properly calibrate application equipment. [For information on calibrating various application equipment click here or go to https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn\\_garden/commercial\\_horticulture/turfgrass/management-practices/calibration-methods.](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/commercial_horticulture/turfgrass/management-practices/calibration-methods)
- Remember, fertilizing is just one step in the process to maintain a healthy lawn.

# Super Plant Spotlight - 'Fireworks' Fountain Grass (*Penstemon setaceum* 'Fireworks')

Spring makes us think about bright, colorful flowers, singing birds, and warm, sunny days. However, the memory of the hard freeze in February has many gardeners searching for plants that can handle the temperature extremes we face throughout the state with no fuss.

'Fireworks' fountain grass (*Penstemon setaceum*) fits the bill as a hardy, durable, colorful perennial addition to our landscapes that can be planted throughout spring and summer statewide. It has seasonal interest year-round and can handle all that Louisiana weather has to throw at it. This plant is a superstar!

As grasses go, this is one of the most colorful ones out there, with young plants exhibiting stripes in green, white, burgundy, red, and hot pink. As the plant matures, it achieves a deep burgundy purple hue, and holds this color even during winter dormancy. In the summer months, delicate purple tasseled seed heads appear, which bear sterile seed that ensures the plant will not be invasive in our gardens. It is a clumper, growing 2-3 feet wide and 3-4 feet tall. It creates a nice visual effect when grouped in odd numbers or lined up as a backdrop in a landscape, planting with clumps spaced 2-3 feet apart.

'Fireworks' fountain grass works great in the ground in a variety of soil conditions. It's tough. Really tough.

Parking lot, roadside, and container planting tough. It can handle short intervals of flooded/saturated soil just fine. It takes our summer and fall drought conditions just fine. Freezing weather, not a problem! Irrigation and supplemental watering is generally not required. 'Fireworks' planted into containers may



'Fireworks' Fountain Grass (*Penstemon setaceum*) growing in a garden.

need supplemental watering during dry spells. In early spring, 'Fireworks' can be cut back to 3-4" above the root zone, lightly fertilized, and it will regrow with all the resulting colors on display. It has no pests or diseases in our area, which is always good news.

Give 'Fireworks' fountain grass a try this year, it will add a burst of colorful, upright perennial drama to any landscape design. It can handle just about anything Mother Nature has to throw at it!

~Anna Timmerman

# After the Freeze

Recently, temperatures dropped to the mid 20's or lower for several hours over all of Louisiana. In assessing our landscapes after this hard freeze event, Patience is the key. Take time to investigate and evaluate. Give your plants a chance to tell you whether they are alive or not.

The previous stretch of warm weather made the freeze especially damaging. Many of our plants had already begun their Spring awakening and were loaded with tender leaves and buds. They had no chance to adapt to the sudden drop in temperatures and much of the new tender tissue froze. A lot of plants look really bad – so do I at the end of a hard stressful day. But give me a good meal and a good night's sleep and the recovered me is primed and ready to go again. We need to give our plants the same opportunity to recover. Wait to trim and clean up the yard, really. The ground did not freeze and a lot of woody stuff looks fine, tropicals fared well. Give it a week or two before clean up. Pruning equals new growth, give them a "breather" to recover.

Plants like agapanthus, amaryllis, crinum and spider lilies are going to have severe foliage damage but most likely survived. Tropicals that grow from underground storage structures like gingers, cannas, ferns and elephant ears most likely survived but do have severely damaged foliage that needs to be

pruned away. Prune away the damaged foliage and allow new growth to develop. If the plant tissue is brown, soft and/or mushy, then remove it. This type of dead tissue is an invitation to insect and disease pests.

Herbaceous annuals and herbaceous tender perennials without underground storage structures

are less likely to survive, but be patient. This includes such plants as begonias and philodendrons. The dead foliage should be removed all the way to the ground and discarded. As mentioned before, this frozen tissue is an invitation for insects and disease-causing organisms to invade.

Most of our hardy herbaceous perennials will have survived but should be cut back to remove the dead tissue and allow new growth. These include salvias, plumbago, lantana, verbenas and



Photo by: Dr. Joe Willis

Severely damaged Angel Trumpet.

hydrangeas.

Banana trees that are soft and mushy were frozen and should be removed. If the trunk is still firm, removed the damaged foliage and be patient. It should sprout new growth.

With our commonly planted palms, pygmy date palm and Queen palm are the most cold-sensitive. They

# After the Freeze

may be damaged and palms will be slower to recover. The new growth may not be evident until June. If you see no new growth by June, they should be removed. Also, if you notice any soft spots or weeping spots on the trunks of any of the palms, they may have freeze damage and you should have a licensed arborist. These dead spots in the trunk will weaken that area. We've seen palms with such damage break in two at that spot and fall on whatever is beneath them.

With woody fruit trees and ornamentals, use the scratch test to see how much tissue is damaged.

Remove the damaged foliage and then scratch the bark with your thumbnail. You want to just scratch the surface so that you reveal the cambium layer beneath the bark. If the tissue underneath is green, it is alive. If the tissue is tan or brown, it is dead and should be pruned out. Start at the tips of branches

and work your way down until you find living tissue. Plants in this category include angel trumpet, croton, rubber tree, copper plant and citrus.

Cold-sensitive citrus like lemons and limes are more likely to be damaged to some degree. Do the scratch test but be patient too. More mature trees may have some internal damage that doesn't begin to show until late Spring. If your tree flushes out in the spring but then begins to wither when the weather really heats up, it could be due to freeze damage. Check with your extension agent.

Damage almost always occurs to plants that are

covered when temperatures reach the low 20s or teens. Cold protection is done to preserve the life of the plant, not to bring it through the winter without damage. Even if you covered your plants, expect to see some damage on the more sensitive plants.

Plants in ground will have fared much better than plants in containers – unless you brought the containers inside. Plants in containers outside did not have the earth's insulating effect. A plant in a container may have been killed while the same plant in the ground survived. But be patient with those

container plants too.

“What should I do to help my plants recover?” you may ask. Well, the damage is done, and nothing you do now will undo that. If the plants survived, they will recover, just leave them alone. If they didn't make it, nothing you do will bring them back to life. Do

not fertilize them or overwater them – just give them time and if they survived, they will recover on their own.

One bright side of the freeze – you may now have a chance to reinvent your garden landscape. Plus you can add the damaged plant material to your compost pile.

Remember, regardless of all the global warming hype, we are still Zone 9. Choose the right plant for the right place and enjoy them.

~Anna Timmerman, Chris Dunaway,  
Dan Gill, Dr. Joe Willis



The scratch test. Presence of green cambium tissue means this branch is alive.

# Weed of the Month

## Mock Strawberry (*Potentilla indica*)

Depending on your perspective, mock strawberry (*Potentilla indica*) may not be a weed at all. Besides its occasional use as a ground cover or growing in containers, mock

strawberry is used by some as a medicinal plant with a large variety of prescribed benefits. Among some of the reported benefits that I found include its use in the treatment of boils and abscesses, burns, weeping eczema, ringworm, snake and insect bites, and traumatic injuries. Mock strawberry is native to eastern and China and Japan. It was introduced to the

United States as an ornamental and now has become a weed for those who do not appreciate its features.

### Description:

Mock strawberry takes its common name from the colorful red aggregate accessory fruit similar to that of a true strawberry. These fruits are white or red, and entirely covered with red achenes, simple ovaries, each containing a single seed. The leaves are green with red to purple edges. Leaves are alternately arranged along stems and are made up of three leaflets with round-toothed edges. It produces single yellow flowers with five petals on long, hairy stems. Indian mock strawberry spreads through seed as well as through stolons (aboveground stems). It is commonly found growing in turfgrass areas where turfgrass is thin in

moderately shady areas.

### Control:

The best way to prevent or reduce weed encroachment is to maintain a healthy lawn through proper fertilization and soil pH management and regular mowing. Properly maintaining a lawn through these cultural practices promotes dense and vigorous turfgrass, allowing it to better compete with weeds. Hand pulling or using an appropriate weeding tool are the primary means of mechanical weed control in lawns. This is a viable option at the beginning of an infestation and on young weeds. Hand pulling when the soil is moist

makes the task easier. In addition to cultural practices, herbicide applications may be required to achieve effective weed control. Indian mock strawberry is mainly controlled by post-emergence herbicides.

When applying any type of herbicide, you must follow the manufacturer's labeled directions. There are numerous selective and non-

selective herbicides that are effective at controlling mock strawberry. [For more information on mock strawberry including a list of effective herbicides go to: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/bneely/articles/page1576515798012.](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/bneely/articles/page1576515798012)



Flower and toothed trifoliate leaves of *Potentilla indica*.



A large patch of *Potentilla indica* with its colorful fruit.

# What's Bugging You – Eastern Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*)

The eastern tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*) is found throughout the United States, including Louisiana. The caterpillar feeds on many hardwood species. Its damage does not kill trees but some twig, branch, or leaf loss will be evident. The caterpillar builds a silken tent-like web nest in the forks of tree branches.

The eastern tent caterpillar overwinters in the egg stage in a collar-like, brown glistening mass on the twigs and branches of host

plants. Each mass may contain 200 or more eggs. Eggs hatch in February/March and the gregarious larvae collect in a fork or tree crotch and begin constructing their tents. The caterpillars come out of their tent during the day to feed on surround leaves. For about six weeks they continue to feed, grow and enlarge their tents to reach more leaves. As the larvae feed and grow the nest can get 2 feet or more long and a foot or more wide.

The hairy larvae are dark, mostly black with a distinct white stripe down the back bordered by yellow, brown and black wavy lines and a series of oval blue dots on either side. Mature caterpillars are 2 to 2 ½” long. When mature the larvae will form their cocoon inside the tent or crawl off to a protected location to pupate. The pupal stage lasts about two to three weeks, and during May and June the reddish-brown

moth with two oblique, white bands on the forewings emerges and can be found swarming about lights. It is at this time that the next generation egg masses are deposited on the twigs and branches of hosts. There



Mature larvae and webbing of Eastern tent caterpillars (*Malacosoma Americanum*).

is only one generation per year. The distinctive egg masses encircle a twig, have a shiny varnished appearance and can contain hundreds of eggs. The egg masses can vary in size. The eastern tent caterpillar has several natural

enemies and may be parasitized by various tiny braconid, ichneumonid, and chalcid wasps.

Early control by removal and destruction of the egg masses from ornamentals and fruit trees during winter greatly reduces the problem in the spring. The small tents can be removed and destroyed by hand.

Young caterpillars can be killed by applying an insecticide containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* var *kurstaki*. Other effective insecticides include carbaryl, and malathion. Larvae within the tents are protected beneath the webbing and you need to soak the nest with product to get effective control.

In general, the damage is mostly cosmetic and seldom rises to a level that threatens the life of the tree so doing nothing is also an option.

~Dr. Joe Willis

# In the Kitchen with Austin

## Roasted Parmesan Cauliflower

This is a great alternative to your usual roasted cauliflower recipe. It's crunchy and delicious!

### Ingredients:

- ½ cup butter, melted
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup Italian breadcrumbs
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 1 head of cauliflower



A plate of delicious roasted parmesan cauliflower

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Set aside.

Cut cauliflower into florets; roughly the same size. Melt butter with garlic in a small bowl. Place breadcrumbs, salt, pepper, and Parmesan cheese in another bowl.

Toss cauliflower pieces in butter, then into breadcrumb mixture. Place breaded florets on the baking sheet.

Roast cauliflower for about 35 minutes, or until the breading is golden.

*Bon Manger!*

## Coming Events

### Pelican Greenhouse Plant Sales

Visit the Pelican Greenhouse for a large selection of plants for sale. Many of plants are propagated from cuttings, seeds, and divisions from plants already growing in the Botanical Garden

Open weekends. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 8am to NOON **Location:** Pelican Greenhouse (not inside the Botanical Garden): 2 Celebration Drive.

Visit [NewOrleansCityPark.com](http://NewOrleansCityPark.com) for Park map



# Coming Events



## LSU AGCENTER HOME CITRUS CERTIFICATE COURSE

The Greater New Orleans LSU AgCenter Horticulture Agents will be presenting a backyard citrus course virtually.

[To Register, Click Here or go to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lsu-agcenter-home-citrus-certificate-course-tickets-142260981425.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lsu-agcenter-home-citrus-certificate-course-tickets-142260981425)

### About this Event

Citrus trees grace the backyard of many homes in southern Louisiana. Learn all about what it takes to start growing citrus successfully!

Topics covered include recommended citrus cultivars and growing practices, disease and pest information, fertilizer and nutrient deficiencies, pruning, freeze protection, and more.

The course is free, ongoing and self-paced, use this page to pre-register. A course link will be sent to registered participants prior to March 1st, which will also be available at [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com). For any questions, please email [gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu).

### The Backyard Citrus Orchard Outline:

- I. Types and Varieties (Types and Characteristics , Varieties by Type)
- II. Planting Your Citrus Tree (Site Selection & Prep , Tree Selection , Planting , Containers)
- III. Annual Maintenance (Fertilization , Watering , Pruning , Weed Control , Repotting)
- IV. Common Arthropods (Mites , Scale , Other Insects)
- V. Common Diseases (Fungal , Bacterial , Viral , Others)
- VI. Common Abiotic Disorders (Nutrient Deficiencies , Bird/Thorn Damage , Cold Damage)

# Local Independent Garden Centers

## Orleans

Urban Roots	2375 Tchoupitoulas St., New Orleans, LA 70130	(504) 522-4949
The Plant Gallery	9401 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 488-8887
Harold's Plants	1135 Press St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 947-7554
We Bite Rare and Unusual Plants	1225 Mandeville St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 380-4628
Hot Plants	1715 Feliciana St., New Orleans, LA 70117	<a href="http://www.hotplantsnursery.com">www.hotplantsnursery.com</a>
Delta Floral Native Plants	Pop Up Locations	(504) 224-8682
Pelican Greenhouse Sales	2 Celebration Dr., New Orleans, LA 70124	(504) 483-9437
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713
Jefferson Feed Mid-City	309 N. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119	(504) 488-8118
Jefferson Feed Uptown	6047 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 218-4220
Crazy Plant Bae	800 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans LA 70119	(504) 327-7008

## Jefferson

Perino's Garden Center	3100 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 834-7888
Rose Garden Center	4005 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 341-5664
Rose Garden Center	5420 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 347-8777
Banting's Nursery	3425 River Rd., Bridge City, LA 70094	(504) 436-4343
Jefferson Feed	4421 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson, LA 70121	(504) 733-8572
Nine Mile Point Plant Nursery	2141 River Rd., Westwego, LA 70094	(504) 436-4915
Palm Garden Depot	351 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 305-6170
Double M Feed Harahan	8400 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 738-5007
Double M Feed Metairie	3212 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 835-9800
Double M Feed Terrytown	543 Holmes Blvd., Terrytown, LA 70056	(504) 361-4405
Sunrise Trading Co. Inc.	42 3 <sup>rd</sup> St., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 469-0077
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 887-4336
Creative Gardens & Landscape	2309 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058	(504) 367-9099
Charvet's Garden Center	4511 Clearview Parkway, Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 888-7700
Barber Laboratories Native Plants	6444 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 739-5715

## Plaquemines

Southern Gateway Garden Center	107 Timber Ridge St., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 393-9300
Belle Danse Orchids	14079 Belle Chasse Hwy., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 419-5416

## St. Charles

Plant & Palm Tropical Outlet	10018 River Rd., St. Rose, LA 70087	(504) 468-7256
Martin's Nursery & Landscape	320 3 <sup>rd</sup> St., Luling, LA 70070	(985) 785-6165

## St. Bernard

Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
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## 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, LA 70006	(504) 887-4336
Reliable Soil	725 Reverand Richard Wilson Dr., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 467-1078
Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
Rock n' Soil NOLA	9119 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 488-0908

\*If you would like your licensed retail nursery listed, please email [gno gardening@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:gno gardening@agcenter.lsu.edu)

# March Garden Checklist

- ⇒ It should be safe to plant tender bedding plants now such as marigolds, zinnias, blue daze, pentas, celosia, salvia, portulaca, purslane, melampodium and others in South Louisiana.
- ⇒ Continue to plant roses purchased in containers. Bare root roses available at various places, like hardware stores, garden departments of chain stores and supermarkets, should have been planted last month. If you see the bare root bushes have begun to sprout, they are not your best choice for a quality plant.
- ⇒ Begin planting warm season vegetables as soon as the weather allows. The great advantage of early planting is increased production during the milder early summer period and often fewer pest problems. For a free copy of the Vegetable Planting Guide, contact your parish LSU AgCenter Extension office or click on the following link: <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/d/e/3/e/de3e7516e68dfce4a21a84b38caa4df8/pub1980%20vegetable%20planting%20guide%20rev%2001%2017pdf.pdf>
- ⇒ Plant summer flowering bulbs into the garden beginning in late March. Don't be alarmed if they don't take off and grow rapidly right away. Most of these bulbs are tropical and will wait until April or even early May to make vigorous growth. Wait until April to plant calladiums.
- ⇒ Remove faded flowers and developing seed pods from spring flowering bulbs that are to be kept for bloom next year. Do not remove any of the green foliage, and fertilize them if you did not do so last month. Those spring flowering bulbs being grown as annuals can be pulled up and discarded anytime after flowering. Chop them up and put them in your compost pile.
- ⇒ Established perennials should be fertilized this month. This is most efficiently and economically done by using a granular fertilizer with about a 3:1:2 ratio (such as 15-5-10) scattered evenly through the bed following package directions. After the fertilizer is applied, water the bed by hand to wash any fertilizer granules off the foliage and down to the soil.
- ⇒ As the weather warms up, lawn grasses will begin to grow and you will need to start mowing more frequently. Now is a good time to sharpen your mower blades.
- ⇒ Check your oak trees regularly (use binoculars) for masses of young, black buckmoth caterpillars, and consider having your tree sprayed if you see large numbers. You will likely need to have your tree sprayed if you saw large numbers of these stinging caterpillars last year.
- ⇒ Warmer temperatures and active growth make watering increasingly important if regular rainfall does not occur. New plantings need the most attention. They are vulnerable to drying out until the plants have a chance to grow a strong root system into the surrounding soil. Thoroughly water new plantings once or twice a week as needed, especially those in full sun.
- ⇒ For blue flowered hydrangeas add aluminum sulfate to the soil around your bushes now. For pink flowers, apply lime. Flower buds are already present so do not prune at this time.
- ⇒ Thrips are a common problem on roses in spring and early summer. Thrips are tiny insects that infest the flowers buds, and are always worse on the spring and early summer flowers. Symptoms include buds that do not open properly, and when the flowers do open the petals have brown, scorched edges. Thrips do not damage the bush, but it is heartbreaking to see the flowers ruined. Spray once or twice a week with Acephate or Mavrik for control during the early summer blooming season.
- ⇒ Fertilize roses in early March, and begin spraying regularly for disease and insect problems. For convenience, use a material that combines an insecticide and a fungicide in the same product. Follow label directions carefully.
- ⇒ Make notes on your spring flowering bulbs over the next few weeks while they are blooming. Record when they bloom, how well they performed and other relevant information. This will help you plan for what you want to plant this coming fall.
- ⇒ Powdery mildew, a fungus disease that attacks a wide variety of plants, can begin to show up this month. The disease appears as a white, powdery spot or area on foliage or flower buds. This disease can damage the foliage and cause flower buds to abort. Control with chlorothalonil or other labeled fungicides.
- ⇒ Finish up planting trees and shrubs into the landscape by the end of this month.
- ⇒ Treat tulips as annuals and remove the whole plant when they finish flowering since they will not rebloom again next year. Chop up the foliage and bulbs and add them to your compost pile.

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

## Do:

1. Get your lawn mower ready for action. Sharpen or replace the blade, check the air filter and clean out larger debris and replace if necessary. Check the oil level and change if necessary.
2. Take a soil test.
3. Apply sulfur or lime to adjust the pH if necessary according to soil lab recommendations.
4. Make the first application of the recommended rate of nitrogen fertilizer for your turf variety on or shortly after March 15. See the fertilizer recommendations on page 5 of the Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices Guide. [Go to https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/7/c/8/e/7c8e4b17a12a51839443d9296bd03edc/pub2940louisianalawnsmarch2008.pdf](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/7/c/8/e/7c8e4b17a12a51839443d9296bd03edc/pub2940louisianalawnsmarch2008.pdf) to see the guide. Do not apply phosphorous or potassium fertilizer unless recommended by a soil test.
5. Apply selective herbicides and sedge killers to kill off weeds growing in the lawn. You may also scout the lawn and remove weeds by hand. Make a game out of it with kids and grandkids.
6. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass. If necessary, kill off vegetation and prepare the soil for sod installation

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## Do Not:

1. Do not lay down fill over the lawn grass.
2. Do not lay sod or spread warm-season turfgrass seed.
3. Do not dethatch
4. Do not aerate 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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