



GNO Gardening Magazine

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In This Issue:

Salvias are a Summertime Sensation

By: Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard

What's Bugging You? Puss Caterpillar

By: Chris Dunaway

"Look at Me" - Crocosmia

By: Anna Timmerman

Weed of the Month Dollarweed

(Hydrocotyle umbellata)

By: Dr. Joe Willis

Louisiana Lawns Part VI Irrigation & Stormwater Management

By: Chris Dunaway

Super Plant Spotlight Evolution Salvia

By: Tony Thomas

July Planting Guide

In the Kitchen with Austin

Coming Events

Local Garden Centers

July Garden Checklist

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Cover photo:

Red Salvia splendens.

Photo courtesy of Clegg's Nursery

Salvias are a Summertime Sensation

There are quite a few perennials out there that perform well in the summertime here in Louisiana, but none more so than salvias. There are so many great salvias available today for sensational, consistent color all summer — and fall — long.

Salvias (*Salvia officinalis*) are also known as sage, a common herb most of us know for its savory flavor. Another member of this group is rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*), another common herb. Both have fragrant foliage often used in cooking, and both have beautiful purple blooms. Some have white blooms.

When speaking of salvias, white and purple blooms are most common, but new varieties come in shades of orange, red and blue. If you are trying to achieve a patriotic red, white and blue garden, salvias can make it happen for you.



LSU AgCenter file photo

Violet Evolution salvia in bloom .

Most salvia varieties are prized for their extended bloom, vibrant colors, and fragrant foliage and flowers in addition to their nectar production. Salvias display a wide range of heights, flower colors and growth habits. Many varieties are upright, but trailing varieties are available too.

Heights can vary among varieties, with some growing 8 to 12 inches while others grow several feet tall — upwards of 5 to 6 feet. Salvias can be used in the landscape in mass plantings, as borders, in containers and as accent or focal plantings. Some varieties even make good cut flowers.

Varieties that grow in USDA hardiness zones 8 to 10 are an excellent choice for landscapes in Louisiana for their reliable color and flower production. Their nectar makes them fan favorites for pollinators such as butterflies, hummingbirds and bees.



by Heather Kirk-Ballard/LSU AgCenter

Salvias come in a wide range of colors, such as this hot pink.

Salvias are a Summertime Sensation

Salvias have vigorous growth and excellent flower production. Most varieties prefer full sun, but they can tolerate partial sun. Blooms will be most proficient in full sun. Plant in a well-drained, slightly acidic soil. Once established, most salvias are drought tolerant.

Little care is required to grow salvias. However, waterlogged soils and overwatering can lead to increased susceptibility to fungal diseases. Plant in the early spring after the last threat of frost. Established plants can be divided when new growth begins in early spring.

To keep flowers going all summer long and into the fall, remove faded blooms to encourage new flower production. Springtime fertilizer and occasional water-soluble fertilizer

feedings in the summer will help encourage flowers and keep the foliage healthy and green.

Many varieties of salvia display continuous blooms on tall stems with average growing heights up to 30 to 40 inches with a spread of 24 to 30 inches. Salvias make an excellent selection in both the landscape as well as in container plantings.

Tall, upright growth habit salvias look best at the back of landscape beds for their height. You can use lower-growing varieties as border plants. Make a dramatic impact in your landscape with a mass planting of one cultivar.

Plants can drop lower leaves when stressed or without water for extended periods. To revive, remove the upper third of the plants with a quick trimming, and plants will fill back out nicely. You can also trim to shape or decrease size any time

throughout the growing season; this will encourage new branches and create a more compact habit with even more flowers.

Some great varieties include the Evolution series, which is a Louisiana Super Plant program selection. This series comes in both violet and white bloom colors. The Wish series is another great choice. These include Wendy's Wish, Ember's Wish and Love and Wishes. The Skyscraper series is a new series that includes Skyscraper



Photo by Heather Kirk-Ballard/LSU AgCenter

Salvias have vigorous growth and excellent flower production.

Dark Purple, Skyscraper Pink and Skyscraper Orange. Not all varieties are carried at local nurseries, but many are. Get your hands on as many as you can and start your own collection.

A few more varieties grown and evaluated at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station are White Flame, Black and Bloom, Van Remsen, Blue Ensign, Rockin' Blue Suede Shoes, Mystic Blue, Big Blue, Rockin' Deep Purple, Unplugged So Blue, Rebel Child, Roman Red, Purple and Bloom, Amistad, Amante, San Carlos Festival and Limelight.

~Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard

July Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Broccoli (Seeds for transplant)	Green Magic, Everest, Castle Dome, Packman
Brussels Sprouts (Seeds for transplant)	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved
Cabbage (Seeds for transplant)	Bravo, Rio Verde, Caraflex, Blue Vantage
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Passport, Primo, Verona
Cauliflower (Seeds for transplant)	Snow Crown, Cumberland, Incline, Freedom
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates
Chinese Cabbage (Seeds for transplant)	None Given
Cucumbers	Slicers = Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare HG, Indy Pickler = Calypso
Luffa Gourd	None Given
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Peppers, Bell (Seeds for transplant)	Aristotle XR3, King Arthur, Paladin, Carmen
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Shallots	Matador, Prisma
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Squash	Zucchini = Declaration II, Justice III, Payroll Straight Neck = Multipik, Patriot II, Liberator III Crook Neck = Destiny III, Gentry, Medallion
Tomatoes (Seeds for transplant)	Bella Rosa, Sun Chaser, Florida 91, Phoenix, Solar Fire, BHN-216, Solar Set
Watermelon	Seedless: Cooperstown, Gypsy, Matrix, Millennium Seeded: Mickey Lee, Sugar Baby, Amarillo

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

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

What's Bugging You: Puss Caterpillar (*Megalopyge opercularis*)

They may look soft and fluffy, but don't make the mistake of thinking they're safe to handle. Puss caterpillars (*Megalopyge opercularis*), also known as asps, are one of the most toxic caterpillars in North America. Remember

Cleopatra's encounter with an asp. These fuzzy little creatures are the larvae of the Southern flannel moth. They are about an inch to an inch and a half long, and they're entirely covered in fluffy whitish-gray, yellow, tan or reddish-brown colored hair. The hair hides spines connected to

poison sacs filled with venom. The sting causes intense throbbing pain, burning and a rash. The pain can last for hours and in some people, radiates up the arm or leg.

The number of exposures to these pests peaks in June and July followed by a second peak in October.

These caterpillars are said to have gotten their common name from their resemblance to a cuddly cat. They live in shade trees and shrubbery where they eat the leaves. Some of their favorites include deciduous oaks, elms and sycamores. When puss moth caterpillars are active, be careful when under these trees as the caterpillars can fall from the tree leaf and drop on you causing a nasty sting.

The spines are on the dorsal (back) surface, not the ventral (abdomen) surface so don't touch them. The best thing to do is to flick them off with a stick, credit

card or note-business card.

But trees and shrubs not the only places you can encounter one. They've been spotted on sidewalks, columns, benches and even playground equipment.

In your garden, wear long gloves, and make sure your children know not to touch them.

If you do get stung, you should remove any hairs as quickly as possible. Use adhesive tape to pull them off or gently scrape with a credit card. Wash the area with soap and water to remove any remaining venom. Applying

an ice pack, followed by a paste of baking soda and water, can help reduce pain and swelling. Oral antihistamines may help relieve itching and burning, and topical corticosteroids may help reduce inflammation.

Some people have a more serious reaction. They can experience swelling, nausea, abdominal pain, headache, enlarged lymph nodes, shock, difficulty breathing and seizures. If the symptoms are severe or continue to worsen, seek medical attention.

If necessary puss moth caterpillars can be controlled when they become abundant by spraying with a residual pesticide such as permethrin, cyfluthrin or similar sprays labeled for control of caterpillars on ornamental plants. Products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) or Spinosad are also effective at control.

~Chris Dunaway



A puss caterpillar (*Megalopyge oercularis*)

“Look at Me”- Crocosmia

Pass-along plants have a place in the traditions of New Orleans. Sharing plants with friends, family and neighbors adds diversity to our gardens and connects us to one another. This month’s Look at Me plant is in full bloom right now in gardens throughout the area, offering a summery burst of color that is sure to turn heads. Crocosmia is sometimes also called Falling Stars, Copper Tips, or Montbretia. It grows easily from small corms, which can be pulled up or dug when the foliage does back. It thrives with little care in Zones 6-9 and is native to South Africa. Happy to grow in sun, partial sun, or even shade, it’s one of those plants that you can tuck into existing landscapes and forget about, only to be pleasantly surprised in June when beautiful spikes of red orange flowers reminiscent of a spray of orchids emerge.

Growing crocosmias is simple, corms can be purchased at many garden centers in the winter and spring months, typically in the same section as the hyacinth and tulip bulbs. Unlike the afore mentioned flowers, crocosmias thrive here. If you have a neighbor growing them, ask for a couple of corms in the fall when the foliage dies back. All it takes is a few corms to establish a nice clump of them over time. Plant the corms two to three inches deep into moist, but not saturated soil rich in organic matter. They

work well in existing perennial flower beds as they can be easily tucked in around existing plantings. They flower best in partial sun but can handle full sun or shade. Try to avoid planting them in hot, dry areas.



Crocosmia flowers.

When planting, the pointy side faces upwards.

Crocosmias benefit from an annual application of compost and mulch, but require no special fertilizer. Our annual rainfall is typically adequate for them to thrive without supplemental irrigation. Blooms will emerge in June and if you remove the spent flowers, blooming will continue through August in our area. Once blooming ceases, leave the foliage to recharge the corms for next year. Trim the dry, dead foliage back in the fall. Crocosmias can be dug and thinned out every few years. They self-propagate readily and create a massed clump

over time. They are hardy so there is no need to dig the corms up for winter.

Crocosmias come in a few different colors, all typically shades of red, orange, yellow, or bronze. There are many named cultivars that all resulted from natural crosses of the wild types found in South Africa. Most cultivars mature around two to three feet tall. Give them a try, and add a little tropical flair to your garden beds.

~Anna Timmerman

Weed of the Month

Dollarweed (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*)

H*ydrocotyle umbellata*, or Dollarweed, is a native, herbaceous, creeping, perennial weed found in moist, open areas, along roadside ditches, and in swamps. It is an aquatic plant that spreads by rhizomes and a member of the carrot family (Apiaceae). Another common name tells you just how much of a moisture lover it is – marsh pennywort.

Dollarweed can be identified by its shiny, silver-dollar-shaped, bright-green leaves with wavy edges and petioles that are attached at the center of each leaf's underside (Figure 1). Stems are underground rhizomes that root readily at their nodes (Figure 2).

Dollarweed blooms from late Spring to Fall with umbels of tiny white flowers having five petals, sepals and stamens (Figure 3).

Probably everyone in our area can easily identify



Figure 1: Dollarweed (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*) round, wavy-edged leaves with center petiole attachment.



Figure 2: Underground stem (rhizome) of dollarweed. Note the roots formed at each node.

when we tell them they have a drainage problem, they swear that their lawn drains great and drainage is not an issue. The presence of dollarweed begs to differ.

Improving drainage and maintaining healthy plants, especially turf, goes a long way in controlling dollarweed and will be a necessity for long term control. MSM (metsulfuron methyl) is the recommended chemical control for lawns. In gardens, glyphosate is very effective against dollarweed.

dollarweed. It is such a common weed in many lawns. What many people don't realize is that dollarweed loves moisture and, as such, is a good indicator plant. Dollarweed will proliferate during long rainy spells and its presence, especially during times of normal rainfall, is a strong indication of poor drainage. We often get calls about poor lawns and when we show up, there is dollarweed growing everywhere.

It's amazing how often,



Figure 3: Umbel of small, white dollarweed flowers.

~Dr. Joe Willis

Louisiana Lawns Part VI

Irrigation & Stormwater Management

Perhaps the historically heavy rainfall we have had this year has made me almost overlook one last important task associated with proper lawn maintenance. Irrigation and stormwater management. These may seem like opposite concepts; irrigation is needed when there is insufficient rainfall and stormwater management is needed when there is too much. However, many of the same factors that impact one also affect the other. Dehydrating or drowning your lawn are both bad things that will cause the demise of your lawn.

Definitions:

Stormwater management includes a host of activities and concepts designed at controlling the flow of water. In the landscape, this includes soil infiltration, proper slope, rain barrels and cisterns,

bioswales and raingardens, and many more. If you are experiencing excess water issues in your lawn, you should do more research on these topics. Dedicating a small portion of your lawn to a rain garden could greatly improve the rest.

Soil drainage is a natural process by which water moves across, through, and out of the soil as a result of the force of gravity.

Irrigation is the artificial application of water to land to assist in the production of plants.

Dr. Joe Willis wrote a comprehensive article on soil drainage in the December 2020 issue of GNO Gardening. [To see the article, click here or go to: https://www.mggno.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/GNOGDecember-2020.pdf](https://www.mggno.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/GNOGDecember-2020.pdf). In



A sprinkler adding water to the lawn and atmosphere.

summary, soil drainage is affected by three major factors. These are the grade (slope) of the area, the soil texture and soil structure. All three of these issues are best addressed before installing the lawn as they are difficult or impossible to change without major soil disturbance.

As I said in the definition, movement of water across the surface is one of the modes of soil drainage. This

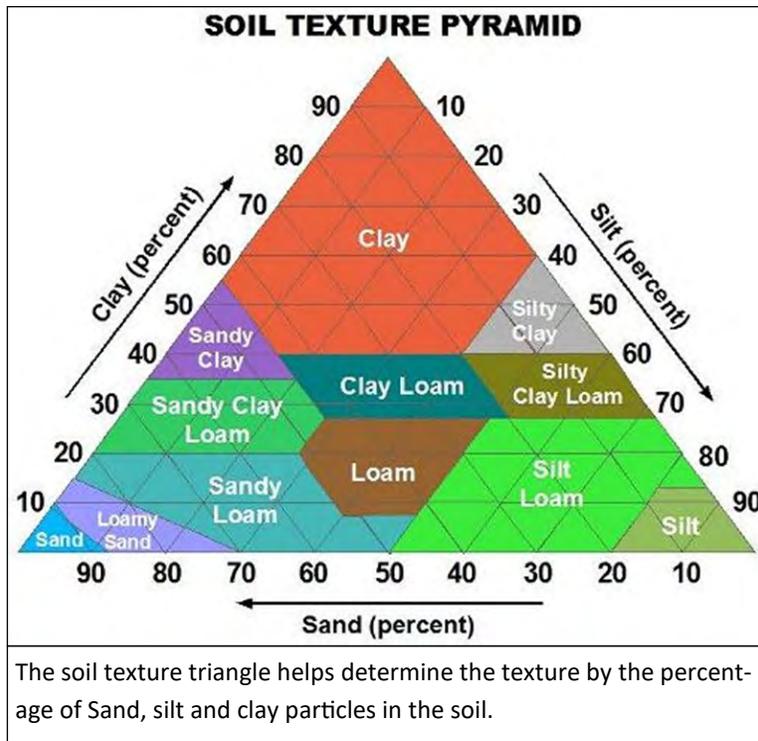
water is also called runoff. Runoff can be a good thing after-all, the Mississippi River is essentially a giant runoff flow. Runoff can be a bad thing, however, when the water picks up fertilizers, pesticides, and other toxic elements and transports them into our local waterways. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency actually considers urban runoff to be a toxic substance. Always follow the label directions on any product that you apply to your lawn and garden. Many product labels contain environmental warnings

Louisiana Lawns Part VI

Irrigation & Stormwater Management

about applying prior to rainfall. Never irrigate your lawn to the point of runoff. [Click here to find out more information on Nonpoint Source Pollution from the EPA or go to: https://www.epa.gov/nps/basic-information-about-nonpoint-source-nps-pollution.](https://www.epa.gov/nps/basic-information-about-nonpoint-source-nps-pollution)

Soil texture and soil structure are the major factors in determining the speed that water enters and leaves the soil. Soil texture is defined by the percentage of sand, silt and clay particles in a location. Figure 1 shows



the soil texture triangle. You can find out your soil texture by taking a soil test. In table 1 you will see the infiltration rates for various soil textures. Fine sandy soils will allow water to penetrate down 2 inches into the soil per hour whereas clay soils only allow for 0.2 inches of penetration.

Individual soil particles can bind together to form aggregates. It is the nature of these aggregates that defines the soil structure. Soil structure can be improved by adding organic material. Topdressing the lawn with compost and sand after core aeration is a good way to improve both texture and structure.

In order to have the strongest and healthiest lawn possible, it is necessary to water adequately so that the water penetrates 6 inches down into the potential root zone of the turfgrass. Watering down to the near maximum root depth will allow the grass to grow deep roots

making the plant stronger and more resilient. Shallow watering will limit root growth and make the grass

more susceptible to environmental stress from cold and draught and less likely to recover from insect predation and disease.

Getting the irrigation correct on your lawn may take a scientific approach. Start by turning on your sprinkler when the lawn needs watering. Run the system until the water reaches a depth of 6 inches in the soil or until the point of runoff. Use a shovel or soil probe to

check for infiltration depth. Be sure to note the time that it took reach this point. If more water will be needed then wait until the soil has drained again

Soil Type	Infiltration Depth inches/hour
Fine Sand	2.0
Sandy Loam	1.0
Loam	0.5
Silt Loam	0.4
Clay Loam	0.3
Clay	0.2

Table 1. Water infiltration rates according to soil texture.

noting the time. Turn the system back on and repeat these steps until the 6 inch depth has been reached. Once you now the times for watering and resting, you can program your irrigation timer to that routine. It will take much longer to properly irrigate poorly draining soil. But since heavy soils hold more moisture, supplemental irrigation is required less frequently than lighter well draining soil. Water again when you see first signs of moisture stress such as graying of turf or footprints that remain in the grass after walking on it. Water before 9 a.m. when the sun is

low, winds are calm and temperatures are low to reduce evaporation and lawn disease.

~Chris Dunaway

Super Plant Spotlight

Evolution Salvia (*Salvia farinacea*)

Salvia farinacea 'Evolution', a 2016 Louisiana Super Plant Super, would be a perfect addition to your summer garden. Its beautiful white or violet flower spikes are sure to stand out and add the perfect splash to your summer green paradise. This Super Plant is propagated from seed and blossoms best in a full or mostly sun kissed area that is well-drained. They are heat and drought tolerant! Be sure to space these 14-16 inches apart when planting. They perform beautifully when grown in containers for those who prefer that option.

There is an abundance of these beautiful spikes on the tight foliage canopy during late spring to the first killing frost. If they're planted during the Spring in a well-drained bed, these plants can be perennial in areas where winters have only light frosts and freezes. No deadheading is needed for full season color but will give the plants a neater appearance.

The plants have a nice compact habit. White Evolution Salvia can grow to 10-12 inches while Purple Evolution Salvia can grow up to 14 inches tall. Plants are relatively disease and pest free. Pollinators such as honeybees, butterflies, and hummingbirds will be more likely to visit your garden with these!

~Toni Thomas



Violet Evolution salvia in bloom .

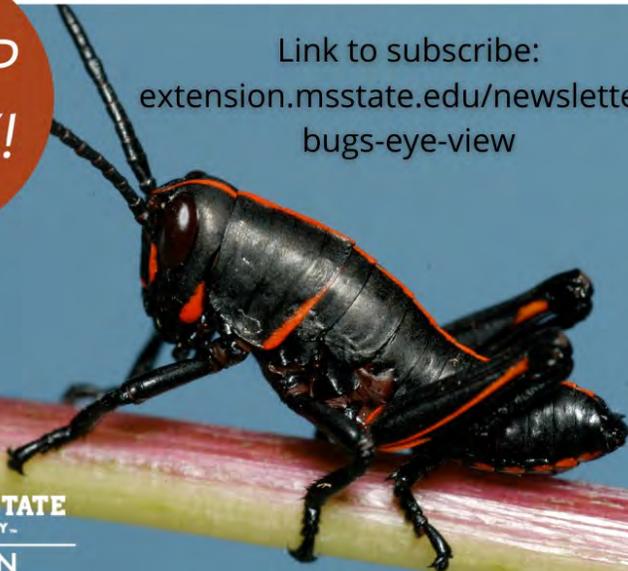
Bug's Eye View

BUG'S EYE VIEW

By MSU Extension entomologist Dr. Blake Layton

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If you enjoy learning about insects, you might be interested in subscribing to "Bug's Eye View". Bug's Eye View is a FREE digital newsletter from MSU Extension entomologist Dr. Blake Layton. The newsletter features a different insect each week from mid-March through mid-October! Subscribe here and also view archived issues:

[http://extension.msstate.edu/newsletters/
bugs-eye-view](http://extension.msstate.edu/newsletters/bugs-eye-view)

Bug's Eye View will also be on Facebook this year.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
msuextbev](https://www.facebook.com/groups/msuextbev)

Some recent interesting issues: Two-Striped Walking Stick, Rat-tailed Maggot, and Gas Can Beetle.

In the Kitchen with Austin

Corn Salad

I love salads! This one is light, crisp, and filled with the flavors of summer. It is delicious alone or paired with something off the grill.

Ingredients:

5 ears of fresh corn
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/4 red onion, finely chopped

1/4 cup basil, thinly sliced
3 Tbs. olive oil
Juice of 1 lime
Salt and black pepper, to taste



A bowl of fresh corn salad.

Directions:

Shuck and boil ears of corn in salted water for 5 minutes. Remove corn from hot water and place in cold water to stop the cooking process. When cool enough to touch, cut kernels off the cobs.

Toss all ingredients together in a large bowl, and season with salt and pepper. Serve cold or at room temperature.

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 for park map



**NEW ORLEANS
BOTANICAL GARDEN**
CITY PARK



Native Plant Propagation for Beginners

Let's make plants with plants!

TICKETS TO THIS WORKSHOP

include all-day access to our
eight acres of gardens.
Light refreshments
will be served.

SATURDAY, JULY 17 10AM-11:30AM

**Seed saving, sowing, storing, and
cutting reproduction will be covered
in this hands-on workshop.
You'll go home with collected seeds,
four starter plants and
a powerful new skill set!**

ADMISSION: \$30/\$25 for members



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DETAILS & TICKETS LONGUEVUE.COM

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Farmers Markets in the Greater New Orleans Area

Jefferson Parish

Gretna Farmer's Market
739 Third Street, Gretna
Every Saturday, except the Saturday of Gretna Fest, 8:30AM-12:30PM

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-Thurs 8AM-6PM, Fri 8AM-7PM, Sat 7AM-7PM, & Sun 7AM-6PM

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie
3000 Downs Blvd.
Wednesdays, from 3-7PM

Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview
4516 Clearview
Store Pickups, preorder online at <https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/buy-groceries-1>

Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte
920 Jean Lafitte Blvd.
Last Saturday of the month, 9AM-1PM

Orleans Parish

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Mid-City
500 N. Norman C. Francis
Thursdays from 3-7PM
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders at www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- City Park
Tad Gromley Stadium parking lot at Marconi and Navarre
Sundays from 8AM-Noon
Preorder contact-free drive through only, info at www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Uptown
200 Broadway
Tuesdays from 8AM-Noon
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders, info at www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

***SPROUT NOLA ReFresh Market-Truck Farm Table
200 N. Broad (In Whole Foods lobby or in parking lot, weather permitting)
Walk up

SPROUT NOLA ReFresh Market-Lafitte Greenway
2606 St. Louis
Mondays from 3-6PM
Walk up and pre-orders at <https://app.sourcewhatsgood.com/markets/refresh-farmers-market/products>

Vietnamese Farmer's Market
14401 Alcee Fortier Blvd., New Orleans East
Saturdays, 5:30AM-8:30AM

Marketplace at Armstrong Park
901 N. Rampart
Thursdays from 3-7PM

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

New Orleans French Market
Lower Decatur Street
Daily, 9AM-6PM

Know Dat Grow Dat Microgreens & Produce
Online Sales
<https://www.knowdatgrowdat.com/shop> or <https://www.knowdatgrowdat.com/shop>

Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market
Comiskey Park, New Orleans
Market dates vary and are on hold due to Covid-19, check <http://midcityaf.org>

Laughing Buddha Farm Hubs
Pick up points vary, pre-orders available
Bywater, Broadmoor, Lakeview, Irish Channel, Mid-City, Algiers Point, Uptown Locations
<https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/events>

Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9th Ward
2301 Gallier Street
Saturdays from 10AM-1PM

Bywater Market at Trap Kitchen-Bywater
1043 Poland Ave
Sundays from 10AM-3PM

Paradigm Farmer's Market-Central City
1131 S. Rampart
Sundays 9AM-Noon

Lot 1701 Small Business and Farmer's Market-Central City
1701 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
Every 1st and 3rd Saturday from 11AM to 3PM

BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point
149 Delaronde St.
First and Third Sundays of the month, from 11AM-3PM

Edgewood Park Market-Edgewood
3317 Franklin Ave.
First market Sunday, May 2nd from 11AM-3PM

New Orleans East Hospital Farmer's Market- New Orleans East
5620 Read Blvd.
First Tuesday of the Month- 3PM-Dusk
Third Thursday of the Month- Noon-3PM

Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods- Tremé-Lafitte
585 N. Claiborne at Lafitte Greenway (under overpass)
Wednesdays from 2-5PM
Saturdays from 10AM-2PM
Check for current dates/times at www.sheauxfresh.org

Holy Cross Farmer's Market- Holy Cross/Lower 9th Ward
533 St. Maurice
First Saturday of the month, 9:30-Noon beginning May 1st

St. Charles Parish

German Coast Farmer's Market at Westbank Bridge Park-Luling
13825 River Road
Wednesdays, from 1-6PM

German Coast Farmer's Market at Ormond Plantation-Destrehan
13786 River Road
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon

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	www.hotplantsnursery.com
Delta Floral Native Plants	2710 Touro St., New Orleans LA 70117	(504) 577-4290
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, Marerro, 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 rd St., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 469-0077
Laughing Buddha Garden Center4	516 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 rd St., Luling, LA 70070	(985) 785-6165
St. Bernard		
Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
Soil Vendors		
Schmelly's Dirt Farm	8301 Olive St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 535-GROW
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
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713

July Checklist/Garden Tips

Sharpen your lawn mower blades. They have generally gotten dull by this time of the year.

Fine, silvery webbing appearing on the bark of area trees is completely harmless. The webbing is produced by tiny scavenging insects called bark lice.

Cut back perennials in the garden when they finish flowering and the foliage begins to look tired.

Keep caladiums well watered during hot, dry weather to keep the foliage in good shape through the summer. You may apply a fertilizer now to encourage vigorous growth. Break off any flowers that form.

Remember to harvest herbs such as mints, basil, rosemary, lemon balm and Mexican tarragon regularly to keep the plants shapely and under control. Some herbs such as thyme, sage and lavender tolerate heat and rain poorly and may not be doing well now as a result.

Keep up with weeding. This time of year weeds can get out of hand very fast. Use mulches wherever possible. If you need help with herbicide recommendations, contact your local LSU AgCenter Extension office.

Container plants should not be placed directly onto wooden decks. The moisture underneath can damage the wood (saucers do the same thing). Boost pots off of the surface an inch or two with pieces of brick, small blocks of wood or special terra-cotta pot supports available at some local nurseries and garden shops.

Keep old flowers cut off roses. Trim back to the first five leaflet leaf. Spray weekly with a combination insecticide/fungicide product labeled for roses if the types you grow are susceptible to black spot.

Pinch out the terminal growth of chrysanthemums during July. This encourages branching and more compact plants for fall blooming.

For late summer color, continue to plant heat tolerant bedding plants. Excellent choices for sunny areas include torenia, periwinkle, melampodium, salvia, scaevola, purslane, pentas, blue daze, narrow leaf zinnia, lantana and verbena, Purple Homestead. In part shade plant caladium, impatiens, begonia, torenia and coleus.

A long growing season and rapid growth often leads to over-grown beds this time of year. Feel free to trim bedding plants and tropicals to keep them under control. Stake or otherwise support plants that need it.

Keep old flowers cut off roses. Trim back to the first five leaflet leaf. Spray weekly with a combination insecticide/fungicide product labeled for roses if the types you grow are susceptible to black spot.

Numerous bedding plants such as impatiens, begonias, salvias and geraniums may look a little stressed now. Blame the heat, both day and night. Many bedding plants (especially the tender perennials we grow as annuals) can be cut back in August. They will revive as the weather cools and provide color until November or longer.

Keep old flowers cut off roses. Trim back to the first five leaflet leaf. Spray weekly with a combination insecticide/fungicide product labeled for roses if the types you grow are susceptible to black spot.

Pinch out the terminal growth of chrysanthemums during July. This encourages branching and more compact plants for fall blooming.

If you need to cut back your hydrangeas or gardenias, do so by the end of this month. If you need to cut back your hydrangeas, do so by early July. Flower buds are set in late July and August. When pruning hydrangeas, cut off faded flower heads with stems long enough to shape and control the size of the bush. Cut back excessively tall vegetative (leafy) shoots if necessary, but generally leave the vegetative shoots alone. They will produce flowers next year.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. This is the last month to lay sod for Centipede, Zoyia, or St. Augustine grasses. Bermudagrass may be installed through August. Seeding of Centipede may be done this month but is not recommended.
2. 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.
3. Chinch bugs are historically active this month so keep scouting for damage and apply treatment if chinch bugs are detected.
4. 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.
5. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Spread fill soil and compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.

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.

LOUISIANA HOME LAWN SERIES 
A guide to maintaining a healthy Louisiana lawn

Southern chinch bug

Description
The southern chinch bug, *Blissus insularis* Barber (Hemiptera: Blissidae), is a common insect pest in turfgrasses throughout Louisiana. These insects favor thick thatch, full sun exposure and hot, dry weather. They are primarily a problem in St. Augustine grass but can injure other turfgrass species. Both nymph and adult chinch bugs injure turfgrasses by sucking sap from grass stems and stolons, causing turfgrasses to turn yellow-brown and eventually die. Turfgrass injury most commonly occurs in the summer when weather conditions are most favorable.

Identification
In Louisiana, the southern chinch bug can complete three to four generations a year. Females begin laying eggs in late winter, with new generations appearing the following summer and fall. Depending on the temperature, an egg can mature into an adult within five to 13 weeks. Chinch bug nymphs, the adolescent stage, are black to orange in color and have a white band on the back of the body. Adults are about the size of an ant, or one-half of a centimeter. They have black bodies with white wings that form an X shape across the abdomen.



Figure 1. Chinch bug nymph Figure 2. Chinch bug adult Figure 3. Chinch bug turfgrass injury

Indicators of Insect Presence
Nymphs and adults cause injury by sucking sap from stems and stolons.
— Injury causes grass to turn yellow, then brown and eventually die.
— Injury occurs in scattered patches that can merge together into one large dead area.
Adults can spread to new areas by crawling or flying.
Most injury occurs in hot, dry conditions in mid-to-late summer.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

■ Injury common ■ Injury occasional ■ Injury rare

[The LSU AgCenter Louisiana Home Lawn Series publication on Southern Chinch bugs. The publication has information on identification and treatment options. To see the publication click here or go to: \[https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/3/b/0/5/3b055b020a2dea5e457ff74afe70121b/p3624r_lahomelawnsouthernchinchbugpdf.pdf\]\(https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/3/b/0/5/3b055b020a2dea5e457ff74afe70121b/p3624r_lahomelawnsouthernchinchbugpdf.pdf\).](#)

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

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



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