



GNO Gardening Magazine

July 2023

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by: Chris Dunaway



There's a New Cherry in Town

Malpighia glabra

I enjoy growing fruit trees in containers in my garden at home. I have a blood orange tree, two satsumas, a grapefruit tree, blueberry bushes and an olive tree. So when one of the vendors at the New Orleans Spring Garden show came with some Barbados Cherry trees, I had to snatch one up. That was three years ago and I am happy to report that the tree is thriving.

The Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia glabra*) has many other common names including acerola and sweet southern cherry. Although the fruit

look like a regular cherry, it is not a real cherry at all. Real cherries are in the *Prunus* family of plants that produce drupe fruits containing a single stone. Each Barbados cherry fruit, on the other hand, contains three seeds.

Description:

The Barbados cherry is native to the Lesser Antilles from St. Croix to Trinidad and neighboring northern South America as far south as Brazil. It has become naturalized in the surrounding Caribbean islands, central America to Mexico, and in Southern Florida and Texas. Barbados cherry is sensitive to low

temperatures and mature trees can tolerate only brief periods of exposure to 28° F. Therefore the range of

unprotected trees is limited to USDA hardiness zones 9a -11.

Plants may be grown as bushy shrubs or pruned into tree-form with a single or multiple trunks. Trees may grow to 20' tall with an equal breadth. The trees are semi-evergreen with oblong leaves that are generally between $\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. five-petaled, light-pink flowers are very pretty and develop from early spring through fall. Fruits develop singly or



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A Barbados cherry growing in a container in New Orleans.

in groups of two's and three's in the leaf axils. The flowers are small and star-shaped with five pink spoon-formed fringed petals. These flowers are an excellent source of pollen and nectar for butterflies, bees and other insect visitors. The fruits ripen within 30 days of pollination. They are cherry-like in appearance, being round and bright red. Inside, the flesh is soft with a yellowish-orange appearance, juicy and sweet but very tart in flavor and high in vitamin C. The fruit is best when fully ripe but they are very fragile at that time and bruise easily. They also have a very short storage life even when refrigerated and

must be eaten or used quickly. They may, however, be frozen for future use.

Cultivation:

Barbados cherry trees are fairly simple to grow. They prefer full sun but can tolerate partial shade. They can tolerate a wide range of soil as long as it is well-draining. They also prefer a slightly acidic soil around 6.5 pH. The trees will require nutrients to maintain fruit production. If grown in the ground, take a soil test to determine the available nutrients then add fertilizer according to the recommendations in early spring and again in July if needed. Plants grown in containers should be fertilized monthly from early spring through the fall with a water soluble product or every two months using a time release product. Pruning may be done over the winter to shape the tree and remove inwardly growing branches.

Propagation:

Barbados cherry trees are best propagated from limb cuttings.

1. Fill a container with the moistened rooting mix. Use a commercial rooting mix, coarse sand, some vermiculite or a half-peat, half-

perlite mixture.

2. Cut a two to six inch stem from the growing tip of a healthy, mature Barbados cherry shrub with clean sharp pruning shears in spring or summer after new growth appears. The cutting should have at least one leaf node. Two or more leaf nodes are better. Strip the leaves from the lower half of the stem cutting. Remove any blossoms as well.
3. Dip the cut end of the stem in hormone rooting powder then insert the cut end of the stem vertically into the rooting medium filled container. Pat the soil firmly around the stem.
4. Place the container in bright, indirect light in a warm location. Mist the cutting with water to keep the soil evenly moist throughout the rooting period.
5. The cuttings should produce roots and be able to transplant in 60 days.

Pests and Diseases:

So far I have not had any devastating pest or disease problems with my tree. There was a very large population of tussock moth caterpillars that were voraciously feeding on just about every plant in my garden this year including the Barbados cherry tree. Since the tree is small, I



Photo by Chris Dunaway

The delicate five-petaled flowers of a Barbados cherry.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Each 'cherry' contains 3 large seeds.

flicked most of them off and treated using a product containing spinosad that took care of the rest. I have also had aphids and spider mites feeding but can easily be controlled with insecticidal soap or horticultural spray oil. Read and follow the label directions.

The only diseases to mention are root rot, which is usually associated with growing in wet soil, and cercospora leaf spot. Proper plant spacing pruning to open the structure of the plant to allow for good air flow will allow the leaves to dry more quickly after wetting and can reduce the occurrence of this disease. Treatments using copper fungicides can help control and prevent the disease.

Overall this seems to be a nice plant to grow and include in your garden. It can be pruned and shaped to better fit into your landscape. The fruit can be eaten or used in making jellies or wine. It will also attract pollinating insects and wildlife to your garden.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

The fine webs stretched between the leaves and stem indicate the presence of spider mites.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Look on the underside of leaves to find feeding aphids.

On the other hand, if not collected, the fruit can make a mess and potentially attract some unwanted wildlife. I don't have to ask the director of the City's Rodent Control Director if she would recommend this tree because I know that she would NOT.

~Chris Dunaway

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<https://www.growables.org/information/TropicalFruit/barbadoscherry.htm#:~:text=Barbados%20cherry%20is%20usually%20propagated,plants%20root%20within%202%20months.>

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July Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Broccoli (Seeds for transplant)	Green Magic, Everest, Castle Dome, Packman
Brussels Sprouts (Seeds for transplant)	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved
Cabbage (Seeds for transplant)	Bravo, Rio Verde, Caraflex, Blue Vantage
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Passport, Primo, Verona
Cauliflower (Seeds for transplant)	Snow Crown, Cumberland, Incline, Freedom
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates
Chinese Cabbage (Seeds for transplant)	None Given
Cucumbers	Slicers = Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare HG, Indy Pickler = Calypso
Luffa Gourd	None Given
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Peppers, Bell (Seeds for transplant)	Aristotle XR3, King Arthur, Paladin, Carmen
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Shallots	Matador, Prisma
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Squash	Zucchini = Declaration II, Justice III, Payroll Straight Neck = Multipik, Patriot II, Liberator III Crook Neck = Destiny III, Gentry, Medallion
Tomatoes (Seeds for transplant)	Bella Rosa, Sun Chaser, Florida 91, Phoenix, Solar Fire, BHN-216, Solar Set
Watermelon	Seedless: Cooperstown, Gypsy, Matrix, Millennium Seeded: Mickey Lee, Sugar Baby, Amarillo

For more recommended varieties and supplier information click here to visit the [Recommended Varieties Database on the LSUAgCenter website.](http://apps.lsuagcenter.com/diseaseresistance/)

<http://apps.lsuagcenter.com/diseaseresistance/>

Wood Decay Fungi and Landscape Trees

Trees, especially mature trees, seem to be low on the priority list when it comes to basic care and maintenance of a home landscape. Most landscape trees aren't known for producing pretty flowers, sweet fragrances, or other attention-grabbing features. Yes, some deciduous trees offer fall color prior to leaf drop at the end of the year, but in Louisiana we know that it isn't something we can count on year after year. Some of the biggest benefits of using mature trees in a home landscape are better understood when looking at the big picture.

Trees provide natural beauty. People feel serene, tranquil, and protected around mature trees. Look at a mature live oak, *Quercus virginiana*. Those long horizontal branches that flow towards the ground are an evolutionary feature to resist gusty winds from coastal storms. You feel secure and protected when walking under the canopy of mature live oak. Trees, when properly placed in a landscape can be used to separate garden "rooms", provide privacy, frame distant views, reduce noise, and accentuate architecture in buildings and structures. Large trees growing on the west side of a structure will cast shade during the hottest part of a summer day, causing a significant reduction in energy usage at that time. Using a deciduous tree, tree that drops all leaves at one time in the fall, will allow sunlight through the canopy and can help warm the same structure during the winter months. All the benefits of using trees in the home landscape have a direct impact on our quality of life, but for some reason they aren't thought about much when spring arrives, as we get our vegetable gardens ready, flowers planted, and lawn fertilized.

One of the most common calls into the extension office involve something killing a mature landscape tree overnight. Most of these trees have been growing for 50-75 years. There aren't too many things that can kill such a large organism "overnight". I'm not saying that it can't happen. Digging in the immediate root zone, misuse of herbicide, and lightning strikes can cause

symptoms to appear very quickly, and some cases, immediately. After asking a few investigative questions, most of these callers have noticed stress symptoms in years past leading up to the current condition. Things like delayed leaf out in spring, dying limbs, leaf drop from the tips of branches, presence of fungal fruiting structures, cavities, presence of carpenter ants are all symptoms of decline in trees. Of all the reasons for a tree to show signs of decline, common culprits are wood decaying fungi.

Compartmentalization Of Decay In Trees: C.O.D.I.T.

Before jumping into describing various fungi organisms that breakdown the wood inside trees, I think it's appropriate to understand how a tree deals with infections, rot, and other injuries. Trees don't heal damaged tissue. They go through a process called CODIT to seal off damaged or decayed areas. CODIT stands for compartmentalization of decay in trees. This is different to healing in humans where tissues are repaired and regenerated. When a tree is wounded it starts the CODIT process by creating a series of walls to compartmentalize the damage. Barriers are created to compartmentalize vertical spread, inward spread, and lateral spread of the infection. The last wall that is created is what closes the wound from the outside and prevents the decayed section from reaching new growth. The whole process requires energy and is directly regulated by the rate of photosynthesis. This information will be useful in managing damaged trees in the home landscape.

Biology

Wood decay fungi is a general term to describe fungal organisms that decompose wood within limbs and trunks of trees. These diseases can have various names like heart rot, sap rots, or canker rots. The fungal organisms infect and destroy cell wall components like lignin, hemicellulose, and cellulose which make up a good portion of the heartwood, the dense inner part of

a tree trunk. Some of these organisms can destroy sapwood, the area between heartwood and bark where vascular tissues are found. Once these organisms find their way inside of a tree, they spread through the vascular tissues, degrade cell wall components, and absorb the contents, affected trees start showing decline symptoms and become a hazard. Risk on these trees is multiplied during times of environmental stress. Think along the lines of drought-like conditions, fast-moving thunderstorms, and hurricanes.

There are a slew of fungi that can be classified into the wood decaying category. These fungi can attack any portion of a tree, but there are general tendencies to attack a particular section, like roots, buttress roots, trunks, stems, or sapwood. They can also be classified by the type of decay induced in trees. The most common decay is referred to as white rot. Eighty percent of wood decaying fungi cause a

white rot, making it the most commonly seen in the landscape. These fungi breakdown lignin completely into carbon dioxide, leaving the remaining wood with a white appearance. Brown rots are more commonly seen on conifer trees. These fungi go after cellulose and hemicellulose, leaving a modified lignin behind and causing a brown color. Soft rots are more like brown rots but leave a white color behind. Soft rots are caused by ascomycete fungi that degrade cellulose. The name goes back to a softening of the outer wood when this type of fungi was first observed.

The two most common wood decaying fungi observed in Louisiana are *Armillaria* and *Ganoderma*. Both cause white rots and enter the tree through a stressed root system.

Armillaria spp.

The genus *Armillaria* contains about 10 different species that are all referred to as honey mushroom, shoestring root rot, or boot-lace fungus. *A. mellea* is a common species throughout the country but *A. tabescens* is more common in Louisiana. One of the reasons why this fungal organism is so common is because it has a very wide host range, where it can

infect a multitude of different tree and shrub species including hardwoods and conifers. It induces a white rot that infects the lower trunk area and root system. Considered a pathogenic fungus, *Armillaria* can colonize healthy tissues, but in most situations, it is seen as a secondary colonizer of stressed and compromised root systems.

Experts use two field observations to help identify *Armillaria* infections in the home landscape environment. The easiest and most



A clump of *Armillaria* mushrooms. The golden color gives rise to the name honey mushroom.

obvious identifier is to see an actual disease sign, structures or products of the pathogen causing disease in plants. Observing *Armillaria* fruiting bodies growing from the crown or root system of a questionable tree indicates that tree is infected. *Armillaria* produces a cluster of mushrooms that are light brown to honey in color. The individual mushroom caps can be almost 6 inches in diameter and display cream-colored gills underneath. The second in-the-field identification diagnostic is the presence of white mycelium growing under the bark of infected trees. Use a pocketknife to expose the area beneath the bark. If *Armillaria* is present, you will see velvety white threads and, in some cases, notice a mushroom-like aroma.

Ganoderma spp.

Ganoderma is the other genus of wood-decaying fungi that is commonly seen in Louisiana. There are several species involved including *G. zonatum*, *G. Lucidum*, and *G. curtisii*, with *G. curtisii* being the dominant species attacking trees in the southeast region of the U.S. and *G. zonatum*, an aggressive pathogen of plam trees. Like Armillaria, this fungal pathogen can infect a wide range of host plants. It is common in oak species and most other native hardwoods in the region. Ganoderma is labeled as a facultative pathogen meaning that it can behave as a saprophyte (only feeding on dead organic matter), or a parasite (can feed on living tissue). It is also similar in nature to Armillaria in that it induces a white rot and can infect the lower portion of the stem or root system.

Field identifying characteristics aren't as plentiful with Ganoderma. You will find fruiting bodies in areas where they infiltrate the plant, lower trunk areas and root systems. The fruiting bodies of *G. curtisii* are



Photo by Dr. Raj Singh

White mycelium of armillaria fungi can be seen just under the bark near the base of this shrub.



Photo by Will Afton

Ganoderma mushroom on oak. As Ganoderma conks age, they take on a deeper reddish brown color.

known as conks, a type of mushroom that grows from tree trunks or surface roots resembling a shelf or shelf-like structure. Conks from Ganoderma range from 4-14 inches across and 1-3 inches thick. They can be halfmoon to semi-circular in shape. The top of the conk can be “varnished” or shiny in appearance and red to mahogany in color. Older conks from previous seasons fade into more of a reddish-brown, can be woody, and can be found mixed in with brighter colored conks from the current season.

Management

Woody decay in trees is common in older, mature specimens. From nature's perspective, it's inevitable and will happen at some point. Take a walk through the woods and start looking for conks, cavities, and other signs of wood decaying fungi. It will be an eye-opening experience to realize the commonality of some of these organisms. We will never be able to rid the home landscape of these pathogens and their associated diseases. However, we can manage the situation to make it much less favorable for them to occur.

Protect trees from physical injury and provide annual care to keep them in a healthy and vigorous state. The whole process starts with planting. Don't settle for

rootbound landscape trees where root pruning is required at planting. Plant the tree at the proper height by making sure the root flare, or outward flare of the trunk before going into the ground, is visible after the planting process. Replant immediately by using sand at the bottom of the hole if no root flare can be seen.

Maintain a 3-inch layer of mulch around all landscape trees, but don't allow the mulch to smother the root flare area. Pull it back 3-6 inches and allow some space for the crown to breathe. A properly maintained mulch area will prevent the majority of weeds from growing in the crown area, therefore reducing the need for someone to get close with a weed whacker machine.

Pruning is a necessary maintenance step for tree owners and if done improperly can lead to entry ways for wood decaying fungi to enter even the healthiest of trees. Young trees should be pruned to create good branch structure. This should help minimize the need to remove large branches in the future. Large branches create large wounds, therefore increasing the possibility of infection. When making a pruning cut, use the right sized tool, use sharp blades, and follow the three-step method to minimize stress. Avoid leaving branch stubs because they will dieback and provide a possible entryway. Pruning cuts should be outside of the branch collar and not flush with the trunk. Do not worry with applying a pruning paint or wound dressing as they don't speed up healing or prevent decay.

It is also important to be aware of plant nutrition and irrigation water needs. It is recommended to fertilize

young, newly planted landscape trees. You don't hear so much with well established, mature trees. Take soil samples to determine the current status of the soil where trees are growing. If a nutrient is given a rating of "medium", "low", or "very low" on a soil test analysis page, follow the recommendations on applying an amendment to supplement that nutrient.

Supplemental irrigation will be needed during time of extreme drought. Although a well-maintained mulch area will help retain water in the soil, think about adding water during periods of extreme drought. Even though wood decay fungi will eventually find its way inside of a tree, there is plenty to do to help keep your landscape trees in good health.

Prevention is key. Set

them up for success now and you'll enjoy the shade later on.

~Will Afton



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Broken or improperly pruned branches will allow wood decay fungi into a tree. Fungal fruiting bodies can be seen on this stub cut limb.

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How Much To Plant

Every vegetable gardener has found themselves in this quandary at one time or another whether regarding a vegetable they've grown for several seasons or something new that they want

to try for the first time - How many plants do I need to grow in order to have enough fresh harvest on a regular basis to feed the family? This information is especially important when growing in limited space; you have a very limited inground area that is suitable for growing vegetables or whether you are using raised beds or containers. The table on the following page lists some of the vegetables commonly grown by home gardeners and how many plants you probably need to grow per person to provide enough harvest for fresh eating. If you plan to preserve any harvest by canning, pickling, or processing, you'll need to adjust the numbers accordingly. This data is compiled from several sources and should be considered a ballpark/starting point

recommendation that you will adjust to meet your personal preferences over the course of several growing seasons. If you eat a lot of Jalapeno peppers, then 1-2 plants would not be nearly enough.

Of course, the crop variety grown can have an impact on the harvest size. This table was compiled based on the average expected harvest from some commonly grown varieties. You can make adjustments in your own garden based on the expected harvest from the varieties you choose and your fondness for specific vegetables. Most seed catalogs give an expected yield in the description of the variety. It should also be noted that the expected harvest is from plants grown under optimal conditions including grower

management practices that reduce and control insect and disease issues.

-Dr. Joe Willis



A selection of vegetables harvested from the LaSalle Park Garden in Metairie, Louisiana.

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Table 1: List of some commonly vegetables grown by home gardeners, the number of plants needed per person to provide a continuous supply of fresh harvest, and the expected harvest per plant for one season.

Crop	#/Person	Yield/Plant	Crop	#/Person	Yield/Plant
Artichoke	1-2	12 buds	Melon, cantaloupe	1-2	2-3 fruit, 2.0 lb./fruit
Arugula	5	1.5 oz.	Mustard green	6-10	7.0-9.3 oz.
Asparagus	10-15	0.5 lb.	Okra	3-6	1.0-2.0 lb.
Bean, bush	10	0.5 lb.	Onion, bulb	6-12	6.0-12.0 oz.
Bean, pole	5	1.0 lb.	Onion, scallion	15-25	0.2-0.9 oz.
Bean, shell	4-8	3-4 oz.	Onion, shallot	10-20	1.3-3.0 oz.
Beet	5-10	4 oz.	Pea, field	10-15	1 lb.
Bok Choi	1-3	0.5-1.0 lb.	Pea (sugar, snow)	3-5	1.6-2.7 oz.
Broccoli	2-4	1.0 lb.	Peanut	10-12	25-50 peanuts
Brussels sprouts	1-2	1.0 lb.	Pepper, sweet	3	3.0 lb.
Cabbage	4-8	1.5-2.0 lb.	Pepper, hot	1-2	3.0 lb.
Carrot	30	1.5-3.0 oz.	Potato, white	4-6	2-5 lb.
Cauliflower	2-4	0.5-1.25 lb.	Radish, spring	15-25	0.08-0.2 oz.
Celery	2-6	1.0 lb.	Rutabaga	5-10	10-15 oz.
Chard	2-3	0.8-1.2 lb.	Spinach	15	3-6 oz.
Collard	2-3	1.5-2.2 lb.	Squash, summer	1-2	2-6 lb.
Corn, sweet	12-15	2 ears	Squash, winter	1-2	1-6 lb.
Cucumber	1-3	3-5 lb.	Sweet potato	5	0.8-1.3 lb.
Eggplant	1-2	1.5-3.0 lb.	Tomatillo	1-2	1-2 lb.
Garlic	10-15	3 oz.	Tomato, cherry	1	5 lb.
Kale	4-5	6-12 oz.	Tomato, slicing	1-2	5 lb.
Kohlrabi	4-6	5-6 oz.	Turnip	10-12	6-10 oz.
Leek	10	9.0 oz.	Watermelon	2	4-10 lb.
Lettuce	6-12	5.0-6.0 oz.			

Weed of the Month

Mulberry Weed (*Fatoua villosa*)

Mulberry weed, aka hairy crabweed, *Fatoua villosa* is in fact a member of the mulberry family of plants (*Moraceae*). It is a summer annual and becoming more prevalent in disturbed areas, local landscapes, and nurseries. Mulberry weed is native to eastern Asia and was discovered in Louisiana in the 1950's. It has spread and naturalized through much of the eastern United States, from Texas to Florida and north to Michigan and Delaware. It is thought to have spread with potted plants and nursery stock as it thrives in greenhouses and can become a real noxious weed. It prefers irrigated, moist areas and can rapidly spread in moist gravel, compacted, soggy soils, disturbed areas and on the edges of wetlands.



Mulberry weed, aka hairy crabweed, *Fatoua villosa*

Mulberry weed has an upright growth habit, ranging from a few inches to up to four feet in height. Leaves are simple and serrated, usually with a light green overall coloration. They are alternately arranged and have a paper-like texture. The stems are rounded and hairy (pubescent). They can have a slight reddish-purple coloration at the base. It grows from a taproot. Mulberry weed resembles its larger tree cousins when you examine the flowering material. Inflorescences are light green to purple clusters (cymes) where the leaf meets the stem. Seeds do form and are tan in coloration and about 1 mm in diameter. Mulberry weed can forcibly expel seeds up to four feet away from the mother plant, which accounts for its ability to rapidly spread.

Mulberry weed will grow throughout the warm season in the New Orleans area. It does die back in frost.

Flowering and seed formation takes place in early spring and continues through late fall. Seeds can germinate in temperatures between 60-100°F. Seedlings grow rapidly and can form flowers and new seeds just 12 days after germination. Left unchecked, Mulberry weed can rapidly reproduce and colonize irrigated or moist areas.

Management of mulberry weed entails reducing access to soil moisture if possible. This can be tricky in a greenhouse, nursery, or garden landscape. Hand pulling all visible mulberry weeds on a regular basis (weekly works!), even seedlings with as few as two leaves, can work to reduce the population of this weed in an area. Hand pull any that you see as quickly as possible. Put them in a solid container like a five gallon pail to avoid spreading seed in the area.

Trash it rather than placing this material in the compost, which can further spread mulberry weed into new areas and pots. Mulching can significantly reduce the population of mulberry weed in garden beds as the seeds do require light exposure to germinate. Pine bark nuggets can control it up to 90% if applied 1.5" deep or more. Preemergent herbicides can work to prevent seedling formation. Many products are labeled for use on mulberry weed. Post emergent herbicide options entail many of the contact, broad-spectrum herbicides, including diquat, pelargonic acid, and systemic herbicides such as glyphosate. Herbicides work best when the plants are under 4" tall and still actively growing, which helps spread the chemical within the plant tissues.

~Anna Timmerman

Soundgarden

Engaging Your Ears in the Landscape

Step into your garden and enjoy the sight of bountiful blooms. Follow the fragrances from the far corners of your landscape. The tantalizing taste of a tea plant harvest, steeped in a cup with some of your closest friends. The gentle touch of a 'soft caress' *Mahonia* juxtaposed with the thorns of a rose (but not every rose, for those that read the June issue). It makes sense to spend your dollars and cents on satisfying your senses, but there is one such sense that is often overlooked in the landscape. We are of course talking about sound. In the dark of night, stepping out to enjoy your morning coffee in the garden may appear unappealing. But as that Sun emerges from the Black Hole that envelops the environment, won't you come enjoy the auditory array of features?

Homeowners are investing in features in the landscape that can bring forth a sweet symphony of sounds, enhancing the environmental experience. In fact, many homeowners already have some of these features, and it is Superunknown to them just how much they contribute to the character of a landscape. Water features appeal to the eye, but it is also the quiet chorus of water that captivates the attention of attendees. A gentle breeze briskly blowing through windchimes creates a subtle soundtrack, filling the void of when there is Nothing to Say. Not to be Outshined by these features, nature

plays a key role in creating a symphony of sounds in the landscape. Bird feeders, flowers, and fruit that serve to support pollinators and wildlife can beckon birds, bees, and butterflies to your garden, fostering a feeling of Loud Love as nature buzzes around you in a crescendo of creatures.



Repurposed wine bottles can make lovely wind chimes.

Perhaps you seek to host friends and family for an outdoor event. A sound system is a great way to keep the Burden in Hand.

Weatherproof speakers and audio equipment are available for these types of applications. Whether you are playing some grungy greatest hits or sitting at the edge of your seat following a football game, clear sound is crucial to a crowd-pleasing congregation.

Sometimes a landscape already has *too* much sound. For anyone that grew up alongside a busy road, the sound of passing cars may be an inescapable inconvenience. Consider

planting a dense screen of plants to deafen the decibels from a distinct direction. A hedge of hollies or a wall of wax myrtles can be quite effective in dampening the sound and keeping folks around.

So lean your seat back and forget the eight-track; cassettes, cds, and mp3s. Reflect on the soundtrack of nature; falling rain, a bird chirping, and an empty breeze. There are gardens you can taste and gardens you can see; but if you design a landscape just right, you will hear a Soundgarden melody.

~Dr. Damon Abdi and Dr. Jeb Fields

LSU AgCenter Vegetable Variety Updated Recommendations

Below is an updated table of some vegetable variety recommendations from Dr. Kiki Fontenot based of the most recent field trials. The table also includes at least one source of

seed for the varieties and highlight notes from Dr. Fontenot. Ask for these at your local garden centers or order the seed and start your own.

~Dr. Joe Willis

Crop/ Variety	Source (may be other sources- this is where LSU	Brief Notes from LSU AgCenter Field Trials
Beets		
Avalanche	Burpee, Johnny's Select Seeds, Park Seed	Tan exterior color white interior great germination
Early Wonder Tall Top	Territorial	Purple exterior red interior great germination
Red Ace	Territorial, Johnny's Select Seed, Harris Seed	Best marketable yields
Detroit Dark Red	Baker Creek, High Mowing	Best marketable yields
Golden Detroit	Willhite, Park Seed	Not the highest yields but best of the golden beets trialed in Louisiana.
Broccoli		
Arcadia	Ball Seed	Best yield high quality heads
Green Magic	Johnny's Select Seed, Rupp	Best yield high quality heads
Everest	Stokes, Holmes, Rupp	Best yield high quality heads
Cucumbers		
Dasher II	Rupp, Harris, Willhite	Best marketable yields quality and consistent in fruit color and form
Dominator	Stokes Seed	Best marketable yields quality and consistent in fruit color and form
Mongoose	Stokes Seed	Flavor
Bristol	Rupp, Harris, Johnny's Select Seed	Not sure yet on 2023 yields but consistently a quality firm fruit
Peppers		
Turnpike - bell green	Bayer	Best marketable yields good size throughout the season. Labeled resistance to bacterial leaf spot and phytophthora root
Aristotle	Seedway	Not as good as turnpike but TSWV resistant towards the fall or end of summer these will turn red quickly on the plant
Camelot	Reimer Seeds	Just a good, solid, reliable, pepper.
Flavorburst	Johnny's Select Seed	Great for bell shaped bright yellow pepper
Gypsy	Burpee, Totally Tomatoes	Because every season they are always reliable - not bell shaped but sweet. Great colors yellow orange and red.

Crop/ Variety	Source (may be other sources- this is where LSU	Brief Notes from LSU AgCenter Field Trials
Radish		
Amethyst	Johnny's Select Seed	Germination excellent
Pink Beauty	Johnny's Select Seed	Germination excellent
Ping Pong	Johnny's Select Seed	Creamy white exterior and interior, not as much exterior pithing as other varieties.
Sparkler	Stokes Seed	Germination excellent
Squash (Winter - Acorn)		
Tay Belle	Seedway	Top Yielding marketable fruit, least amount of weight lost in storage, highest increase in sugars in storage at 7 weeks.
Royal Ace	Seedway	Top Yielding marketable fruit
Celebration	Seedway	Top Yielding marketable fruit, least amount of weight lost in storage, fantastic colors, highest increase in sugars in storage at 7 weeks.
Autumn Delight	Seedway/ Rupp	Top Yielding marketable fruit
Squash (Winter -Kabocho)		
Golden Butta Bowl	NE Seed	Top yields great orange color with green stripe
Geisha	NE Seed	Top marketable yields, green with white mottle
Wintersweet	Johnny's Select Seed	Gray
Cherry Tomatoes		
Chocolate Sprinkles	Pan American Seed	Excellent yield and flavor
Orange Zinger cherry	Pan American Seed	Flavor good, only orange cherry to not crack
Mai Tai cherry	Jenny Seeds (Florida company)	Fruit firm, nice cherry red color, dense foliage
Sungold	Johnny's Select Seed, Territorial	Flavor is great – indeterminate, yellow orange
Sun sugar	Reimer Seeds, Park Seed	Flavor is great – indeterminate, yellow orange
Hanging Basket Tomatoes		
Celano	Totally Tomatoes	AAS Winner, Top marketable fruit yields, and best flavor
Patio choice yellow	Totally Tomatoes, Park Seed	Top marketable fruit yields
Large Slicing Tomatoes		
Bella Rosa	Sakata	TSWV resistant, spring and heat set, great yields, consistent tomato
BHN 1021	Johnny's Select Seed	Great yields
Summer pick	Siegers	Great yields
Volante	Sakata	Great yields, XL fruit size
XTM 2261	Sakata	Great yields, XL fruit size
Mountain Merit	Johnny's Select Seed	Taste Winner

Crop/ Variety	Source (may be other sources- this is where LSU)	Brief Notes from LSU AgCenter Field Trials
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Watermelon Seedless Plus add the pollinator 'Ace' to these fields.

Crunchy Red	Rupp and Harris	Hard to say on yields but these are sweet and delicious with great texture. Highest BRIX in our studies. Expect total weight to be 5-7 lbs. smaller than listed in the book in many cases.
Traveler	Rupp and Harris	Hard to say on yields but these are sweet and delicious with great texture. Highest BRIX in our studies. Expect total weight to be 5-7 lbs. smaller than listed in the book in many cases.
Joy Ride	Rupp and Harris	Hard to say on yields but these are sweet and delicious with great texture. Highest BRIX in our studies. Expect total weight to be 5-7 lbs. smaller than listed in the book in many cases.
Road Trip	Rupp and Harris	Hard to say on yields but these are sweet and delicious with great texture. Highest BRIX in our studies. Expect total weight to be 5-7 lbs. smaller than listed in the book in many cases.
Sugar baby	Johnny's Select Seed, Burpee, Baker Creek Seeds	Just because they are so easy to grow and consistent.

Zucchini

Elite	Harris	Top Yielding marketable fruit number and weight. No labelled resistance to disease
Tigress	Johnny's Select Seeds	Top Yielding marketable fruit number and weight. Labelled resistance to ZYMV= Zucchini Yellow Mosaic Virus WMV= Watermelon Mosaic Virus



A broad selection of vegetables on display at a local farmer's market.

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Orleans Parish

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Mid-City

500 N. Norman C. Francis
Thursdays from 3-7PM
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders at
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- City Park

Tad Gormley Stadium parking lot at
Marconi and Navarre
Sundays from 8AM-Noon
Preorder contact-free drive through only,
info at www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Uptown

200 Broadway
Tuesdays from 8AM-Noon
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders, info at
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

SPROUT NOLA ReFresh Market-Truck Farm Table

200 N. Broad (In Whole Foods lobby or in
parking lot, weather permitting)
Walk up

SPROUT NOLA ReFresh Market-Lafitte Greenway

2606 St. Louis
Mondays from 3-6PM
Walk up and pre-orders at [https://
app.sourcewhatsgood.com/markets/refresh-
farmers-market/products](https://app.sourcewhatsgood.com/markets/refresh-farmers-market/products)

Vietnamese Farmer's Market

14401 Alcee Fortier Blvd., New Orleans East
Saturdays, 5:30AM-8:30AM

Marketplace at Armstrong Park

901 N. Rampart
Thursdays from 3-7PM

New Orleans French Market

Lower Decatur Street
Daily, 9AM-6PM

Know Dat Grow Dat Microgreens & Produce

Online Sales
<https://www.knowdatgrowdat.com/shop>

Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market

Comiskey Park, New Orleans
Market dates vary and are on hold due to
Covid-19, check <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](https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/events)

Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9th Ward

2301 Gallier Street
Saturdays from 10AM-1PM

Bywater Market at Trap Kitchen-Bywater

1043 Poland Ave
Sundays from 10AM-3PM

Paradigm Farmer's Market-Central City

1131 S. Rampart
Sundays 9AM-Noon

Lot 1701 Small Business and Farmer's Market-Central City

1701 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
Every 1st and 3rd Saturday from 11AM to 3PM

BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point

149 Delaronde St.
First and Third Sundays of the month, from
11AM-3PM

Edgewood Park Market-Edgewood

3317 Franklin Ave.
First market Sunday, May 2nd from 11AM-
3PM

New Orleans East Hospital Farmer's Market- New Orleans East

5620 Read Blvd.
First Tuesday of the Month- 3PM-Dusk
Third Thursday of the Month- Noon-3PM

Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods- Tremé-Lafitte

585 N. Claiborne at Lafitte Greenway
(under overpass)
Wednesdays from 2-5PM
Saturdays from 10AM-2PM
Check for current dates/times at
www.sheauxfresh.org

Holy Cross Farmer's Market- Holy Cross/ Lower 9th Ward

533 St. Maurice
First & Third Saturday of the month,
10:00AM-2PM

St. Tammany Parish

Covington Farmers' Market

Covington Police Department
609 North Columbia St., Covington, LA 70433
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
Covington Trailhead
419 N. New Hampshire
Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (rain or
shine)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](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 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/
farmers-market](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/](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

Nawlins Outdoor Market

1048 Scotsdale Dr., Harvey
Every Saturday & Sunday, 9AM-5PM

Old Metairie Farmer's Market

Bayou Metairie Park, Between Metairie Lawn
Dr. and Labarre
See calendar on their website for dates and
times: [https://
www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/](https://www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/)

Westwego Shrimp Lot

100 Westbank Expressway at Louisiana St.,
Westwego
Daily Mon-Thurs 8AM-6PM, Fri 8AM-7PM,
Sat 7AM-7PM, and Sun 7AM-6PM

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie

3000 Downs Blvd.
Wednesdays, from 2-7PM

Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview

4516 Clearview
Store Pickups, preorder online at [https://
www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/buy-
groceries-1](https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/buy-groceries-1)

Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte

920 Jean Lafitte Blvd.
Last Saturday of the month, 9AM-1PM

Harahan Farmer's Market

6437 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA
Sundays, 10 Am—2PM

Good Time Guild Farmer's Market at St. Martin's Episcopal Church- Metairie

Metairie Rd.
1st Thursdays monthly, 2PM-7PM
3rd Saturday monthly, 10AM-3PM

St. Charles Parish

German Coast Farmer's Market at Westbank Bridge Park

13825 River Road, Luling, LA
Wednesdays, from 1-5PM

German Coast Farmer's Market

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

In the Kitchen with Austin

Zucchini Fritters

These fritters are absolutely delicious and super simple to prepare! Serve them alone or with a dollop of sour cream.

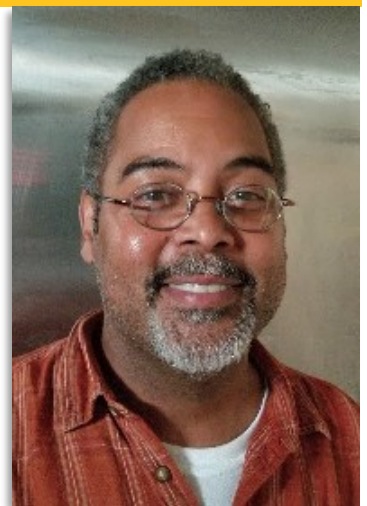
Ingredients:

4 cups zucchini, shredded
½ cup flour
2 eggs, beaten

2 green onions, sliced
Salt & Pepper, to taste
2 Tbs. olive oil



A stack of zucchini fritters



Directions:

Squeeze shredded zucchini in the palms of your hand to remove as much water as possible.
Place zucchini and all remaining ingredients, except the olive oil, in a large bowl and mix until combined.
Heat olive oil in a pan and drop zucchini mixture by spoonful into oil. Fry until golden brown on both sides and cool on paper towel lined plate.
Fritters may also be baked at 350° using a nonstick pan, if frying isn't your thing.
Serve warm.

Bon Manger

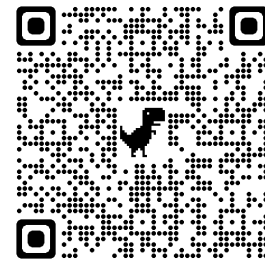
Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

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



A pair of children learning about plants.



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, Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 341-5664
Rose Garden Center	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
Charvet's Garden Center	4511 Clearview Parkway, Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 888-7700
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
Nice Plants Good Pots	Pop Up and Online Sales	Etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots
Plantery NOLA	Pop Up Locations	www.planteryola.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/
St. Tammany		
The Boho Being	1184 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458	(985)707-1623

Coming Events



PELICAN GREENHOUSE PLANT SALE

July 14-15
9 AM—NOON

The Pelican Greenhouse is located in City Park just South of the I-610 overpass.

For additional information, call 504/483-9464.

July Checklist/Garden Tips

Sharpen your lawn mower blades. They have generally gotten dull by this time of the year.

Fine, silvery webbing appearing on the bark of area trees is completely harmless. The webbing is produced by tiny scavenging insects called bark lice.

Cut back perennials in the garden when they finish flowering and the foliage begins to look tired.

Keep caladiums well watered during hot, dry weather to keep the foliage in good shape through the summer. You may apply a fertilizer now to encourage vigorous growth. Break off any flowers that form.

Remember to harvest herbs such as mints, basil, rosemary, lemon balm and Mexican tarragon regularly to keep the plants shapely and under control. Some herbs such as thyme, sage and lavender tolerate heat and rain poorly and may not be doing well now as a result.

Keep up with weeding. This time of year weeds can get out of hand very fast. Use mulches wherever possible. If you need help with herbicide recommendations, contact your local LSU AgCenter Extension office.

Container plants should not be placed directly onto wooden decks. The moisture underneath can damage the wood (saucers do the same thing). Boost pots off of the surface an inch or two with pieces of brick, small blocks of wood or special terra-cotta pot supports available at some local nurseries and garden shops.

Keep old flowers cut off roses. Trim back to the first five leaflet leaf. Spray weekly with a combination insecticide/fungicide product labeled for roses if the types you grow are susceptible to black spot.

Pinch out the terminal growth of chrysanthemums during July. This encourages branching and more compact plants for fall blooming.

For late summer color, continue to plant heat tolerant bedding plants. Excellent choices for sunny areas include torenia, periwinkle, melampodium, salvia, scaevola, purslane, pentas, blue daze, narrow leaf zinnia, lantana and verbena, Purple Homestead. In part shade plant caladium, impatiens, begonia, torenia and coleus.

A long growing season and rapid growth often leads to over-grown beds this time of year. Feel free to trim bedding plants and tropicals to keep them under control. Stake or otherwise support plants that need it.

Keep old flowers cut off roses. Trim back to the first five leaflet leaf. Spray weekly with a combination insecticide/fungicide product labeled for roses if the types you grow are susceptible to black spot.

Numerous bedding plants such as impatiens, begonias, salvias and geraniums may look a little stressed now. Blame the heat, both day and night. Many bedding plants (especially the tender perennials we grow as annuals) can be cut back in August. They will revive as the weather cools and provide color until November or longer.

Keep old flowers cut off roses. Trim back to the first five leaflet leaf. Spray weekly with a combination insecticide/fungicide product labeled for roses if the types you grow are susceptible to black spot.

Pinch out the terminal growth of chrysanthemums during July. This encourages branching and more compact plants for fall blooming.

If you need to cut back your hydrangeas or gardenias, do so by the end of this month. If you need to cut back your hydrangeas, do so by early July. Flower buds are set in late July and August. When pruning hydrangeas, cut off faded flower heads with stems long enough to shape and control the size of the bush. Cut back excessively tall vegetative (leafy) shoots if necessary, but generally leave the vegetative shoots alone. They will produce flowers next year.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. This is the last month to lay sod for Centipede, Zoyia, or St. Augustine grasses. Bermudagrass may be installed through August. Seeding of Centipede may be done this month but is not recommended.
2. 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.
3. Chinch bugs are active this month so keep scouting for damage and apply treatment if chinch bugs are detected.
4. 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
5. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Spread fill soil and compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.



A local homeowner recently sent in this photo of an immature chinch bug. You can barely see the tiny insect in the center of the image on the left. The magnified image on the right clearly shows the

Don't's

1. Do not apply selective herbicides to the lawn.
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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