

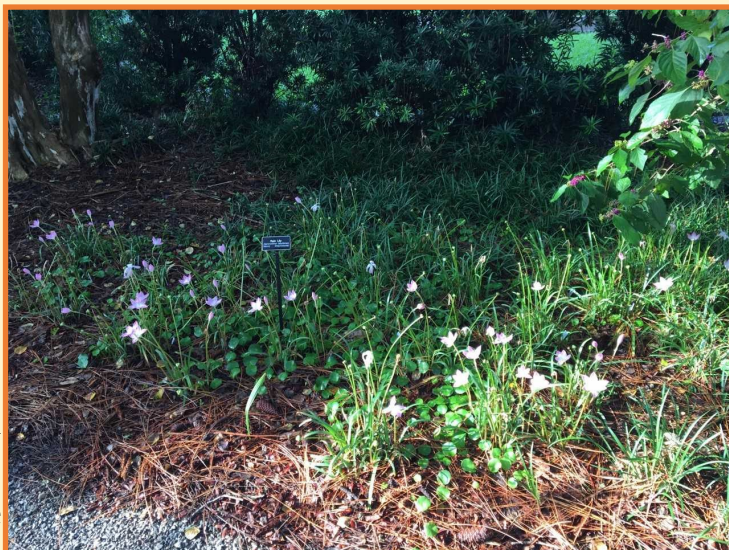


September 2017

It Can't Rain On My Parade

Of the top 10 rainiest cities in the US, four are in LA, four are in FL, and AL and TX have one each. New Orleans ranks third with an average annual rainfall of 64 inches and an average of 56 rainy days per year ("rainy day" is defined as a day with greater than 0.25 inches of rain).

Unlike many areas of the country where gardeners, through irrigation, have more control over the amount of water their gardens and landscapes get, New Orleans area gardeners are frequently treated to huge and frequent amounts of Mother Nature provided irrigation. But as my son says, "When life



gives you lemons, eat them skin and all!"

So as gardeners in one of the rainiest cities in the US, why not let the deluge bring a little joy to our lives. One way of doing just that is by planting rain lilies. Zephyranthes species are native to the temperate and tropical parts of the Americas including the southeastern US. They are not true lilies but are members of the Amaryllidaceae family which includes amaryllis, narcissus, snowdrops and even onions, chives and garlic.

They get their common name because they often flower within a few days after a good rainfall producing a flush of white, pink or yellow crocus-like flowers from spring through fall. The flower size and color as well as plant height is variable in the genus and dependent on the species. The beautiful 1"-4" bell-shaped flowers are borne singly on long slender stalks from 6" to 12" (Continued)

It Can't Rain On My Parade (Continued)



high surrounded by a clump of upright rush-like leaves that add a softness to the landscape. Rain lilies are hardy from zones 7-11 and can grow in full sun to partial shade with the same dramatic flowering habit and adapt well to container gardening too.

They grow best in rich, moist, well-drained slightly acidic soil but can tolerate a wide range of conditions. When conditions are dry they may lose their leaves only to spring back into action when the rains come. In a bed or garden with frequent watering they will keep their leaves throughout much of the year and flower sporadically and continuously.

Rain lilies are propagated most commonly by bulbs. The bulbs can be planted anytime but probably do better if planted in the fall or winter. You can also divide large clumps of rain lilies at any time of the year but is best done when the plant is dormant. Rain lilies have few pest problems other than an occasional snail or slug. The bulbs and plant parts contain lycorine, a poisonous alkaloid which probably contributes to their resistance to rodents and insects.

The rain lily is considered to have low toxicity but is still something to be aware of if small children or pets are present (don't let them eat the bulbs). You can grow rain lilies here and there singly or in

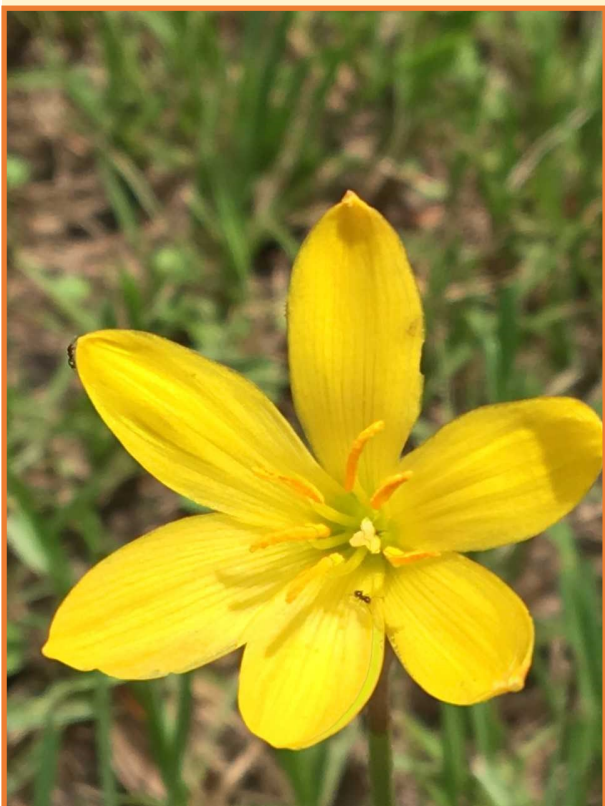


small clumps around your landscape to provide that random surprise spark of joy or grow them en masse for a dramatic regularly occurring display. With their fine leaf structure and clumping nature, they could even serve as borders much like mondo or monkey grass but with prettier flowers (author's opinion).

The wild-type species come in white (*Z. candida* and *Z. atamasca*), pink (*Z. grandiflora* and *Z. rosea*) and yellow (*Z. citrina* and *Z. pulchella*) but through hybridization and selection varieties in peach, orange and red are also available.

Bulbs and plants can be found at local nurseries and garden centers or ordered online. Try planting rain lily, you won't be disappointed – you might even start looking forward to those downpours.

~Dr. Joe Willis



September Vegetable Planting Guide

| Crop | Recommended Variety | Planting Depth | Spacing | Harvest Days |
|--|--|---|---------|--------------|
| Beets | Bull's Blood, Detroit Dark Red, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen | 1/4 inch | 2-4 | 55-60 |
| Broccoli (transplants) | Packman, Windsor, Greenbelt, Arcadia, Diplomat | 3-4 inches (transplants) 1/8 inch (seed) | 18-24 | 70-90 |
| Brussels Sprouts (transplants or seed) | Long Island Improved, Royal Marvel, Jade Cross | 3-4 inches (transplants) 1/8 inch (seed) | 12-15 | 90 |
| Cabbage | Blue Vintage, Platinum Dynasty, Asia Express, Farao, Tendersweet | 1/8 inch | 12-15 | 65-75 |
| Chinese Cabbage | Minuet, Rubicon | 1/4 inch | 8-12 | 60-80 |
| Carrots | Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Atlas, Nelson F1, Bolero F1, Rainbow | 1/8 inch | 1-2 | 70-75 |
| Cauliflower (transplants or seed) | Snow Crown, Freedom, Incline, Skywalker, Cheddar, Graffiti | 3-4 inches (transplants) 1/8 inch (seed) | 18-24 | 55-65 |
| Collards | Georgia Giant, Champion, Top Bunch, Flash | 1/8 inch | 6-12 | 75 |
| Kale | Toscano, Redbor, Winterbor, Starbor, Red Russian | 1/8 inch | 12-18 | 50 |
| Kohlrabi | Vienna, Early Purple Vienna, Early White | 1/8 inch | 6 | 55-75 |
| Lettuce | Allstar Gourmet, Oakleaf, Muir, Red Lollo Rossa, Tango, Buttercrunch, Black Seeded Simpson | 1/8 inch | 2-10 | 30-70 |
| Mustard Greens | Red Giant, Greenwave, Savannah, Tendergreen | 1/8 inch | 6-12 | 35-50 |
| Snow Peas | Oregon Giant, Super Sugar Snap | 1/2 inch | 2-3 | 60-70 |
| Spinach | Space, Carmel | 1/8 inch | 2-6 | 15-30 |
| Radishes | French Breakfast, Rover, D'Avignon, Ping Pong | 1/8 inch | 1 | 22-28 |
| Shallots | Saffron, Conserver, Camelot | 1 inch | 3-6 | 50 |
| Swiss Chard | Bright Lights | 1/4 inch | 8-12 | 45-55 |
| Turnips | Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo | 1/8 inch | 2-6 | 40-50 |
| Onions | Red Burgundy, Red Creole, Southern Belle, Georgia Boy, Candy, Savannah Sweet | 1/8 inch | 2-4 | 135-210 |

Autumn Vegetable Gardening Comes With Cooler Weather

Falling temperatures are on the horizon, making the prospect of gardening feel less like a chore and more of an exciting thing to spend time on. August is prime time to start cleaning things up and preparing for fall, start by removing dead or dying plants and weeding thoroughly. Add compost or your favorite fertilizer to recharge the soil, for best results consult a soil test. Kits are available at most local garden centers and the LSU AgCenter offices.

September's cooler weather makes many cool season crops very happy, plant transplants of broccoli, cauliflower, and shallot bulbs out directly into the garden. Seeds can be planted for beets, broccoli, and cauliflower (early in the month), carrots, collards, peas, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, mustard, onions, radish, snap beans, Swiss chard, and turnips. Start trays or pots for transplanting Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and Chinese cabbage.

The Louisiana Vegetable Planting Guide is an excellent resource that lists many of the best varieties for our area, as well as planting dates, seed spacing, planting depth, and fertilizer recommendations. There is also a simple to follow crop rotation plan that can be helpful when deciding what to plant where. This and many other LSU AgCenter publications are available on our website.

September can be dry for days at a time, be sure to water your garden regularly and deeply if the rains do not do the job. Mulching the garden not only helps to reduce weeds, but also keeps the soil moisture balanced.

The LSU AgCenter has a wealth of publications about fall vegetable gardening, they are free and available at www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/home_gardening/vegetables. Many have been updated and new ones are added frequently. You can also contact your LSU AgCenter Agents at gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu to have any gardening questions answered. ~Anna Timmerman



Photo by Chris Dunaway

New Survey Out For Urban Farms and School Gardens

Over the years the role of the LSU AgCenter has changed and adapted to meet the needs of the local agricultural and horticultural stakeholders in Louisiana. The New Orleans area is home to many urban farm projects, as well as a whole lot of school and community gardens. In an attempt to gauge what the GNO LSU AgCenter should be developing programs, publications, research, and trainings for we are launching a survey!



The team here at the Jefferson and Orleans AgCenter offices have been meeting with many folks who work in these areas. We are very interested in presenting targeted workshops and trainings geared towards the unique challenges faced by urban gardeners and farmers. Additionally, there are not a lot of LSU publications that specifically address topics surrounding urban farm systems, organic and biodynamic growing methods, specialty crops such as edible flowers and microgreens, etc. It is our hope to begin diving into these and many more

areas of interest using research-based information.

The survey takes approximately six minutes to complete and asks a variety of questions regarding project size, growing methods, products produced, and more. Please take the time to make your voice heard and help guide us in the right direction so that we may better serve you.



To take the survey please visit:

<http://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/6VUKvfAdBZFxUcB>

Volunteer Spotlight



Our volunteer of the month is Rosary Ingram, a newly minted GNO Master Gardener! Rosary was in the 2017 class this summer and completed her 40 hours in record time by volunteering with the Pelican Greenhouse Orchid project and the Enrique Alferez Sculpture Garden in City Park. Rosary has a passion for gardening that was inspired by her “Grammy” and encouraged by her husband Ralph. She has been married for 31 years and has two daughters and five grandchildren. Rosary loves many plants but really enjoys orchids, palms, camellias, iris, Strelitzia (Bird of Paradise), pineapple guava, pitcher plants, and V. angus-castus (Chaste Tree). She has raised Americana chickens and Rottweilers in the past, and worked in the nursing field for 30 years. Rosary is interested in learning more about propagation, vegetables, and saving plants that need help. Rosary loves all of the knowledge she has received from other Master Gardeners and loves how they truly understand how plants and nature work together. Congratulations Rosary!



Upcoming Events

2017 PLANT SALES



NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK
**BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

SEPTEMBER 9

Pelican Greenhouse

9:00 a.m. – Noon

OCTOBER 7-8

Fall Garden Festival

Sat. October 7

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sun. October 8

10:00 am-4:00 pm

The Pelican Greenhouse is located just off Henry Thomas (Golf) Drive, South of the I-610 overpass. Bring a wagon and arrive early. For additional information, call 504/483-9464, visit our website at www.neworleanscitypark.com, or e-mail to plants@nocp.org

Plants are now available for sale in our new Garden Gift Shop



Rivertown Butterfly Garden Groundbreaking Ceremony

Saturday, Sept 16, 2017
at
LaSalle's Landing, 2115 Reverend
Richard Wilson Drive, Kenner, LA

Planned events include:

- ♦ Farmer's Market - 8:00 AM to 1 PM
- ♦ Groundbreaking Ceremony - 11 AM
- ♦ Planting of the garden 11:30 AM
- ♦ RAAD: Rivertown Art After Dark - 1 - 7 PM
- ♦ Face painting
- ♦ Caricature artist
- ♦ Live Music by Jenna Hunts, and
The Westerlies
- ♦ Food, Beer, Wine & Champagne!
- ♦ Arts & crafts sales
- ♦ Raffle of garden goodies

Bring your sunscreen and garden gloves to help plant flowers and sow seeds.

Want to contribute a plant? We LOVE you!! Pick from this list: Plants of Milkweed, Zinnias, Cleome, Cosmos, Coriander, Coreopsis, & Purple Echinacea are still needed.

We will work together to plant the old water features on LaSalle's Landing full of flowers that are food for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.



*Conceptual drawing of
butterfly garden once
established & blooming.*



For more information:

e-mail Mike Ince at mince@kenner.la.us,

call Cheri Ben-Iesau at 713-825-1003,

or e-mail us at Rivertown.Art.Council@gmail.com.



Louisiana Master Gardener Appreciation Day

Hammond Research Station

September 29, 2017

9 am – 2 pm

- Ron Strahan – Information Tent / Name that Weed Contest
- “What is Wrong with This Plant?” Contest
- Kiki Fontenot – Vegetable Information Tent
- Annual / Biennial / Perennial Challenge
- Olive Trial and Tea Garden Tour – Jason Stagg and Dr. Yan Chen
- Vote for Your Favorite Plants in the Sun Garden
- Special Presentation by Allen Owings – *25 Years of Plants and People*
- Raj Singh – Plant Diagnostic Clinic Tent
- Special Presentation by Pat Drackett – Native Milkweeds for Louisiana Gardens
- Lunch by Champion Jambalaya Chef Byron Gautreau



Contact your Parish LMG Coordinator to Register! Deadline is September 15th!

Hammond Research Station
21549 Old Covington Highway
Hammond, LA 985-543-4125



Upcoming Events



An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

WHEN? Saturday, September 16th

WHERE? Hammond Research Station; 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA

WHAT TIME? Gates open at 8:15, event begins at 9am. The event ends at 3pm

COST? \$5 a car includes parking

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Everyone!

Kids and Adults; family friendly event!

WHAT WILL BE THERE? Guest speakers, Audubon Bug Mobile, make&take projects, kid activities, hand-made crafts, garden tours, scavenger hunts, honey tasting, hummingbird banding, food & FUN!



Fall Garden Festival

At the New Orleans Botanical Garden

Join garden lovers at this year's Fall Garden Festival to celebrate the event's 22nd anniversary! The annual Fall Garden Festival is an educational experience for home gardeners and professionals.

The festival includes plant and garden product exhibits, sales throughout the garden, a Children's Fun Fest activities area, educational programs, scarecrow contest, live music, arts and crafts, and more. Educational programs will take place at the Garden Study Center and are free with admission to the Festival. There will be live music each day for patrons to enjoy!

Featuring "The Grumpy Gardener" Steve Bender author and columnist for Southern Living Magazine.

Admission: \$10 for Adults

\$5 for Children ages 5-12

Children under age of 4 year old and Friends of City Park receive free admission.

When: Saturday October 7th from 10-5pm, October 8th from 10-4pm

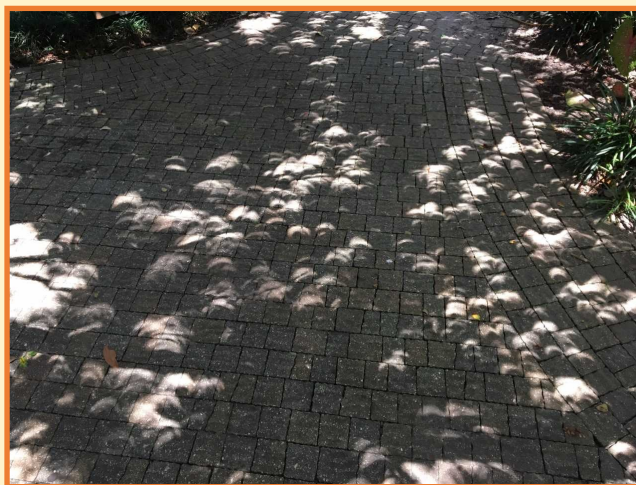
Where: New Orleans Botanical Gardens, New Orleans City Park

Contact: Susan Capley, New Orleans Botanical Garden Education Director -- SCapley@nocp.org or call (504) 483-9473



September Garden Checklist

1. Begin preparing beds for fall planting.
2. Take soil samples from landscape beds and submit to the LSU AgCenter Soil Testing Laboratory for analysis. Check with your parish LSU AgCenter Extension office for more information.
3. Fall is a great time to plant hardy trees, shrubs, ground covers and vine.
4. Plant spring-flowering bulbs in your gardens from late October through early December. Exceptions are tulips and hyacinths, which must be refrigerated and planted in late December or early January.
5. Garden mums make a great addition for fall color. Check at your local retail garden center for availability.
6. Watch azalea plantings for early fall infestations of lace bugs. Control with acephate, horticultural oil sprays (bifenthrin, cyfluthrin or permethrin) and other recommended insecticides.
7. Build a compost pile out of leaves, grass clippings and remains from your vegetable garden.
8. September is a good time to divide and transplant Louisiana irises, if you need to. Fertilize your irises in October.
9. Many of the summer-blooming perennials are finished or finishing up their floral display for the year. Cut back the flower stalks and old faded flowers to keep the plants looking attractive.
10. October weather can be dry. Water plantings as needed. Pay special attention to any newly planted areas. It generally is best to water direct-seeded beds of flowers or vegetables lightly every day to make sure the seeds do not dry out.
11. Prune ever-blooming roses by early September.
12. Fall is an excellent time to plant many herbs in the garden. A few herb plants provide a lot of harvest, so don't plant more than you can use. Herbs to plant now include parsley, sage, thyme, dill, cilantro, rosemary, oregano, borage, fennel, nasturtium, French tarragon, chives, mint and catnip.
13. Trees that provide good to excellent fall color in Louisiana include bald cypress, nuttall oak, Shumard oak, cherry bark oak, flowering pear, Chinese pistachio, ginkgo, Japanese maple, sweet gum, sumac, red maple, Southern sugar maple and hickory.



Upcoming Events



Saturday, September 23rd, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. “Introduction to Succulents”

Succulents are all the craze right now and our succulent volunteer, Meg McNutt will give you an introduction to succulents and their care. We will plant up a 6” moss hanging ball with succulents! \$30.00

Meg has been a volunteer and Master Gardener for many years. She propagates succulents for the New Orleans Botanical Plant Sales as well as making creative gifts of succulents in our gift shop.

Limit 20 participants, prepayment required by September 15th, 2017

Located in the Garden Study Center and Lath house, New Orleans Botanical Garden in City Park
Registration is required, call 504-483-9473 or email scapley@nocp.org.

Contact Us

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

E-mail us at: GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

 Follow us on Facebook at [GNOGardening](https://www.facebook.com/GNOGardening)

For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

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