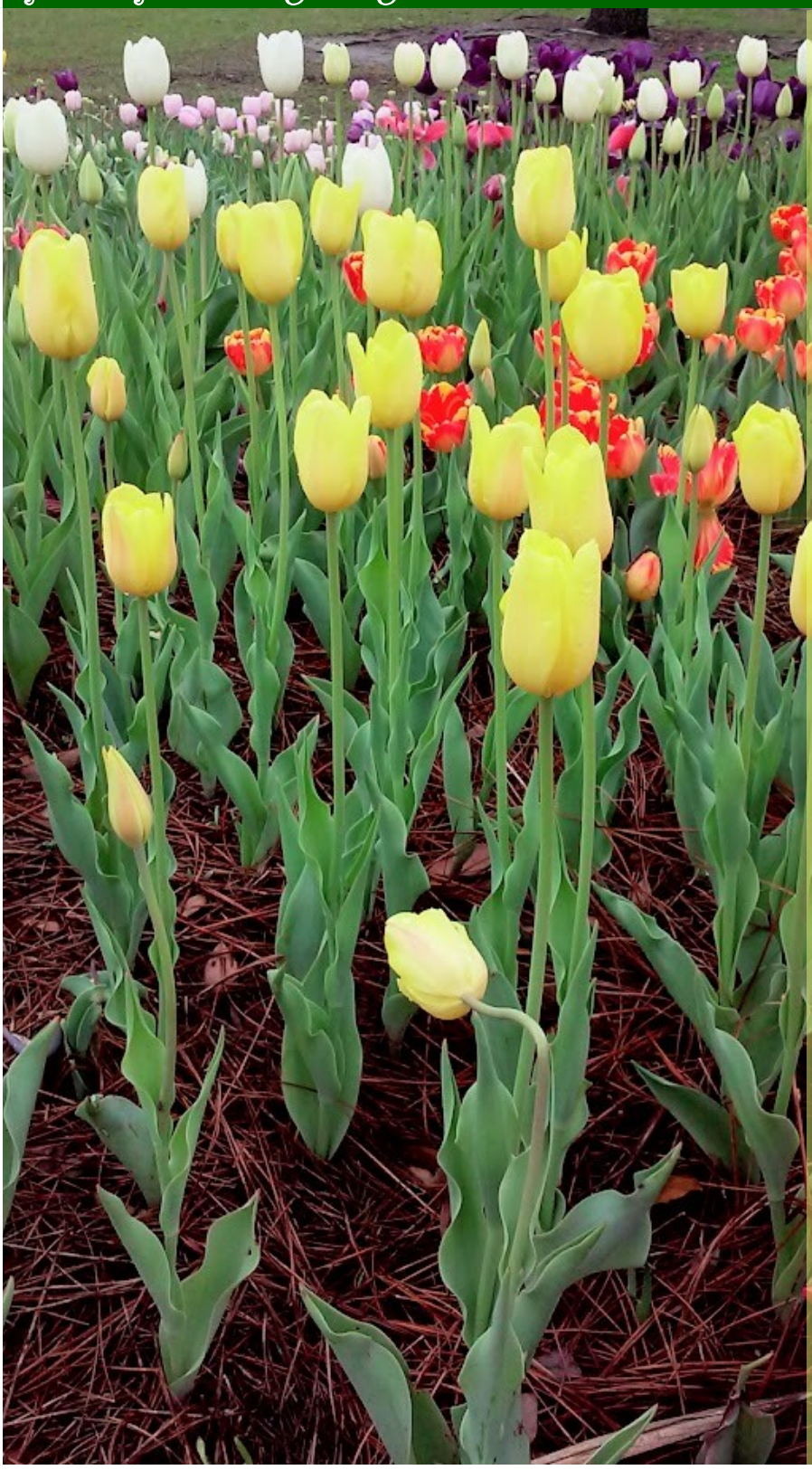
LSU AgCenter
Research · Extension · Teaching

GNO Gardening Magazine

March 2022



In This Issue:

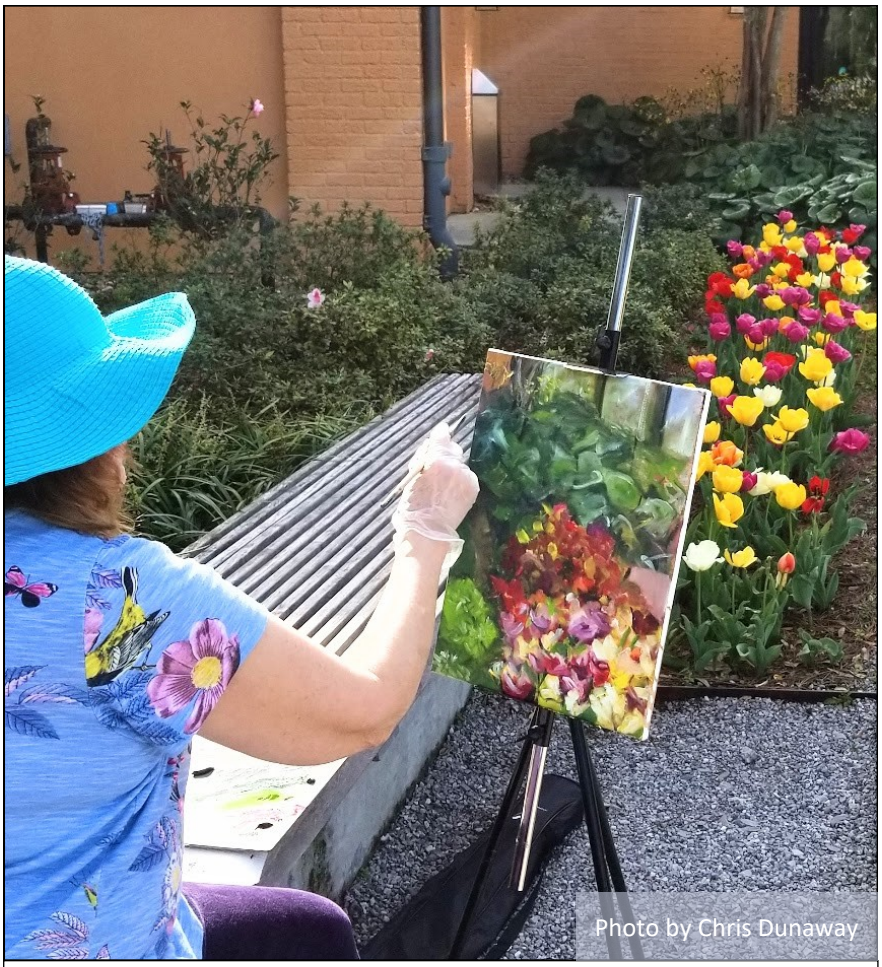
Cover photo:
A mass planting of tulips blooming near Big Lake in New Orleans City Park.
Photo by Chris Dunaway

Look at Me - Tulips

Looking at a garden filled with blooming tulips, it is easy to see how they are one of the most popular flowers in the world coming in behind roses and carnations.

While it is true, unfortunately, that the Deep South of Louisiana is not the best place to grow tulips but why let that stop you? With a little planning and effort, you may grow these fabulous flowers in your own garden.

The problems are that the bulbs planted in our heavy clay soil tend to rot during the months after blooming. Furthermore, the bulbs also need sufficient chilling hours before they will bloom again. Here in the New Orleans area, we need to store the bulbs in a cool dry location and then refrigerate them for at least 6 weeks prior to planting in order for them to bloom.



A local artists captures of these tulips growing in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens in a work of art.

We generally find that best results are obtained when pre-chilled tulip bulbs are planted into the garden in late December or early January. Tulips planted over at that time generally bloom in March and early April.

Tulips look better when planted in masses or groups rather than single rows. Plantings are also generally more effective and dramatic when one or just a few colors are used. If several colors are used, they should be planted in small groups of individual colors within the larger planting.

Plant tulip bulbs in sunny to partly shaded areas that have good drainage. The bulbs should be planted into well-prepared beds that have been generously amended with organic matter and a light application of general-purpose fertilizer. Plant the bulbs about 5 inches deep, spaced about 3 or 4 inches apart.

Once planted, you may plant over the bulbs with flowering cool season bedding plants such as alyssum, pansy or viola. Make sure the bulbs will grow taller than the bedding plants and that the colors of the bedding plants and bulbs will look good together when they are both in bloom.

Planting tulips in containers is a wonderful way to grow them. When you grow them in containers, you can move the bulbs inside when they come into bloom. As pleasing as they are in the landscape, spring bulbs are especially enjoyable indoors.

Any size container with drainage holes may be used to grow spring bulbs. Plant the bulbs in pots using potting soil. The bulbs should be close together but not touching, and the tips of the bulbs should show just above the soil surface.

Place the planted container outside in a shady spot

Look at Me - Tulips

where it is cool. Move the pot to a sunny location when growth from the bulbs is about an inch tall. Only bring the container in on nights when temperatures are predicted to reach the mid-20s or below, and return the pot back outside when the severe cold is over.

When the flower buds begin to show color, bring the pots inside for display. The flowers will last longer if they are kept cool. If you keep your house warm, move the pot to a cool room or outside at night if you can.

Unfortunately, tulips do not rebloom well in our climate even if you take the effort of digging up and storing the bulbs. The good news is that tulip bulbs are relatively inexpensive and readily available. Get out now and enjoy the tulips blooming in our local gardens and make plans to plant them into your garden for next year.

New Orleans City Park employees laying out and planting the tulip bulbs seen blooming in the photo below.

A variety of tulips planted near Big Lake in the New Orleans City Park.

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

Super Plant of the Month - Louisiana Iris

The 2022 LSU AgCenter Super Plants have been announced and among them is a spring beauty, the Louisiana iris species. Louisiana is the global hotspot for iris diversity, and we have five native species and countless named cultivars in nursery production and available to gardeners.

Louisiana irises are uniquely suited for our wet and humid growing conditions. They thrive with little care and put out a bounty of blooms beginning in March through early June.

A group of Louisiana irises planted near a garden pond.

There are five native species of iris found in Louisiana's wetlands- *Iris brevicaulis*, *Iris fulva*, *Iris giganticauerulia*, *Iris hexigona*, and *Iris nelsonii*. When these native species are cross pollinated, they produce a rainbow of cultivars with blossoms in purple, blue, white, red, pink, orange, yellow, and purple-black. The petals can be striped, edged, or streaked with additional color, meaning there's a Louisiana iris out there for every gardener's taste. Irises can be planted in the winter when the rhizomes are dormant, or in the spring when there are blooms and buds present.

As a Super Plant, Louisiana irises grow well in all 64 parishes statewide. Louisiana irises enjoy full sun but will tolerate dappled shade. With six or more hours of sunlight, they bloom best. Louisiana iris can be grown in a range of soil moisture conditions, and even in sunken pots within a water feature or ordinary garden beds. They enjoy soil with plenty of organic matter or added compost to enrich the planting area. Low spots that retain moisture after a rainfall are ideal planting locations for Louisiana iris. They can be planted alone or mixed into existing landscaping or with other plants that also enjoy moist growing conditions. A little slow-release fertilizer in the early fall helps them to grow as the temperatures decrease, and allows for the rhizomes to store up extra resources ahead of the winter dormant period. Brown leaves can be gently clipped or tugged away from the rest as needed.

Super Plant of the Month- Louisiana Iris

In the spring, the foliage will begin to emerge from the soil and any dead leaves can be cleaned up. After the flowers have finished blooming, you may also clip the spent stalk back. Louisiana iris do produce seed pods, which can either be removed, or allowed to dry and develop mature seed. Once the pod is dry and brittle, split it open to expose the seeds. The resulting plants may be a hybrid if there are multiple iris species or cultivars in the area. This is how new, interesting colors and forms of Louisiana iris are discovered. Plant the seeds into moist potting mix. They may also be propagated by dividing the rhizomes in the late summer, which produces plants identical to the parent plant. The best time to dig and propagate iris rhizomes is August to early October. Carefully dig the clump of rhizomes and separate them out about a foot apart. Be sure to rebury them shallowly, just under the soil surface. Water them in well and mulch with 2" of material. Adding a little fertilizer when planting the divided clumps also helps insure a good start.

Louisiana iris have few pest and disease problems, but keep an eye out for rust in early summer as the air becomes more humid. Rust can be controlled by applying fungicides, but typically it is not worth treating as the irises are going dormant for the summer months anyway. Leaf miners and caterpillars may nibble through some leaves, but do no lasting damage. Iris borer insects are an issue up north, but are a rare pest here in Louisiana. Iris blooms can decrease if the rhizomes become exposed above ground and scorch in the sunlight. Be sure that the rhizomes are covered at all times with a light layer of soil and a couple inches of mulch. Mulch also helps to keep the soil underneath evenly moist. Typically no additional water is needed as we receive adequate rainfall during the active iris growing seasons.

Louisiana irises will be available at the local garden centers soon, often with blooms on them already. The local iris society also sells rhizomes several times a year. You can check out their Greater New Orleans Iris Society webpage for information. Louisiana irises are also a great pass-along plant so if you are dividing some, be sure to share this new 2022 LSU Super Plant with others to enjoy! For the complete listing of LSU Super Plants, check out https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/research_stations/hammond/features/super_plants. The full LSU AgCenter Louisiana Iris Guide is also available at https://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/02E30CFB-734D-40A2-9010-67D23EBFB26A/38089/pub1969LAIrisFORWEB2.pdf

~Anna Timmerman

Louisiana iris is an excellent plant for your raingarden or bioswale like this stormwater management project on Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans.

Weed of the Month - Lespedeza

If you grow a home lawn, then you will encounter weed issues. It's a simple statement yet everyone easily nods in acknowledgment. It's just one of the problems that are managed while maintaining a monoculture planting like turfgrass.

Common lespedeza with flowers growing in a lawn.

Common lespedeza is exactly that; it can be found from Shreveport over to Monroe, down to Alexandria, out past Lake Charles, through Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and all-around Lake Pontchartrain. I'll go as far as to say that if I had enough time to look, I could find common lespedeza within the lawn at the governor's mansion! Everyone deals with this plant at some point so prepare yourself by learning how to identify it and manage it so that it won't give you troubles this growing season.

Common lespedeza, or sometimes referred to as Japanese clover or annual lespedeza, goes by the scientific name *Kummerowia striata*. Some older literature may list the name as *Lespedeza striata*. Both are correct however the former is the most up to date. Botanically speaking, it is classified as an annual, meaning that it starts from a seed every year where it germinates in the spring and finishes its entire life cycle within the year. It is a member of legume family, Leguminosae, which many know to be the pea or bean family. Members of this family are famous for having beneficial relationships with soil borne bacterial organisms, or rhizobia. These bacterial organisms can fix atmospheric nitrogen (N_2) and transform it into plant usable nitrogen (nitrate, NO_3). That fact alone can explain why it can be found in almost every home lawn.

Lespedeza can be easy to identify once seen and observed. The growth habit is prostrate, meaning that is grows more sideways than towards the sky. It grows very low above the ground, just underneath the mower blade. Woody stems are easily discerned when observed closely. Especially, later in the year towards the end of summer. The leaves of common lespedeza come in groups of three, hence the common name Japanese clover (clover also has leaves of three). Each leaflet is oval, dark green in color, and displays prominent leaf veins. It will eventually produce a small pink/purple pea-like flower during the summer months.

Cultural control methods are often overlooked but they can help with long-term control if the homeowner stays persistent. To reduce the competitive advantage of common lespedeza take

Weed of the Month - Lespedeza

necessary steps that promote the growth of healthy turfgrass. Supplement irrigation when rain is not providing enough water for the lawn. Provide deep and infrequent irrigation to encourage lawn growth. Allow the lawn to thoroughly dry out before reapplying. Excessive irrigation and waterlogged soils can predispose the lawn to a common lespedeza infestation.

Adopt practices that reduce soil compaction. Compacted soils are a problem in South Louisiana. The simplest way to reduce soil compaction is by using a core-aerifying machine. The machine removes plugs of soil in an effort to break up the compacted layer and increase water infiltration. Warm season turfgrasses like centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass, Bermudagrass, and zoysiagrass can be aerified during the active growing season. To reduce soil compaction from the use of riding lawnmowers, mow in different patterns and avoid taking the same path every time.

A large mat of lespedeza smothering the turfgrass in a lawn.

Severe infestations of common lespedeza may require the assistance of an herbicide. After the spring green up period (period early in the growing season where turfgrass slowly starts growing again after being dormant), common lespedeza can be controlled using Fertilome Weed Free Zone. Many people don't realize there is a lespedeza problem until later in the summer when the daily high temperatures exceed 90°F. When that happens switch to using metsulfuron-methyl (MSM Turf). Both herbicides have good activity on common leaspedeza when applied as described by the product labels. Pre-emergent herbicide control can be found using the active ingredient isoxaben. Look for in Fertilome Boradleaf Weed Control with Gallery or ask your lawncare professional to apply Snapshot, both products include isoxaben as the active ingredient. Whichever route you take, please read through the label instructions before applying any pesticide product. The label is the law!

~William Afton

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What's Bugging You – Yellowmargined Leaf Beetle (*Microtheca ochroloma*)

The yellowmargined leaf beetle (YMLB), *Microtheca ochroloma*, is an imported pest of cruciferous crops. It is native to South America and was first found in Mobile, AL in 1947. Since then, it has spread along the Gulf Coast from Florida to Texas and into Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

YMLB will feed on many members of the Brassicaceae family including broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, mizuna, mustard, napa cabbage, radish, turnip and watercress; but shows a host preference for napa cabbage, mustard, radish and turnips.

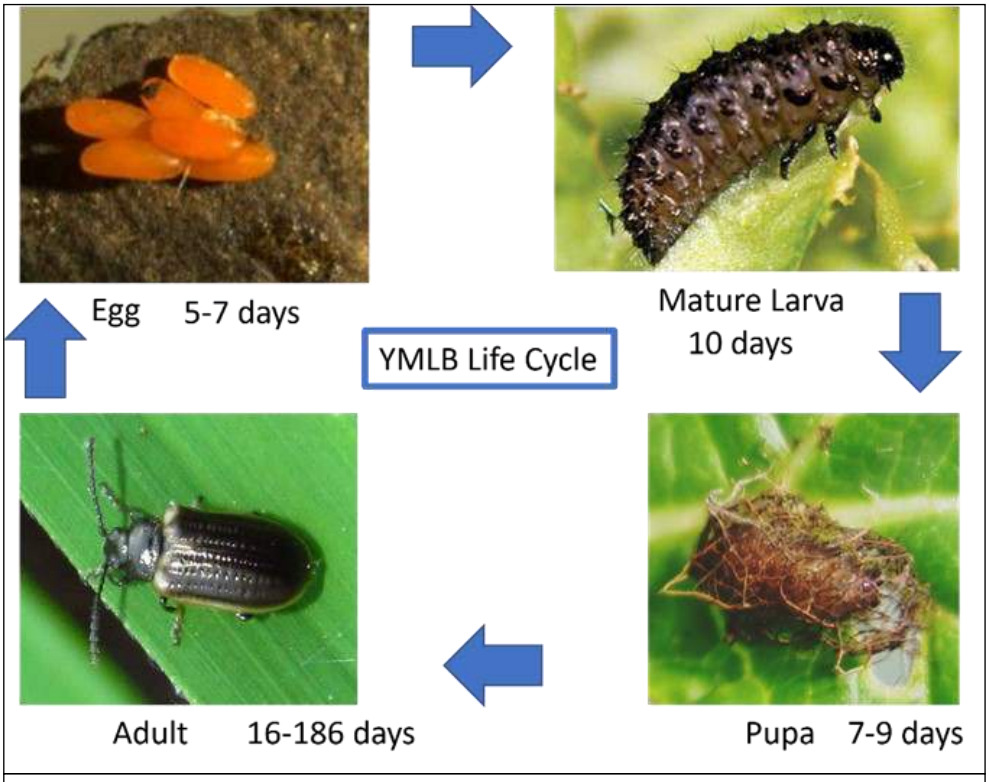

Figure 1: YMLB life cycle showing eggs, larva, pupa and adult.

Description

Eggs are bright orange, elongate and laid singly or in groups on plant leaves, stems and on the ground. Eggs hatch in 5-7 days. The larvae are dark grayish brown, about ¼" long, covered with tufts of fine hair. The larval stage lasts about 10 days. The adult larvae spin a loose cocoon and are often found on the underside of leaves. The pre-pupal/pupal stage is about 7-9 days before adults emerge. Adults are about 1/5" long, predominately dark brown to black with a prominent yellowish margin around the elytra (hard wing coverings); thus the common name. Adult YMLB females have been found to live from 2 weeks to 6 months depending on the host they feed on.

Under dry conditions with temperatures consistently at 68°F, the life cycle can be completed in 27 days. There can be multiple generations each year but populations decrease rapidly once temperatures consistently remain above 80°F and beetle development ceases at temperatures below 45°F.

Damage

Most damage occurs in the spring when both the larvae and adults are found feeding on crucifers. They feed on the foliage and leaf margins, making small holes, often defoliating the host. Larvae are gregarious and often work in groups to strip individual stems. They will also feed on plant stems and plant roots and can cause severe damage underground to turnip and radish crops.

Control

Weekly monitoring of crops for early signs of YMLB is an important step in preventing major damage. Check the underside of leaves for signs of adults and larvae. Under optimal conditions, populations can explode rapidly, so weekly scouting is necessary. YMLB is controlled easily with some common chemical pesticides containing active ingredients: pyrethrin, zeta-cypermethrin, or carbaryl. An organic alternative that is still very effective would be products

What's Bugging You – Yellowmargined Leaf Beetle (*Microtheca ochroloma*)

containing Spinosad. Proper utilization of trap crops is also effective.

~Dr. Joe Willis

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Baluso, R, E.M. Rhodes and A. Majumdar. 2015. An Integrated Approach to Managing Yellowmargined Leaf Beetle in Crucifer Crops. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YClztqxJg6A&t=371s

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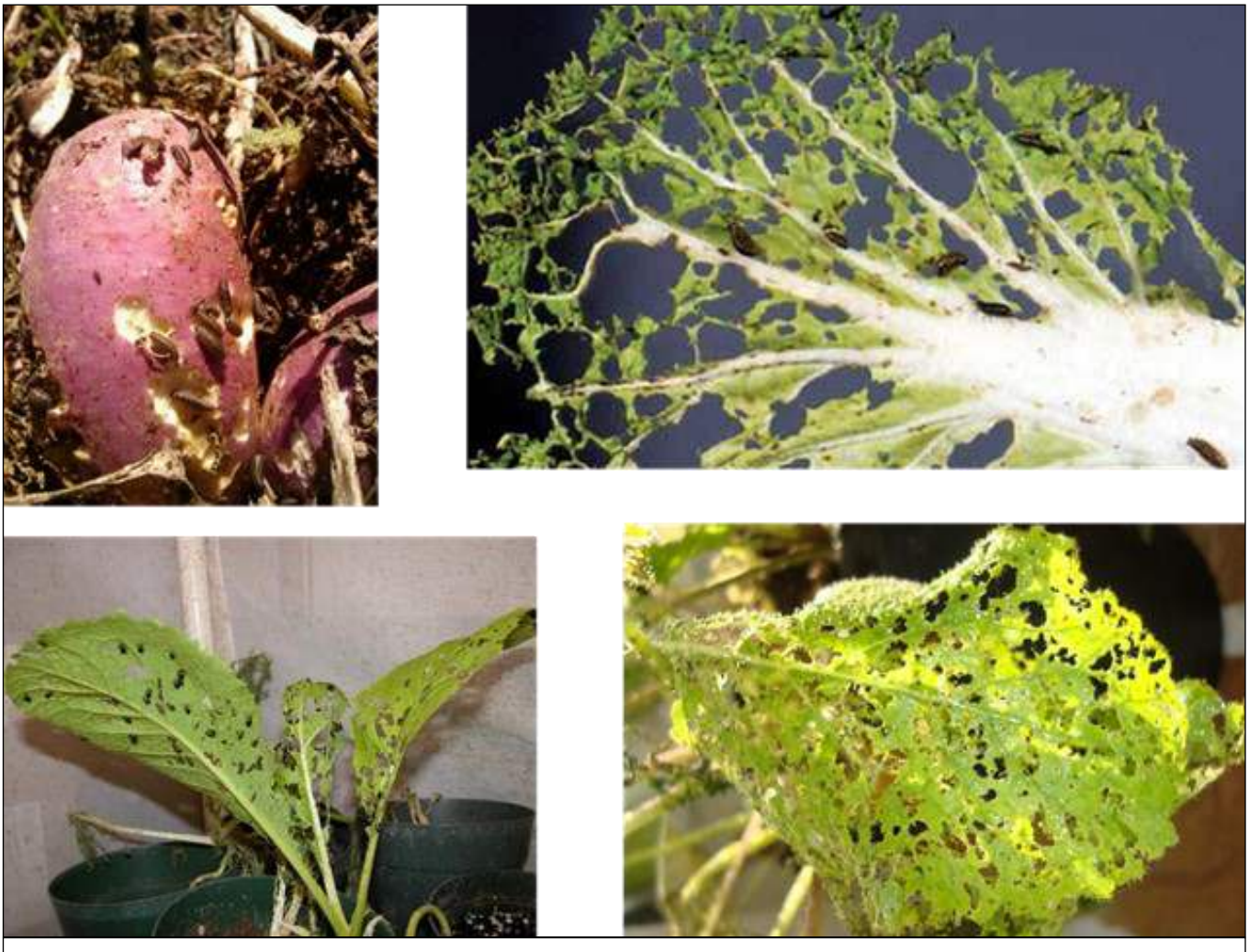

Figure 2: YMLB damage on (clockwise) radish root, napa leaf, radish leaf, mustard plant

Insect Pheromones and Attractants

Pheromone and attractant traps is the next installment in our series on alternative and biopesticide control approaches. Pheromones are chemical messengers produced by a variety of animals including insects. There are different types of pheromones produced with differing functions, such as, aggression pheromones, trail pheromones, reproduction pheromones and sex pheromones. Sex pheromones are powerful chemical attractants emitted by female insects. These chemicals are detected by male insects to assist them in locating unfertilized females for mating. Pheromones of many insect species have been identified and synthetically reproduced for use in pest management programs. Some pheromones attract only one species of insect, while others (such as the clearwing borer lure) attract several related species.

Figure 1. A sticky trap protected by a plastic housing.

In pest management programs, sex pheromone traps are used primarily for detection and monitoring purposes. Traps are deployed when conditions are right for insect activity. By regularly checking the traps and recording numbers, you can determine when insect species are present and active. You can also determine when populations have reached a level or life cycle has reached a stage that control measures are warranted. This type of controlled monitoring and decision making increases the effectiveness and efficiency of control measures and reduces the overall use of pesticides. The majority of the sex pheromone traps use a durable trap housing with a replaceable sticky card and a replaceable pheromone source. Figure 1 shows the design of some of these traps.

Directions for trap usage and deployment come with the traps and pheromone lures. In general, traps are placed at eye level for flying insects and one trap per 10,000 to 30,000 square feet or one per zone for enclosed production areas like greenhouses. The traps should be deployed at least two weeks prior to expected insect activity and monitored weekly. The sticky traps are replaced as needed and the pheromone lures usually last 30-75 days.

Figure 2. A yellow sticky trap with insects.

Some commercially available pheromones include coddling moth, corn earworm, beet armyworm, European corn borer, apple maggot, cotton boll worm, fall armyworm, pecan nut casebearer, black cutworm, clearwing borer, lesser appleworm, oblique banded leafroller, and red banded leafroller. One major producer of insect lures, Scentry Biologicals, sells lures for over 100 different insect species.

Another insect trap that many are familiar with are the yellow sticky traps (they also come in blue) (Figure 2). These are usually 3" x 5" or 6" x 8" bright yellow cards with an adhesive/sticky coating on

Insect Pheromones and Attractants

both sides. These cards indiscriminately trap adult flying insects of many species. They can be used to monitor the presence of insect pests, the direction of their arrival, population density in some cases and population dynamics. One BIG caveat with insect sticky traps: since they trap indiscriminately, you must be able to correctly identify the trapped insects to get information from the traps (Figure 3). The most common trap color is yellow; however, blue traps work better for thrips and they are commercially available.

Sticky traps are seldom used to directly control insect populations except in enclosed environments (e.g. greenhouses, growth chambers). Sticky traps should be located vertically along the long axis just above the plant canopy. As the plants grow, continue to move the traps upward to maintain this orientation with the plant canopy. A general recommendation is to use one sticky trap for every 10,000 ft^2 unless monitoring for whiteflies (one trap every 1,000 ft^2). If you are growing multiple crops, it is recommended to have at least one sticky trap per crop type within that crop planting.

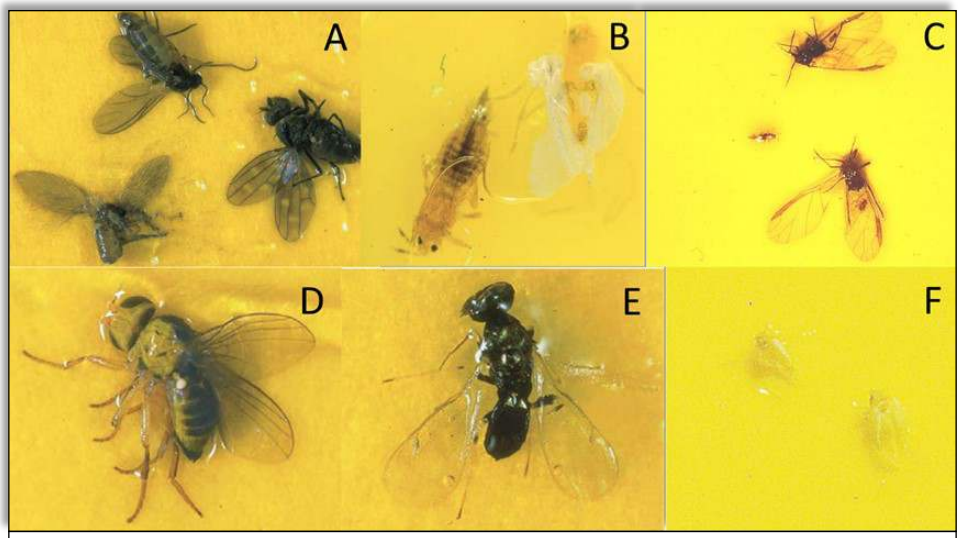

Figure 3: Insects trapped on yellow sticky card: A – fungus gnats, B – thrips, C – winged aphids, D – leafminer fly, E – parasitic wasp, F - whitefly

As a general rule, pheromone traps and sticky traps should be used in conjunction with visual crop inspection to determine when control measures are necessary.

Another method of insect trapping uses lures or baits other than sex pheromone lures. In most cases, these are food attractants. This type of insect trapping has been used for years before the advent of specially designed traps. Today, there are multiple traps and multiple lures commercially available. Most are designed for mass collection of insects (Figure 4). There are also many readily found online plans for homemade designs that are effective.

Directions for proper use and placement of these traps comes with the device. There are also traps that use light as an insect lure. The most common are mosquito lights and flea traps.

~Dr. Joe Willis

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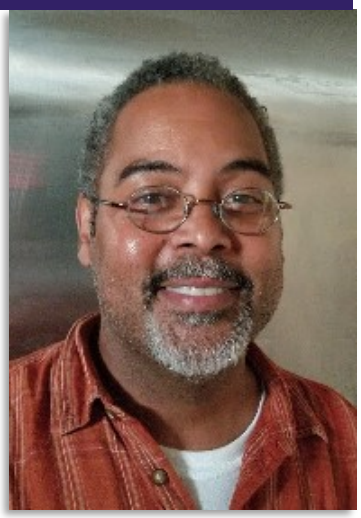
In the Kitchen with Austin

Lentil Salad



Bean salads are extremely versatile because they can be served either at room temperature or chilled. This one goes well with fish or alone as an on-the-go main course.

Salad Ingredients:

1 cup green lentils, sorted and rinsed
3 cups water
1 bay leaf
1 cucumber, seeded and diced
1 red bell pepper, diced
½ red onion, diced
¼ cup parsley, chopped

Dressing Ingredients:

¼ cup olive oil
2 Tbs. lemon juice
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
1 tsp. honey
1 clove garlic, minced
Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions:

Think of cooking these lentils like pasta. Bring salted water to a boil over medium heat. Add lentils and bay leaf, cooking uncovered for about 15 minutes until al dente.

While lentils are cooking, place dressing ingredients in a small jar with a tight fitting lid. Shake well to combine and set aside until ready to dress salad.

Bon Manger!

Coming Events

LSU AgCenter
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LSU AgCenter Westbank Wednesdays Garden School

Chris Dunaway, LSU AgCenter Horticulture Extension Agent hosts an in-person lecture series.

Location: **Jefferson Parish Westbank Regional Library**
2751 Manhattan Blvd, Harvey, LA 70058

Times: **7:00 PM**

Dates & Topics

Wednesday March 23

Tree Selection, Planting and Care

Learn about: the benefits of trees,
How to select the correct tree for your landscape,
How to correctly plant a tree,
Proper tree maintenance.

Wednesday April 13

Terrible Termites

Termites feeding on our homes and trees are as bad as ever. Learn how to inspect your property for the presence of termites and how to protect yourself against them.

Wednesday May 25

Lawncare Basics

Learn everything you need to know about how to maintain your home lawn. Includes topics from aeration to weed control.

Send your lawn guy!

Join us for the

New Orleans Spring Garden Show

An Educational Experience for the Home and Professional Gardener

Saturday, April 2, 2022 - 9 AM to 4 PM &

Sunday, April 3, 2022 - 9 AM to 4 PM

New Orleans Botanical Garden

Victory Avenue, City Park

Admission: $10.00 Adults / Children 5-12: $5.00

Children under 5 & Friends of City Park enter free

Plant and Garden Products, Exhibits & Sales

Kids Discovery Area

Educational Programs

Music, Arts & Crafts

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NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK
BOTANICAL GARDEN

For more information contact 504-736-6519 or GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

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 Gormley 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

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

Know Dat Grow Dat Microgreens & Produce
Online Sales
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- Treme-Laffite
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 & Third Saturday of the month, 10:00AM-2PM

St. Charles Parish

German Coast Farmer's Market at Westbank Bridge Park
13825 River Road, Luling, LA
Wednesdays, from 1-5PM

German Coast Farmer's Market at St. Charles Parish Eastbank Regional Library
160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon

Farmers Markets in the GNO 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,
and 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

Harahan Farmer's Market
6437 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA
Sundays, Noon-4PM

Good Time Guild Farmer's Market at St. Martin's Episcopal Church- Metairie
2216Metairie Rd.
1st Thursdays monthly, 2PM-7PM
3rd Saturday monthly, 10AM-3PM

St. Tammany Parish

Covington Farmers' Market
Covington Police Department
609 North Columbia St., Covington, LA 70433
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
Covington Trailhead
419 N. New Hampshire
Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (rain or shine)
www.covingtonfarmersmarket.org
General information: 985.966.1786

Mandeville Trailhead Community Market
Mandeville Trailhead
675 Lafitte St, Mandeville, LA 70448
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (rain or shine)
https://www.facebook.com/TheMandevilleTrailhead
985.624.3147

Madisonville Market
Riverside Park South
Water St., Madisonville, LA 70447
Sunday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
www.madisonvillemarket.org

Folsom Village Market
Hwy 40, one block east of Hwy 25
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (weather permitting)
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday
985.507.6496 (daytime only)

Abita Springs Art and Farmers' Market
22049 Main St., Abita Springs, LA 70420
Sunday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM (rain or shine)
https://www.townofabitasprings.com/farmers-market
985.892.0711

Camellia City Farmer's Market
Old Towne Slidell
333 Erlanger St. (Corner of Third St.)
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/
985.640.7112

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
Ninth Ward Nursery	2641 Deslonde St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 296-8398
Crazy Plant Bae	800 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans LA 70119	(504) 327-7008
Canopy Plant Company	6030 St. Claude, New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 381-4033
Too Tall Nursery	2817 N. Roman, New Orleans, LA 70117	tootallfarm@gmail.com
Nice Plants Good Pots	Pop Up and Online Sales	Etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots
Plantery NOLA	Pop Up Locations	www.planterynola.com
Canopy Plant Co.	Pop Up and Online Sales	www.canopyplantco.com
New Orleans Succulent Boutique	Online Sales	https://sites.google.com/view/nolasucculentshop/home
Root Life Mobile Plant Nursery	Pop Up Locations	https://rootlifeplantnursery.com/
New Orleans Green LLC	Online Sales	www.neworleans-green.com
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 3rd St., Luling, LA 70070	(985) 785-6165
St. Bernard		
Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	https://plantpricks.com/

Local Independent Garden Centers

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 3rd 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
Plumeria Insanity Nursery	https://www.facebook.com/Plumeria-Insanity-Nursery-102123651930419	
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) 887-433
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

If you would like your licensed retail nursery listed, please email gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

Pelican Greenhouse Plant Sales

NEW ORLEANS BOTANICAL GARDEN
CITY PARK

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

Date	Location	Hours
Friday, March 4	Pelican Greenhouse	9am-1pm
Saturday, March 5	Pelican Greenhouse	9am-1pm
Saturday, April 2	Spring Garden Show	9am-4pm
Sunday, April 3	Spring Garden Show	9am-4pm
Friday, June 3	Pelican Greenhouse	9am-1pm
Saturday, June 4	Pelican Greenhouse	9am-1pm

Pelican Greenhouse
2 Celebration Drive.
(Not inside the Botanical Garden)Visit
NewOrleansCityPark.com for park map

March Checklist/Garden Tips

⇒ 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/de3e7516e68dfee4a21a84b38caa4df8/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 caladiums.

⇒ 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:

Click here for info.

Click on the logo above or go to lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/home_gardening/lawn

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. You may 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 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. Mow mature winter weeds with seeds and collect then dispose of the clippings. This will help reduce the weed pressure next season.
7. 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

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

Follow us on Facebook at GNOGardening

For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

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