GNO Gardening

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GNO Gardening Magazine

August 2023

Cover Photo:
Sunpatiens growing in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens
by: Chris Dunaway

In This Issue:

Look At Me - Sunpatiens

Most gardeners are familiar with impatiens, those flowering beauties that light up the shady areas of many landscapes. But put them where they get a little too much sun, especially the afternoon heat, and they will quickly go the way of the dodo. In 1972, New Guinea impatiens were introduced into the market. New Guinea Impatiens are a hybrid that tolerate more sun than the standard impatiens variety. However, they still do not like full sun all day. New Guineas have larger leaves and larger blooms, up to 3 inches across. Their long, narrow leaves come in different shades of green, bronze, purple and some have variegated foliage. New Guineas branch well, are sturdy, and grow taller than standard impatiens. But in 2006, a new line of New Guinea hybrid impatiens was introduced – The Sunpatiens.

Sunpatiens not only tolerate full sun, they love full sun. Sunpatiens also flower profusely with blooms up to 2"-3" in diameter. They produce compact colorful mounds 12"-18" in height and width. The color range for Sunpatiens flowers goes from bluish pink to coral, white, red, neon, orange, magenta, blue, and purple. Some present a two-tone appearance. Most have large dark green leaves but there are some varieties with a striking variegated leaf.

Impatiens varieties prefer consistently moist and well -draining soil that is slightly acidic to neutral (5.5-7pH) and Sunpatiens are no different. Soggy soil is an enemy of Sunpatiens and New Guinea Impatiens but they are tender herbaceous plants, so they require regular watering throughout the growing season. When water is lacking, they will quickly wilt in the summer heat but rebound nicely when water is supplied.

Sunpatiens are season-long bloomers. The bloom time starts in spring and lasts till the first frost. They are perennials but easily killed by sub-freezing temperatures; thus, they are generally grown as annuals. No deadheading is necessary to have season

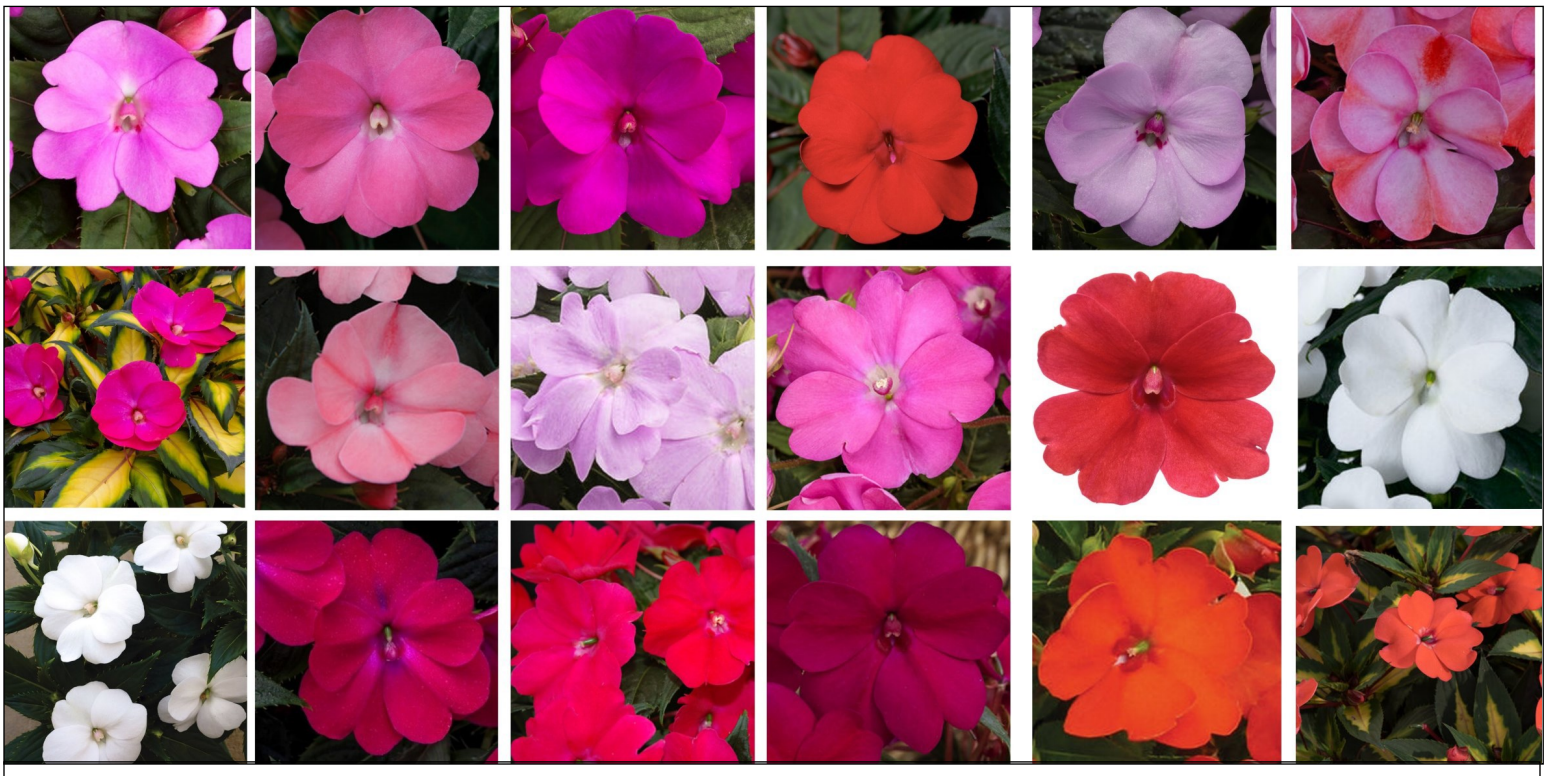

Figure 1: Just a few of the available colors for Sunpatiens. Note also the two leaf color types available.

long color with these beauties. They are also resistant to Impatiens Downy Mildew and have fewer problems with aphids, mealy bugs and thrips.

Expect outstanding performance from Sunpatiens whether in the garden, containers or hanging baskets. Just remember, consistently moist but well-draining soil and lots of sun.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis

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Proven Winners. 2023. SunPatiens | Proven Winners

Sunpatiens. 2023. Home - SunPatiens

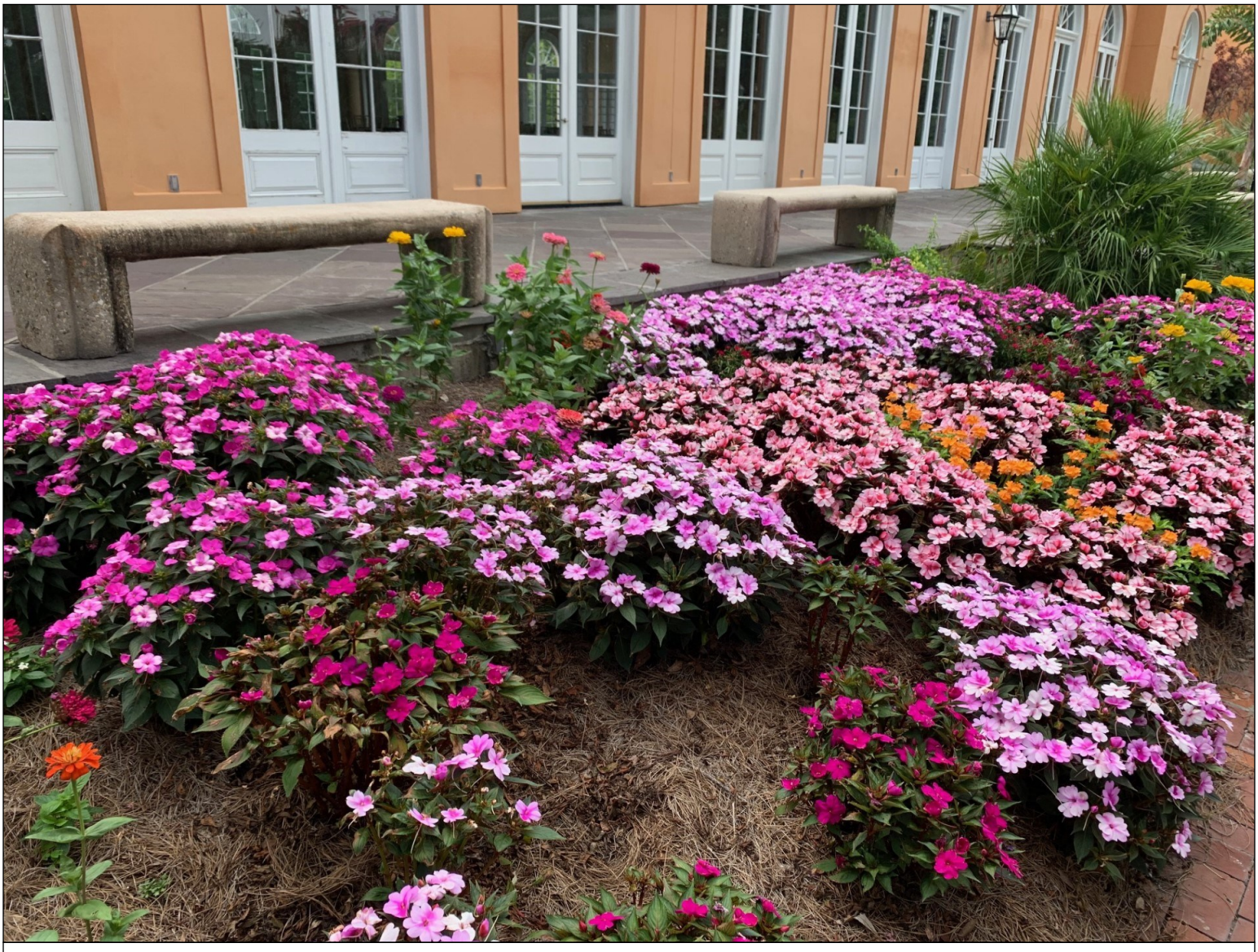


Figure 2: Gorgeous planting of Sunpatiens on a raised bed in full sun at the New Orleans Botanical Gardens.

August Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety	Planting Depth	Spacing Inches	Days Until Harvest * from transplant date
Bell Peppers	Aristotle XR3, Blushing Beauty, King Arthur	⅛ inch	15-18	140-150
Broccoli	Green Magic, Everest, Castle Dome, Packman	⅛ inch	18-24	70-90*
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved	⅛ inch	12-15	90*
Cabbage	Bravo, Rio Verde, Caraflex, Blue Vantage	⅛ inch	12-15	65-75*
Cauliflower	Snow Crown, Cumberland, Incline, Freedom	⅛ inch	18-24	55-65*
Chinese Cabbage	None Given	¼ inch	12	60-80*
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates	⅛ inch	6-12	75
Cucumbers	Slicers = Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare HG, Indy Pickler = Calypso	¼ inch	12-18	50-65
Irish Potatoes	Red-Dark Red Noland, Red Lasoda White-Kennebec, Yukon Gold, Autumn Gold	4 inches	12	90-120
Kale	Siberian, Vates	½ inch	12-18	25-50
Lima Beans	Dixie Buttercup, Fordhook 242, Jackson Wonder	½ inch	2-3	48-55
Luffa Gourd	None Given	½ inch	48	90
Mustard	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Savannah	⅛ inch	1-2	35-50
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer	½ inch	36-60	90-120
Rutabagas	American Purple Top, Laurentian	⅛ inch	4-8	88
Shallots	Matador, Prisma	1 inch	4-8	50
Snap Beans	Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Contender, Derby, Lynx	½ inch	2-3	48-55
Squash	Zucchini = Declaration II, Justice III, Payroll Straight Neck = Multipik, Patriot II, Liberator III Crook Neck = Destiny III, Gentry, Medallion	⅛ inch	36	50-90
Tomatoes	Bella Rosa, Sun Chaser, Florida 91, Phoenix, Solar Fire, BHN-216, Solar Set	⅛ inch	16-24	100-115
Turnips	Royal Crown, Purple Top White Globe,	⅛ inch	2-6	40-50

Don't You Forget About These – Revisiting some Louisiana Landscape Classics

A minimalist landscape is not relegated to simple minds; sometimes, leaning on tried-and-true staples in the southern garden is your best bet. Trying new plant materials may be causing trouble and doubt, as you've been giving everything to the struggling tender plants that you were working on. It will be a slow change, but it's a good start, when the right plants are put in your yard.

Don't you forget about these:

Louisiana Iris: A spring blooming perennial suited for wet areas, with this low growing plant you will never have to ask "Will this stand above me?". You might not need to spray, it's often disease and bug free. This plant can handle periodic flooding, so even when rain keeps falling, and keeps on falling down, you wont need to worry. There is some maintenance required, with dividing the rhizomes in later summer/early fall. So you will take it apart, but replanting it with more space puts it back together at heart.

Virginia Willow: We all want features in the landscape, don't you try and pretend. It's the neighborhood appeal, we will win in the end. A shrub that is very adaptable to different soils, it is hard to cause harm to or render defenseless. Benefits of Virginia Willow include vanity (fragrant flowers in spring; rich fall color) and security (can shape masses into a hedge; prune after spring flowering).

Live Oaks: These massive trees command attention in the landscape. In fact, many of the historic specimens throughout New Orleans have names. So the next time you are out on the town, will you call them by name? Oftentimes, there is a plaque with a detailed dedication to their namesake. On a hot summer day, the intense shade cast below the sprawling canopy will have you stop on by, and keep you from walking away.

A live oak tree.

Sometimes the best way to re-imagine your landscape is to keep it simple-minded. Look at some native plants, Louisiana Super Plants, and plants from all over for inspiration. Host your friends for a morning garden tour.... A Breakfast Club if you will. Walk around your area and see what plants perform best. Whether you just recognize these plants, know their name, or walk on by them. These three plants are all reliable features in the landscape... so when you are redesigning your landscape, don't you.... forget about these.

~Dr. Damon Abdi and Dr. Jeb Fields

Container Gardening - Part 1: The Container

Container gardening is an important aspect of many, if not most landscapes. Especially those in urban areas. Over the next several months, we will present a series of articles on container gardening with each one highlighting different important aspects of container gardening with information that, hopefully, helps you to be successful. With that in mind, let's begin with the beginning of any container garden – the container.

The container is the entire world for whatever plant you put in it and is a major part of the visual appearance of your container garden. Almost anything that can hold soil and a plant can become a container for the container garden. From elegant to whimsical, large to small, reserved to outrageous, the possibilities are almost limitless as you can see in Figure 1. However, to be a long-lived and functional plant container for years, there are certain attributes that are important. The ideal container needs to be stable enough to not tip over, hold adequate water for the number and size of the plants grown, withstand seasonal environmental changes, last at least as long as the plants grown in it, and still look good.

Material

The containers shown in Figure 1 are made up of all kinds of different materials – some better than others.

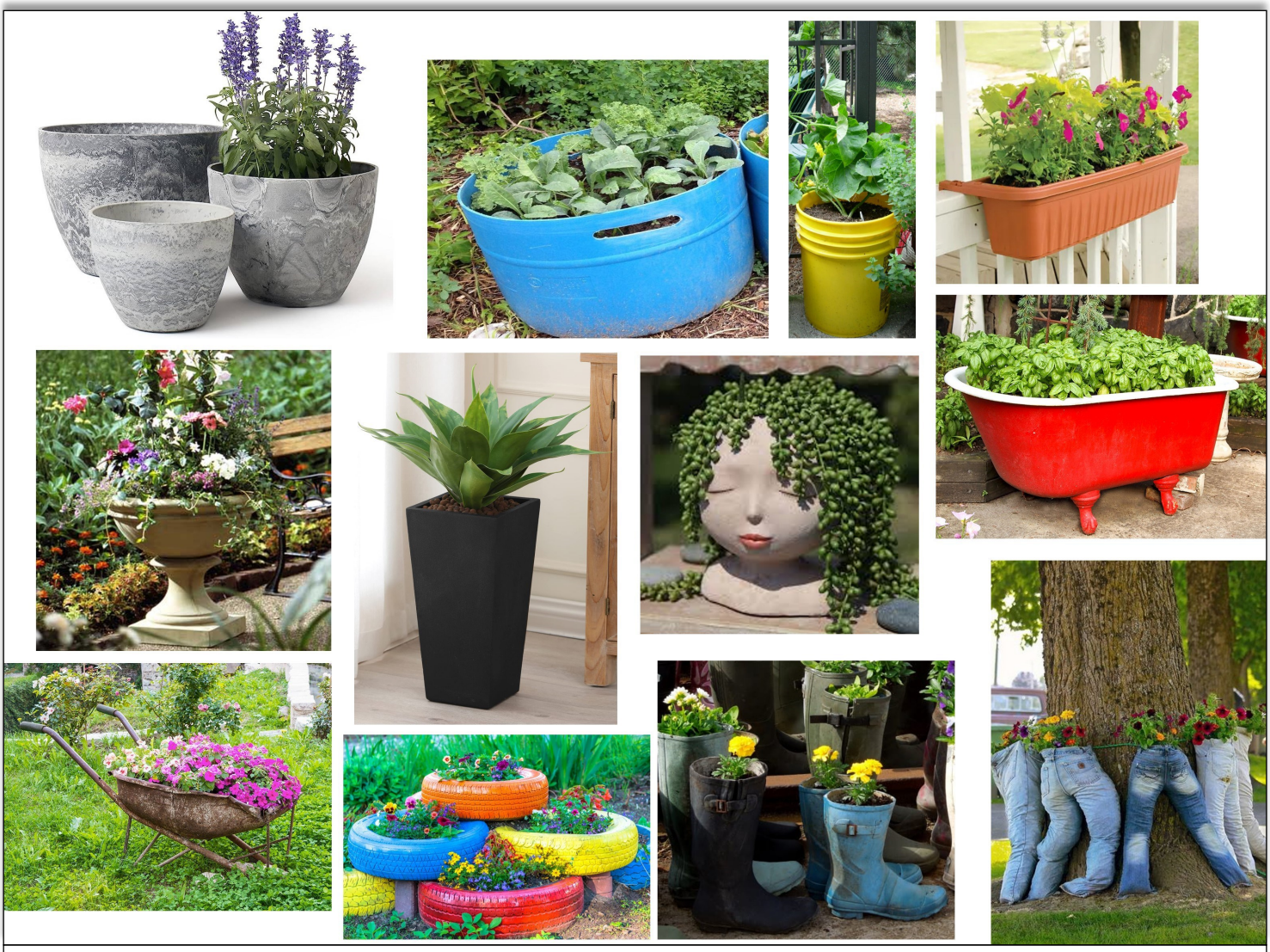
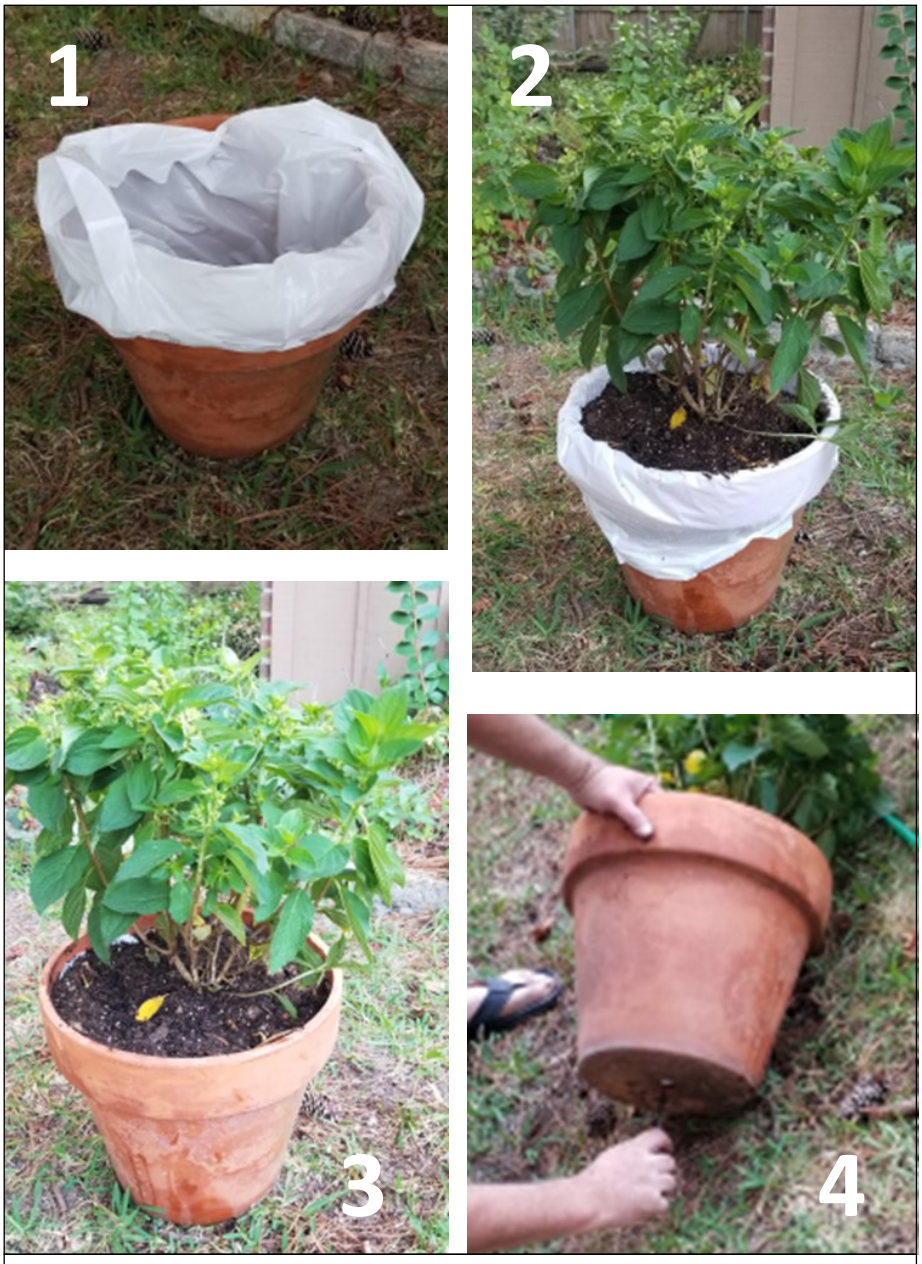


Figure 1: Here are several examples of different objects used as garden containers.

What makes the best material for your containers depends on what you're after but there are some attributes about the various materials to take into consideration.

Porous

Porous materials are any materials that allow water to pass through the wall of the container through natural pores. Some porous materials used to make plant containers include: clay (terracotta), ceramic (unglazed), concrete, wood, fiber (coir), cloth (the recycled jeans), paper (pressed material or recycled), peat, basket (straw), and woven containers made from nonporous materials. The last one listed, though not made of nonporous material, fits this category because it allows water to pass through the container wall. There are two major aspects of porous material containers to keep in mind. First, because the whole container is porous, water will leave the container from every surface, not just the top of the potting mix or through plant transpiration. Therefore, the soil in porous containers dries out much quicker than nonporous containers so these container plants need watering more often. Second, porous plant containers, especially clay, may be damaged by freezing temperatures. If the pores of the container material and filled with water, when it freezes it will expand. This can result in cracking and breakage of porous containers. Porous containers can be sealed with a sealing material like paint or varnish to prevent water from passing through the walls. Keep in mind that if you seal from only one side, the container wall can still fill with water and be susceptible to freeze damage.



Use a plastic garbage bag to line porous containers to prevent moisture lose.
1) Insert the bag into the container. 2) Install the plant in the lined container.
3) Cut away the excess bag from the top. 4) Cut out the drain hole in the bottom.

Nonporous

Nonporous materials are materials that do not allow water to pass through an intact surface. Nonporous container materials include: plastic, metal, fiberglass, porcelain, styrofoam, glass, and resin. Glazed containers made from porous materials like terracotta and ceramic are nonporous but are not included here because they are originally made from porous materials. Here are a few points to remember about containers made from nonporous materials. Water will not pass through the container wall so it is imperative that there is an avenue for drainage provided in these types of containers. Some of the materials, especially metals, may react with chemicals in the soil or in the water (fertilizer) and release metal compounds into the soil. Some of these may be

phytotoxic. Containers made from nonporous materials tend to heat up more quickly and get hotter than porous containers. The reason for this is because porous containers have water passing through the walls and evaporating therefore having a cooling effect on the container and potting soil. Metals, in general, also tend to heat up more quickly and get hotter than most of the other nonporous materials.

Durability

The durability of a container must consider several factors, but some general statements can be made about most container materials. Let's look at weathering. By weathering, I mean the breakdown and wearing away of the container due to climatic and environmental forces. I'm including rain and moisture, temperature extremes, sunlight, and biological forces. As stated above, containers made from porous materials may be fractured by freezing temperatures if water is trapped inside the container walls. Extreme heat can also have a weakening effect on some plastics. And the fluctuation of heat and cold can cause damage to containers made from materials that expand and contract over a broad range.

Sunlight (UV rays) has its most dramatic effect on plastic containers. Plastics that are going to be exposed to UV radiation are treated with additives such as UV stabilizers, black coloration, or protective surface coatings. These may be generally labelled for outdoor use. Creating containers from nonstabilized plastic materials ends with brittle plastic containers that disintegrate at the touch.

Biological forces means biological agents that tend to break down containers. This includes microbes, insects, rodents, and other living organisms. As you might guess, containers made from organic materials are most susceptible to these. So containers made from wood, woven straw, and paper are much more likely to be damaged by biological forces. Microbial organisms decompose these containers much as they do a compost pile. Insects, particularly those like termites, use these materials for food or for building materials for their nests. Larger animals may also use these materials for homebuilding or just to gnaw on. Metal, glass, clay, fiberglass, ceramic, resin, and plastic containers are more resistant to these biological forces.

Fragility is another consideration regarding container durability. Containers made of materials like terracotta, porcelain, glass, stone, and even concrete are sturdy but fragile. If these containers are dropped, turned over, or drastically disturbed, they make fracture. This can result in small fractures that weaken the containers or even shattering into pieces. Plastic, woven (basket), and resin containers are more flexible and can withstand drops, tip-overs, and sharp jolts better than the previously mentioned materials. Metal, fiberglass, and wooden containers are even less fragile than the aforementioned. Most metal containers can withstand impacts without breaking though cast iron will crack from extreme impact. Metal containers made from thin metal or softer metals like aluminum, tin, or copper can be dented or misshaped due to impact.

Finally, chemical reactivity has an impact on a container's durability. How is a container exposed to chemical reactions? There are a couple of easily identified ways. One is from fertilizers, especially chemical fertilizers. Soil amendments are another source of reactants that can react with container materials (lime, sulfur, etc.). And then there is water. Anyone who has left a metal tool out in the rain for a few days will tell you how quickly rusting (a chemical reaction) can take place. In general, plastic, resin, glass, clay, fiberglass, fiber, and porcelain are extremely resistant to chemical reactions. Concrete, stone, wood, baskets, and some metals are also very resistant to chemical reactions. Metals like aluminum and galvanized metal are extremely resistant. Containers made of bare metals of tin, copper, and iron can react and break down over time. Bare iron being the most susceptible to rusting. However, coated metal containers and enameled metal containers are as durable as any of the container materials. Commercially available containers are generally designed to be inert (non-chemically reactive).

Shape

Shape is not something that we usually pay much attention to when selecting containers (Figure 2). Have you noticed how the vast majority of containers have either straight walls or slanted walls with the top having a larger diameter than the bottom? That's because containers are meant to be used and reused; have root balls taken out for repotting or transplanting; have old plants removed and new plants put in. The straight walls and especially the slanted walls make removing plants with their root balls intact a fairly easy process. But try to easily remove a plant, root ball intact, from a container where the top is narrower than the bottom, or one with constrictions or ridges in the walls, or with a strawberry pot design, and you have a virtually impossible task on your hands. These work okay for growing annuals or small perennials that will never need repotting, but they are a poor choice for shrubs, trees or larger perennials that will need repotting or root pruning during their life.

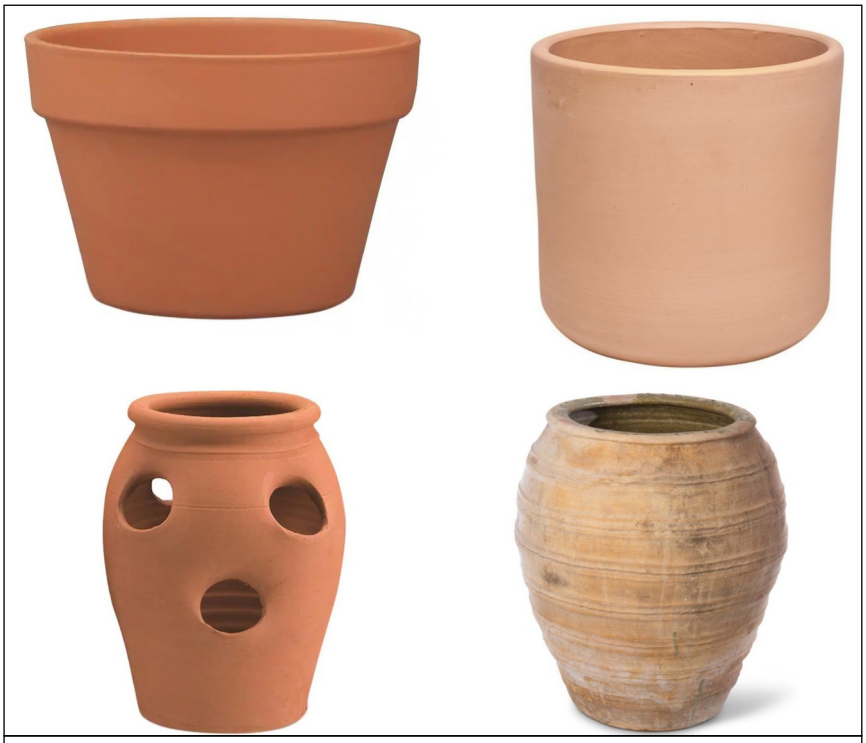


Figure 2: Clay plant containers of different shapes.

Container dimensions are also an important aspect to consider. Tall containers have a smaller saturated soil layer at the bottom in comparison to short containers. Generally speaking, taller containers allow for better root development because they have a larger soil area for the plant root systems. On average, plants need soil depths of 6" – 18" for their feeder roots with the optimal depth being dependent on what variety of plant is being grown.

Size/Volume

Total container volume (Ht. x W x D) is mostly what is being considered here regarding container size. Since the size of the container will determine the size of the plant's root system which in turn determines the size of the above ground plant, container size is a very important container attribute. Figure 3 shows two pepper plants of identical age. The only difference between the two is the size of the container they are being grown in. The larger pepper plant has a larger area for root system development and the larger root system can support a larger plant above ground. This effect can be a positive or a negative, depending on your goal. If growing plants like vegetables or many ornamentals, you want to maximize plant performance by giving the plant as much room as possible for its roots. The converse is true if growing something like a citrus tree. You want to restrict the above ground plant size, so you grow it in a container that restricts root system development. Essentially, you are dwarfing the plant by growing it in a smaller container.

Container volume also effects maintenance. The smaller the container volume the less space available for water and nutrients to be stored. Smaller containers need to be fertilized and watered more often than larger containers with all else being equal.

Weight

The net weight of a containerized plant would include the pot, the soil, and the plant. But prior to adding the soil and the plants, container weight should still be a consideration. The empty weight of a container is primarily determined by the material it is made of and then by the size of the container. Plastic, resin, fiberglass, basket, fiber, cloth, paper, and styrofoam

are very light materials. Wood is fairly light but can be heavier than expected depending on what type of wood is used. Glass, porcelain, clay, ceramic, concrete, and metal make heavy containers which is also affected by container wall thickness. Container weight itself is important when it comes to storing empty containers or moving them around. Container weight is also important as it adds to the weight of the planted container. It can increase the ballast of the containerized plant making it more difficult to turn over. But this also makes it more difficult to move or relocate the containerized plant.

Use a lightweight liners inside of heavy pots to make them easier to move.

Color/Spacing

There are multiple research articles on container color and container spacing. All come to similar conclusions. In dark containers spaced apart, the soil temperature is higher than in white containers at the same spacing. Under standard growing conditions, this increased soil temperature was sufficient to cause reduced root development and reduced plant growth. If the plants are jammed together, the plants on the interior grow the same regardless of container color. The take-home point is that the soil temperature in dark/black pots when exposed to sunlight is higher than the soil in light/white colored pots. Light colored pots reflect solar energy. Spacing containers close together tends to attenuate this effect. So, container color and spacing are also factors to consider when selecting a container for your container garden.

~ Dr. Joe Willis

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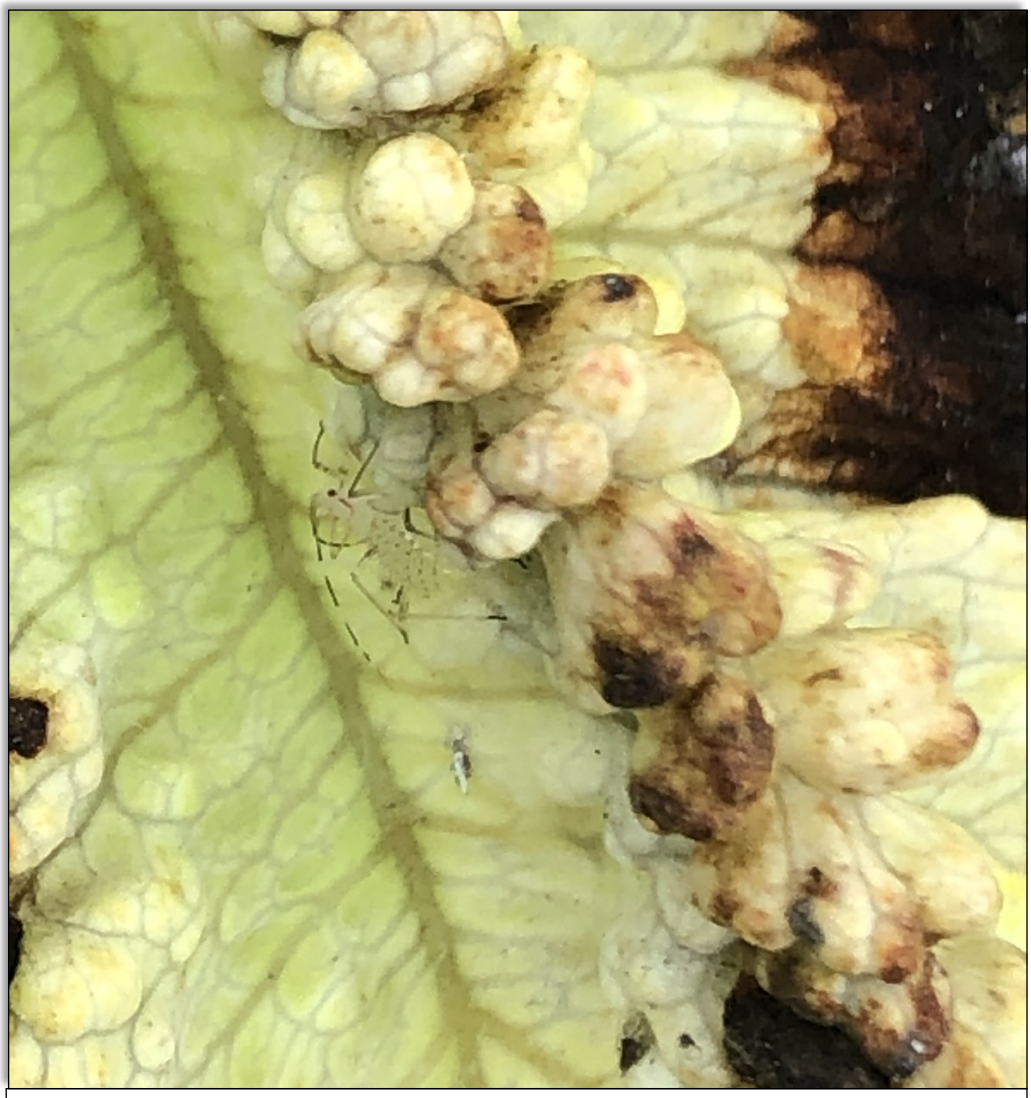
Eriophyid Mites on Mexican Petunias

One of the more interesting things about working with plants is that anything can happen on any given day. Nature happens all around us and most of the time we don't even realize it. Over the past few weeks, I have been getting calls about something strange going on with a plant that some gardeners don't want anything to do with. Mexican petunia plantings throughout the Northshore area are experiencing strange white growths that take away from their tough as nails appearance.

Mexican petunia, *Ruellia simplex*, has been a controversial plant to native plant gardeners from the beginning. It also goes by the other common names such as Britton's button and Texas petunia. It is native to Mexico and has since expanded its territory to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the warmer regions within the southeastern U.S. The plant itself has a spreading growth habit and spreads by way of rhizomes, or underground stems. We normally see it get about 2-3 feet tall and as wide as the bed or planter allows. It produces small tubular flowers that occur during the warm months, May through November. These flowers are purple/lavender in color and resemble a petunia, hence the common name. It is a tough, drought resistant plant with a long blooming season. The downside is in areas that don't receive consistent freezing weather in winter, Mexican petunia plants can spread around and move across the landscape on their own.

In most cases, you see Mexican petunia plants used in containers and planters. They easily fill up the space and gardeners don't have to worry about it spreading into other areas. Everything sounded fine and dandy until Summer 2023 came along. People started calling and wanting to know what is going with their Mexican petunia plantings. Plants are being devastated by something causing white blotches everywhere. On both stems and leaves leaving the plant with a measles like appearance. After several consultations and site visits, I have finally determined the culprit. These white blotches are a symptom of an



There are thousands of species of eriophyid mites in the world that cause galls in various plants. Here is an eriophyid mite damage on a river birch leaf.

eriophyid mite infestation.

Mites themselves are interesting organisms. From a taxonomist's point of view, they aren't classified as insects. Rather they are members of the class arachnida, which some may know of as the same class as spiders. Mites are worm -like organisms, with 4 pairs of legs, and are so small their primary means of locomotion is the wind. For nutrition, they suck out plant juices using piercing/sucking mouthparts. Symptoms of feeding range from formation of small dots, or "stippling", all the way to producing strange looking galls. These organisms can't be seen by an unassisted human eye. We rely on visual feeding symptoms to learn of their presence.

Symptoms of eriophyid mite feeding on Mexican petunia.

The white blotches on Mexican petunia plants are symptoms of an eriophyid mite (*Acalitus ruelliae*) feeding on leaf and stem tissue. When observed closely the blotches appear to be somewhat fuzzy. What you are looking at is a special type of growth distortion called erineum. Read about other types of eriophyid mites and you'll learn that many people refer to them as gall mites because they cause a wide variety of interesting galls and growth disorders. So, it wasn't powdery mildew, spittle bugs, or herbicide damage. Just feeding damage from something too small to see without a hand lens!

A close up view of a feeding site showing the white fuzzy appearance.

The generic recommendation to manage mites in landscape plants is to use some type of oil-like spray. This would include horticultural oils, neem oils, and insecticidal soaps. Read and follow the label instruction so that the product is applied properly, and good results are observed. If an application must be made, do it very late in the evening as the sun is going down because. Due to the nature of Mexican petunia, feel free to prune back halfway to two thirds and allow it to regrow. They will easily bounce back with regular watering and a fertilizer application.

~William Afton

Weed of the Month- Alligatorweed
Alternanthera philoxeroides

While this month's weed is often found spread across shallow bodies of water, it is increasingly turning up in people's drainage ditches, low places in lawns, and even in wet garden areas. Alligatorweed is an invasive species in Louisiana and was introduced from its native habitat in South America, likely appearing first in Alabama ballast water discharge in 1976. It feels right at home here in the humid heat. It is now found throughout the southeastern United States from Florida to southern California. Alligatorweed can form dense floating mats in waterways that block boat traffic, prevent swimming and fishing activities, and prevent native plant species from growing. In the New Orleans area, it is increasingly turning up as a garden and landscape weed, even on dry ground that received adequate rainfall to support growth.

Alligatorweed *Alternanthera philoxeroides*

Alligatorweed is perennial and reproduces both vegetatively and via seed. Plants can be identified by their elliptical lanceolate leaf shape, with smooth edges, arranged in opposite pairs along the stems. The stems are hollow and pink in coloration. Where nodes are present, roots often emerge in the presence of adequate moisture. The hollow stems help to keep alligator weed buoyant, and often it forms a thick mat. Flowers do form, typically in the summer months. They are small, spiky, and white.

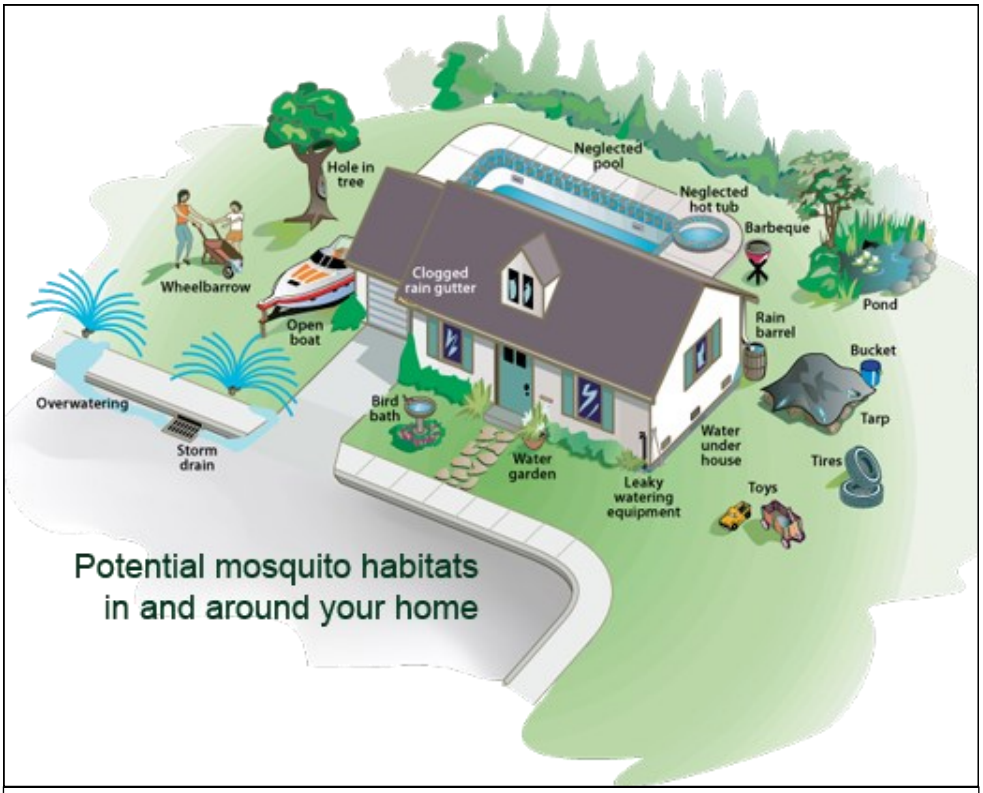
Alligatorweed can reproduce rapidly from leaf tissue or stem nodes left behind when removal is attempted, making it very difficult to eradicate manually. There are currently no good biological control methods other than using goats, which can feed on the weed in more terrestrial situations. An insect control, the Alligatorweed flea beetle, has been released and studied for it's feeding behavior in North America, but with poor control results. The insects were unable to keep this weed in check. Hydro-raking, which is an aquatic machine that rakes the plants from the surface of a body of water, can help. Several "pond remediation" businesses offer this service in Louisiana. Scooping the mats out of ponds, ditches, and other waterways using hand tools is also a common method of control, even with temporary successes.

Chemical controls have been studied, but remain difficult given the aquatic ecosystems that Alligatorweed is typically found in, which limits the use of certain products. In a garden or landscape situation, hand digging is usually recommended. Non-selective herbicides like triclopyr, imazamox, glyphosate, and 2, 4 -D have been used, but damage surrounding vegetation. Systemic herbicides like Weedar 64 and Navigate are sometimes used in tandem with hydro raking to try to prevent debris from regrowing and rooting after the removal of the bulk of the mass from a waterway. In a home landscape, carefully digging to remove it from an area is going to be the best way to reduce the population of this invasive weed.

~Anna Timmerman

Mosquitos in the Garden

Mosquitoes are annoying and can also pose serious health risks in Louisiana. You may already know that mosquitos lay their eggs in water where the larvae will grow until they become adults and fly out to feed on our blood and continue our misery. they often breed in some rather unusual areas around homes and gardens. This article explores some of these unexpected breeding grounds for prevention.



This graphic shows some of the potential areas around a typical home that could be breeding sites for mosquitos.

Mosquitoes belong to the scientific order Diptera which includes house flies, midges, and gnats. The most distinguishing feature of the order is a single set of functional wings, unlike butterflies and dragonflies. The majority of mosquitoes can be distinguished from other Diptera by their long, needle-shaped proboscis which is used to take blood meals from their hosts. Only female mosquitoes take a blood meal. Overall, there are about 3,500 identified mosquito species in the world. The continental United States is home to about 170 species with at least 64 species in Louisiana. Each mosquito species prefers a particular host for their blood meal which can include birds, humans, or other mammals. The main species of concern in the Greater New Orleans Area are *Culex quinquefasciatus* (southern house mosquito), *Aedes albopictus* (Asian tiger mosquito), and *Aedes aegypti* (yellow fever mosquito)

Our local mosquitos are crepuscular which means they are actively searching out food at dawn or dusk and seek cover during the day.

Personal Protection

To prevent mosquito bites, use mosquito repellent when working outside, cover your skin with long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and close-toed shoes, and cover your doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home. A list of CDC-recommended active ingredients to look for when purchasing an effective mosquito repellent product can be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/prevent-mosquito-bites.html.

Bird Baths

Bird baths can also be a location for mosquitoes as the standing water in the baths offers the insects an ideal breeding ground. To prevent mosquito breeding in bird baths, frequent changing of the water is essential. Installing bird baths with mechanisms that keep the water in motion, such as a flowing small fountain can also discourage mosquito breeding. There are also bird safe products that can be added to

the water that will prevent mosquitos from breeding. Mosquito DUNKS containing *Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt.)* Are an effective product.

Ponds

Ponds and water features can be another place for mosquitos to develop. One of the best solutions is to install pumps to move the water through fountains and waterfalls to keep the water moving. Fish can also be introduced to feed on developing larvae.

Countless Objects

Various objects scattered around the garden, such as buckets, tarps, toys, tools, etc., often collect rainwater making them mosquito breeding sites. To prevent this, homeowners should regularly inspect their gardens and landscape and remove any unnecessary items that could accumulate water. Many items can be turned over to prevent water from entering. Be aware that some items, like buckets may have rims or other features that can hold water on either side. It may be necessary to drill holes some locations to allow for drainage. Mosquitos don't need much room to develop so be sure to pick up anything that can hold water. Even a bottle cap or dried leaf can provide an ample nursery for the developing young.

Bromeliads

Many bromeliads are described as epiphytic, which means that they grow on other plants. The roots of epiphytic bromeliad plants help to anchor them to the plants or the surfaces that they grow on. Most bromeliads develop intricately arrayed leaves that form a spiral rosette with a tank-like structure at its center where rainwater and debris can collect. These water-filled tanks can trap pollen, dead leaves, twigs, and seeds falling from trees, which break down to form a nutritive soup available to the bromeliads and other organisms inhabiting the bromeliads like mosquito larvae.

If you are a bromeliad enthusiast and your landscape is made up of many tank-forming bromeliads, you can avoid the rapid production of mosquitoes in your backyard using one or a

Numerous mosquito larvae in a disposable water bottle cap.

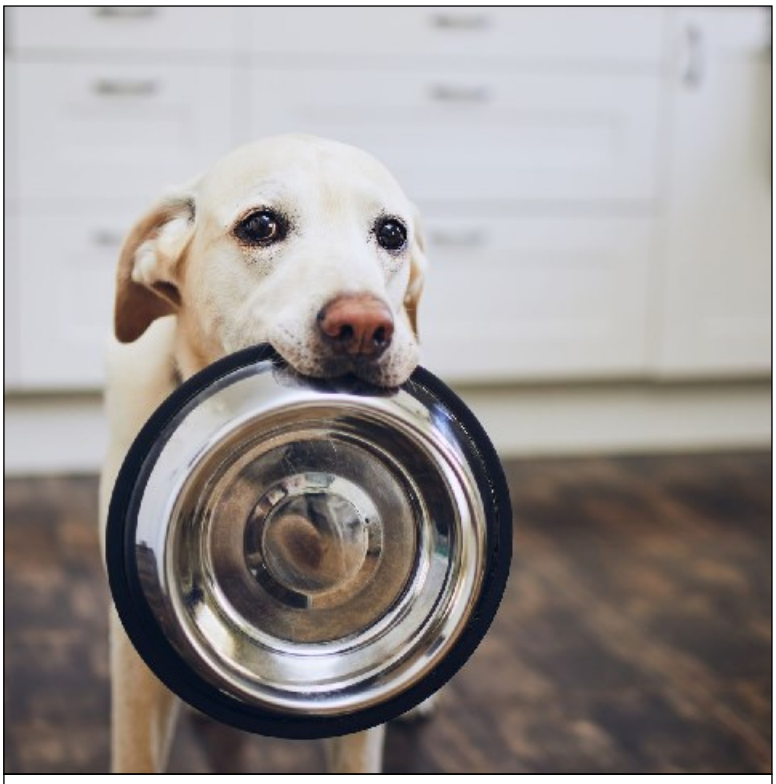
Credit: L. E. Reeves, UF/IFAS

Mosquito larvae in water trapped by a bromeliad plant.

combination of these management recommendations:

Flush out eggs, larvae and debris accumulated in bromeliad axils and tanks using a strong jet of water from a hose at least once a week.

Add larvicides to the water accumulated in the leaves of bromeliads. There are two commercially available larvicide active ingredients, methoprene and *Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt.),* that can be found in most home and garden supply stores. When applied correctly using instructions found on product labels, these larvicides do not harm plants, people or pets. They are usually sold in granules or pellets in slow-release formulations, that can be added directly to the water in the plant. Please follow the manufacturer's label application instructions.



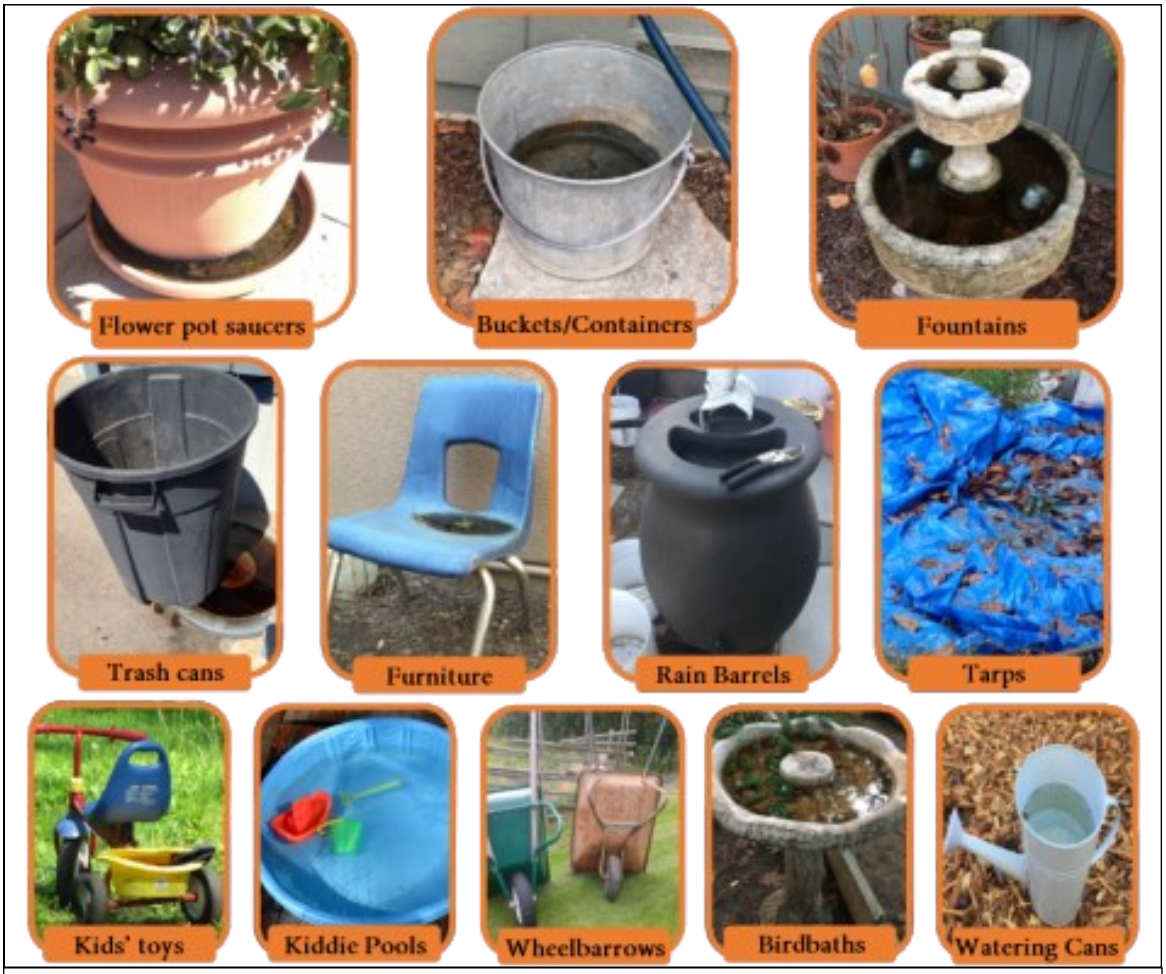
Keep water bowls for pets cleans and mosquito larvae free.

Daytime lodgings

While mosquitos are actively seeking food in the evening, they are still hiding nearby during the day. Adult mosquitos will seek out cool, dark, moist location with minimal air movement to rest during the day. Shrubs wooded areas and other dense plantings are choice locations. Be aware of these conditions and protect yourself if you will be working in these areas. Once awakened, the mosquitos will not mind taking an early sup.

Take the time to thoroughly scout your landscape and surroundings for mosquito breeding sites. By eliminating these nurseries you can greatly reduce the mosquito population in your area.

~Dr. Aaron Ashbrook and Chris Dunaway



Above are some of the many items commonly found in the garden that can hold water and can become a mosquito nursery.

Meet: Eric DeBoer, PhD
Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Management
LSU AgCenter

As my first of many contributions to GNO Gardening Magazine, I would like to take the time to introduce myself and give you a little more information about me and my new position at the LSU AgCenter, on campus in Baton Rouge. I am originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan. I attended Michigan State University, earning my bachelor of science in crop and soil science, focusing on turfgrass management. I've worked on golf courses in Kentucky and Georgia and have experience working in commercial landscape maintenance in Michigan and Colorado. I earned my master's and doctorate in horticulture at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where I recently graduated this past May 2023. I now have quite a bit of Razorback gear that I am sure will be moved to the back of the closet in my new role at the AgCenter.

I have a majority extension appointment with both research and teaching roles, as well. I plan to focus my research and extension on best practices for sustainable turfgrass management and quantifying the ecological impacts of managed turfgrass systems. Having never lived this far south, I have a bit of learning to do when it comes to managing certain grasses, weeds, and diseases, and the issues commonly faced that I have yet to encounter during my time in the turfgrass industry. I look forward to helping the extension agents better serve you and your needs regarding lawn care or turfgrass management. If you have any suggestions on topics that you would like to see addressed in future issues, be sure to let Dr. Joe or other agents in your area know.

~Dr. Eric DeBoer

LSU AgCenter
Research · Extension · Teaching

TURFGRASS

Visit the LSU AgCenter Turfgrass website for more information about maintaining a healthy lawn.

Click here or go to https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/commercial_horticulture/turfgrass

St. Tammany Master Gardener Association

in conjunction with LSU AgCenter present the

2023 Fall Seminar

Friday, September 29

8:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Church of the King

Mandeville, LA

Mark your calendars!

Table Talks - Lunch – Plant Boutique

Speakers

Christopher Spitzmiller,

of Clove Brook Farm, renowned ceramicist,

designer, gardener, author, and speaker

Sue Goetz,

award-winning garden designer, horticulturist, and author will present

“The Best Herbs to Use in Your Landscape Design"

Mike DeRee,

of the Ball Seed Company, will inform us on

“New and Recently Introduced High-Performing Plants for 2023"

Copy and paste this link in your internet browser to register:

https://www.stmastergardener.org/events?utm_campaign=1fdd4f2a-a137-4b98-8088-87258ba03f74&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail_lp&cid=84300e7e-071a-4d34-8497-14684cdf56d7

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 Truck Farm Table
200 N. Broad (In Whole Foods lobby or in parking lot, weather permitting)
Walk up https://www.sproutnolafarm.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/events

Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9th 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

FUBU Market
3101 Erato Street New Orleans, location changes, check website/social media
https://www.facebook.com/TheFUBUMarket
www.fubumarket.com/

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

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/

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/

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

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie
3000 Downs Blvd.
Wednesdays, from 2-7PM
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064920097975

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

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/

In the Kitchen with Austin

Roasted Okra

Here is a super simple recipe for this super healthy veggie. It makes a wonderful summer side dish or a unique appetizer for an impromptu gathering.

Ingredients:

1 lb. fresh okra
2 Tbs. olive oil
1 tsp. paprika
Salt to taste
Cayenne pepper to taste

A bowl of roasted okra.

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400.

Rinse okra, and dry well. Trim off stems and cut into ¾ inch pieces.

Spread okra onto a sheet pan and drizzle with olive oil and seasonings. Stir to distribute.

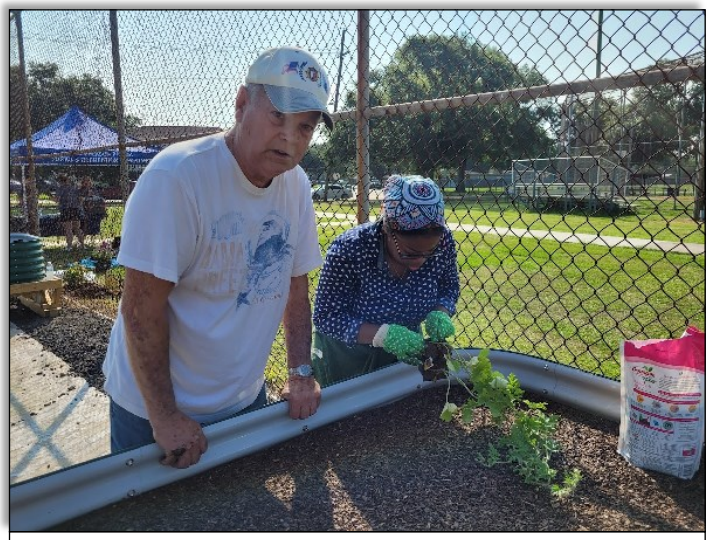
Bake for 15 minutes until lightly brown.

Bon Manger

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



Jefferson Parish residents working in the new vegetable garden at Mike Miley Playground.

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

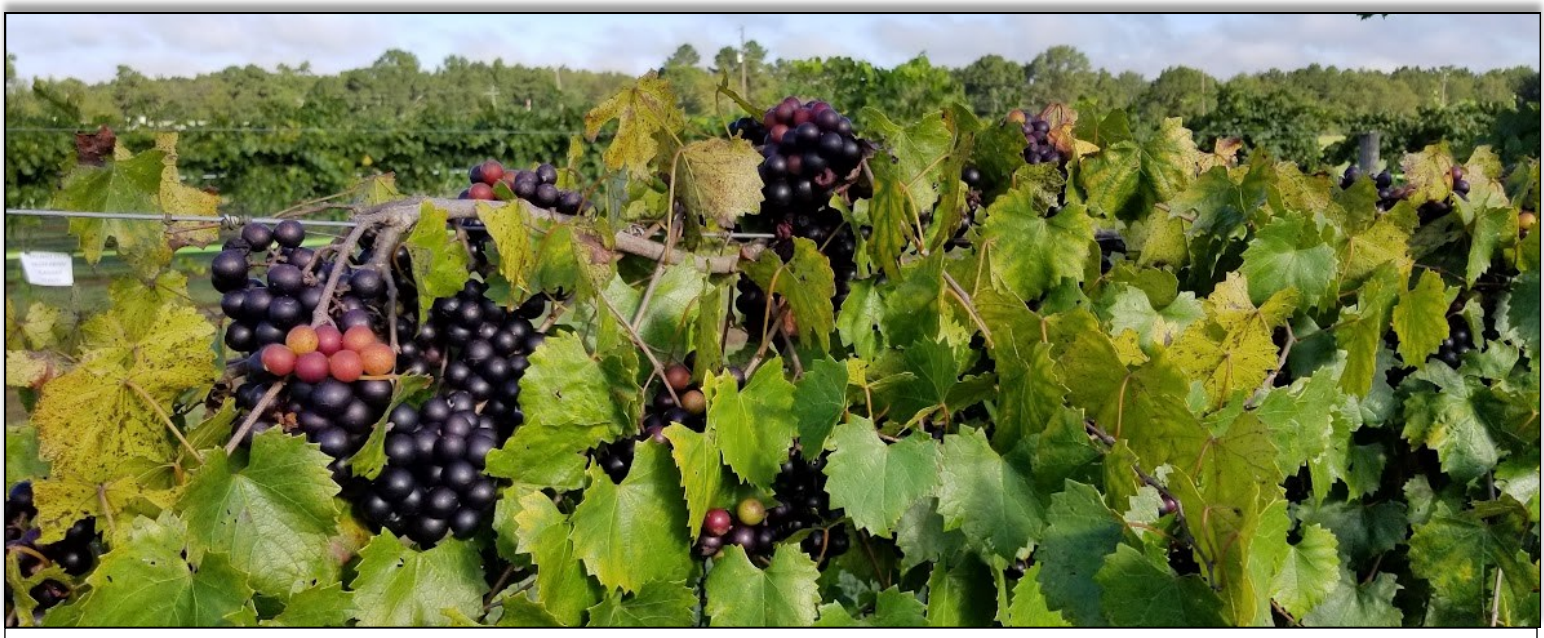
Local Independent Garden Centers

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 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
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

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
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	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		
Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	https://plantpricks.com/
Nice Plants, Good Pots	6720 St. Claude Ave., Arabie, LA	Etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots
St. Tammany		
The Boho Being	1184 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458	(985)707-1623



Muscadine grapes growing on a trellis.

August Checklist/Garden Tips

Small, yellow aphids on your butterfly weed or milkweed will not damage the plants or affect the feeding of adult and larval monarch butterflies. Do not use pesticides.

Spider mites and white flies are abundant now and many gardeners are experiencing heavy outbreaks. Make several applications of Year Round Oil or All Seasons Oil before they get too out of hand. Spray the underside of the leaves for best control, and spray in the early morning when it is cooler.

Begin to order spring flowering bulbs from catalogs for delivery in October.

Remove flowers on coleus, and pinch back vegetative growth to prolong new foliage production.

Prune ever blooming roses back about one third their height in late August or early September. Also remove any dead canes and weak spindly growth. This pruning prepares the roses for the outstanding blooming season in October and November. Do not cut back once blooming roses that only bloom in spring and early summer and stop, as you will reduce flowering next year.

After a summer of vigorous growth outside, some containerized plants may be pot bound. Check and repot into larger containers if necessary. Also, plants in pots sitting on a brick surface or soil may grow roots out of the drainage holes into the ground. Prevent this by lifting the pots occasionally or boost them up on pot feet or pieces of brick.

Fine, silvery webbing on the bark of area trees is being caused by tiny insects called psocids or bark lice. These scavengers are completely harmless to the trees and no control is needed.

If your spring planted eggplant and pepper plants are still in good condition, they can be generally be relied on to produce a fall crop. Control pests and keep the plants well watered and fertilized as needed. They will begin to set more fruit as the temperatures become cooler.

Transplant fall tomato plants into your garden by mid-August. Be prepared to spray with insecticides and fungicides since insect and disease pressure is usually greater in the fall than in the spring. The cultivars that have produced satisfactorily in the fall are Mountain Pride, Mountain Delight, Hawaiian Hybrid, Pelican, Bingo, Whirlaway, Floradel, Celebrity, Pacific and Solar Set.

If you need to, dig and divide Louisiana irises, Easter lilies and calla lilies this month.

Many bedding plants that will continue to bloom through fall were planted months ago and may be somewhat leggy and overgrown by this time. Cut them back by about 1/3 to 1/2 to produce stockier, fuller plants for the fall blooming period. Fertilize after you cut them back to stimulate new growth. This is often done to bedding plants such as impatiens, begonia, lantana, blue daze, verbena, pentas, salvia and periwinkle.

As your flowers and vegetables grow, they deplete the soil of organic material. Be sure to add plenty of compost to your garden plots before planting your Fall crop. You should also take a soil test and add fertilizer and amendments according to the test results

Many banana trees in the area have fruit this year. Wait until the fruit reach full size, cut off the whole stalk and hang it up somewhere convenient. Pick the fruit from the stalk as it turns yellow.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. You may fertilize at this time if you have not already done so. Look on page 5 of the Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices Guide for information on the correct timing and application rates.
2. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass. 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. It is safest, from a disease standpoint, not to keep a grass wet all night long. Watering established sod during midday is discouraged because of extra loss from evaporation
4. Now is a good time to core Aerate the soil to alleviate compaction.
5. Topdress the lawn by spreading a mixture of course sand and finely sifted compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Keep an eye open for insect pests. This is the season for chinch bugs and sod webworms.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.
9. This is the last month to lay sod Bermudagrass.

Don't's

1. Do not apply selective herbicides to the lawn due to high heat.
2. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time.
3. Do not try to grow grass in deep shade.

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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