



GN Gardening Magazine

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In This Issue:

Look at Me

Lycoris spp. aka Spider Lily,
Naked Lady, Hurricane Lily

By: Anna Timmerman

What's Bugging You?

Fall Armyworms

By: Will Afton

Growing Media for Containers

Part III: Chemical &
Physical Properties

By: Dr. Joe Willis

Super Plant Spotlight Supertunia Vista

Bubblegum Petunia &

Supertunia Mini Vista

Indigo Petunia

By: Dr. Joe Willis

Weed of the Month

Cool Season Turf Weeds

By: Chris Dunaway

October Planting Guide

In the Kitchen with Austin

Coming Events

Local Garden Centers

October Garden Checklist

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Cover photo:

Lycoris radiata flowers growing at the edge of
a pond.

Photo by Chris Dunaway



Look at Me - *Lycoris* aka. Spider Lily, Naked Lady, Hurricane Lily

One of my favorite late summer-early fall plants is one that pops up all over in unexpected places. It's timing typically corresponds with the height of hurricane season, and I've always mentally linked the two together. *Lycoris*

lilies are even shaped sort of like a hurricane.

A member of the Amaryllis family, *Lycoris* come from China, Korea, Japan and Nepal. We grow several types of *Lycoris* in New Orleans, which were originally introduced to the city through early mail order bulb catalogs in the mid-1800's. You can still purchase them this way, but most people acquire them from friends and neighbors as a pass-along plant or dig them from ditches and old homesites to transplant. *Lycoris* are bulbous perennials and sends up flowers before any foliage appears. Flowering typically happens after a wet period, and depending on the type of *Lycoris*, may happen July through November.

Lycoris radiata var. *radiata* is the most common one found in New Orleans gardens. It is bright coral red in color and usually appears in September through

October. *Lycoris aurea* (formerly *L. africana*) is a golden orange-yellow color (see insert photo on cover). It also blooms in September but is somewhat less reliable than *L. radiata*. *Lycoris albiflora* is white in color and blooms earlier, beginning in August.

Lycoris incarnata blooms in a salmon to rose color and is uncommon in our area. All of these *Lycoris* flower before the foliage is apparent (hence the nickname Naked Ladies), with flowers growing on stalks about a foot tall. The structure of the flowers is a graceful, airy umbel, with the individual flowers arranged in a circle, facing outward. The flowers are very uniquely shaped, with prominent stamens that sweep upwards and towards the center of the umbel, much like long, thin spider legs. The foliage emerges after the flowers are done for the season.



Photo by Brett Bates

A single *Lycoris radiata* emerging from a lawn.

Lycoris made a big splash, along with a lot of "new" plant material in 1854, when Japanese ports were opened to western trade. A man named Capitan William Roberts, a botany enthusiast, brought three bulbs home with him following the altercations that opened the

Look at Me - *Lycoris* aka. Spider Lily, Naked Lady, Hurricane Lily

Japanese ports. His niece noticed that they don't bloom unless exposed to a good rainy spell in early fall. Since this introduction, *Lycoris* have been shared and passed along in the US and are now naturalized in Oklahoma, Texas, the Carolinas, Louisiana,

Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama. They are hardy in zones 5-10, but may not come back reliably in northern climates, so digging and storing bulbs for winter is recommended up north

The *Lycoris* we grow in the US trace back to those early introductions from Japanese gardens, which are genetically triploid, with 33 sets of chromosomes, a result of extensive breeding for larger blooms and intense coloration. This triploid form is sterile and must be propagated via bulbs. The true wild *Lycoris radiata* is found only in China and has 11 pairs of chromosomes, allowing it to reproduce from seed. It is thought that *Lycoris* were introduced to Japanese gardeners and plant breeders at the same time as rice cultivation. This is because the bulbs of *Lycoris* are poisonous and were planted around the margins of rice paddies to deter pests and mice. The toxic alkaloid lycorine is found in concentrated amounts in the bulbs.

When planting *Lycoris*, transplanting the whole patch is best done in late fall, after the blooms wrap up. The bulbs may be dug and divided anytime, however the best time is between October and April when establishing new beds. *Lycoris* need full sun to partial

shade, good drainage, and a good soil rich in organic matter and not too compacted. Once they are planted, they like to be left alone. Division can take place when they get too crowded, typically every five years or so when the bulbs begin to protrude from the soil and blooming is reduced. The blooms benefit from a little bone meal applied in the summertime each year. No additional fertilization should be needed in our area. They can grow in large containers, and typically bloom profusely if kept in pots. For a good part of the year the pot will look empty while the



Photo credit: The Advocate

After the flowers fade in the spring, clumps of spear shaped leaves appear.

Lycoris lay dormant, so label it well.

While we are all out enjoying the fall weather, keep an eye peeled for *Lycoris*, which may pop up where you least expect them. A thrifty gardener may take a utility flag or a stake along with them to mark where the bulbs lay for future transplanting into a home landscape when the blooms finish.

~Anna Timmerman

October Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Beets	Bull's Blood, Detroit Dark Red, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen
Broccoli (transplants)	Packman, Windsor, Greenbelt, Arcadia, Diplomat
Brussels Sprouts (transplants)	Long Island Improved, Royal Marvel, Jade Cross
Cabbage	Blue Vintage, Platinum Dynasty, Asia Express, Farao, Tendersweet
Chinese Cabbage	Minuet, Rubicon
Carrots	Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Atlas, Nelson F1, Bolero F1, Rainbow
Cauliflower (transplants)	Snow Crown, Freedom, Incline, Skywalker, Cheddar, Graffiti
Collards	Georgia Giant, Champion, Top Bunch, Flash
Kale	Toscana, Redbor, Winterbor, Starbor, Red Russian
Kohlrabi	Vienna, Early Purple Vienna, Early White
Lettuce	Allstar Gourmet, Oakleaf, Muir, Red Lollo Rossa, Tango, Buttercrunch, Black Seeded Simpson
Mustard Greens	Red Giant, Greenwave, Savannah, Tendergreen
Snow Peas	Oregon Giant, Super Sugar Snap
Spinach	Space, Carmel
Radishes	French Breakfast, Rover, D'Avignon, Ping Pong
Shallots	Saffron, Conserver, Camelot
Swiss Chard	Bright Lights
Turnips	Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo

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

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

What's Bugging You:

Fall Armyworms (*Spodoptera fugiperda*)

Although this particular insect has been discussed in this publication before (see October 2018), we have experienced a third outbreak on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain this year and it has caused quite an uproar. On Saturday, September 1, 2021, several reports were made detailing “millions” of caterpillars in grassy areas along Lakeshore Dr. in Mandeville, LA. The St Tammany Extension Office received numerous calls over the next two weeks regarding clients dealing with the same problem, numerous caterpillars invading the lawn and surrounding landscape. Apparently, caterpillars were everywhere, destroying any and all plant material!

Caterpillars in general are all found within the insect order Lepidoptera. This order contains both moths and our favorite garden visitors, butterflies. The adult stages of this order play important roles in the ecosystem by helping to pollinate plants. However, the immature stages, caterpillars, feed on plant foliage as a nutrition source and can become pests in certain situations.

The order can be further divided into families.

Armyworms and cutworms make up the family, Noctuidae. It is the largest family within Lepidoptera and includes about 20,000 different species with

about 2,900 found in North America. Experienced gardeners should be familiar with cutworms. Especially if they've ever put out fresh transplants and had them chewed on and cut off near the soil line, hence the common name. Cutworms feed at or near the soil surface whereas armyworms climb throughout the canopy to do their feeding. Another behavioral difference is that armyworms tend to be found in large groups as their name suggests. Cutworms tend to be less social and found in solitude.

Although cutworms and armyworms have a similar appearance, there are some differences that can be used in proper identification. Both insects are somewhat heavy bodied and have non-descript colorings. However, armyworms have three longitudinal stripes

that run down the length of the body. The easiest way to tell a cutworm from an armyworm is to look directly at the face and look for how the front of the head is segmented. Armyworms will always have an upside-down Y marking on the front of their face.



Photo by Will Afton

A fall armyworm.



Photo by Will Afton

Image showing the inverted Y on the heads of fall armyworms.

What's Bugging You: Fall Armyworms

The insects that we are seeing all throughout the metropolitan area currently are the fall armyworm or FAW (*Spodoptera frugiperda*). Young larvae are greenish with a black head. As they mature into later instars, their heads turn reddish brown mottled with white and the brownish body develops the longitudinal stripes seen in other armyworm species. The adults (moth) have a wingspan of 1.25 to 1.5 inches. The forewings on males are generally shaded grey and brown with triangular white spots near the tips. Female coloration is less distinctive. The hind wing on both sexes is iridescent white with a small dark border. Adult moths are nocturnal and can be found during warm humid evenings.

FAW are primarily found feeding on grass-like plants. They are considered a common pest in turfgrass throughout the region feeding on grass plants in home lawns, livestock pastures, roadsides, parks, and cemeteries. Additionally, legumes, a few vegetables, fruit trees, and a few flowers are also occasionally used as food sources. When it comes to home lawns, FAW prefer bermudagrass, but will feed on all warm season turfgrasses including carpetgrass, St. Augustinegrass, bahiagrass, zoysiagrass, and centipedegrass if high populations are present. When feeding on grasses, they will consume all parts of the plants that are above ground. In most cases, the tips of the grass blades may appear transparent, a condition when the outer layer of plant cells is eaten from the leaf leaving a thin membrane behind. In heavy infestations, entire leaves may be consumed.

Control and management of FAW isn't difficult. The trick is to identify them early before they devour the entire yard. The most common conventional



Photo by Will Afton

Heavy fall armyworm damage to St. Augustinegrass.

insecticide recommended for control of FAW are pyrethroid insecticides like deltamethrin (DeltaGard G) and bifenthrin (Ortho Bug B Gon, Talstar, and Hi-Yield Bug Blaster). For those looking for more natural control measures look for products that contain the active ingredient spinosad (Natural Guard Spinosad, Monterey Garden Insect Spray, and others). *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or Bt, is another natural type bioinsecticide and specially controls all lepidopteran pests, making it the best from an ecological standpoint. Spinosad and Bt will need to be ingested by the pest whereas bifenthrin just needs to come in contact with the insect pest. Whichever product you decide to use, it is important to read and follow label directions. Not only to find the proper mix rate but to make sure the products are applied properly.

~Will Afton

Growing Media for Containers

Part III: Chemical & Physical Properties

Successful container gardening is largely dependent on the physical and chemical properties of the potting media.

Understanding these properties and what effects them allows a gardener to evaluate various container media mixes and choose one best suited for the plants they want to grow. It can also allow a gardener to create their own mix by looking at the properties of available mix components and creating a recipe that best suits the needs of their plants.

Most soil testing labs, including the LSU Soil Lab, have special procedures they use to test container potting mixes which are often referred to as Soilless Media because they contain less than 20% field soil. It is a good idea to have your container media tested if you use large amounts of the same product.

Knowledge of the base properties of your potting mix is just as important as knowing these properties of field soil. When submitting these samples for testing, it is important that you use the correct submission form that clearly identifies your sample as a "Soilless Media". At the LSU Soil lab, commonly tested parameters include nitrate, and soluble phosphorus, potassium, and magnesium as well as, media pH. Let's look each of these properties and why they are important.

pH

As most gardeners know, soil/media pH is a very important parameter to the health of our plants. What is pH? The pH scale is logarithmic and inversely indicates the concentration of hydrogen ions in the solution. In common language, pH indicates the acidity or alkalinity of something, in our case, of our growing medium. Media pH is very important because it plays a major role in determining the availability of plant nutrients contained in the medium. Additionally, the optimum pH for plant health and growth varies with different plant species. Most commercial media mixes are composed mostly

of organic materials like peat and bark. These materials are rather acid to begin with resulting in mixes with a low pH. In many cases, these mixes need amendments that will raise the overall media pH. The most commonly used material for raising pH is calcitic (CaCO_3) or dolomitic (CaCO_3 and MgCO_3) limestone. These are used at 5-15 lbs./yd³ but generally less than 8 lbs./yd³. Some less commonly used materials for raising pH are calcium oxide, hydrated lime, eggshell, oyster shell, and wood ash.

On the rare occasion that you may need to lower the container mix pH, elemental sulfur (S_8), ammonium sulfate ($(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$) and ferrous sulfate (FeSO_4) have all been used.

EC (Electrical Conductivity)

EC is a measure of the total salts concentration in a solution but doesn't give details of the individual salts present or their concentration. To test container media, a pour-through solution is collected and the EC measured. The higher the "total salts" concentration in a substrate the higher the EC. An EC will only be registered when inorganic ions are present in solution. Examples of inorganic fertilizer ions are N, P, K, Ca, Mg, etc. EC is expressed as microSiemens (uS/cm) or micromhos (umho/cm). Fresh media, without any added fertilizers, should have an EC of less than 750 umhos/cm. Higher EC indicates the presence of high levels of soluble salts which may be injurious to your plants. The extent of injury will be determined by the plant type, lifestage, length of exposure and identity and concentration of salt. With high salt concentrations, burning occurs on leaf tips and margins; yellowing progresses to brown and then black. Leaf shed and 'die-back' of growing tips can also occur and young plants can become stunted.

Soluble salt concentrations in a medium can come from the materials used to prepare the media, amendments added to the media, or from irrigation

Growing Media for Containers

Part III: Chemical & Physical Properties

water source. You should try to identify the source to aid in remedying the problem. In general, the best way to reduce the amount of salts is to leach them from the media by watering in excess – keeping the leaching fraction high (20-30 percent). Leaching fraction (LF) is the proportion of applied water that leaches from a container after an irrigation event. Determining the LF isn't the simplest procedure; therefore, if you want to leach salts from your container of potting medium, the water to excess. But remember, if you water excessively, you are also leaching out plant nutrients, especially nitrogen. These will need to be replenished.

CEC (Cation Exchange Capacity)

Cation exchange capacity (CEC) is the total capacity of a soil to hold exchangeable cations. Cations are positively charged ions. The most common soil cations are: calcium (Ca^{+2}), magnesium (Mg^{+2}), potassium (K^{+1}), ammonium (NH_4^{+1}), hydrogen (H^{+1}) and sodium (Na^{+1}). CEC is an inherent medium characteristic and is difficult to alter significantly. It influences the medium's ability to hold onto essential nutrients and provides a buffer against acidification. CEC can vary widely depending on what components are used to make the container mix. For example, sand and perlite have low CEC values in comparison to peat and vermiculite. Clay and organic matter have high CEC values. Adding organic matter or use of clay or claylike amendments such as zeolite and bentonite, will increase the CEC value of your container mix. However, increasing the CEC of a good container mix with high organic matter content is seldom necessary.

Bulk Density (Dry Weight)

Bulk density is a physical property that is calculated as the dry weight of soil divided by its volume. In common vernacular, bulk density can be thought of as the weight of a given volume of media. If a gallon of dry container mix A is heavier than a gallon of mix

B, then A has a higher bulk density. Bulk density is important in container mixes for two reasons. First, since the primary stabilizing factor for container plants is the weight of the container of soil, higher bulk density means the plants aren't easily tipped over. Conversely, high bulk density means the container and plant will be heavier if you need to lift or manipulate the plants.

In general, materials with lower bulk density also tend to have higher total porosity. A medium's total porosity is very important contributing to drainage, water-holding capacity and gas (air) exchange.

Total Porosity

Total porosity refers to the fraction of the total soil volume that is pore space. Pore spaces facilitate the availability and movement of air or water within the media environment. With most container growing media, the total porosity should be in the 50-70% range. The pore spaces in growing media are filled with either air or water. Saturation is the threshold at which all the are filled with water. The percentage of pore spaces in a moistened medium (one that has been allowed to drain) filled with air is referred to as the air-filled porosity. The air-filled porosity of a medium is greatly influenced by the pore size which is directly affected by media particle size. For quart-sized and larger containers, the desired air-filled porosity ranges from 10-20%.

You can get a rough estimate of your media total porosity and air-filled porosity with the following.

1. Take a cup and fill it with 100 ml of water and mark the level on the cup.
2. Empty the cup and fill it to the 100 ml line with your potting media. Bounce it lightly and fill to the 100 ml line again.
3. Take 100 ml of water and pour into the cup until the water level reaches the 100 ml line.
4. Subtract the water volume remaining from the

Growing Media for Containers

Part III: Chemical & Physical Properties

total beginning volume. This will give you the amount of water used which represents the pore space.

5. Divide the pore space volume by the total volume (the volume of soil in the cup, in this case 100 ml) and multiply by 100. **This is your total porosity.**
6. Allow the water to drain from the filled cup and measure the volume of water that drains. This represents the volume of your air-filled space. Divide the air-filled space volume by the total porosity volume and multiply by 100. **This is your percent air-filled porosity.**

Water-Holding Capacity

A media's water-holding capacity (WHC) (sometimes called volumetric moisture content) is the percentage of pores filled with water after allowing for free drainage. This is best expressed as a percentage but is sometimes expressed along the lines of "holds 10X its weight in water". The preferred expression method is as a percentage. A rough estimate of WHC can be determined from the previous experiment by subtracting the air-filled porosity from the total porosity. This would represent your percent water-holding capacity.

Addition of media components with high total porosity or high water-holding capacity will increase the water-holding capacity of your final container mix. The water-holding capacity of a container mix directly affects plant available moisture (PAM). This directly translates for a gardener as to how often we need to irrigate – the higher the WHC, the less often we need to irrigate. However, a medium's WHC would be ideally in the 45-65% range but can be different with different plant species. WHCs higher than 65% usually means there is not enough air exchange happening and the roots may drown.

Summary

Understanding these different chemical and physical

properties, how they interact, what affects them, and how they affect the quality of a potting mix is important in understanding and evaluating different potting mixes. Knowing these properties about the individual mix components will help a gardener know how to change these properties in a container mix and even how to formulate a recipe that best fits the needs of their individual plants.

Speaking of recipes, in next month's Part 4 of this series, we will provide some time proven recipes for various container mixes. We will also have recipes for mixes for specific purposes.

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~Dr. Joe Willis

Super Plant Spotlight

Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunia & Supertunia Mini Vista Indigo Petunia

Who doesn't like a

landscape ornamental that is hardy, tolerant, easy care, grows quickly, with continuous production of beautiful and fragrant flowers! It sounds like a dream-come-true plant. Dream no longer because Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunia is such a plant. Its only drawback is its too long and too cutesy

name. This is consistently one of the best petunias in landscape trials at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station and was chosen as a Louisiana Super Plant in 2017.

Supertunia Vista Bubblegum (SVB) is a vigorous petunia that can reach a 3' spread at maturity and can reach a height of 16" to 24". SVB prefers full sun in well-drained soil but will perfume quite nicely in full to partial sun.

Petunias prefer an acidic soil in the pH range of 5.5 to 6.5 but SVB does equally well in the higher pH soils of the Greater New Orleans area (pH 7.0 and higher). For mass plantings,



An image of a supertunia mini vista indigo showing color variation.

spacing should be about 18". SVB is also a great as a selection for containers and hanging baskets.

SVB does require beds with good drainage. It can be planted anytime from mid-Fall through early Spring. While most petunia varieties will tend to burn out in June, the heat tolerant SVB can many times be oversummered. Dead-heading is not required to keep SVB looking clean and

flowering profusely, but light pruning after each flush will keep the plant dense and healthy. Use of a slow-release fertilizer every two to three months or light fertilization with a water-soluble fertilizer every two weeks is recommended.

Supertunia Vista Bubblegum is part of the Supertunia Vista® series from Proven Winners. Currently, there are six different color varieties in the series: Jazzberry, Silverberry, Snowdrift, Paradise, Bubblegum, and Fuschia.

Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunia certainly lives up to its



A hanging basket of supertunia vista .

Super Plant Spotlight

Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunia & Supertunia Mini Vista Indigo Petunia

selection as a Louisiana SUPER Plant.

In addition to Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunia, Supertunia Mini Vista Indigo was added as a Louisiana Super Plant for 2021. Supertunia Mini Vista petunias are mounded but will also spill over the edges of containers. They are great container plants and will function as both spillers and fillers in combination planters. They are very densely branched plants and have small to tiny flowers, smaller than standard petunia blossoms. Mini Vista series petunias also have a slightly smaller stature. Supertunia Vistas grow up to 2' tall and 3' spread. Mini Vistas grow up to 1' tall and 2' spread.

The Supertunia Mini Vista Indigo has deep blue-purple flowers that transform over time to give a mixture of deep indigo shades mixed with lighter hues. Indigo is

one of seven members of the current Proven Winners Supertunia Mini Vista Series.

Both the Supertunia Mini Vista Indigo and the Supertunia Vista Bubblegum are hardy, vigorous, densely branched and prolifically flowering petunias that will perform well in any Louisiana garden.

~Dr. Joe Willis



An image of a supertunia vista petunia bubblegum

Weed of the Month

Cool Season Turf Weeds

It is Fall and as winter approaches, the growth of our warm season turf grasses will begin to slow as the plants enter dormancy for the winter. And while there is less work to do, weed control is also still a major concern for many

local groundskeepers during the cool season. Many of us still have lingering warm season weeds and now is the critical time to apply pre-emergent herbicides to prevent the appearance of some cool season weeds.

According to our Turfgrass specialists, "The best way to prevent or reduce weed encroachment is to maintain a

healthy lawn through proper fertilization and soil pH and regular mowing. Properly maintaining a lawn through these cultural practices promotes dense and vigorous turfgrass, allowing it to better compete with weeds. In addition to these lawn care practices, manual removal of weeds may also be necessary."

In addition to these cultural practices, herbicide applications may be required to achieve effective weed control. You may need treat the broadleaved weeds and sedges now using selective herbicides. It is

important to correctly identify the weeds in order to select the proper product to use. Apply pre-emergent herbicides in late September-early October to prevent the germination of cool season weeds including annual bluegrass, chickweed, henbit and lawn

burweed.

Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.) spreads primarily through seed. It favors compacted soils, but it can tolerate most soil types. It forms slightly open to dense clumps and can tolerate very low mowing, making it a difficult weed to control in turfgrass.

Preemergent herbicides are an important



A clump of annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) with seed heads.

component in managing annual bluegrass in warm-season turfgrass. For preemergent herbicides to be effective, the herbicides must be applied prior to weed emergent. Post-emergent herbicides may also be used but are more effective when applied to annual bluegrass before the seed heads are formed.

[For more information on annual bluegrass including treatment options click here or go to: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/aiverson/articles/page1548360841004](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/aiverson/articles/page1548360841004)

Weed of the Month

Cool Season Turf Weeds

Common chickweed (*Stellaria media* [L.] Vill.) typically germinates in early fall and produces flowers in the spring and spreads through seed. Common chickweed has a branching, prostrate, mat-forming growth habit and profuse seed production, making it difficult weed to control in turfgrass. Common chickweed is readily controlled by several pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides.

[For more information on common chickweed, including treatment options, go to: \[https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/commercial_horticulture/turfgrass/turfgrass-weeds/broadleaf-weeds/common-chickweed\]\(https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/commercial_horticulture/turfgrass/turfgrass-weeds/broadleaf-weeds/common-chickweed\)](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/commercial_horticulture/turfgrass/turfgrass-weeds/broadleaf-weeds/common-chickweed)



Henbit with flowers

Henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule* L.) is a member of the mint family and can be distinguished by its four-

sided, square-shaped stem. Henbit produces flowers in the spring and spreads through seed. It can be found growing in areas with thin turfgrass and can tolerate some shade as well. Henbit freely branches from the base and can have both an upright and prostrate growth habit. Henbit is readily controlled by several pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides.

[For more information on henbit, including treatment options, click here or go to: \[https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/commercial_horticulture/turfgrass/turfgrass-weeds/broadleaf-weeds/henbit\]\(https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/commercial_horticulture/turfgrass/turfgrass-weeds/broadleaf-weeds/henbit\)](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/commercial_horticulture/turfgrass/turfgrass-weeds/broadleaf-weeds/henbit)



Common chickweed (*Stellaria media*)

Weed of the Month

Cool Season Turf Weeds

Lawn burweed (*Salvia sessilis*) is a common, cool-season, annual broadleaf weed. Its leaves closely resemble parsley but it can be distinguished by its sharp spines. It spreads through seed. Lawn burweed can grow in a wide range of soil types. It is typically found in areas with moist soil and thin turfgrass. It has a prostrate, low growth habit and can tolerate low mowing practices. Lawn burweed can be distinguished by its leaves, which are bright green and narrowly divided or lobed, similar to parsley. Once established, it branches out freely, prostrate across the ground. Lawn burweed produces very small, inconspicuous flowers in the leaf axil, which is where a leaf connects to a stem. Flowers mature into seeds with hard coverings and sharp spines or burs.

In addition to cultural practices, herbicide applications may be required to achieve effective weed control. Simazine has good pre-emergent and early post-emergent activity

on lawn burweed and can be part of an overall lawn burweed control strategy. Post-emergent herbicides will still most likely be necessary to achieve control. The most important factor for effectively controlling lawn burweed is to apply post-emergent herbicides in early winter prior to flowering and seed set. The plant becomes highly difficult to control once the burs are formed.

[For more information on lawn burweed including treatment options, click here or go to: https://lsuagcenter.com/profiles/aiverson/articles/page1548367150290](https://lsuagcenter.com/profiles/aiverson/articles/page1548367150290)

Timing is important in the control of many of these weeds. Stopping the seeds from germinating or treating the young plants early are the keys to weed free lawns. Be sure to read and follow the label directions for any pesticides that you apply.

~Chris Dunaway



Lawn burweed (*Salvia sessilis*)



Lawn burweed with mature hardened seeds.

In the Kitchen with Chris

Pepper Jelly

Some of the few crops that we can grow well and with little effort in the Deep South are different varieties of hot peppers. And one of my favorite things to do with hot peppers is to make delicious, sweet and spicy, pepper jelly. I like to use my pepper jelly as a glaze or sauce for meat, fish and even vegetables. Bacon wrapped shrimp finished with pepper jelly glaze is my particular favorite.

Ingredients:

4 cups finely chopped and seeded peppers. Adjust the ratio of hot peppers to sweet peppers to meet your preferred heat level.

1.75 oz package powdered pectin
5 cups sugar
6 8oz canning jars

Directions

1. Wash your jars and screw bands.
2. Next, sterilize jars and screw bands in boiling water to kill off any germs and bacteria.
3. Set your jars and screw bands to dry in a clean area.
4. Finely chop your peppers.
5. Add your peppers to a large pan over high heat.
6. Mix in fruit pectin.
7. Stir constantly and let it reach to a rolling boil. Once it reaches a rolling boil, remove from heat.
8. At this point, you want to add sugar. Stir well and put it back on high heat, continually stirring. Let it reach to a rolling boil and boil one minute.
9. Remove from heat. Skim off all foam.
10. Ladle jelly into prepared jars filling to $\frac{3}{4}$ in from the top.
11. Cover with flat lids and screw on screw bands and lightly tighten.
12. Place jars into canner. Water should cover jars completely. Water should be hot, but not boiling.
13. Bring water to boil and process 5 minutes. Pull jars out and cool. You will start hearing a popping noise as the jars seal. When jars are completely cooled, check seals by pressing centers of lids with finger. (If lid springs back, lid is not sealed and refrigeration is necessary.)

Enjoy!

Coming Events



Pelican Greenhouse Plant Sales

Visit the Pelican Greenhouse for a large selection of plants for sale. Many of plants are propagated from cuttings, seeds, and divisions from plants already growing in the Botanical Garden

Saturdays 8am - 1pm

Location: Pelican Greenhouse
2 Celebration Drive.

(not inside the Botanical Garden)

Visit NewOrleansCityPark.com for park map

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>

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>

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. Charles Parish

German Coast Farmer's Market at Westbank Bridge Park-Luling

13825 River Road

Wednesdays, from 1-5PM

German Coast Farmer's Market at Ormond Plantation-Destrehan

13786 River Road

Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon

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
3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:30PM-7:30PM

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 3-7PM

Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview
4516 Clearview
Store Pickups, preorder online at <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, Noon-4PM

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
Delta Floral Native Plants	2710 Touro St., New Orleans LA 70117	(504) 577-4290
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.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	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

Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	https://plantpricks.com/

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
Barber Laboratories Native Plants	6444 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 739-571
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 Reverend 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

October Checklist/Garden Tips

Collect seeds from your warm annual flowers to plant next year. A few that have seeds relatively easy to harvest include cosmos, cleome, sunflower, abelmoschus, balsam, amaranthus, wheat celosia, marigold and zinnia. Do not save seed from hybrid cultivars.

November through February is the ideal season for planting hardy trees, shrubs, ground covers and perennials into the landscape.

October weather can be dry; water plantings as needed. Pay special attention to any newly planted areas. It is generally best to water direct seeded beds of flowers or vegetables lightly every day to make sure the seeds do not dry out.

If you intend to dig and store your caladium tubers and haven't already done so, it's time to do it now. Don't wait for the foliage die down and disappear since that will make it harder to find the tubers. Dig the tubers carefully leaving the foliage attached. Spread out in a well ventilated area to dry. When the foliage is dry and brown, remove it from the tubers and store them in paper or net bags indoors.

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.

October Checklist/Garden Tips

Flowers to plant in October and November include seeds or transplants of calendula, carnation, sweet alyssum, Chinese forget-me-not, clarkia, cornflower, dianthus, foxglove, hollyhock, larkspur, lobelia, nasturtium, nicotiana, pansy, petunia, phlox, poppy, snapdragon, stock, , sweet peas, bachelor's button, Virginia stock and wall flower.

Summer bulbs may still be growing, but colder weather is in the not too distant future and none of them should be fertilized now. Bulbs that are in active growth such as Louisiana iris, calla lily, Easter lily and spider lily (Lycoris) could be fertilized lightly now.

Azalea lace bugs will be active through November. These insects feed from the underside of the leaves causing small, white dots on the upper side of the leaves and dark brown spots on the back. Do not let a lot of damage occur before you treat. Once the damage occurs, the leaves will not turn green again even if you control the lace bugs. Spray under the leaves with Orthene (acephate), Malathion or horticultural oil every ten days or as needed.

Gardeners often place their tropical plants in containers outside for the summer and bring them indoors during winter. Move any plants you intend to winter indoors to very shady areas outside, such as under carports or trees, for the next three or four weeks. This will allow them to adjust to lower light intensities before you bring them inside where light is more limited. Make sure you place plants in front of bright windows when you bring them indoors. Also check them for insect pests and other hitchhikers before bringing them in.

Spray plants such as camellia, holly, gardenia, magnolia, privet and citrus with horticultural oil sprays to control scale and whitefly.

Dig, divide and transplant perennials such as daylilies, ajuga, daisy, rudbeckia, coreopsis, yarrow and others now through February. Keep plants well watered and mulched.

Water in newly planted bedding plants with a half strength fertilizer solution to get them off to a good start.

Don't forget that late October through early December is the time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Tulips and hyacinths are exceptions that are planted later. They must first be chilled in the vegetable bin of your refrigerator for six to eight weeks, and are planted in late December through mid January.

Plant sweet peas now through November. If you wait and plant them in the spring they will not have time to grow and bloom before hot weather sets in, so planting in fall is a must. Choose a sunny location at the base of something they can climb on such as a chain-link fence or lattice work. Sweet peas planted now will generally begin to bloom in March and last until early May.

Control aphids with insecticidal soap or horticultural oils.

Control caterpillars on cool season vegetables and bedding plants with applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (or BT for short). This bacterium is deadly to caterpillars but harmless to other organisms. So remember, not all caterpillars need to be destroyed. Citrus trees, for example, will recover from the feeding of orange dog caterpillars and the giant swallowtail butterflies that they become are a marvelous addition to your garden.

Now is the season of free mulch. Collect fallen leaves to use as mulch. Use a bagging mower to chop and collect them at the same time. Chopping the leaves makes for a more even look and they do not blow away in the wind.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do:

1. Make every effort to pull up or otherwise control warm season weeds going to seed now. If you let the flower set and drop seed your problems will only be worse next year. Do not put weeds with seeds on them in your compost pile.
2. Apply selective herbicides and sedge killers to kill off summer weeds and sedges.
3. Apply pre-emergent herbicides to prevent winter weed germination.
4. Continue to scout for insect damage and control with insecticides if necessary.
5. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass.
6. Take a soil test.
7. Apply sulfur or lime to adjust the pH if necessary according to soil lab recommendations.
8. **Leave the leaves.** The leaves falling on the ground are an excellent source of organic matter for your soil. Use the mower to shred them and leave them in place to break down. You can also collect leaves to add to your compost pile. In the spring you can aerate the lawn and rake out the compost over the area and fill in the holes.

Do Not:

1. Do not apply fertilizer until mid-February or March of next year.
2. Do not lay sod.
3. Do not spread warm-season turfgrass seed.
4. Do not dethatch the lawn.
5. Do not aerate the lawn.
6. Do not overseed St. Augustine or centipede grass with winter ryegrass. In these lawns, ryegrass can compete with the turfgrass as spring comes on.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

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



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