



GN Gardening Magazine

November 2023

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Cover photo: Petra Croton growing in the New Orleans  
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Photo by Chris Dunaway



# Look At Me

## Croton (*Codiaeum variegatum*)

Gardeners looking to add some fall color to their garden often turn to Crotons to add a burst of color to their landscapes and containers. Crotons, scientifically known as *Codiaeum variegatum*, are popular ornamental plants cherished for their vibrant and colorful foliage. They can be grown both indoors and outdoors.

Crotons, sometimes called variegated laurel, are evergreen shrubs or small trees native to tropical regions of Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and Australia. They belong to the Euphorbiaceae family, which also includes another popular holiday plant, the poinsettia, and can reach a height of up to 6-10 feet in the right conditions. In the US, they are typically grown as houseplants because they are hardy to USDA plant hardiness zones 9-11.

One of the standout features of crotons is their striking, variegated leaves. The foliage can display a wide array of colors, including red, orange, yellow, green, and purple. The thick and leathery leaves come in various shapes and sizes that make them a focal point in any garden or indoor space. Crotons require bright light to maintain the colorful foliage. The

colorful leaves may revert to shades of green in insufficient light, while too much direct sun makes the leaves gray and dull looking.

Crotons are used in outdoor landscapes in the tropical or coastal areas of the US as foundation plants, hedges, or specimen plants. They are very sensitive to cold, frost tender, and will not survive in freezing temperatures. Temperatures as low as 40 can damage a croton. If the plants are in the ground, cover for protection when temperatures drop below 40 degrees. Containers should be brought indoors during the winter months. Crotons prefer full sun or partial shade and should be kept moist.

If you choose to grow Crotons as houseplants, there are a few care considerations to keep in mind. Crotons require well-drained soil with good organic content. They thrive in warm, tropical climates so they do best at indoor temperatures between 60 and 85°F. Water when the top of the soil is dry to the touch. Excess water can cause fungal disease on the roots, and plants will drop older leaves if they stay too wet. Crotons benefit from a high humidity environment that you can create by placing it on a



photos by Dr. Joe Willis

Crotons growing in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens that demonstrate the array of colors and leaf shapes available.



pebble tray or regular misting. They are sensitive to cold temperatures and should be protected from drafts. Place croton in a sunny location such as an eastern, southern, or western window. If croton is getting too little light, its newer leaves will be less colorful.

Crotons have few serious insect or disease problems. Common pests that can affect crotons include spider mites, aphids, and mealybugs. Regular inspection and treatment with horticultural or neem oil can help control infestations. Fertilize plants in spring and summer to keep the plants healthy and growing vigorously. You can encourage faster growth by fertilizing monthly with a liquid fertilizer. All parts of the plant are poisonous so keep children and pets from eating any of the leaves. Croton sap can be irritating to the skin and stain.

Crotons are easy to propagate by cuttings and air layering. For propagation by stem cuttings, take a 4-6 inch cutting that has at least 3 leaves on it. Dip the cut end in rooting hormone powder and plant in a small container with well-draining soil. Keep the cutting in a sunny spot with consistently warm temperatures until it establishes roots and new growth and then transplant it into a larger pot or garden. Propagation by air layering works best on large, leggy houseplants that could benefit from more branching.

There are several hundred varieties of Croton bred for their leaf shape and colors. They feature many leaf types and sizes - swirly, narrow ribbons to wide, flat leaves. Some have fun names like 'Dreadlocks' and 'Sloppy Painter'. Others are more dignified such as 'Eleanor Roosevelt' and 'Ronald Reagan'. Some popular varieties are 'Petra',

'Eleanor Roosevelt', 'Oakleaf', 'Zanzibar', 'Gold Star', and 'Mother and Daughter'.

So, if you are seeking to add a touch of autumn to your landscape, consider adding Crotons to welcome the fall season.

~ Liz Langlois & Dr. Joe Willis

### **Selected References:**

LSU Ag Center: <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1637263009965>

University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Horticulture, Division of Extension: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/croton-codiaeum-variegatum>

Croton Indoor Plant – Care Of Croton Plants <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/houseplants/croton/care-croton-plants.htm>

Care Of Outdoor Croton Plants: How To Grow A Croton Outdoors <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/houseplants/croton/growing-croton-outdoors.htm>

Codiaeum variegatum

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/codiaeum-variegatum/>



Photo by Randy LaBauve/LSU AgCenter

Crotons sport gorgeous colors of fall such as yellow, red, orange and green.

# November Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Beets	Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen
Cabbage	Blue Vantage, Platinum Dynasty, Stonehead, Cheers, Red Dynasty, Emblem, Savoy King
Carrots	Danvers 126, Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Enterprise, Maverick, Sugar Snax 54
Celery	None Given
Chinese Cabbage	None Given
Collards	Champions, Flash, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates, Blue Max, Heavi-Crop
Garlic	<b>Creole:</b> Early, Louisiana, White Mexican; <b>Italian:</b> Italian Late, Early Red Italian, Lorz Italian; <b>Large:</b> Elephant
Kale	Siberian, Vates
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White Vienna, Winner
Leeks	Alora
Lettuce	<b>Head:</b> , Ithica, Great Lakes 118; <b>Leaf-Red:</b> New Red Fire, Red Sails, Red Salad Bowl; <b>Leaf-Green:</b> Nevada, Salad Bowl, Sierra, Tango, Grand Rapids; <b>Romaine:</b> Tall Guzmane Elite, Cimarron Red, Coure, Flashy Trout Back, Green Towers, Paris Island Cos, Sunbelt; <b>Butterhead:</b> Buttercrunch, Esmeralda
Mustard Greens	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Tendergreen
Onions	<b>Red:</b> Red Creole, Southern Belle, Red Hunter; <b>White:</b> Candy, Savannah Sweet; <b>Vidalia:</b> Amelia, Candy Ann, Caramelo, Century, Georgia Boy, Goldeneye, Granax 33, Honeybee, Mata Hari, Miss Megan, Mr. Black, Nirvana, Ohoopee Sweet, Sweet Caroline, Sweet Harvest, Sweet Jasper
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross
Shallots	Matador, Prism
Spinach	Bloomsdale Long Standing, Melody, Tyee, Unipak 151, Chesapeake Hybrid, Early Hybrid #7,
Swiss Chard	None Given
Turnips	<b>Greens and Root:</b> Just Right, Shogoin, Tokyo Cross; <b>Greens:</b> Alamo, White Lady, Seven Top, Purple Top White Globe, Royal Crown

# Weed of the Month- Southern Salt Marsh Aster

## (*Symphyotrichum divaricatum*)

This month's weed is one that is in bloom throughout the fall, adding beauty to roadsides and native plant gardens. It also is a curse in lawns, especially drought-stressed turf with scanty soil coverage. Southern salt marsh aster, sometimes called white wood aster or slender aster (*Symphyotrichum divaricatum*) is an annual,

herbaceous plant native to Louisiana and common on the gulf coast. It can perennialize in milder climates where deep frost is rare. It develops a taproot and thrives in areas of low soil moisture as well as wetter soil conditions such as in ditches and along waterways. Southern salt marsh aster can reach heights of up to six feet, but it also tolerates

mowing and can develop a low growth habit, reaching as little as one inch in height with a more lateral position above the soil. This tolerance for mowing means that it is easily able to colonize turfgrass when seeds are dispersed into bare or patchy areas in lawns. Southern salt marsh aster is found throughout the coastal areas of the southern United States, and ranges northward as far as Virginia, preferring

woodland edges, clearings, and waste areas. It can handle full sun into partial shade. The most notable identifying characteristic of this aster is the flower. It produces a pistillate, bilateral bloom with ray florets surrounding a yellow disc, with pale lavender being the most common petal coloration. Darker lavender or purple, slightly blueish, or white blooms are also



Photo by William Juett  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Southern salt marsh aster flower

possible. Blooms form throughout the summer, but in fall are most abundant. Stems are green and simple, sometimes developing purplish areas or brown, woody tissue where the stems must stand up to stresses like excessive wind, foot traffic, or mower pressure. Sometimes there are small hairs where the stems meet the leaves. Leaves are thin and hairless. Like most asters, Southern salt marsh asters provide a



good pollen foraging opportunity for native bee species and for beetles, and as a nectar source for butterflies, especially smaller species such as skippers (Hesperiidae). The seeds, though small, are utilized as a food source by small mammals and songbirds. Seeds can be collected in fall and planted by direct sowing into bare ground or in nursery pots for later transplanting into native plant collections or wildlife gardens. Southern salt marsh aster is easy to cultivate and has no pest issues of note. It is susceptible to powdery mildew but will continue to grow and thrive despite this.

As a turfgrass weed, Southern salt marsh aster can be difficult to control thanks to the extensive taproot and the energy stores within it. Maintaining a thick, healthy lawn through proper cultural controls such

as irrigation, proper fertilization, and correct mowing deck height is preferred. This eliminates competition by weed species, including asters. If the turf has been stressed, especially for long periods of time due to drought, disease, or insect issues, weeds, including this aster, can take hold.

Choose a broad leaf selective herbicide for use on your turf. Treatment is best done in the cool season to avoid injuring the grass. Many products are not designed to be applied at temperatures in excess of 75 -80 degrees Fahrenheit. Atrazine can be used in St. Augustine, zoysia, and centipede grass while it is actively growing, but should only be applied to bermudagrass lawns when they are dormant.

Simazine can be applied to all four turfs grown here when dormant or actively growing. Products containing metsulfuron, 2,4-D, and dicamba can also be applied anytime in the cool season but be sure to do so on wind-free days to avoid drift of these products onto non-target gardens. Prevention by



Photo by Emily Bell  
Florida Wildflower Foundation

Southern salt marsh aster seeds

growing a thick, healthy lawn is the best line of defense against asters and other broadleaf weed species.

~Anna Timmerman

#### References:

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center: [https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=sysu5](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=sysu5)

Ask Extension: <https://ask2.extension.org/kb/faq.php?id=730269>

AggieTurf: <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/turfgrass-weeds/slender-aster/>

# What's Bugging You?

## Cypress Twig Gall Midge

We all love our plants. Especially, the ones which we've planted ourselves and have watched grow over time. Digging the hole, fertilizing, watering, pruning, managing pests, and all the sweat equity put into the process can explain a lot of this relationship. I get folks all the time to ask questions about all sorts of strange phenomenon they experience with their trees. Most of the time it ends up being a small negligible issue but sometimes not. In this article I want to inform readers about an issue that I am seeing with our state tree, the bald cypress. An issue that many of my clients are noticing as well. The bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, was officially recognized as the official state tree of Louisiana in 1963. For native Louisianians, we know that our relationship with the bald cypress goes way back before that piece of legislation. Folks have been calling the extension office wondering if these strange growths are going to kill their cypress trees. It almost sounded like they were describing the seed cone of a bald cypress but after reviewing a picture, this was definitely not a seed structure at all. It was a gall produced by the cypress twig gall midge, *Taxodiomyia cupressiananassa*. Midges are related to flies and therefore are classified in the order Diptera with other common flies like house flies, horse flies, and mosquitoes. Members of this order are referred to as true flies and display halteres in place of hind wings. Halteres are modified

wings in the shape of 'drum sticks' that the insect uses for balance during flight. Gall midges are small in nature with most falling within a range of 0.5-3mm.

Galls are distinctive growths on plants due to the

activity of mites or insects.

The larval stages of these pests chew on various plant parts like leaves, twigs, flowers, fruits, and roots. They leave salivary secretions.

The secretions cause an increase in the production of naturally occurring plant growth hormones.

Increased hormone production results in increased cell numbers and size. The gall is basically a protective structure that houses the gall inducing larvae until they drop to the ground and pupate. Some may refer to a gall as tumor-like.

The cypress twig gall midge develops on leaves and small twigs of both bald



Photo by William Afton

Cypress twig galls.

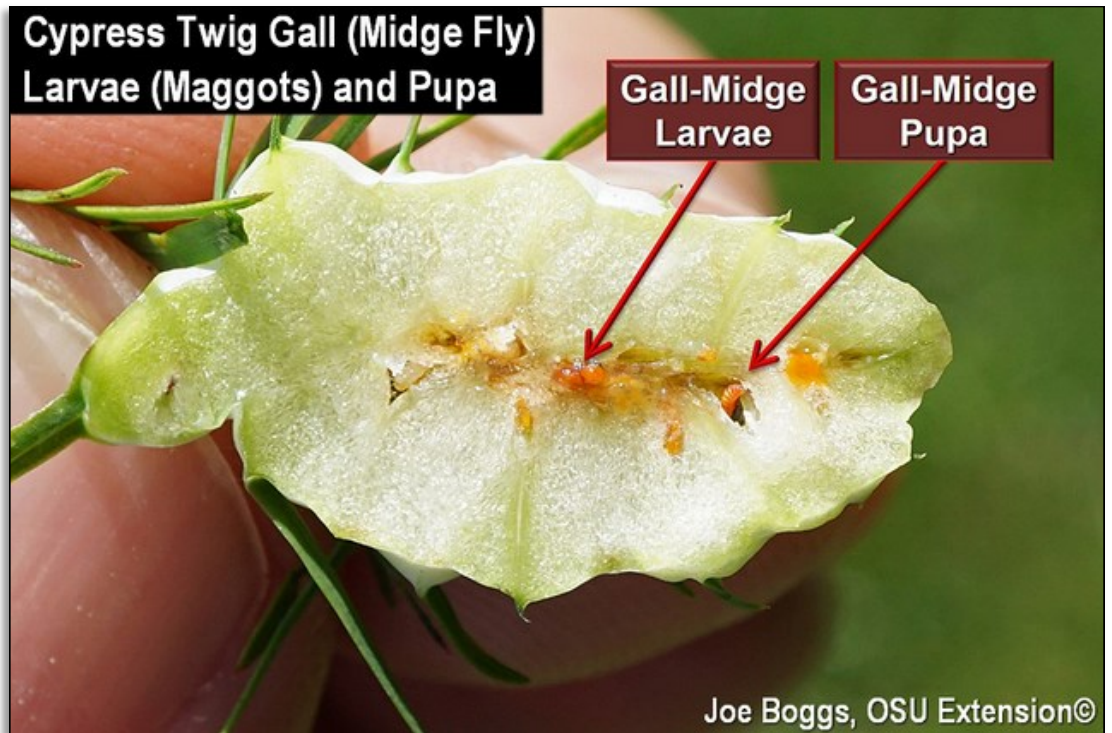
cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, and pond cypress, *T. ascendens*. It overwinters on the ground where the gall fell off from the previous season. Adults emerge in spring and lay eggs on developing branches and needles. When eggs hatch and larvae begin feeding on plant tissue, the salivary secretions induce the growth of the gall where it covers and protects the young insects for the remainder of the growing season. Leaves, along with all of the galls, fall to the ground in fall with natural leaf drop. This cycle will continue every year unless someone intervenes.

Most insect galls are the outcome of host and plant evolution over the years. These small insects exploit a



niche for survival and species proliferation. Due to this co-evolution, the galls don't necessarily cause harm to the tree. They mainly take away from the overall aesthetics of the tree. Especially when an accumulation of galls appears on a branch, eventually turn brown causing the limb to droop. Some genetic profiles within the cypress genus are less susceptible to this gall midge, meaning that you'll find some trees that are covered and some that aren't.

To control and manage cypress twig gall, the infection cycle must be broken. If a cypress tree is observed with significant gall formation during the growing season, make an attempt to rake up fallen leaves and collect old galls in late winter and early spring. Collect everything in a bag to throw out with the trash or add them to the burn pile. Insecticide treatments aren't recommended because we don't have a solid, practical



Cypress twig gall midge larvae and pupa inside of a cypress twig gall.



Photo by William Afton

The seed structures of bald cypress, shown in the photo, resemble twig galls.

option for control. Luckily, there are several natural predators that can help keep the cypress twig gall midge population low. In fact, there are at least five different parasitic wasps that can attack either eggs or newly hatched larvae.

Luckily, this isn't a serious problem, but I can understand the concern after going through severe drought conditions for almost the whole span of 2023. Our trees don't look their best and some are worried. Do what you will to manage the cypress twig gall midge, but don't forget that maintaining a mulches area above the immediate root system and providing supplemental irrigation during times of drought can go a long in keeping your landscape trees looking and feeling their best.

~William Afton

## References

- Cranshaw, W. and D. Shetlar. 2018. Garden Insects of North America. 2nd ed. Princeton University Press, New Jersey.
- Gomez, C. and R. F. Mizell III. 2019. Featured creatures: cypress twig gall midge. University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Gainesville, FL.



# Container Gardening Part 2

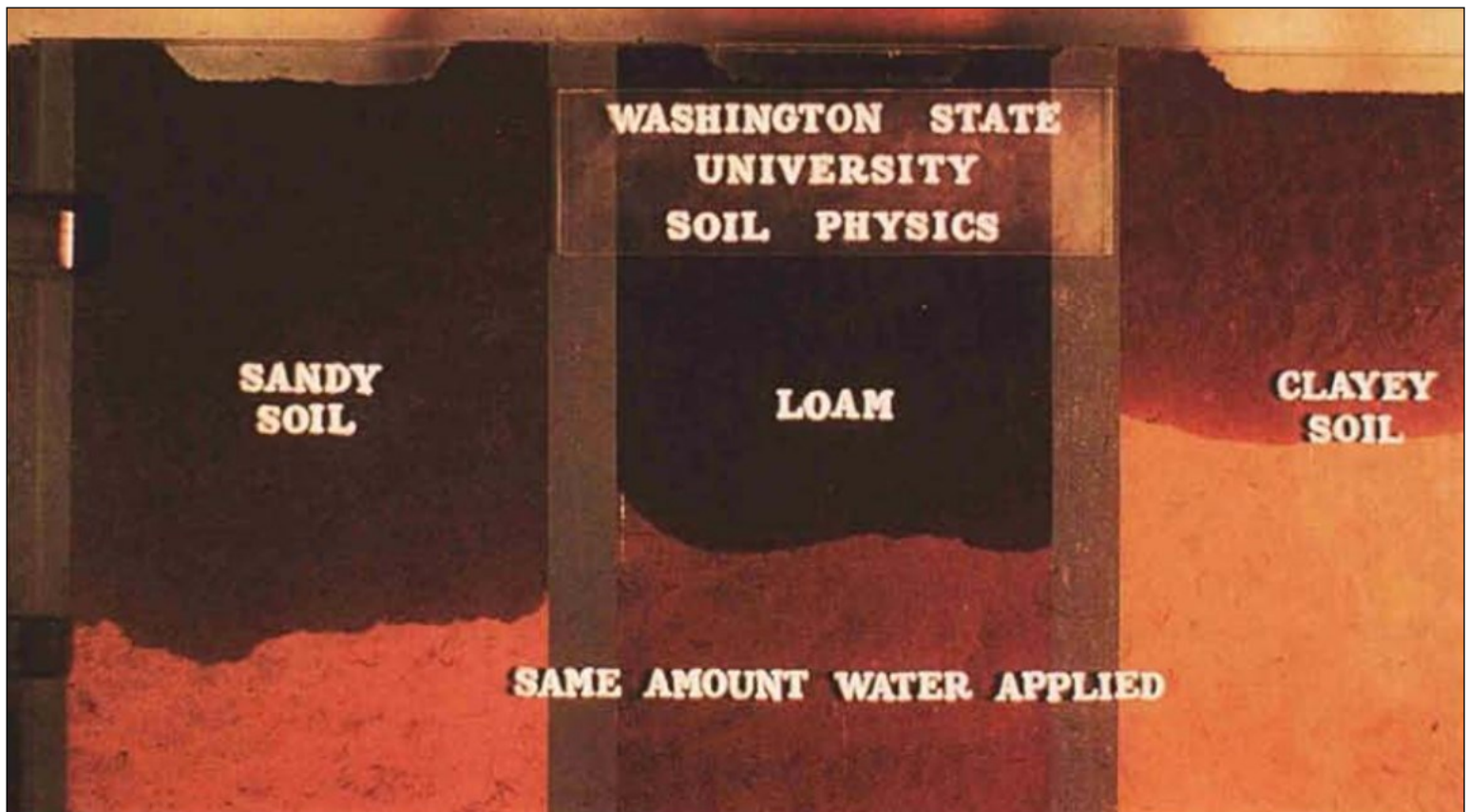
## Water Movement and Irrigation

**C**ontainer gardening is certainly different from standard in-ground gardening. One big difference pertains to water movement and irrigation requirements. Let's begin by examining water movement through soil and then take a look at how that impacts container gardening.

Water moves through soil by moving through the soil pores. Standard garden soil is about 50% pore space which is filled with air/water. Potting soil mixes, on the other hand, have a higher pore space percentage; as much as 85%. This space is also filled with air/water. Water movement through soil is due to a combination of forces – gravity, adhesion, and cohesion. Gravity affects water in soil the same way it affects everything – pulling it from a higher elevation to a lower. Adhesion is the force causing two unlike things to stick together. Cohesion is the force causing two identical things to stick together.

Pore size has a tremendous effect on water movement. Pour a volume of water on a container filled with gravel, sand, or clay and it will flow out the bottom of the gravel first, the sand second, and the clay third. This is due to pore size (Figure 1). Practical application – it takes a longer to fully saturate soils with smaller pore size.

Now is a good time to discuss the perched water table. What is a perched water table? Basically, the perched water table is where the gravity force pulling water downward is balanced by the capillary force pulling water upward. Capillary force is the combination effect of adhesion and cohesion; the two forces discussed above. This creates a zone of soil that is saturated (all pore spaces are filled with water) (Figure 2). As shown, pore size affects how high the perched water table forms. Practical application –



**Figure 1:** Demonstration of water movement through soils with different pore sizes. Sandy soil has the largest pore size, loam the next highest, and clayey soil the smallest pore size.

a potting mix that contains large and small pores is the best balance.

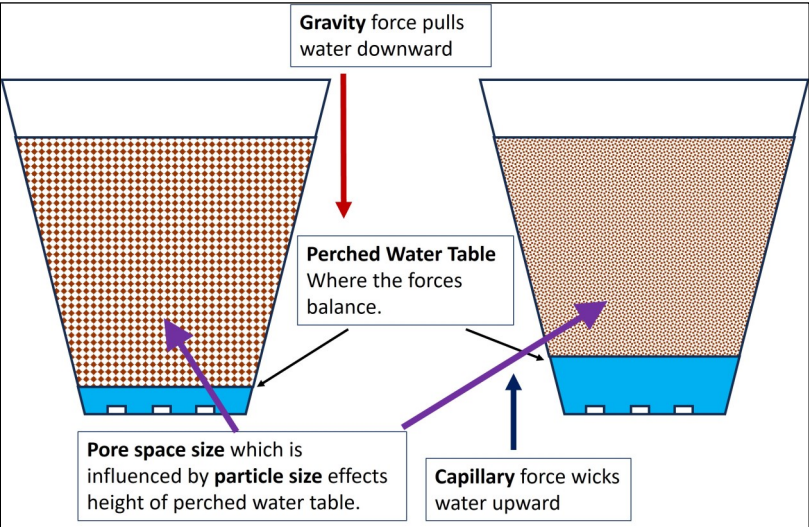
Now let's look at how water moves through layered (stratified) soil. Research shows that water moves

uniformly through uniform soils regardless of their components. However, in layered soils, water tends to move through and saturate one layer before moving into the next. This is true regardless of pore size differential between layers. Figure 3 shows water moving through a layer of soil, encountering a layer of sand, with another layer of soil below the sand

layer. Even though sand is more porous than the soil layer, the water tends to spread throughout the sand layer before entering the soil layer. Once it penetrates the thin sand layer, it tends to spread through the sand layer before entering the second soil layer. This type of behavior is due to the forces of adhesion and cohesion. Practical application – putting a layer of stone, gravel, etc. in the bottom of your container does not improve drainage. It actually impedes drainage and raises the perched water table (Figure 4). However, recent research has shown that soil layering in containers (stratified substrates) might be beneficial. Because water tends to fill one

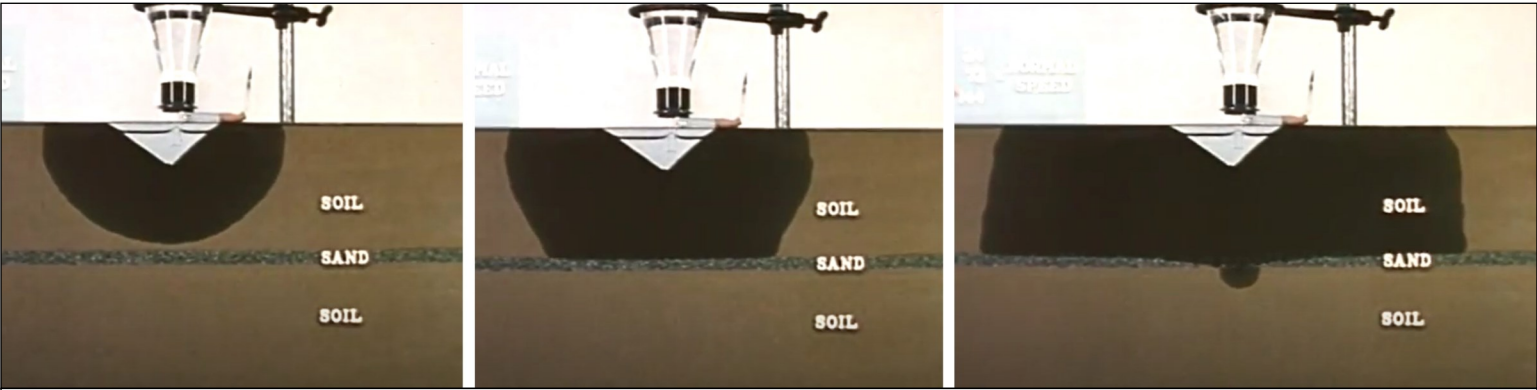
layer before moving into the next layer, many plants develop a dense root system in the top layer in addition to the next layer. This results in a more uniformly denser healthy root system throughout the

container rather than being concentrated in the lower portion of the container (Figure 5). Water channeling is the movement of water along a narrow path of least resistance rather than uniformly infiltrating a soil. This can happen in containers in several ways and is usually a result of drying. Many components of potting soils are hydrophobic



**Figure 2:** This illustrates how a perched water table forms when the force of gravity is balanced by the capillary force. This also shows that pore size affects how high the perched water table forms.

when dry. High organic content potting soils also shrink when they dry out. As the potting mix in a container dries, it will shrink and pull away from the sides creating open channels along the container wall. It may also create vertical cracks in the potting soil creating a channel from top to bottom. Another way channeling can happen in dry potting soil occurs when you attempt to rewet the container. If, for some reason, the water wets a channel of the soil as it moves into the container rather than uniformly infiltrating, it will create a wet channel of soil that the water will tend to follow every time it is irrigated (Figure 6). These are the types of channels we tend



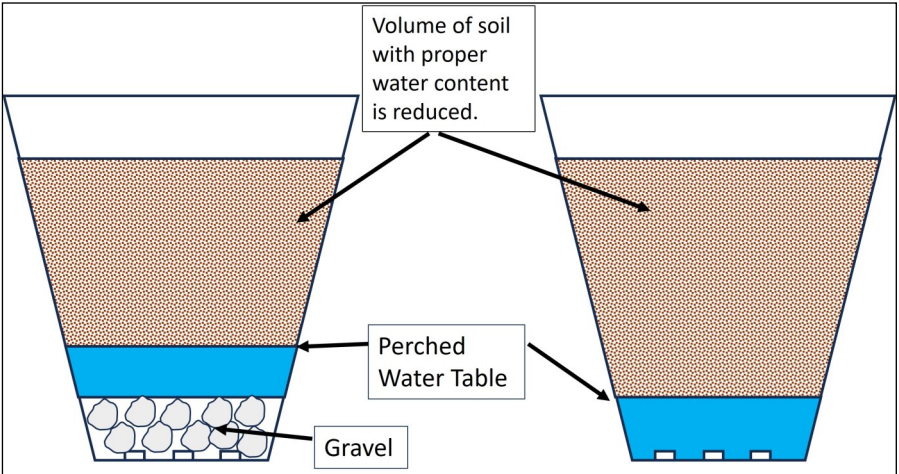
**Figure 3:** This demonstrates water movement through layered soil. Water tends to saturate one layer before moving into the next layer. Note that the thin sand layer tends to saturate before moving into the soil layer below.



not to notice. To avoid water channeling, uniformly moisten the potting medium before filling the container and adding the plants. Once planted, do not allow the soil to completely dry out. Always water when the top 1-2 inches of soil has begun to dry. If the container of soil has completely dried, using a fork or other similar tool, break up the dried soil to create a uniform mixture with no cracks in the soil or around the container edge. Add a small amount of surfactant to your watering can before watering the container. The surfactant helps to overcome the soil's hydrophobic nature and is sometimes called a wetting agent. After rewetting the soil, you can return to watering without the surfactant. Practical application – never allow your containerized plants to completely dry out.

Plant roots are water-seekers. A plant's roots grow through the soil following the path of waterflow seeking the water that the plant needs to survive (Figure 7). Plants develop shallow root systems in containers that are watered frequently but not deeply. The roots grow where the water is. Plants develop deep root systems in containers that are watered infrequently but deeply. The soil dries from the top downward.

Therefore, as water becomes unavailable in the upper soil, the plant roots grow deeper into the still moist soil below. Thus, watering deeply and allowing the upper soil to dry somewhat before watering again leads to a deeper more robust root system and a plant that is better adapted to withstand water stress situations.



**Figure 4:** Adding a layer of gravel to the bottom of a container raises the perched water table in the container and reduces the volume of soil with the proper moisture content for plants.



**Figure 5:** Comparison of *Hydrangea macrophylla* root and shoot growth in a standard nursery mix versus a stratified substrate approximately 1-year into production.



## Irrigating Containers

We've looked at water movement in soils and the factors that affect it. But what we really want to know is what is the best way to water our containers.

- Prewet the potting media before filling containers and planting plants.
- Fill containers with uniformly mixed potting medium unless you are doing stratified substrates.
- Do not put a gravel or similar material layer in the bottom of the pot to increase drainage. This will actually decrease drainage and create an elevated perched water table.
- Once planted, never let the containers dry out completely. This leads to problems with rewetting and can cause channeling.
- Water thoroughly at every watering. This helps to prevent salts building up in the soil. It also encourages development of a deeper, more robust root system (Figure 7).
- Water uniformly over the entire soil surface in the container. This promotes uniform water infiltration.



**Figure 6:** Water forming channels as it flows through dry soil rather than uniformly infiltrating.

- Water when the top 1" to 2" of soil begins to feel dry.
- When irrigating, water the soil not the plant. Getting water on the plant leaves and stems can lead to increased disease incidence. A plant gets the water it needs by root uptake so put the water where the plant can get it.

One final comment on irrigation of container plants. The only water available to containerized plants is the water in the container's soil. It must be replenished as it is used up. Unlike plants grown inground, rain events don't change the need for watering your containers.

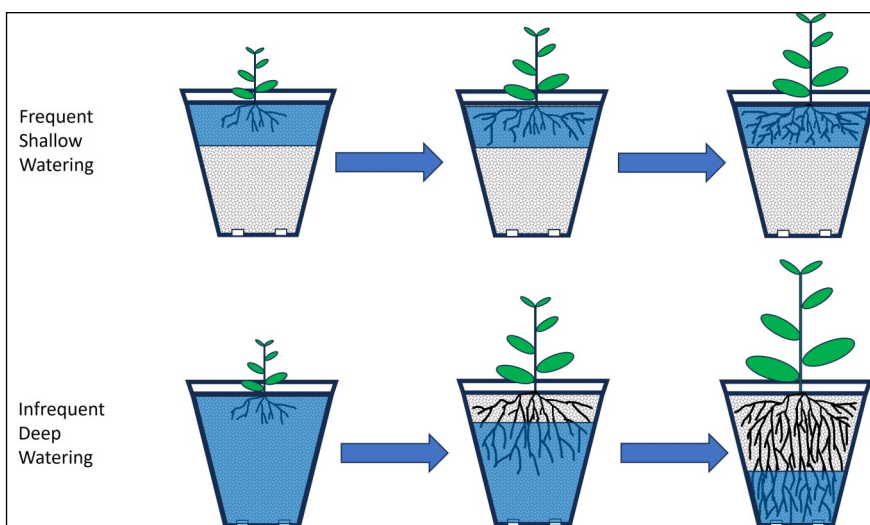
~ Dr. Joe Willis

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Gardner, W.H. and J.C. Hsieh. 1959. Water Movement in Soils, [Video], Washington State University. [Water Movement In Soil - YouTube](#)

Owen, Jr., James, J.S. Fields, J.E. Atland. 2022. Defying Gravity: Utilizing stratified growing media to invent the future. [Defying gravity - Nursery Management \(nurserymag.com\)](#)



**Figure 7:** This illustrates the results of frequent shallow watering vs infrequent deep watering. The top plant gets water frequently before the top soil layer dries. The bottom plant gets water infrequently when the top 1" to 2" of soil has begun to dry.



# November Rain Collection

For the last few months, whenever we looked up in the sky, we couldn't see an ounce of rain, And now the landscapes dried up, and it feels like such a shame.

Now, nothing lasts forever,  
And we both know forecasts change,  
But we can plan to collect precipitation  
And hope to harvest that cold November rain  
We've been through this for a long, long time, and our gardens are feeling the pain.  
When is rain coming, where is rain going, no one really knows but don't let it go down the drain... washing away.  
If we take the time to connect a gutter line, to a cistern instead then our gardens would be just fine, not dry.  
So if you want sustainability, precipitation can be retained,  
.... Reduce your water usage and collect that cold November rain.

Harvesting rainwater is allowed in Louisiana<sup>1</sup> and is a suggested method to conserve water resources<sup>2</sup> and reduce flooding risks to your property<sup>3</sup>. By collecting rainwater in a tank or cistern, you can refuse the illusion that you must only depend on city water. Rainwater can be used to irrigate gardens, and is often better for plants than city water. Plus, you can use rainwater to dilute any saltwater that may intrude into your groundwater (when watering the garden).

You may be wondering if you can do this yourself, "don't you think that you need somebody?" Well, with proper planning and maintenance, you can install your own system. It is a good practice to make sure that your

cistern or tank remains covered, and to install a screen in the incoming line to make sure rainwater doesn't wash in debris. Periodic inspection to make sure that the entire gutter system and the tank is in good

condition should be performed. Avoid letting water sit in the tanks for too long, allow it to slowly drain after large storm events (as needed). If left open, stagnant water can be hospitable for mosquito larvae, and nobody wants that. Make sure to clean and disinfect the interior of the tank each year. You can connect a hose for manual watering or hook the cistern directly to your garden irrigation system. Elevate the tank slightly above ground level – this will provide more gravitational pressure to support any connected irrigation systems.

While it may appear as a daunting task, when your fears

subside no shadow of doubt will remain,

You will love the water savings, and your landscape will better drain,

So in the midst of this dryness, there is a better way  
Cause droughts don't last forever, collect that cold November rain

~Dr. Damon Abdi and Dr. Jeb Fields



This large cistern collects the runoff water from the adjacent building.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.energy.gov/femp/rainwater-harvesting-regulations-map>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=470>

<sup>3</sup><https://ready.nola.gov/green-infrastructure/>

# In the Kitchen with Austin

## Beet Hummus

This recipe is inspired by traditional hummus. It substitutes beets for chickpeas, and the result makes a delicious nosh for any holiday gathering.

### Ingredients:

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 medium beets                | 1 Tbs. ground cumin      |
| 2 Tbs. tahini                 | 1 Tbs. lemon zest        |
| 5 Tbs. lemon juice            | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 1 small clove garlic, chopped |                          |



Beet Hummus with Pita Chips

### Directions:

Wash and bake beets in a covered dish with  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of water in a 375° oven until knife tender. Peel beets once they have cooled.

Place all ingredients in a food processor and pulse until smooth. Taste and adjust salt and pepper as desired.

Chill and serve with pita chips, mixed veggies, or toasted baguette rounds with goat cheese.

*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  
<https://www.gretnala.com/visitors/farmers-market/>

#### Nawlins Outdoor Market

1048 Scotsdale Dr., Harvey  
Every Saturday & Sunday, 9AM-5PM  
<https://www.facebook.com/NawlinsMarket/>

#### Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte

920 Jean Lafitte Blvd.  
Last Saturday of the month, 9AM-1PM  
<https://www.facebook.com/JeanLafitteLa/>

#### Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie

3000 Downs Blvd.  
Wednesdays, from 2-7PM  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064920097975>

#### Westwego Farmer's Market

484 Sala Ave., Westwego  
3rd Tuesday of the month, 10AM-2PM  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075979938725>

#### 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  
<https://www.facebook.com/officialwestwegoshrimplot>

#### Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview

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

#### Harahan Farmer's Market

501 Oak Ave., Zeringue Park, Harahan  
Sundays, 9AM-1PM  
<https://www.facebook.com/HarahanMarket>

#### Rivertown Farmer's Market

400 Block of Williams Blvd., Kenner  
Thursdays Noon-6PM (Off for August)  
<https://www.facebook.com/RivertownFarmersMarket>

#### Old Metairie Farmer's Market

Bayou Metairie Park, Between Metairie Lawn  
Dr. and Labarre  
1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:30PM-  
7:30PM\*\* Check for seasonal dates!  
<https://www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/tag/farmers-art-metairie-market/>



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org)

### **SPROUT NOLA Truck Farm Table**

200 N. Broad (In Whole Foods lobby or in  
parking lot, weather permitting)  
Walk up <https://www.sproutnolaform.org/>

### **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  
<https://www.facebook.com/MarketplaceArmstrongPark/>

### **New Orleans French Market**

Lower Decatur Street  
Daily, 9AM-6PM

### **Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market**

Comiskey Park, New Orleans  
Market dates vary.  
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/](https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/events)  
events

### **Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9<sup>th</sup> Ward**

2301 Gallier Street at the garden, Saturdays  
from 10AM-1PM  
3440 Piety Street Fresh Market open daily,  
weekly bulk produce sale.  
<https://www.facebook.com/BarceloGardens/>

### **Bywater Market at Trap Kitchen-Bywater**

1043 Poland Ave  
Sundays from 10AM-3PM

### **BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point**

4123 Woodland Dr. Algiers  
First and Third Sundays of the month, from  
10AM-1PM  
<https://www.bounyfulgreenmarket.com/>

### **Sankofa Fresh Stop Market**

Coming soon!  
<https://sankofanola.org/rfqs/>

### **Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods- Treme-Laffite**

585 N. Claiborne at Lafitte Greenway  
(under overpass)  
Check for current dates/times at  
[www.sheauxfresh.org](http://www.sheauxfresh.org)

### **FUBU Market**

3101 Erato Street New Orleans, location  
changes, check website/social media  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheFUBUMarket>  
[www.fubumarket.com/](http://www.fubumarket.com/)

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## 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](http://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/](https://www.facebook.com/TheMandevilleTrailhead)  
TheMandevilleTrailhead  
985.624.3147

### **Madisonville Market**

Riverside Park South  
Water St., Madisonville, LA 70447  
Sunday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
[www.madisonvillemarket.org](http://www.madisonvillemarket.org)

### **Folsom Village Market**

Hwy 40, one block east of Hwy 25  
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (weather per-  
mitting)  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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/](https://www.townofabitasprings.com/farmers-market)  
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/](https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/)  
CamelliaCityMarket/  
985.640.7112

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## St. Charles Parish

### **Luling Farmer's Market at Westbank Bridge Park-Luling**

13825 River Road, Luling, LA  
Wednesdays, from 1-5PM  
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

### **German Coast Farmer's Market**

160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA  
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon  
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

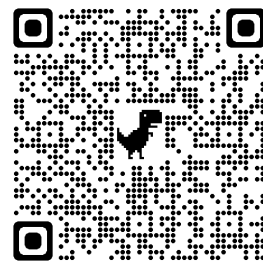
# Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

Funding helps the LSU AgCenter agents provide help for:

- School and Community Gardens
- Educational Training Events
- Seed Libraries
- Demonstration Gardens
- Educational Scholarships
- Local Research
- and Much More



Dr. Joe announces demonstrates how a tree grows.



Scan the QR code above to go to the LSU Foundation donation webpage.

Or Click here: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1585/17/interior.aspx?sid=1585&gid=1&pgid=666&cid=1464&bledit=1&dids=5517>

## 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 & Pet Store	5420 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 347-8777
Banting's Nursery	3425 River Rd., Bridge City, LA 70094	(504) 436-4343
Jefferson Feed	4421 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson, LA 70121	(504) 733-8572
Nine Mile Point Plant Nursery	2141 River Rd., Westwego, LA 70094	(504) 436-4915
Palm Garden Depot	351 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 305-6170
Double M Feed Harahan	8400 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 738-5007
Double M Feed Metairie	3212 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 835-9800
Double M Feed Terrytown	543 Holmes Blvd., Terrytown, LA 70056	(504) 361-4405
Sunrise Trading Co. Inc.	42 3 <sup>rd</sup> St., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 469-0077
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 887-4336
Creative Gardens & Landscape	2309 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058	(504) 367-9099
Plumeria Insanity Nursery	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Plumeria-Insanity-Nursery-102123651930419">https://www.facebook.com/Plumeria-Insanity-Nursery-102123651930419</a>	

### 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](mailto:gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu)



# 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.



November 17 and 18, 2023

9AM-NOON

At the Pelican Greenhouse

2 Celebration Drive

New Orleans, LA 70124

## Local Independent Garden Centers

<b>Orleans</b>		
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
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
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	<a href="https://sites.google.com/view/nolasucculentshop/home">https://sites.google.com/view/nolasucculentshop/home</a>
Root Life Mobile Plant Nursery	Pop Up Locations	<a href="https://rootlifeplantnursery.com/">https://rootlifeplantnursery.com/</a>
New Orleans Green LLC	Online Sales	<a href="http://www.neworleans-green.com">www.neworleans-green.com</a>
<b>Plaquemines</b>		
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
<b>St. Charles</b>		
Plant & Palm Tropical Outlet	10018 River Rd., St. Rose, LA 70087	(504) 468-7256
Martin's Nursery & Landscape	320 3 <sup>rd</sup> St., Luling, LA 70070	(985) 785-6165
<b>St. Bernard</b>		
Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	<a href="https://plantpricks.com/">https://plantpricks.com/</a>
Nice Plants, Good Pots	6720 St. Claude Ave., Arabie, LA	<a href="https://etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots">Etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots</a>
<b>St. Tammany</b>		
The Boho Being	1184 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458	(985)707-1623

# November Checklist/Garden Tips

Tulips and hyacinths go into paper or net bags in the lower drawers of your refrigerator by the end of November. This is necessary because our winters are not cold enough long enough to satisfy the chilling requirements of the bulbs. Without this cold treatment, the bulbs will not bloom properly. Do not place apples, pears or other fruit into the same drawer with the bulbs. Ripening fruit give off ethylene gas which can cause the bulbs to bloom abnormally (too short, blasted buds). Plant in late December or early January.

Lettuces, especially the leaf and semi-heading varieties are very productive in the cool season garden. Fall is the best time to plant lettuces as they mature during progressively cooler temperatures. Problems with bitterness that often affect spring grown lettuce do not occur in the fall. Keep lettuce growing vigorously with regular watering and occasional side dressing with a nitrogen containing fertilizer such as ammonium sulfate or blood meal.

November is an active month for planting beds of annuals. Plant heights should be considered when selecting and placing bedding plants into the landscape. Low growing flowers, which include sweet alyssum, lobelia, pansy, Johnny-jump-up, viola, ageratum and dwarf stock, generally grow to about 6 to 8 inches and should be planted in the front of beds. Medium height plants that will reach 8 to 15 inches include dwarf snapdragons, candytuft, calendula, annual phlox, blue bonnet, dianthus, sweet William, ornamental kale and cabbage, nasturtium and California poppy. Cool season bedding plants that will grow 15 inches or taller include Iceland poppy, Shirley poppy, peony-flowered poppy, stock, snapdragons, statice, larkspur and sweet peas.

Finish planting spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, Dutch irises, narcissus, lilies, etc this month.

Harvest sweet potatoes before a frost browns the leaves. Freshly harvested sweet potatoes will not bake properly until they are cured. To cure them, keep them in a warm location with high humidity for a couple of weeks.

Cut back chrysanthemums after they finish flowering to remove the old faded flowers. Sometimes the plants will set a new crop of flower buds and produce more flowers during the winter if weather is mild.

Now is a good time to divide and transplant most hardy perennials. Do not divide perennials in active growth now, such as Louisiana irises, acanthus, Easter lilies, calla lilies and lycoris.

Don't worry about those yellowing and dropping leaves on broad leaved evergreens such as gardenia, citrus, magnolias, azaleas, cherry laurel, hollies and others. Many of these plants shed their older leaves in the fall, and will often lose some more this spring.

Harvest broccoli when the largest buds in the head are the size of the head of a kitchen match. Do not focus on the size of the head itself as that is not an indication of when the broccoli is ready to harvest. If you begin to see yellow flowers you waited too long.

Mulch new beds of cool season bedding plants as soon as they are planted to help control weeds and reduce plant disease. Fall leaves make an excellent mulch for your garden beds. Use a bagging mower to shred larger leaves before using. Collected pine straw and cypress leaves can be used as is.

Include a soluble fertilizer in your irrigation water to get your new plants off to a good start. Repeat the application every 7 to 10 days until the plants begin to grow well.

Don't forget to hose off and check outdoor container tropicals carefully for pests and critters before moving them inside for the winter.



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

## Do's:

1. You may apply selective herbicides to eliminate broad leaf weeds in the lawn.
2. Cool damp weather is ideal for the appearance of Large Patch Disease in your lawn.

[Click here to find information about large patch disease from the LSU AgCenter.](#)

3. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. The best time to water is in the morning.
4. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.
5. Mulch fall leaves and let them decompose in place if possible or collect them with a bagging mower and add them to your compost pile or use them as mulch in your gardens.
6. Take a soil test. Test kits are available in our offices in the Botanical Gardens, the Yenni Building, and New Orleans City Hall as well as local garden centers. Follow this link to see Dr. Joe demonstrate how to take a soil sample: <https://www.facebook.com/1030624690304124/videos/1452161988150390/>



This photo from a local homeowner shows the classic presentation of large patch disease. As the fungal growth spreads outward, the center will often begin re-growing

## Don't's

1. Do not spread fill over the lawn until it is actively growing again in the spring.
2. Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn again until April of next year.
3. Do not apply phosphorous winterizer to the lawn without taking a soil sample first. We have ample amounts of phosphorous in our soil already.
4. Do not attempt to install a new lawn until spring.
5. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height of lawn grass at a single time.
6. Do not aerate the lawn.
7. Do not dethatch the lawn.

## Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

E-mail us at: [GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu)



Follow us on Facebook at [GNOGardening](#)

For more information visit [LSUAgCenter.com](http://LSUAgCenter.com)

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