

GNO Gardening Magazine

February 2023

In This Issue: look at Me—Small Magnolia Trees By: Chris Dunaway What's Bugging You? **Grapemyrtle Bark Scale** By: William Afton <mark>Disease of the Month</mark> Damping Off By: Anna Timmerman Weed of the Month lis, False Shamrock, Woodsorrel, folet Woodsorrel <u>Oxalis latifolia, Oxalis</u> violacea By: Dr. Joe Willis

February Planting Guide In the Kitchen with Austin Local Garden Centers February Garden Checklist Lawn Care Do^{'s} & Don't^{'s}

> Cover photo: A Jane Magnolia tree growing in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens. by Chris Dunaway

Look at Me!

Small Magnolia Trees

agnolia trees are prized for their fragrant flowers and attractive foliage. The

choice for a providing privacy.

2. Teddy Bear Magnolia: This is another even smaller

A V J Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) is even the official state flower of Louisiana. Unfortunately, with its height of over 70' and a spread of over 40', they can be unsuitable for small gardens or landscapes. The good news it that there are many small magnolia cultivars and hybrid trees that are well-suited to growing in small gardens and containers.

1. Little Gem Magnolia: This evergreen magnolia is one of the most popular small magnolias sold today and many of them can be seen in the New Orleans area on both public and private properties. The little gem magnolia is actually a cultivar of Magnolia *qrandiflora* created by selective breeding. The trees look like a miniature versions of the Southern Magnolia. Trees grow to a maximum height of 15-25 feet, with a spread of 8-10 feet across. They produce large, fragrant white flowers similar to its larger cousin in spring and summer. Its glossy evergreen leaves provide a lush backdrop for the blooms. Little gem magnolias are good



A Little Gem magnolia flower



A Soulangeana magnolia growing in the dappled sunlight under a live oak tree

cultivar of *Magnolia* grandiflora. The teddy bear only reaches height of 15-20 feet and has a less pyramidal shape than the little gem.

3. Soulangeana Magnolia: Also known as the Saucer Magnolia, this tree is the most popular variety of deciduous hybrid magnolia grown and many examples can be seen in gardens throughout the New Orleans area. Although this tree is sometimes called a Japanese magnolia, it is actually the cross between two parent trees which are native to China (M. denudata × M. liliiflora) and the cross was made in France. It grows to a height of 15-25 feet, with a similar spread, and produces large, saucershaped flowers in shades of pink, in early spring.

4. Star Magnolia: This cultivar (*Magnolia stellata*) is one of the smallest magnolias, producing a showy cloud of white flowers in early spring. Originally from the highlands of the Japanese island of Honshu, it is sometimes considered a variety of *M*. *kobus*. This slow growing deciduous plant can be grown as a large shrub or pruned up as a small multistemmed tree. It eventually reaches a height of 15-20 feet with a rounded crown spreading to 10-15 feet when mature.

5. Magnolia Jane: (M. liliiflora x M. stellata) (See cover for photo) This deciduous magnolia hybrid is a smaller variety that is well-suited to growing in our area. It grows to a height of 10-15 feet, with a similar spread, and produces large, tulip-shaped flowers in shades of pink and purple in spring. Leaves are dark green and somewhat leathery in appearance.



A Butterflies magnolia flower

When planting small magnolia hybrid trees in USDA hardiness zone 9, it is important to choose a location that provides full sun or partial shade and well-drained soil. These trees are not droughttolerant, so they will need to be watered regularly, especially during dry spells. It is also a good idea to mulch around the base of the tree to help retain moisture and regulate soil temperature. These

6. Magnolia Susan:

This is another cross of

the parents (M. liliiflora x M. stellata). Magnolias Susan and Jane both belong to the Little Girl series of magnolia hybrids. This a slow growing deciduous shrub or small tree that can reach a height of 8-12 feet tall and produces fragrant reddish-purple flowers in mid to late spring.

7. Butterflies Magnolia: This is also a hybrid of two species of deciduous trees, (M. acuminata x M. denudate). This variety is one of the few which produces yellow flowers. The blooms are tulip shaped and appear on the bare branches in late winter and early spring. The small tree has a pyramidal crown, and it rises on a single trunk to a height of 15 to 20 feet. With its large deep green leaves the tree is attractive all summer.

8. Magnolia Loebneri: Also know as Merrill, this is a cross between (*M. kobus* × *M. stellata*). This deciduous magnolia hybrid is another popular choice for USDA hardiness zone 9 gardens. It is a medium sized tree typically growing to 20-30' tall with a

small magnolia trees will also perform well in containers.

Remember when planting trees that you should match the tree to the conditions at the location and your personal expectations for the tree. The evergreen varieties are good for screens and blocking unwanted views. The green leaves provide the backdrop for the flowers making them stand out. The deciduous varieties can serve as ornamental elements and understory trees. The flowers appear before the leaves in the spring so a contrasting background can enhance the appearance of the flowers.

Small magnolia trees are an excellent choice for gardeners and landscapers looking to add beauty and fragrance to their outdoor spaces. With so many different varieties to choose from, it's easy to find one that fits your needs and style. Whether you prefer deciduous or evergreen trees, there is a small magnolia tree that is perfect for your garden.

rounded crown. It is more often grown in a multitrunked form than as a single trunk tree. Fragrant star -like white flowers (4-6" wide) with 10-15 petals appear in early spring before the foliage.

February Vegetable Planting Guide

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

What's Bugging You? Crapemyrtle Bark Scale

cale insects aren't a new pest to home gardeners. If anyone has ever grown an evergreen type of plant, then I'm certain they've dealt with the tiny little white spots on stems and the undersides of leaves. We've been watching a newly introduced species of scale that feeds on crapemyrtle trees and is spreading throughout the Southeastern U.S. including Louisiana. The

insect that feeds on crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia spp.*) plants. Adult females are very small (around 2mm or .008 inch) resemble white or grey felt-like coverings on small twigs to larger trunks. They can be found near pruning wounds, within branch crotches, and on older wood. Close examination of a colony will reveal, pink eggs, and juveniles underneath the larger scale coverings. The most noticeable sign of CMBS is

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale (CMBS) is making its way around Lake Pontchartrain, and we need to be aware and proactive in managing this emerging plant pest. Like previously stated, scale insects aren't a new phenomenon. In fact, there are quite a few different scales that are considered common in the garden and landscape.



A crapemyrtle tree showing signs of Crapemyrtle bark scale infestation. The limbs are discolored black due to the growth of sooty mold on the honeydew excreted by the CMBS. The white specks visible in the photo are living CMBS.

According to taxonomists, scale insects are found within the order Hemiptera and are categorized within the super family, Coccoidea. To keep 8,501 different species organized, scales are divided into several families. Some of the more popular scale families include the cochineal scales (Pseudococcidae), soft sclaes (Coccidae), and armored scales (Diaspididae). CMBS belongs to a family known as the felt scales (Eriococcidae). The adults of this family often produce a whitish colored wax that give them a mealybug appearance.

CMBS, Eriococcus lagerstroemia, is non-native scale

the presence of black sooty mold. This condition is caused by a water mold organism that grows on honeydew secretions of scale and other piercing/ sucking insects like aphids and whiteflies.

When a female CMBS juvenile (nymph) finds a suitable host plant, it secretes white fibers that eventually intertwine and create a felt-like covering. These females do not have wings and permanently attach themselves onto bark tissue. Eggs are then laid underneath the felt-like covering from May to September when the originating female dies. The recently hatched nymphs are called "crawlers" because they have legs and can move. Once a nymph goes through the first molt or "instar", it loses its legs and becomes sessile just like the female previously described. At least three generations have been observed around Little Rock, AR area (USDA are physically protected from the environment. Most contact insecticide options do not work well on this pest because of that feature. However, after the first hatch in spring an opportunity presents itself. As mobile nymphs start moving outward from where they hatched, you can apply horticultural oil, neem

hardiness zone 7) and 4 generations in the Dallas, TX area (zone 8). It is possible that nymphs and eggs can overwinter underneath the felt-like coverings. However, Arkansas researchers have observed late-stage nymphs overwintering under cracks, crevices, and loosened pieces of bark.



Scale insects in the Eriococcidae sub family produce a white colored wax resulting in a mealy bug appearance.

Management of CMBS begins with proper identification. If black sooty mold is seen accumulating on trunks and stems, then refer to the previously stated description a CMBS outbreak. A few pictures of the plant in question sent to an LSU AgCenter Horticulturalist should suffice. If not, they will ask for a specimen or more pictures. Once a CMBS outbreak has been identified, take steps to ensure good plant health. Evaluate irrigation schedules, fertilizer programs, and general maintenance requirements to maintain conditions inside the plant so that plant vigor is optimized.

Time of year is also going to be crucial in determining when to intervene with a control method. Due to the felt-like covering associated with CMBS, adult females

oil, insecticidal soap, and other pesticides with similar modes of action. When using these types of products, it is important to apply as the label instructs, not only for safety but product efficacy as well. You want to make sure you have the right amount of product mixed with spray solution to effectively control the pest. Start applications late-March and early-April to target the first hatch of the year. Follow up with consecutive sprays as the label dictates.

A few beneficial insects have been documented that feed on CMBS. Ladybeetles (ladybugs for laypeople) are the most notable natural enemies of scales. It has been reported that they can provide near 75% suppression of scales in the landscape. For extreme cases, more pest management steps will be required, but using beneficial insects like ladybeetles to control

scale pests can be very helpful in a preventative strategy. Keep in mind that for beneficial insecticides to work, do not use broad spectrum insecticides that control a wide range of pests. The aim is to protect and support the predatory insects that feed on plant

pests. Some of the CMBS infestations that I am see in St Tammany Parish are out of control and require more powerful options. The most effective way to manage CMBS populations at this time is with the use of systemic insecticides. This class of insecticides circulates the insecticide within the plant so that as the pest insect feeds on plant juices, they eventually take in the insecticide and are quietly disarmed. This option targets both the adults under the felt-like covering and any newly hatched nymphs. These products should be applied at first chance in the spring once sap flow in spring has begun. Use the emergence of leaves as an indicator to determine sap flow. The two common options are imidacloprid (Merit, BioAdvanced Tree & Shrub, and Fertilome Tree & Shrub Drench) and dinotefuron (Safari, Gordon's Zylam Liquid). Imidacloprid is sold at most of you retail garden centers whereas you might need to find a specialized landscape dealer like Keeling Company, Ewing Irrigation, or Site One Landscape Supply to find products containing dinotefuron. Be sure to follow the product labels to ensure environmental safety, personal safety, and product efficacy.

Ladybeetle nymphs are built to feed on slow-moving insect pests

~William Afton

References:

Cranshaw, W. and D. Shetlar. 2018. Garden insects of north america. Princeton university press. Princeton, NJ.

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale. 2023. 27 Jan 2023. <htpps://www.stopcmbs.com/>

García Morales M, Denno BD, Miller DR, Miller GL, Ben-Dov Y, Hardy NB. 2016. ScaleNet: A literature-based model of scale insect biology and systematics. Database. doi: 10.1093/database/bav118. http://scalenet.info



Disease of the Month Dampening Off

tarting plants from seed is one of the joys of gardening, however a condition known as dampening off can bring a headache into the process. Dampening off is the rotting of seeds and seedlings in the soil, typically caused by one of several using a microwave or oven. This will kill any of the

Preventing dampening off in your growing system is key to avoiding big losses of plant material. Always start seeds in a sterile potting mix if possible. If you are reusing potting media, you'll need to sterilize it

fungal pathogens. Pythium is typically to blame for this condition, however Fusarium, Phytophthora, and Rhizoctonia can also cause dampening off. All three fungal pathogens favor cool, wet, or damp soil conditions, typically when soil temperatures fall below 68*F. Excessively high temperatures above 77*F may also cause pathogen activity and dampening off in excessively wet soils. Dampening off pathogens survive in the soil and on contaminated items like used trays and pots, workbenches, garden tools, and storage bins.

Dampening off can impact seeds sown indoors such as



A bell pepper plant exhibits wilting due to damping-off seedling disease. Photo by Stuart Gauthier/LSU AgCenter

fungal pathogens that may be present, as well as any insects, grubs or bacteria that may attack the seedlings. To use an oven, spread the potting media in an oven safe pan and cover it with tin foil. Bake at 175-200° F for 30 minutes. You can also microwave soil, using a microwavable container at full power for 2 minutes. Store your newly sterilized potting media in a clean bag or container until you are ready to use it.

If you recycle pots and trays to start seeds, be sure to clean them in a 10% bleach solution, soaking them for 20+ minutes. Scrub them to remove any soil or plant debris clinging to the plastic

in a greenhouse or light rack, or outdoors. Seeds either fail to germinate all together, or sprout, appear healthy, and shortly thereafter, collapse. The seedlings seem to keel over at or slightly above the soil line. Often, a "pinched" looking area, or soft, slightly discolored section of the sprout may be visible. Seedlings typically die after they collapse as they no longer can transfer water and nutrients from the soil. Damaged seedlings cannot be saved. Often entire trays or pots of seedlings will decline rapidly once dampening off begins.

or terra cotta. Rinse thoroughly and allow the pots and trays to air dry before use. Make sure your potting bench or work area is clean and free of old soil or plant material. Tools such as soil scoops should also be clean.

Another prevention tip is to keep the potting media evenly moist, but not saturated. This can be rather tricky, and requires gardeners to monitor their seedling containers daily, or even more frequently. Potting media should not be allowed to dry out completely between waterings, nor should it become so saturated that water streams out when you squeeze not reused if possible as a safety precaution. If they a little in your fist. A few scant drips of water releasing from this "squeeze test" indicates you're in the right moisture range. It is always better to slightly under water than over water seedlings.

are to be reused, soak them in a 10% bleach solution for 20+ minutes and allow to air dry. Be doubly sure to scrub any plant debris or soil from all surfaces of the pot or tray. It is VERY difficult to eliminate

Proper temperature when starting seeds can also prevent dampening off. The use of thermostats or bottom of the tray heat mats specially made for plant starting help. 70-75*F is a good ideal range for most commonly grown plants started from seed. In the absence of climate control, try to avoid sowing seeds when temperatures are very cool. Tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers are especially susceptible to dampening off when soil gets below 65*F. Overcrowding seedlings in pots and trays can inhibit good airflow, leading to fungal activity and dampening off. The



Rotting and sloughing off of the lower stem of an okra seedling is caused by damping-off disease. Photo by Stuart Gauthier/LSU AgCenter

dampening off pathogens from contaminated pots and trays, so it is usually best to remove them from your system permanently.

As seedlings grow, they become hardier and less susceptible to dampening off. Some seeds can be ordered treated with a fungicide which helps to prevent dampening off (this is common in sweet corn for example). Treated seed can be a good thing to use if you need to plant at the earlier end of the season to get into a market ahead of other growers, to meet a deadline such as for a plant sale, or to beat pest

pathogens are also able to spread rapidly through seedlings in close contact. If seeds are planted too deeply, the seedlings become stressed and more susceptible to dampening off. Be sure to adhere to the proper planting depth for each type of seed you are sowing. This information can be found on seed packets, in the LSU Vegetable Planting Guide, and by using a search engine.

If you do end up with a bad batch of seedlings infected with one of the dampening off pathogens, dump the soil and seedlings in the trash. Don't compost it and it is best to not add that material to any garden beds or plantings. Pots and trays that become contaminated should also be discarded and

and disease pressure in the warm season. Soil temperatures are still fluctuating in the spring months, so treated seed can help to overcome dampening off, especially if direct sowing into the garden.

Good sanitation and cultural practices go a long way towards keeping your seedlings healthy and preventing dampening off in your system. Dampening off is a common issue in seed starting but it can be prevented by the use of sterile potting media, clean work surfaces and vessels, and by carefully monitoring the soil temperature and moisture levels.

~Anna Timmerman

Weed of the Month Oxalis, False Shamrock, Woodsorrel, Violet Woodsorrel Oxalis latifolia, Oxalis violacea

really persistent perennial weed that spreads like juicy gossip and lasts longer than a broken heart is one of our hardest weeds to control. You'll see it in your lawn, in your flower bed, in your vegetable garden, in your native *latifolia*)(they look like butterfly wings) and the other has more rounded triangular leaflets (*Oxalis violacea*). (Figure 1). You'll commonly find them growing together in mixed populations. As is the case with all woodsorrels, the leaves fold downward at night and in

landscape - is there any place I haven't seen it! It goes by many common names, but most gardeners refer to it simply as oxalis.

Oxalis is a large genus of around



Figure 1: A – Oxalis violacea – rounded triangular leaflets. B – Oxalis latifolia – sharply angular leaflets

700 species worldwide. Identification can be difficult, and classification is changing and confusing. There are around 36 North American species. The genus name *Oxalis* derives from the Greek "oxys" meaning "sharp". This refers to the sharply sour taste of the leaves due to presence of oxalic acid. Oxalic acid is toxic if consumed in large quantity due to formation of calcium oxalate crystals in the kidneys. However, except for people with kidney disease, ingesting a toxic dose of oxalic acid by eating sorrel leaves is unlikely, and they are often used to add a sour accent to salads, drinks and other similar foods.

There are two species of *Oxalis* that seem to be the bane of area gardeners every year especially in the early Spring and Fall. As far as I can determine, these two species are *Oxalis latifolia* and *Oxalis violacea*.

Each has palmately compound leaves with three leaflets and a long petiole growing from a basal rosette. One has sharply triangular leaflets (*Oxalis* cloudy weather and open up again like an umbrella when the sun is out. There are 4-19 lavender to pinkish-purple flowers (rarely white) at the end of each flower stem (Figure 2). The flowers have five petals, fused at the base, and ten stamens. The fruit is a small capsule containing several seeds. In our area, these flower in the early Spring and again in the Fall. The flowers are perfect but they are not self-fertile. *Oxalis violacea* is a native plant from NY to Florida and westward to the Rocky Mountains. *Oxalis latifolia* is native to North, Central and South America.

Plants can get up to 16" tall and prefer moist soil with partial shade. However, they grow quite happily in full sun in the middle of a vegetable garden. The plants reproduce by seeds, runners and bulbils.

The bulbils (Figure 2) are one of the reasons that oxalis is so hard to control. If you try to hand pull it, it leaves lots of bulbils behind to make new plants. If you hand dig them, it is very difficult to get all of the bulbils unless you remove large portions of soil with the roots and then sift through it looking for bulbils. The bulbils germinate very easily. Mulch doesn't do an effective job of controlling oxalis because the germinating bulbils and leaf petioles easily penetrate through the mulch and will grow as long as they need to for emergence on the outside. Landscape cloth and weed barrier fabrics do a much better job at

controlling oxalis.

There are no selective herbicides that kill just oxalis. Systemic herbicides like triclopyr (broadleaf specific), and glyphosate (broad spectrum) are effective, but care must be taken not to get the herbicide on nontarget plants. Always read and follow label directions. For control in lawns, MSM turf is generally recommended.

~Dr. Joe Willis

Selected References:

SName=Oxalis%

20violacea

Missouri Plants. https://www.missouriplants.com/Oxalis_ violacea_ page.html

Oxalis. 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxalis

Oxalis latifolia. 2018. Plantwise.org. https://factsheetadmin.plantwise.org/Uploads/PDFs/20167800558.pdf



Figure 2: A – Oxalis violacea inground with flowers. B – Whole plant removed from the ground. C – Palmately compound leaf. D – 5-petaled flower (dark veins radiating from center). E – Flower with 2 petals removed showing parts. F – Cluster of bulbils at plant base. G – Bulbils separated. H – Germinating bulbils. I – Capsules (fruit) that contain several seed.

In the Kitchen with Austin

Turnip and Leek Soup

Just in case you are looking for an alternative to a big pot of gumbo for Mardi Gras, this veggie forward soup fills the bill. Ingredients:

2 Tbs. olive oil
4 leeks, sliced and cleaned
1 lb. turnips, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 quarts stock (chicken or veggie) or water

1 bay leaf ¹⁄₂ cup wild rice 2 Tbs. parsley, chopped Salt and Pepper, to taste





Directions:

In a large pot, sauté leeks in olive oil over medium heat until soft. Add turnips and cook for another 5 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook until fragrant. Add stock or water, bay leaf and wild rice. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Season to your liking with salt and pepper. Stir in parsley just before serving.

Bon Manger!

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 See calendar on their website for dates and times: <u>https://</u> www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/

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 2-7PM

Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview 4516 Clearview Store Pickups, preorder online at <u>https://</u> www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/buygroceries-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, 10 Am—2PM

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

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 160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon

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 <u>https://</u> <u>app.sourcewhatsgood.com/markets/refresh-</u> 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 <u>http://midcityaf.org</u>

Laughing Buddha Farm Hubs

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

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. 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)<u>www.covingtonfarmersmarket.org</u> 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

February Checklist/Garden Tips

February is the month to fertilize hardy fruit trees such as apple, peach, nectarine, fig and fruit bushes such as blackberry and blueberry. Citrus are fertilized in late January or early February. Wait until March to fertilize tender fruit trees like banana, guava and avocado. For information on growing fruit trees in our area click on the link for the LSU AgCenter publication <u>Louisiana Home Orchard</u>.

Plant gladiolus corms this month through mid March. Plant groups of corms every two weeks during the planting season to extend the display of flowers.

Pick snow peas in the vegetable garden frequently. Ideally the pods should be harvested when flat before the seeds begin to enlarge.

You may clip ground covers back now before new growth appears to remove unattractive foliage, rejuvenate the plants and control growth. Liriope, monkey grass, ferns (if browned back by freezes), wedelia, Japanese ardisia and Asiatic jasmine among others can be cut back with a lawn mower adjusted to its highest setting (make sure the blade is sharp), a string trimmer or even hedge clippers on small plantings. Selectively remove unattractive leaves on aspidistra (cast iron plant) and holly ferns by hand.

Keep beds mulched to a depth of two to three inches to control weeds in beds. Use leaves, pine straw or other available materials. Use your bagging lawn mower or shredder to chop up the leaves prior to putting down. This reduces the volume of the leaves, increases surface area to help the leaves break down and release nutrients, reduces matting and fungal growth, reduces movement by wind and makes for a cleaner look. Mulch helps prevent weed seeds from germinating and helps to retain moisture in the soil.

If you are growing caladiums from tubers, plant them indoors this month to get a head start. Plant the tubers in trays or pots of potting soil, placing them in a warm area of the house. Water them when the soil is dry to the touch. As the leaves appear, move them to a sunny windowsill or a shady area outdoors (if day temps are 70ish and evenings in the 60s). Plant pre-sprouted tubers into the garden in early April.

Finish harvesting any citrus fruit remaining on the trees. Quality will begin to decline as the trees get ready to flower.

Onions, shallots, garlic and leeks are susceptible to an insect called thrips which causes small white marks on the foliage called stippling. Heavy infestations can damage foliage to the point that the harvest is reduced. Control thrips with Malathion.

Clean out your pond garden or aquatic garden this month, if you need to. It is advisable to do this if there is a thick layer of gunk on the bottom. It is best to get this done while the weather is cool, the plants are dormant and the fish are less active. Pond cleaning is the best time to divide and repot water and bog plants that are dormant or semi-dormant. Do not divide those in active growth such as Louisiana irises and calla lilies.

Plant rose bushes in well prepared beds with good drainage and plenty of sun. It is important for the graft union to be 2 inches above the soil of the bed. If you plant roses purchased in containers, this was taken care of by the nursery. Just plant the bush so the top of the root ball is level with the soil of the bed. In the case of bare root roses, you must see to this yourself during planting. Finish planting bare root roses by the end of February.

Plant hardy bedding plants now for a spring burst of color. Foxglove, delphiniums, and hollyhocks need to be planted now so that they will bloom before the summer. Plant snapdragons, dianthus, petunia, stock, phlox, and lobelia as spring annuals in sunny areas. Need cool season color in a partial shade area? The best choices are cyclamen, primroses, pansy, viola, nicotiana, foxglove, alyssum and forget-me-not.

Sow some herbs to enjoy this spring into your garden beds or in containers. Chervil, dill, fennel, cilantro, stevia, oregano, parsley, and rosemary can be planted now. Basil needs warmer temperatures, so hold off until the end of the month.

In the vegetable garden, it's time to get spring crops started! Do a soil test to determine what amendments need to be added.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't^{'s}

Do:

- 1. If you have a history of problems with crabgrass or goosegrass, apply a pre-emergent herbicide now.
- 2. Annual Bluegrass has set seed and will be dying off as the weather warms. Use a bagging mower to collect the clippings. Dispose of them or add them to a hot composting system.
- 3. Apply selective herbicides and sedge killers to kill off winter 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.
- 4. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass.
- 5. Apply sulfur or lime to adjust the pH if necessary according to soil lab recommendations.
- 6. Use a mulching mower to shred fallen leaves without removing them or use a bagging mower to collect them and put them in your compost pile or use them as mulch in your gardens.



A clump of annual bluegrass with seedheads.

7. Late winter to early spring is a good time to address drainage issues in your lawn. Consider installing a rain garden. Dedicating a small portion of your property to water management can improve the health of your lawn.

Do Not:

- 1. Do not apply fertilizer until mid-March as the weather warms up.
- 2. Do not lay down fill over the lawn grass.
- 3. Do not lay sod or spread warm-season turfgrass seed.
- 4. Do not dethatch or aerate the lawn.
- 5. 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

Dr. Joe WillisAnna TimmermanChris DunawayWill AftonOrleans ParishPlaquemines & St. BernardJefferson ParishSt. Tammany ParishHorticulture AgentParish Horticulture AgentHorticulture AgentHorticulture AgentJWillis@agcenter.lsu.eduTimmerman@agcenter.lsu.eduCDunaway@agcenter.lsu.eduWAfton@agcenter.lsu.edu

To subscribe to this newsletter please send a request to GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu. The LSU AgCenter is a statewide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.