

Citrus Greening and the Asian Citrus Psyllid

As if citrus rust mites, citrus canker, root rot, and all this rain weren't enough, home gardeners in the GNO area also have citrus greening to watch out for. Citrus greening (*Candidatus Liberbacter asiaticus*) is a bacterial disease transmitted by a small insect from Asia. The Asian Citrus Psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*) is about a ¼" long, is brown and white/tan mottled, and looks a bit like a moth in miniature. The entire body is poised at a thirty degree angle when resting. The mouthparts are designed to pierce into plant tissue, which opens it up for the transfer of the citrus greening bacterium. The nymphs also host and feed upon the leaves of the trees, and are round, somewhat resembling scale insects. A closer look will show a waxy secretion made by the nymphs that is often stuck to the leaves as well. Older nymph instars and adults are able to vector the disease, and just one hour of feeding on a citrus tree causes 100% infection rates.



Asian Citrus Psyllid adult feeding on citrus tree.



Asian Citrus Psyllid nymphs feeding on citrus tree.

Once the bacterium enter through the wounded plant tissue, the bacterium go to work within the cell walls, causing yellowing and curling in the leaves, leaf and flower drop, twig dieback, and uneven or lopsided fruit ripening. Citrus psyllid insects also inject a toxin that causes the leaves to deform and shoots to stop elongating. The psyllid can complete up to thirty generations per year, making them a formidable pest for all citrus trees in the area. Citrus greening is fatal.

Research is currently being conducted, looking into methods for managing citrus greening and the citrus psyllid insect in home and commercial settings. Unfortunately, there is no cure for citrus greening and infected trees should be immediately destroyed. It is extremely important to de-

stroy these trees, so that healthy trees in the area will not be impacted. (Continued on page 3)

August Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety	Planting Depth	Spacing Inches	Days Until Harvest * from transplant date
Bell Peppers	Aristotle XR3, Blushing Beauty, King Arthur	⅝ inch	15-18	140-150
Broccoli	Green Magic, Everest, Castle Dome, Packman	⅝ inch	18-24	70-90*
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved	⅝ inch	12-15	90*
Cabbage	Bravo, Rio Verde, Caraflex, Blue Vantage	⅝ inch	12-15	65-75*
Cauliflower	Snow Crown, Cumberland, Incline, Freedom	⅝ inch	18-24	55-65*
Chinese Cabbage	None Given	¼ inch	12	60-80*
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates	⅝ inch	6-12	75
Cucumbers	Slicers = Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare HG, Indy Pickler = Calypso	¼ inch	12-18	50-65
Irish Potatoes	Red-Dark Red Noland, Red Lasoda White-Kennebec, Yukon Gold, Autumn Gold	4 inches	12	90-120
Kale	Siberian, Vates	½ inch	12-18	25-50
Lima Beans	Dixie Buttercup, Fordhook 242, Jackson Wonder	½ inch	2-3	48-55
Luffa Gourd	None Given	½ inch	48	90
Mustard	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Savannah	⅝ inch	1-2	35-50
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer	½ inch	36-60	90-120
Rutabagas	American Purple Top, Laurentian	⅝ inch	4-8	88
Shallots	Matador, Prisma	1 inch	4-8	50
Snap Beans	Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Contender, Derby, Lynx	½ inch	2-3	48-55
Squash	Zucchini = Declaration II, Justice III, Payroll Straight Neck = Multipik, Patriot II, Liberator III Crook Neck = Destiny III, Gentry, Medallion	⅝ inch	36	50-90
Tomatoes	Bella Rosa, Sun Chaser, Florida 91, Phoenix, Solar Fire, BHN-216, Solar Set	⅝ inch	16-24	100-115
Turnips	Royal Crown, Purple Top White Globe,	⅝ inch	2-6	40-50

Citrus Greening and the Asian Citrus Psyllid (continued)

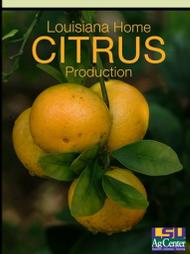
Inspect your trees frequently for this and other issues.. To help control the psyllids and protect your trees, follow the Louisiana Simplified Citrus Spray Schedule for Home Gardens on page 15 of the Louisiana Home Citrus Production publication from the LSU AgCenter. Click on the link below or search Louisiana citrus in your internet search engine.

Buy only inspected trees from nurseries that follow the USDA Quarantine regulations. Jefferson, Orleans and Washington Parishes are currently under a federal quarantine, all citrus trees sold in these areas must have a USDA inspection tag certifying that they are healthy. Good management and regular spraying can help insure that your citrus trees are healthy for years to come!

~Anna Timmerman

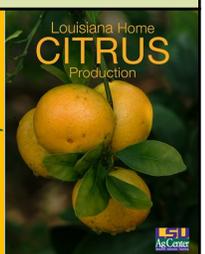


The pathogen causes blotchy mottling of leaves that can resemble symptoms produced by nutrient deficiencies. Blotchy mottling caused by citrus greening is irregular, asymmetrical and crosses veins – in contrast to nutrient deficiency mottling, which is highly symmetrical and usually confined by the leaf veins. Fruit produced on infected trees is small, becomes lopsided and tastes bitter. Fruit-set usually is poor, and seeds abort in affected fruit. Infected fruit does not ripen uniformly, and some green color remains on the ripe fruit



Louisiana Home Citrus Production

Publication #1234



Tropical Lilac (*Cornutia grandifolia*)

Tropical Lilac or Jamaican Lilac (*Cornutia grandifolia*) is not the lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) you normally think of when you hear the name. But we all know that *Syringa vulgaris* does not grow in our subtropical New Orleans environment. But the Tropical Lilac will make a nice addition to your garden (and you don't have to consider it a lilac). It can be grown as a tree reaching a height of 25 feet or so but is just as happy being grown as a multi-stemmed shrub. It doesn't mind being pruned so you can manage the size to fit about any place that you would like to grow it. Long spikes of beautiful lavender blue conspicuous



Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

This healthy tropical lilac is located in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

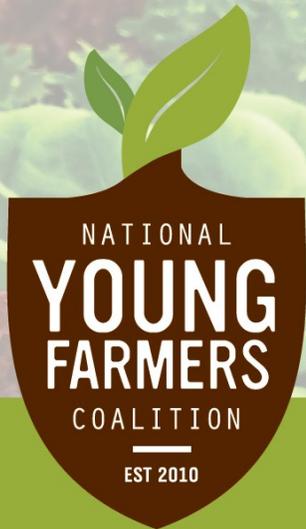
Here a carpenter bee and honeybee collect pollen.

flowers (they look like lilac flower spikes) accent the large green velvety leaves from mid-spring into autumn. The flowers are not scented but the leaves have a nice fragrance especially when bruised. It is, however, a strong pollinator plant. Observation of one growing in the City Park Botanic Gardens for five minutes showed visitation by two species of butterfly, two species of fly, one species of wasp and five species of bee.

This fast-growing evergreen Costa Rica native is rather easy to grow. It can grow in full sun or partial sun/shade. Freezing temperatures may occasionally kill it to the ground but it will come back strong when the weather warms - a good Zone 9b plant. It prefers fertile well drained soil and will do great in a container. It tolerates a broad range of pH conditions (6.1-7.8). And if you have a hard time finding it at your garden center, it is easily propagated by cuttings and there is no patent protection. It is also reportedly easily grown from seed. There are no commonly reported pests making it low maintenance.

So when thinking about something a little bit unusual for a special place in your pollinator garden, consider the Tropical Lilac. I don't think you will be disappointed.

~Dr. Joe Willis



PRODUCE SAFETY WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

7:30AM-5PM | REFRESH PROJECT

300 N BROAD STREET, ROOM 208, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119 | \$20

LEARN HOW TO GROW MORE SAFELY

The National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC), in partnership with the National Farmers Union, is proud to offer workshops across the country to help familiarize young and beginning farmers with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). When FSMA goes into effect in 2018, all fruit and vegetable producers will be subject to Produce Safety Rule (PSR) regulations.

All non-exempt farms will be required to have at least one owner or managerial staff member on site who has attended an approved FSMA PSR training such as this one. Even exempt farms will be required to keep certain records, which will be covered in this workshop. And, regardless of your scale, everyone can benefit from learning about food safety practices on the farm! This workshop is valued at \$135. NYFC is happy to be able to subsidize this workshop for young and beginning farmers.

Registration begins at 7:30 am and the workshop begins promptly at 8 am.

AT THIS WORKSHOP

Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training

Soil Amendments

Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use

Agricultural Water (Part I: Production Water; Part II: Postharvest Water)

Postharvest Handling and Sanitation

How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

TO REGISTER, VISIT:



<http://bit.ly/2qyzBeB>

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MAGGIE:
maggie@youngfarmers.org



847.987.4565



A Shady Character

The Leopard plant or *Ligularia* is a perennial ornamental everyone in the south should at least give some consideration to having on their list when planning a bed in full to partial shade. The common name *Ligularia* derives from the genus name *Ligularia* but also includes the genus *Farfugium*.

Native to Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China, the Leopard plant seems right at home in our warm humid southern climate and is hardy in zones 7-10. Growing Leopard plant is not very difficult. They prefer partial to full shade – when planting always err on the side of shade. They are tolerant of many soil conditions but do best in well-drained fertile soils with average moisture. They will wilt if the soil gets too dry but quickly recover when watered. Leopard plants are clump-forming evergreen perennials with shiny rounded leaves and range in size from 18 inches tall to over 4 feet in height (Giant Leopard plant). The leaves range in form from flat with smooth edges to highly crenellate and wavy edged. The leaves can be dark green to light green, solid or with variegated spots or sectors. They are considered slow-growing but will fill in their area nicely in a year or two.



They are easily propagated by dividing the clump in the spring and you can even collect seeds and start your seedlings in winter or early spring. Did I say seeds? Yes, the leopard plant is a member of the Asteraceae and produces a flower stalk with orange-yellow to yellow clusters of flowers in the Fall to early Winter. Pollinators love them. There are a number of commercially available varieties but it's not always easy to find. They are available online and you can always ask a friend to share when they divide their clump. So if you love having a shady spot to rest in on

the warm days of summer but are having trouble getting your lawn to grow there, consider turning the area into a perennial bed with Leopard plants as some of the star attractions. It's a shady character you'll love hanging out with.

~Dr. Joe Willis



NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK
**BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

2017 PLANT SALES

AUGUST 5

Pelican Greenhouse

9:00 a.m. - Noon

SEPTEMBER 9

Pelican Greenhouse

9:00 a.m. - Noon

OCTOBER 7-8

Fall Garden Festival

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 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



Greater New Orleans Iris Society

Upcoming volunteer service/education dates:

- 8-5-17 Hammond Research Station 7:00-noon - LA Iris Display Beds fertilize, weed, mulch, markers.
- 8-15-17 - The Island in NO City Park near Police Stables 9-noon - plant *I. giganticaerulea* Preservation Project.
- 8-19-17 GNOIS General Membership Meeting Longue Vue 9-noon free and open to the public.
Speaker Paul Pastorek Abbeville Swamp- LA Iris Conservation/Preservation Projects
- 9-12-17 Hammond Research Station 7-noon LA Iris Display Beds fertilize, weed, mulch, markers.
- 9-30-17 GNOIS General Membership meeting Longue Vue 9-noon free and open to the public.

Contact Eileen Hollander MGGNO LA Iris Multi-Site Project Lead for more info at (504) 866-2381.

The Abundant Fall Vegetable Garden Presentation

August 12th at 10:00 am at the New Orleans Botanical Gardens.

In New Orleans, the absolute best time to grow vegetables is in the fall and winter and there is an abundance of cool weather vegetables to grow. Vegetable gardening can not only save money but can give the ultimate garden-to-table cooking experience that one often hears about in the best restaurants. Don't miss this learning opportunity to start a healthy productive vegetable garden. Anna Timmerman, from the LSU AgCenter, will be teaching students everything needed to know about the fall vegetable planting season. The class is \$12/person and lasts 1.5 hours. The class will be in the Garden Study Center in the New Orleans Botanical Garden. Enter through and pay at the Tolmas Center and bring your receipt to class. There will be signs leading you to the Garden Study Center from the Tolmas Center (#5 Victory Avenue). If you have questions or to register call 504-483-9473 or email scapley@nocp.org.

A little bit about the instructor: Anna Timmerman is the LSU AgCenter Jefferson Parish Assistant Horticulture Agent. She grew up growing veggies and herbs for farmers markets on the family farm. Later, she focused on farm-to-table growing for chefs and restaurants as well as PBS programming. Anna is a member of the Herb Society of America's New Orleans Unit and is passionate about home food production.

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.

August Checklist/Garden Tips

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

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

Hot, dry weather is ideal for chinch bug damage to show up on area lawns, particularly St. Augustine. Look for enlarging areas of brown, straw-like grass, especially in sunny, dry areas between the sidewalk and the street and along driveways. Treat with acephate, bifenthrin, Malathion, or other insecticides labeled to control chinch bugs on lawns. Read and follow label directions carefully.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joe Willis
Orleans Parish
Horticulture Agent

(504)483-9471

Anna Timmerman
Jefferson Parish
Horticulture Agent

(504)736-6519