



GNO Gardening Magazine

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Cover photo: Strawberries growing
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Photo by Chris Dunaway

Cut Flowers – Making Your Bouquet Last

The big three holidays for sending flowers in the U.S. are Valentine's Day, Christmas, and Mother's Day. These three account for 82% of all flowers sent on holidays and they are more or less equal. Mother's Day is May 12 and statistics say that 31% of Americans buy plants for Mother's Day with 80% of those purchases being fresh flowers. Here are some tips to make those beauties last as long as possible.

When you receive a bouquet of flowers, what should you do with them?

The flowers are still living plants – just no roots. The flowers need to stay hydrated. You may or may not know how the flowers have been harvested and stored. No matter, what you want to do is make new cuts on the flower stems to make sure the conductive tissue is open. When flowers are harvested, the stem may get crushed closing the xylem tubes or plant sap or microorganisms may have plugged the xylem. Using sharp shears, make new cuts about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end to reopen any closed tubes. Do the cuts underwater, if possible. This prevents air bubbles from entering the conductive tissue and forming a

blockage. Cut the stem at a 45 degree angle. This provides more surface area for water absorption and keeps the stem from sitting flat on the vase bottom and impeding water uptake.



Figure 1: Mixed floral arrangement. Photo by Heather Bozman

It's important to use a clean vase that has no soap residue or contamination from a previous floral arrangement.

Immediately put them in a clean vase with fresh water and floral preservative.

Make sure to remove any leaves, excess stems, or thorns that might be submerged. These will lead to decay and microbial growth that will shorten the life of your bouquet.

What is "floral preservative"?

This is a mixture of sugars, acid (usually citric acid), and biocides. The flowers are usually picked before they are fully open, they are alive,

and will continue to develop. They need the sugars as a food source for this development. The acid lowers the pH of the solution. This lower pH helps to prevent growth of organisms that may shorten the flower's life and research has shown that lower pH water moves through the xylem more readily. The biocide is there to prevent bacteria and fungi from growing and rotting the flowers.

Do you need to purchase commercial floral preservative?

Usually, there is a packet or two of preservative with the flowers. This is enough for the first few vases of water. You can purchase more online or at garden centers or florist shops. But you can also make your own.

Here are two recipes that have been shown to increase flower longevity.

Mix 1:

1 can of full sugar citrus soda (no diet soda)

3 cans of water

1.2 ml of bleach

Mix 2:

2 Tbs of fresh lime or lemon juice

1 Tbs sugar

½ tsp bleach

1 qt. water

How often should the solution be changed?

You need to change the solution in your vase about every two to three days. This helps to keep the solution fresh and uncontaminated. You should also make fresh cuts on your flowers about every other water change.

This is the ideal way to treat your cut flowers.

However, just changing the water every day or two and making new cuts will help your flowers stay fresh longer.

Where should the arrangement be placed?

Flowers retain their freshest look when displayed in a cool, draft-free environment, out of direct sunlight and away from any possible heat sources. Do not place them in a refrigerator that contains fruit because ethylene gas produced from ripening fruit accelerates decomposition of flowers.

Final tip.

Remove spent flowers and greenery once past their peak of vitality. Removing them keeps the arrangement looking fresh and slows the build up of bacteria. This is especially important in a mixed bouquet. Some varieties will decline quicker than others and should be removed.

Cut flowers make great gifts for many occasions. They are living and with just a little attention, you can extend the life of these beauties for days or even weeks.

~ Dr. Joe Willis

Selected Resources

About Flowers. 2019. [Mother's Day Floral Statistics - About Flowers \(safnow.org\)](https://safnow.org/mother-day-floral-statistics)

Dillon, D. 2022. How To Keep Cut Flowers Fresh. [How to Keep Cut Flowers Fresh | N.C. Cooperative Extension \(ncsu.edu\)](https://www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/extension/ncsu-floriculture/how-to-keep-cut-flowers-fresh/)

Geisel, P. and C. Unruh. 2004. Extending the Freshness of Cut Flowers at Home. UC Davis. [Extending the Freshness of Cut Flowers at Home \(ucanr.edu\)](https://ucanr.edu/sites/ucanr/files/Extending_the_Freshness_of_Cut_Flowers_at_Home.pdf)

Haag, B. 2023. Extend the vase life of your fresh flowers with a little care. [Extend the vase life of your fresh flowers with a little care | Illinois Extension | UIUC](https://www.uiuc.edu/news/extend-the-vase-life-of-your-fresh-flowers-with-a-little-care)

Han, S.S. 2000. Sugar and Acidity in Preservative Solutions for Field-Grown Cut Flowers. UMass. [Greenhouse & Floriculture: Sugar and Acidity in Preservative Solutions for Field-Grown Cut Flowers | Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at UMass Amherst](https://www.umass.edu/center-for-agriculture-food-and-the-environment/publications/sugar-and-acidity-in-preservative-solutions-for-field-grown-cut-flowers)

May Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Amaranth	None Given
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna
Cucuzza	None Given
Cushaw	None Given
Eggplant	Dusky, Night Shadow, Epic, Santana, Calliope
Hot Peppers (transplant)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla,
Lima Beans (bush or pole)	Dixie Butterpea, Jackson Wonder, Thorogreen Florida Speckled, King of Garden
Luffa Gourd	None Given
Malbar Spinace	None Given
Mirlitons	None Given
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Peanuts	None Given
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Soybeans	None Given
Sweet Potato	Beauregard, Evangeline, Hernandez, Jewel
Watermelon	Seedless: Cooperstown, Gypsy, Matrix, Millennium Seeded: Mickey Lee, Sugar Baby, Amarillo
Yardlong Beans	None Given

Growing Strawberries

Strawberries are a great addition to the home garden. Whether you intend on growing just a few plants in a container or multiple rows in the garden, following the advice provided in this guide (weather permitting) will lead to a successful harvest.

Botanically speaking, strawberries actually are not a fruit. They are an achene. The seeds on the outside of the strawberry actually are the fruit or ovarian tissue of the strawberry. The red flesh we eat is part of the receptacle.

While professional growers will plant strawberries in the fall, home gardeners tend to plant strawberries in the late winter/early spring when the young plants become available at local garden centers.

Strawberry varieties that historically have produced well in Louisiana are classified as short-day varieties. For these varieties, flowers are initiated during short days and cool temperatures in the fall and winter months, and fruit appears in the late winter and early spring in Louisiana when conditions are favorable for good quality fruit production. Varieties that performed well in LSU AgCenter trials in 2010 through 2013 included: Festival and Benicia. Other

varieties that tend to perform well in the state include: Camarosa, Camino Real and Chandler.

Strawberries can be grown in containers, raised

garden beds or in-ground gardens. They only need 12 square inches of soil to grow so they don't require too much space. Place the plants about 16 inches apart. They do, however, require good drainage or they will develop root rot. Use the appropriate soil mix for containers and raised beds. Add compost to in-ground gardens and form the soil into hipped rows where the strawberries will be planted in the tops of the rows.

Take a soil test prior to planting to

determine the available nutrients in the soil.

Strawberries are heavy feeders and will need two applications of fertilizer. Without a soil test, add 0.5 ounces of 13-13-13 fertilizer per square foot of growing area two weeks before planting. Side dress the plants with 0.5 ounces of calcium nitrate per plant when they plant start to flower.

Mulch is critical for good berry harvesting. Berries that are allowed to rest on the soil will quickly rot. The material is not important. Shredded leaves, wheat straw, pine needles, cypress tree leaves, shredded

Photo by Chris Dunaway



A juicy ripe red strawberry freshly picked from the LaSalle Park Demonstration Garden in Metairie, LA. The golden spots are actually seeds.

paper, etc. are all good mulching materials. Spread a 4 inch layer over the growing area. Plastic mulches are also available and are used in commercial production.

Although strawberry plants do not like saturated soil, they do require regular irrigation. This is essential during berry production. The plants will need at least 1 inch of water (0.6 gallons/square foot) per week through rainfall or irrigation.

There are a few different pests that will want to share your strawberries. Slugs and snails can be an issue but proper spacing and the use of mulch can reduce this pressure. Birds are also attracted to the fruit. They tend to peck holes in the fruit and move on the next. Bird netting can be a good deterrent. I have also heard of people placing painting rocks resembling strawberries in the garden before the fruit begins to ripen. According to what I could find, the bird will attempt to eat the rocks and learn that “strawberries” are not good food.

Finally you should know that strawberry plants are perennials which means that they can live for several years. Due to disease pressure and need for space, they are typically replanted each season. The plants



Strawberry plants are typically sold as in bundles of bare-root plants.

will produce clones through the formation of stolons. These new plants should be removed to give the original plant space and reduce energy loss necessary to form them. Let the offspring develop adequate roots if you plan on using them to propagate more plants. Plant them in new locations or give them away to your friends and neighbors.

Go ahead and give growing strawberries a try in your garden.

~Chris Dunaway



Photo by Chris Dunaway

The strawberry plants circled in yellow are clones of the parent plants. You can see the attaching stolons on the surface.

What's Bugging You?

Bordered Plant Bug (*Largus succinctus*)

Often confused with box elder bug (*Boisea trivittata*), or golden raintree bug (*Jadera* spp.), the bordered plant bug is a seasonal nuisance insect in our area. A member of the true bug family (Heteropterans), they are cousins to the more nefarious leaf-footed bugs (*Leptoglossus* spp.).

Bordered plant bugs appear in the spring through the summer months. Adults have wings and are a dusky-grey color with a bright red border around their body. The immature nymphs tend to hang out in clusters and are a metallic blue/black with a red or orange triangle on their back. Adults measure about $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2.5 cm) in length. They are native to the western and southern US states.

As members of the true bug family, bordered plant bugs have piercing-sucking mouthparts and feed on sap extracted from plants. They particularly target flowers, buds, and fruits. While not considered to be a significant pest in the garden, they



Mature bordered plant bug. Photo credit: Rick Miller, Bugguide.net.



Bordered plant bug nymphs. Photo credit: UD Davis Division of ANR.

blueberries, blackberries, and strawberries. In natural settings I have observed them feeding on the native dewberries and on clover flowers.

In the garden, their feeding damage is mostly undetectable and generally no action or insecticides are needed. Unlike other members of its family, bordered plant bugs do not congregate in large enough numbers to become a pest of any note, nor do they vector yeast into fruits as they feed like the leaf-footed bug and stinkbugs do. If they are observed feeding on your fruits, a simple control method is to knock them into a cup of water with a little dish soap added. They are generally slow moving and clumsy so this can be an easy way to remove them from your plants.

~Anna Timmerman

Selected Resources:

<https://www.whatsthatbug.com/bordered-plant-bug-all/>

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=11001>

Mow Your Own Way

With our warm-season turfgrasses awakened after winter dormancy, lawn crews are well into full swing by May.

Staring at the grass, we may think “cutting you is the right thing to do”, but how can I change designs for more appeal? Spirited debates may rage between colleagues on mowing crews, and perhaps even neighbors of adjoining properties, as to the proper way to mow a lawn... but internal arguments between individuals sometimes leads to amazing artistic outputs – take *Fleetwood Mac* for example. *Rumours* swirl in the world of lawn care, with strongly held beliefs that there is but only one way to mow – repeated straight lines. Consider breaking *The Chain* and choosing to *Mow Your Own Way* instead.

Lawn mowing patterns are a great way to breathe new life into your landscape and have fun while you mow. Lawn mowing patterns can encompass geometric shapes and flowing curves that appeal to the eye. You can follow the contours of your yard, create checkerboard patterns, or even unique shapes like diamonds and circles. Concentric circles create a bullseye like appearance that can impress in the landscape, particularly when emanating out from around large trees. Granted, some homeowners associations may not be supportive... but if you could, would you give your lawn some swirls?

Varying your mowing pattern can be aesthetically pleasing, but you may wonder why your lawn looks better overall, with neighbors pleading “Tell me why, everything looks fantastic now?” Well, varying lawn

mowing patterns can be beneficial to the health of your landscape, redistributing the weight of our lawn mowers to different sections of soil and limiting localized areas of compaction that occur from



Groundskeepers mow the stripes in the outfield at Tiger Park Softball Field. Photo by Alyssa Berry

repeatedly driving in the same pattern. Repetitive mowing patterns can lead to yellowing / dying grass or bald patches in our yard. Be careful about mowing around plants or hardscape features, you don't want any *Nicks* on your equipment – or worse, your trees. Follow these steps to have a lawn as renowned as *Buckingham* palace itself.

A few things to consider when mowing this time of year – make sure to not mow when it is too wet. Be cautious about upcoming inclement weather, as you don't want to be stuck outside when a storm comes. It is best to take an overly cautious approach and assume that thunder only happens when it's raining – so if you hear/see one or the other, your *Dreams* of a beautiful lawn may turn into a nightmare if you decide to mow.

~Kristopher S. Criscione, Jeb S. Fields, Damon E. Abdi

Southern Bacterial Wilt

(*Ralstonia solanacearum*)

Southern bacterial wilt caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum* (formerly *Pseudomonas solanacearum*) is a very destructive disease of more than 200 crop species. *Ralstonia solanacearum* is a soil-borne bacterium that destroys the vascular system of plants, resulting in wilt disease symptoms. At least five races of the pathogen cause disease on various hosts. One of them attacks all the solanaceous and many nonsolanaceous crops as well as some bananas, another attacks only plants in the banana family, and a third attacks potato and sometimes tobacco. Two other races cause disease in plants of little importance. A pathogenic race is a subdivision of a species that refers to a pathogen's ability to cause disease on its host. Race I is endemic to the southeastern United States and can be a major problem on our solanaceous crops.

Initial symptoms of the disease include a wilting of the youngest leaves. Wilting symptoms may appear suddenly. As the disease progresses, the base of the plant may show brown cankers, root rot, and a brown discoloration of the vascular tissue. Plants may appear

wilted in the afternoon, seem to recover overnight only to wilt again in the afternoon. This is due to less water needs in the morning when it is cooler humidity is higher, but as the heat increases the clogged vascular system limits the water uptake and the plant wilts (Figure 1). The plant eventually becomes permanently wilted and dies, usually within 7-14 days after initial symptoms appear. Disease development is favored by warm temperatures (>85°F) and wet soils which is common in our area. Though wilting symptoms may have several causes, one good test for southern bacterial wilt is to look for bacterial streaming. If a freshly cut stem from the base of the plant placed in water shows streams of a white slimy substance coming from the cut surface, that is a strong indicator of bacterial presence in the vascular tissue (Figure 2).

Ralstonia solanacearum is a strictly soil-borne bacterium. Depending on conditions, the bacterium can survive in the soil and on plant debris for several days to several years. There are currently no registered pesticides that can be used to treat infected



Figure 1: A: Tomato plant showing severe wilting. B: Bacterial canker a plant soil line. C: Discolored vascular tissue of an infected tomato plant.

soil and once plants are infected, there is no cure.

Disease management and mitigation takes several forms. One is good sanitation and planting certified disease free plants to prevent soil contamination.

Once soil is contaminated, do not plant susceptible crops for several years. Instead use a rotation of crops that are resistant to Southern Bacterial Wilt.

A few bacterial wilt resistant varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and other solanaceous crops have recently been introduced into the marketplace. Growing resistant varieties is a third management technique if you have contaminated soil.

A fourth management option is to plant grafted vegetable crops. Several resistant rootstocks have been developed for tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant. You can easily do your own grafting or choose from a limited number of grafted varieties available from online seed and plant companies.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis



Figure 2: Bacterial slime streaming from cut tomato stem in water.

Selected Resources

Ferrin, D.M. 2011. Southern Bacterial Wilt. [pub3190SouthernBacterialWiltLOWRES.pdf \(lsuagcenter.com\)](#)

Halpern, H.C. et. al. 2020. Genetic Diversity and Population Structure of Races of *Fusarium oxysporum* Causing Cotton Wilt. [Genetic Diversity and Population Structure of Races of *Fusarium oxysporum* Causing Cotton Wilt - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

Madrid, A.J. et. al. 2017. Grafting Tomatoes to Improve Plant Health. [grafting tomatoes to improve plant health - lsupdf.pdf \(lsuagcenter.com\)](#)

Meadows, I. and M. Henson. 2020. Southern Bacterial Wilt of Tomato. [Southern Bacterial Wilt of Tomato | NC State Extension Publications \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

Ramos, M. 2015. Southern Bacterial Wilt and Brown Rot. [ralstoniasbrownrrrot.pdf \(cornell.edu\)](#)

Reeves, E. and I. Meadows. 2023. Southern Bacterial Wilt on Herbaceous Ornamental Plants. [Southern Bacterial Wilt on Herbaceous Ornamental Plants | NC State Extension Publications \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

Look at Me:

Chinese Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus retusus*)

Originating from China, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan, the Chinese Fringe Tree, *Chionanthus retusus*, is a staple in traditional southern landscape design. It adds a premium aesthetic to the area with its shiny dark green leaves, lightly striped bark, and showy white flowers. Recently, several trees in the Mandeville-Covington area went into full bloom and stirred up interest amongst the gardening public. Let's take a deep dive into this showstopper of a plant.

The genus *Chionanthus* is a mash up of two Greek words, *chion* meaning "snow" and *anthos* meaning "flower". This refers to the flowering activity of the plant and can be quite a show to an uninformed gardener. *Chionanthus* is a member of the plant family, *Oleaceae*. This family is also known as the lilac or olive family and it includes popular plants like olives, lilacs, ashes, and ligustrums. In fact, fringe trees are so closely related to ash trees that they can be grafted together. Fringe tree scions will take on ash rootstocks.

The plant itself is a small tree slowly growing upwards of 20 ft and between 15-20 ft wide. It displays a deciduous habit with leaves emerging oppositely

down the stem in late winter and early spring. The bark offers aesthetic interest with its light color and exfoliating striations that give a striped effect. The flowers and flowering habit are what really sell this plant. In early spring, usually around March, white



Photo by Will Afton

Chinese fringe Tree growing in a filter light location.

flowers hang in 4-inch-long panicles. These fragrant flowers emerge from the tips of new spring shoots and completely cover the tree creating an impressive snow-like appearance. These characteristics make Chinese Fringe Tree a great plant for use in specimen, focal, or accent style plantings. Excellent way to add aesthetic

value to decks, patios, and courtyards.

Chinese Fringe Tree is tolerant of many light conditions but perform best in sunnier areas. Plants in heavy shade will result in poor flower production. It is also adaptive to a wide range of soil conditions but performs best in a well-drained soil with a good amount of organic matter. It prefers a slightly acidic soil condition (below pH of 6). Conduct a soil test to determine current soil pH and follow recommendations on lowering or raising if needed. Water deeply after planting and supplement irrigation water during the first couple of years. Refer

to the soil report to learn of nutrient deficiencies. A fertilizer program can be implemented at the start of year two and should focus on applying amendments that add supply deficient nutrients. Aim to buildup levels of phosphorus and potassium so that the only nutrient added each spring is nitrogen.

Chinese Fringe Tree is popular when its in bloom. In the current market, you can find container grown plants for sale, but you may need to expand your search to surrounding parishes. This is an excellent plant for our region but it's not the easiest to propagate. Most nursery personnel are growing out seedlings into 2- and 3-year-old sellable trees. This takes some time and fringe tree seedlings don't grow very straight, requiring more room than other similar type trees. So, even if it takes a little time to find a plant, you'll forget about it next spring when it blooms and all your neighbors start asking about it!

~William Afton



Photo by Will Afton

Flowers of a Chinese fringe tree.

Selected Resources:

Odenwald, N. and J. Turner. 2011. Identification, Selection and Use of Southern Plants: For Landscape Design. 4th Ed. Claitor's Pub Division. Baton Rouge, LA.

Smithsonian. (2024, April 10). *Chionanthus retusus*. Smithsonian Institution. https://gardens.si.edu/collections/explore/object/ofeo-sg_2012-1472A

NS State. (2024, April 10). *Chionanthus retusus*. NC State University. <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/chionanthus-retusus/>



Photo by: Hannele Lahti

The unique bark of a Chinese fringe tree.

In the Kitchen with Austin

Tomato Gratin

This is the perfect recipe for early season tomatoes and herbs. I am sure you will love it!

Ingredients:

2 ¼ lbs. fresh tomatoes, thickly sliced	Salt and pepper, to taste
1 ½ Tbs. olive oil, plus extra to drizzle	2 c bread crumbs, unseasoned
1 tsp. thyme	3 cloves garlic
	1/3 c parsley



A pan of tomato gratin.

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°.

Place tomatoes in a bowl and add olive oil, thyme, salt and pepper. Toss lightly to combine.

Place bread crumbs in a separate bowl. Chop garlic, parsley, and a pinch of salt until minced. Add garlic and parsley mixture to bread crumbs, drizzling with olive oil to moisten.

Layer tomato and bread crumb mixtures in a baking pan, making sure to add any released juices from the sliced tomatoes.

Bake for 40 minutes or so, until lightly browned and bubbling.

Bien Manger

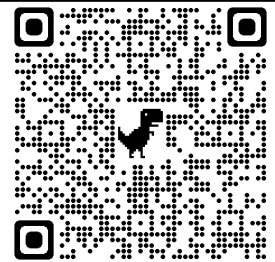
Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

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



Louisiana Master Gardeners working to install new garden beds at the Old US Mint.



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

Click here or go to: <https://bit.ly/3UQRS7H>

Search for Greater New Orleans Horticulture Support Fund

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/](https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/events)
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/rfqqs/>

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/](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

Folsom Village Market

Hwy 40, one block east of Hwy 25
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (weather per-
mitting)
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/](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

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/>

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.oldmetairegardenclub.com/tag/farmers-art-metairie-market/>

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, Marrero, 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 rd 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 3 rd 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
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May Checklist/Garden Tips

Great warm-season bedding plants for sun include abelmoschus, ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, begonia, blue daze, celosia, cleome, coleus (sun-tolerant types), coreopsis, cosmos, Dahlberg daisy, dusty miller, gaillardia, gomphrena, lantana, marigold, melampodium, narrow-leaf zinnia, ornamental pepper, periwinkle, pentas, portulaca, purslane, rudbeckia, salvia, scaevola, sunflower, tithonia, torenia, verbena (perennial), zinnia.

During dry weather don't forget to keep your compost pile evenly moist. Dry organic matter will not decompose. Do, however, avoid keeping the pile saturated as this will create bad odors.

Powdery mildew on many ornamentals (crape myrtles, roses, euonymous) and vegetables (squash, cucumbers) continues to be a problem due to dry weather. Treat with chlorothalonil or other labeled fungicides.

Birds will peck holes in tomatoes just before you decide they are ripe enough to harvest. If birds are a problem, cover your plants with bird netting or harvest the fruit in the pink stage and ripen them inside. Bird netting also works well to protect fruit crops, such as blackberries, blueberries and figs, from bird damage, and is available from local nurseries or feed stores.

Grow cucumbers on trellises to save space, increase production and improve the quality of the cucumbers produced.

Constant watering rapidly leaches nutrient elements from the soils of container grown plants. To replace them it is best to use either soluble fertilizers or slow release fertilizers. Soluble fertilizers are easy to apply especially when you use a hose end applicator, but they must be applied every two weeks to maintain a constant supply of nutrients. Slow release fertilizers provide nutrients over several months from one application and so cut down on labor.

Cannas that have brown, deformed leaves with holes in them have been attacked by canna leaf-rollers, a caterpillar that is devastating to cannas in our area. Control is difficult and requires regular spraying all summer. If you decide to treat, use a systemic insecticide such as acephate and make weekly applications.

Plant basil plants now and enjoy a wonderful fresh seasoning for summer cooking. Many herbs already in your garden, such as thyme, sage, oregano, lavender, dill, cilantro and parsley, are at their most productive now and will play out as the weather gets hotter. Harvest freely and dry or freeze the extras.

Remove the developing seed pods from such plants as Louisiana irises and amaryllis when they finish blooming. This keeps the plants more attractive and prevents them from wasting effort on seeds that are not needed. It would be better for the plants to put that energy into growing leaves and roots.

Watch azaleas for azalea lace bug damage. Small white spots on the upper surface and small dark brown spots on the back of leaves indicates they are present. Spray with a broad spectrum insecticide getting under the leaves thoroughly.

Caterpillars will feed on the foliage and flowers of ornamentals and the foliage and fruit of vegetables. The tomato fruit worm eats holes in tomatoes. Sevin, spinosad and BT regularly applied will keep them in check.

Termite mating season is upon us and millions of sexually mature Formosan termite alates will be seen flying around light poles at night for the next several weeks. Although termites are active year round, the heightened activity makes it more easy to find the harborages in which they live. Check for the soil and debris that the termites use to hide themselves on local structures and trees. [Click here for more information on termites in trees.](#)

May is one of the busiest months in the flower garden. As cool season annuals become unattractive, the beds need to be cleaned out and replanted with warm season annuals. Don't forget that summer heat makes the care of flower bed uncomfortable to say the least.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. This is the prime planting season for warm season grasses such as St. Augustine, centipede, bermuda and zoysia.
2. Soil preparation is important to successful lawn installation. Add compost, amendments and fertilizer to the soil. Till the soil to a depth of 6 inches and smooth to grade.
3. This month is the last chance to apply broad leaf weed killers before the weather gets too hot. Button weed is particularly troublesome around the state. This low, mat-forming weed has one inch pointed leaves and small, four petaled white flowers. Most people don't notice it until July, but it is beginning to grow now. LSU AgCenter trials show Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone to work best, especially when applied to young plants in early summer.
4. If you have not already done so, apply fertilizer now. The rate is 0.5-1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn area. You will need 3 pounds of a fertilizer with 33% nitrogen, 33-0-0, to have 1 pound of nitrogen.
5. 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.](#)
6. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches.
7. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
8. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
9. Keep an eye open for insect pests and treat if necessary.
10. Spread topsoil over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
11. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.

Don't's

1. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time. Bermudagrass = 1 inch, St. Augustine = 3 inches, Centipede = 1.5 inches, Zoysia = 1.5 inches.
2. Do not let winter weeds go to seed in the lawn. Use the bagging mower to collect clippings and dispose of them if seed heads are present.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help



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For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

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