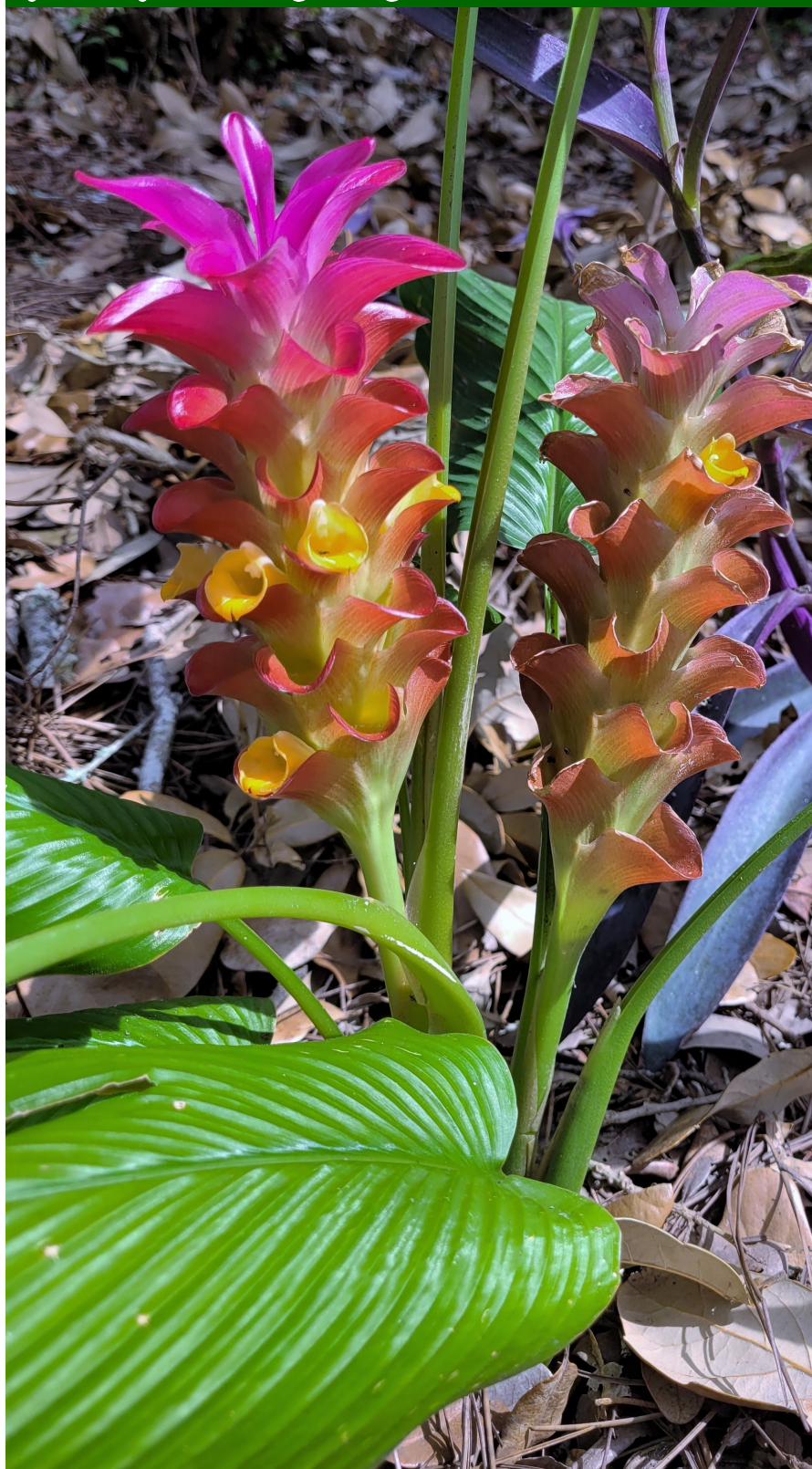


GN Gardening Magazine

September 2021



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Ban Rai Red Thai Ginger (*Curcuma hyb.*)  
Photo by Chris Dunaway



# Look at Me *Curcuma* spp.

As we go through the intense heat and humidity of a New Orleans Louisiana summer, both we and our gardens tend to go into stasis and not want to do much of anything

outdoors. Here is one plant that doesn't mind the heat and still puts on a beautiful show.

*Curcuma* spp.

(Ornamental Ginger)

is a member of the Zingiberaceae family.

This family includes

our culinary ginger

(*Zingiber officinale*)

and culinary turmeric

(*Curcuma longa*). The

*Curcuma* genus is

native to Southeast

Asia, southern China,

the Indian

Subcontinent, New

Guinea and northern

Australia. It has

naturalized in other

warm parts of the

world such as tropical

Africa, Central

America, Florida, and

various islands of the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic

Oceans. Because of its beauty and hardiness,

*Curcuma* is grown all over the U.S. – outside in USDA

zones 8-11 and as a containerized plant that lives

inside during the winter and outside during the

Spring/Summer in the rest of the U.S. (other parts of

the world as well).

There are over 100 species of *Curcuma*. They go by

many common names – Hidden Ginger, Hidden Lily,

Jewel of Thailand, Queen Lily, Siam Tulip, Cone

Ginger. In some, the flower spike emerges in the spring before the leaves. Most available ornamental varieties slowly form foliage clumps 2 to 3 ft. tall and wide. Flowers are good for cutting and attractive to

bees, butterflies and/or birds. Flowers are lightly fragrant and come in several colors. The small flowers (of various colors) are produced on a flower spike with showy green (small basal) and large colored bracts of pink, orange, yellow, and white, depending on the species. The large prominently veined leaves are equally attractive. The foliage may be green, variegated with creamy edges, or have a reddish-purple stripe down the center of the leaf.

These summer-loving plants prefer moist, well-drained soil, full

of organic matter. Their soil should never be allowed to dry out. They will let you know, quickly, if you aren't providing enough water by rolling their leaves to preserve moisture. In the Greater New Orleans area, they can be grown inground or outside in containers year-round. As far as light requirements, this is one reason *Curcumas* are such wonderful plants. They can grow in full sun and in shade. You can find them flowering their hearts out underneath a large live oak and doing likewise in the hot summer



Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

A *Curcuma* plant in bloom.



# Look at Me *Curcuma* spp.

sun of a patio container garden. As long as their soil stays moist, they are happy. They can tolerate some dryness if growing in the shade. They will do best with a little fertilizer in the Spring and again in mid-summer (late July/early August). Curcumas have few pest and disease problems with the main pest being snails and slugs.

Curcuma goes dormant in winter, even in Zone 10, so don't be alarmed if your plant starts to have yellow leaves in the fall. The leaves will all disappear over the winter, but resprout again in the spring and bloom again in the summer. You can cut

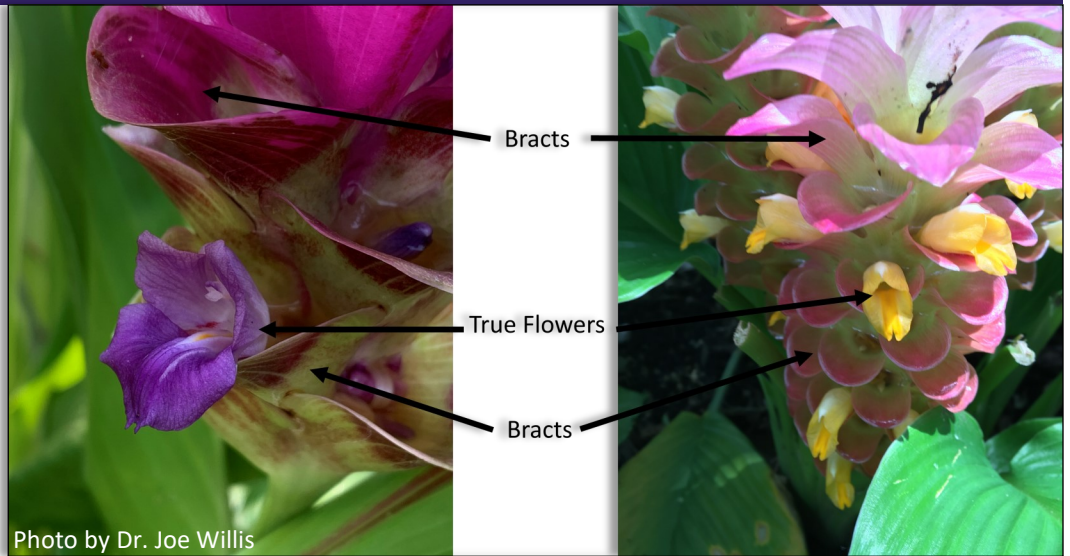


Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

Labeled parts of *Curcuma* flowers.

away the leaves as they begin to get ugly if you want. You can leave the rhizomes (often mistakenly called bulbs) in the ground and the clump will slowly enlarge year after year. They are easily propagated from the rhizomes. The rhizomes may also be removed from the soil in the fall and stored in a cool dry location. When planting the rhizomes in the spring, they should be planted at a depth of 4 inches. If you don't grow this plant yet, I'm sure you can find a place in your garden for something this exotically beautiful that loves our summers.

~Dr. Joe Willis



Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

A *Curcuma* plant in bloom.



*Curcuma* plants in a garden bed.

# September Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Beets	Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen
Broccoli	Arcadia, Diplomat, Gypsy, Packman, Premium Crop, Windsor, Greenbelt
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved, Royal Marvel
Cabbage	Blue Vantage, Platinum Dynasty, Stonehead, Cheers, Blue Dynasty, Emblem, Rio Verde
Chinese Cabbage	None Given
Carrots	Danvers 128, Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Enterprise, Maverick, Sugar Snax 54
Cauliflower	Candid Charm, Cumberland, Freedom, Incline, Majestic, Show Crown, Wentworth
Collards	Champions, Flash, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates
Kale	None Given
English Peas	Mr. Big, Novella II, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sugar Ann, Super Sugar Snap
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner
Lettuce	Esmeralda, New Red Fire F1, Nevada, Tall Guzmaine Elite
Mustard Greens	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Tender-green
Potatoes, Irish	Dark Red Norland, Red LaSoda, Red Pontiac, Kennebec, Yukon Gold
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Gooligan, Sorcerer, Sprint, Silver Moon
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross
Shallots	None Given
Swiss Chard	None Given
Turnip Greens	Alamo, All Top, Purple, Top White Globe, Seven Top, Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo Cross



# What's Bugging You:

## Io Moth Caterpillars (*Automeris io*)

I recently found the guys in the photo below in a local garden eating away on a hibiscus shrub. From the top of the leaf all you could see was the damage that they were doing along with a little fecal material that they had evacuated. Turning over one of the damaged leaves revealed a tight little knot of Io moth caterpillars.

Io moth caterpillars (*Automeris io*) are typically light green, spiny and have a red and white stripe on the side of the body. The body is covered with structures bearing stinging spines. Some larvae grow up to 2.4 inches (6 cm). This stinging caterpillar may be found on many shade trees and ornamentals. Adults are distinctive because of the prominent eyespots in the middle of the hind wing. Caterpillars are polyphagous, feeding on a wide variety of plants.

The entire larval body is coated with spines. Stings commonly result in an almost immediate painful netting and itching reaction followed by formation of a localized welt and a reddened flare around the welt. The pain usually subsides within a couple of hours, and the welt and swelling subside within six to eight hours. Allergies to these stings have been documented, and stings should be watched for any potential anaphylactic reaction. Other symptoms that

are documented include headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, heart arrhythmia (abnormal heart beat), hypotension (low blood pressure), acute abdominal pain and muscle spasms.

To relieve pain, antihistamines may be taken and a cold compress applied. The pain can last over 24 hours. Remove urticating hairs and spines using adhesive tape. Wash the stung area with soap and water or a sterilizing agent and allow to air dry. If you suspect an allergic reaction, or if stung regions are accompanied by abdominal pain and intense muscle spasms, see a doctor for appropriate medical attention.

The Io moth has two generations per year, with the caterpillars active between April and the beginning of July and the second generation appearing from August until October. They pupate over winter. Caterpillars crawl down from the host plants and spin cocoons in leaf litter or protected places, like crevices and logs or rocks. The Io moth has a variety of predators during its life cycle, including birds, mammals, spiders and other insects. Several species of tachinid flies are parasitoids of the Io moth and provide additional biological control. This moth rarely causes major injury to the plant, so control is rarely necessary.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A congregation of Io moth caterpillars hiding on the underside of a leaf during the day. At this stage, the urticating spines are not fully developed.

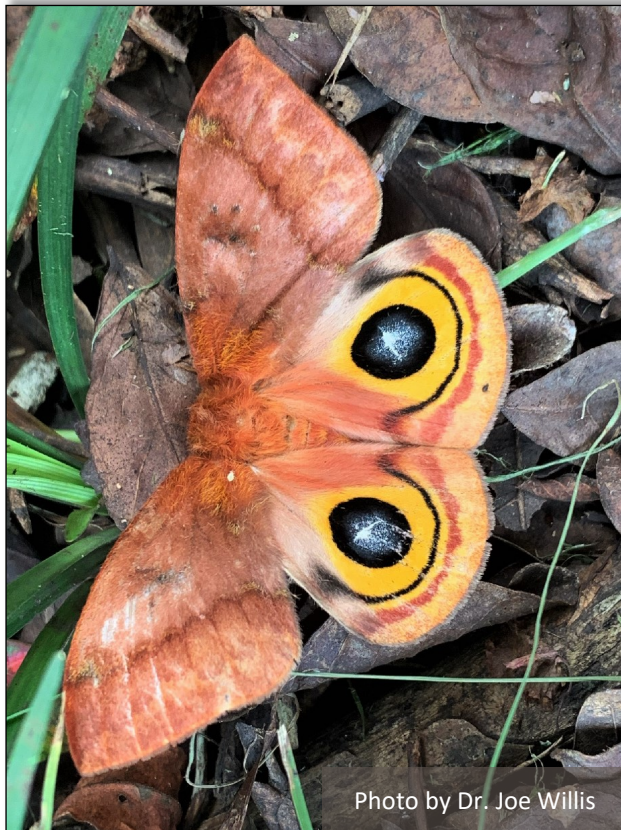


Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

An adult Io moth.

~Chris Dunaway



# Growing Media for Containers

## Part II: The Inorganics

**T**he components of potting mixes are primarily chosen on the basis of their physical and chemical characteristics. In Part 1 (GNO Gardening August 2021) we looked at the organic components commonly used or available for use in potting mixes. In Part 2, we are going to look at the properties of the more commonly used inorganic or synthetic potting mix substrates.

### Sand

You should recollect from your study of soils that sand is one of the three major mineral particles in native soils (silt and clay are the others) and the percent of sand in your soil contributes to its texture. The most common constituent of sand is quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) which is the second most common mineral in the earth's crust making up about 12%. Of course, depending on the source of sand, it can also contain feldspars, salts, silt, organic matter, etc..

You can find Horticultural Sand for sale in some locations; however, Builder's Sand, which is a medium to coarse sand (0.25-2.0 mm) will suffice in horticultural usage. Avoid beach sand or sand mined from the ocean as it tends to be high in salinity.

Sand can vary in color from light grey to tan to almost white depending on source and impurities.

Sand is very heavy (bulk density of 2500-3000 lb/yd<sup>3</sup>)

Total porosity is around 30% by volume

Water holding capacity (27% by volume)

Pure sand pH ca. 7.0

Pure sand CEC < 2 meq/100g

Fairly common in propagation applications

Sand is used in container mixes to increase drainage and to act as a ballast to prevent blow-over in outside, windy instances. Sand content in container mixes

rarely exceeds 10%.

Sand is considered highly stable and mostly chemically inert. The low CEC means it does not retain nutrients well.

### Perlite

Perlite is volcanic glass consisting of 70-75%  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 3-5% water and minor amounts of oxides of Al, Na, K, Fe, Mg and Ca. Because of the trapped water, when perlite is heated to temperatures of 1100 to 1600°F, it expands 7-16 times its original volume – like popcorn.

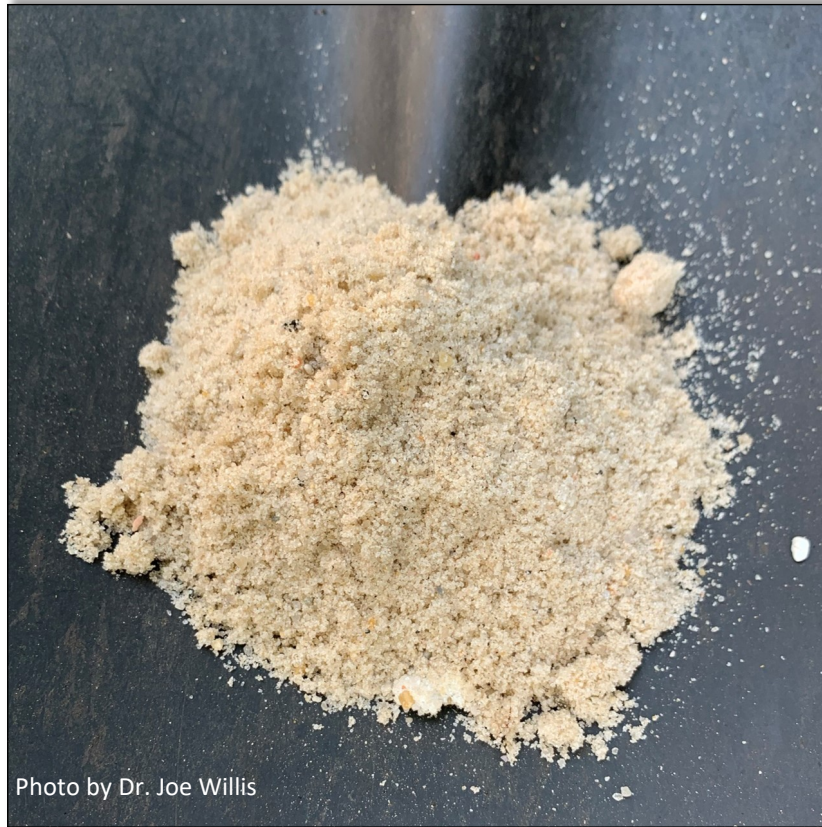


Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

Sand particles

The reflectivity of the trapped air bubbles makes perlite pure white in color. Perlite is usually screened after production and marketed based on particle size.

**Super coarse** perlite has particles ranging in size between ¼ and 3/32" with a water holding capacity of 19%. Creates the best porosity for drainage and aeration but isn't as popular in gardening because of the particle size.

**Coarse** perlite ranges in size between 3/16 and 3/64", with a 34% water holding capacity. Considered an all-purpose grade it is a good balance of drainage and



# Growing Media for Containers

## Part II: The Inorganics

water holding capacity. Due to its size, it doesn't blend well with garden soil but makes a great media for succulents and orchids.

**Medium** grade perlite is a middle ground between the coarse and fine grades ranging in size between  $\frac{1}{8}$ " and  $\frac{1}{32}$ ". It has a 46% water holding capacity and is best to use alone as growing media for potted plants and potted seedlings or as an ingredient in potting mixes with other components.

**Fine** grade perlite has the smallest particle size, with pieces between  $\frac{1}{16}$  and  $\frac{1}{128}$ ". With a water holding capacity of 52%, it works well for rooting cuttings and starting seeds.

Perlite is stable, sterile and chemically inert.

Perlite is bright white

Perlite is very light (bulk density 168 lb/ yd<sup>3</sup>)

Total porosity is around 70% by volume

Water holding capacity (36-40% by volume)

pH ca. 7.0-7.5

CEC 1.5 meq/100g

Perlite is used in propagation applications and as a

potting mix component to increase drainage, increase aeration, reduce weight, and increase water holding capacity. The low CEC means it does not retain nutrients well. Perlite is a fairly expensive media component and is sometimes replaced with pine bark in media recipes.

### Vermiculite

Vermiculite is also a mined mineral. It is ground and sieved, then heated to high temperatures (1800°F). The trapped water quickly vaporizes and causes interlayer spacing, a process termed "exfoliation". You can readily see this layering in the vermiculite particles. As stated above, perlite is mostly SiO<sub>2</sub> with minor amounts of other oxides; whereas vermiculite is made up primarily of only four oxides with the main ones being Mg and Fe: SiO<sub>2</sub> (20-25%), Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (5-10%), MgO (35-40%) and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (32-35%). This can vary depending on where it is mined. Vermiculite is

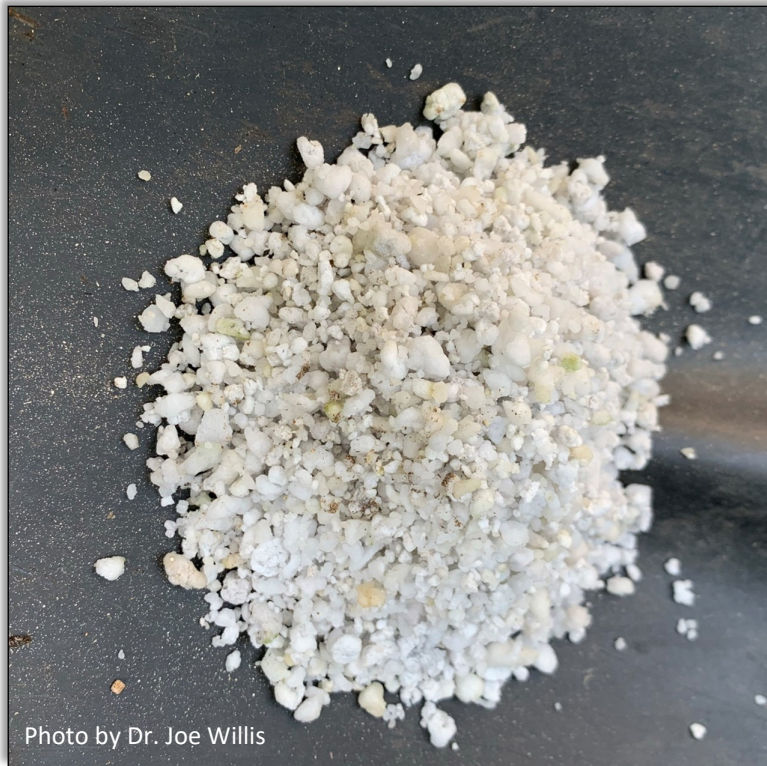


Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

Perlite particles



Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

Vermiculite particles



# Growing Media for Containers

## Part II: The Inorganics

sold in several grades with Fine (0-2.0 mm dia.), Medium (2-4 mm dia.), and Large (4-8 mm dia.) being the most common. Fine grades are mainly used in seedling mixes and as a mulch in seedling production and the larger grades for rooting media or as components of potting mixes.

Vermiculite is sterile and chemically inert but can be compacted.

Vermiculite is golden brown

Vermiculite is very light (bulk density 100-168 lb/yd<sup>3</sup>)

Total porosity is up to 70% by volume

Water holding capacity (78-80% by volume)

pH ca. 5.0-7.5 (depending on source)

CEC 150 meq/100g

Vermiculite is used as a propagation medium and as a component in potting mixes to increase porosity and water holding capacity. The high CEC also makes vermiculite valuable in retaining nutrients in the potting mixes.

### Conclusion

While sand, perlite and vermiculite are the three main inorganic components commonly found in potting mixes, there are a number of others that are sometimes seen. This includes expanded clay particles, zeolites, rock wool, and some synthetics such as polyurethane or polystyrene particles. The

inorganic components are usually sterile, chemically stable, and long-lasting. They are used to influence porosity, aeration, water holding capacity, CEC, and weight of your potting mixes. The percentage of these in potting mixes can vary widely depending on source and usage.

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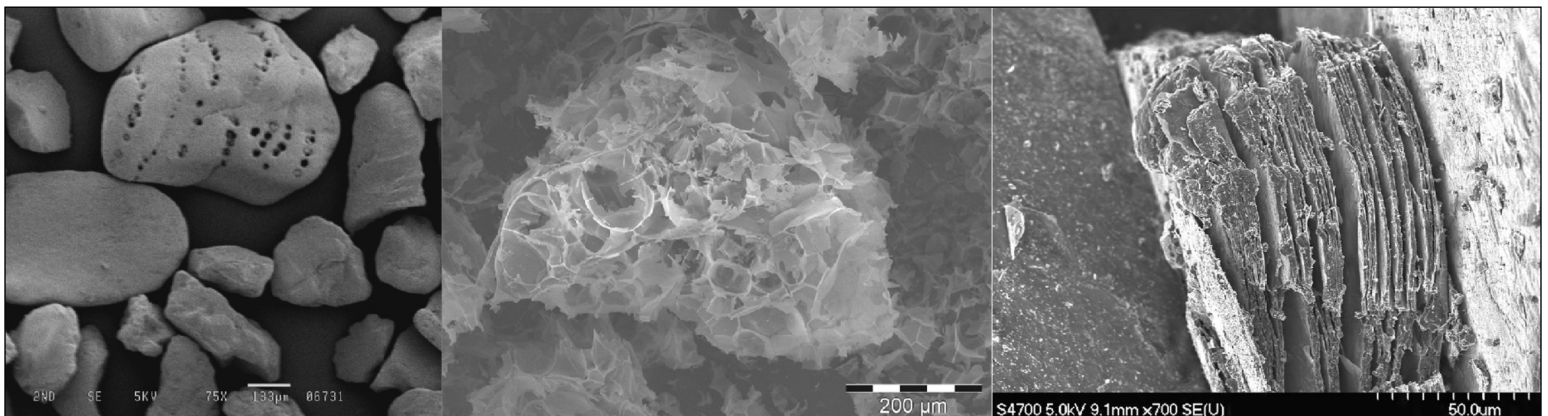
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~Dr. Joe Willis



Highly magnified images of sand, perlite and vermiculite particles.



# Super Plant Spotlight

## Leslie Ann Camellia

As one travels through the southeast region of the United States and pays close attention to the landscape plants used throughout the southern portions of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and along the Florida panhandle you will see quite a bit of similarities in plant material. One of the common foundation plants seen is the sasanqua, or what horticulturist refer to as *Camellia sasanqua*.

Sasanqua camellias are one of many species within the genus *Camellia* used throughout the landscape horticulture industry. Some folks may be familiar with the big rose like flowers of *C. japonica*, the plant that I personally refer to as a garden camellia, or maybe the tea plant, *C. sinensis*. There are plenty more species to discuss but those are some of the more popular species seen in cultivation, with *C. japonica* being the most sought after.

The sasanqua camellia shares some common characteristics with the other camellias available in the trade. These plants feature excellent dark green foliage that stays on the plant for the entire year (evergreen as opposed to deciduous). Established plants will go through a shedding phase during the spring month. During that time, the oldest leaves

drop from the plant as new leaves are produced. Another commonality is flowering season. Landscape camellias flower later in the year. There are some nuances here, but relatively speaking, camellias are some of the major sources of fall flower color amongst other foundation style plants.



Leslie Ann camellia flowers. Photo by Will Afton

Blooming period, bloom size, leaf texture, and growth habit are what sets sasanqua camellias apart from other species. Sasanquas typically start blooming in October and continue through the end of the year. It is not uncommon to see a few residual blooms after New Year's Day. When compared to *C. japonica*, the leaves are smaller and provide a finer texture. The blooms are also considerably smaller. Not only in diameter, but also in the number of petals. Lastly, sasanquas display an aggressive growth habit when compared to other species. So much that many *C. japonica*

varieties are grafted onto sasanqua root systems.

With so many varieties of sasanqua camellias to choose from, it can be difficult to decide on which to use in the home landscape. Sasanquas in general are good plants for Louisiana. The LSU AgCenter named the 'Leslie Ann' sasanqua a Louisiana Super Plant (LSP) back in Fall 2015. The LSP program highlights



# Super Plant Spotlight

## Leslie Ann Camellia

easy to grow, hardy plants for Louisiana gardeners and the 'Leslie Ann' camellia fit that bill.

'Leslie Ann' can be used in several different ways to add value to the home landscape. Popular uses of Leslie Ann include specimen plantings, focal points, privacy screens, hedges, foundation plantings. The high-quality foliage and evergreen nature make this an excellent plant for not only visual screening but also for noise abatement.

The flowers of 'Leslie Ann' are described as semi-double to peony form by the American Camellia Society with a 3-4 in average diameter. They are bicolored, white petals with a rosy-pink border. As with other sasanqua varieties, the flowers are in bloom from October and lasting through December.

The growth habit of 'Leslie Ann' is relatively upright and slightly compact, which allow the plant to be used in so many different situations throughout the landscape. Mature plants can reach 8-10 ft tall and 4-5 ft wide.

To ensure success with planting 'Leslie Ann' and other sasanqua camellias start with the basic growing environment. Unlike garden camellias, sasanquas can take more direct sunlight. In fact, they flower best in full sun locations. Choose a site that receives full to partial sun. Make sure the area in question has decent drainage. Choose an area that doesn't collect surface water after a rain event. Internal drainage is also important and should be considered. Compacted soils and soils with a high clay content are slower to drain. It is advisable to mix in organic matter to alleviate

these issues prior to planting.

Take and submit soil sample to determine the current fertility status of the new planting bed. Sasanquas prefer an acidic soil condition. There will be



A large Leslie Ann camellia in bloom.

recommendations on the soil test results page if the soil pH is outside the optimum range. Elemental sulfur is used to lower pH and agricultural lime is used to raise it. The soil test results page with also provide a survey of essential macronutrients needed by the plant. Follow recommendations that promote the addition of deficient nutrients through specific fertilizer products.

Like other landscape plants, sasanquas will occasionally get a pest issue. Camellia Tea Scale is the most common insect pest seen on camellias grown in



# Super Plant Spotlight

## Leslie Ann Camellia

Southeast Louisiana. Heavy infestations will show discoloration symptoms on infested leaves. Observe the underside of leaves for actual signs of the insect which may include a white fuzzy material and a multitude of tiny little specks. Spider mites are another common pest problem on camellias. Spider mites are too small to see with the human eye. However, they feed on plants by piercing the leaf tissue and sucking out plant juices. The symptoms of spider mite damage appear as a silver stippling over the leaf surface. Dry periods during the warmer months can increase the probability of an outbreak. Both pests are easily controlled using various oil sprays like horticultural oil, neem oil, or insecticidal soap. Read and follow the label instructions before applying any pesticide.

Annual maintenance for sasanquas is very straight forward. Plants can be pruned in late winter or early



Spider mite damage to the surface of camellia leaves. Notice the fine webbing between the leaves.

spring right before the vegetative growth phase. Aim to remove no more than 25% of the plant at that time. Sasanquas will start setting flower buds during the summer months. If pruned during the late summer months, then a reduction in flower buds will



Camellia Tea Scale feeding on underside of leaf.

occur. Fertilize plants after pruning as per recommendations from a soil sample. Scout for spider mite and scale infestations during the remainder of the growing season and apply treatment as needed. Once flower buds start breaking open, you may sit

back and enjoy the show!

Leslie Ann sasanquas can be purchased at most garden centers and home improvement stores throughout the area. Mizell's Camellia Hill Nursery in Folsom, LA specializes in producing hundreds of

different camelias including 'Leslie Ann'. Start looking in the fall for when nurseries bring in budded and blooming plants for sale. You will find the best selection at that time.

~Will Afton



# Weed of the Month

## *Sida rhombifolia*

This month's weed is full of interesting natural history. Widespread throughout the GNO area, *Sida rhombifolia*, is often

overlooked.

Some common names I've heard include Wild Hemp, Arrowleaf Sida, Fanpetals, Cuban Jute, Jute Mallow, and Indian Hemp. There are many species of *Sida* including several native to the United States, but *Sida rhombifolia* is the one we are most likely to encounter locally. It is originally native to the New World tropics and subtropics

but is now widespread globally in warmer climates.

*Sida rhombifolia* is an upright, woody, short-lived perennial member of the mallow (*Malvaceae*) family. It can grow up to two meters in height, forming a small shrubby plant. It has opposite, simple leaves that attach to the stems with a short petiole. The leaf margins are lightly toothed, or crenate. Leaves can be oblong, especially the younger leaves, with more mature foliage having a more ovate or rhombic shape. It does produce flowers, usually June-October, but flowers can be found all year long in New Orleans in the absence of a killing frost. Flowers have five petals,

and are a pale orange, yellow, or creamy white color. The flowers are small, about the size of a dime, and look exactly like the flowers of its larger cousins, the

hibiscus, okra, and more showy mallows we grow in our gardens. Seed pods form that look like slightly flattened, globular pods. Each pod separates when dry into eight to twelve compartments, each containing a seed.

*Sida rhombifolia* thrives in neglected uncut lawns, roadsides, pastures, empty lots, disturbed ground, woodland



A *Sida rhombifolia* plant with flowers and seed pods.

margins, and garden areas. It can thrive in full sun, partial sun, or partial shade. It tends to not like complete, deep shade. When young, they can be hand pulled easily, however as they mature and the stalks become woody, they are difficult to remove without digging or chemical controls. Non-selective herbicides work to kill this plant. In gardens, pull them early to save yourself some work. In lawns, this *Sida* can tolerate mowing, adopting a low growth habit to avoid the mower blades. Digging it out or spot treating with non-selective herbicides is a good option. Pre-emergent herbicides help to prevent the seeds from germinating in the warm season.



# Weed of the Month

## *Sida rhombifolia*

The natural history of this plant is fascinating. The Acadian French name for it is “Gombo de Ste. Jeanne”, which is thought to refer to the flower appearance, which looks a lot like okra flowers (another member of the same family). The leaves of *Sida* are edible and can be cooked down to form a slightly slimy vegetable dish like okra or used to thicken soups and gumbo. The leaves have been analyzed and found to contain high amounts of protein, fat, carbohydrates, and fiber, making them a good vegetable food nutritionally. Leaves are also dried and used as a tea in some parts of the world.

The long fibers of the stems also have a use in the production of rope and twine, fishing line, and in weaving nets. India once had a substantial *Sida* “hemp” export trade. The fibers are easily extracted and are long and white. The dried stems of *Sida* are used to make brooms, or chewed as toothbrushes, or woven to make baskets and wattle fences. Wherever it grows, *Sida* seems to provide raw materials and some use to those that harvest it. As a forage, *Sida* is used to feed browsing goats. It can be considered a pasture weed because it is unpalatable to grazing livestock like sheep or cows. *Sida* stems can also be charred and used to create a natural dye.

There are many medicinal uses for *Sida* documented in cultures worldwide, including as a treatment for diarrhea by Australian Aboriginal people. In India, it

is widely cultivated as a medicinal herb. The pounded leaves are used to relieve swelling, the fruits are used to relieve headache, the slimy mucilage is used as a skin moisturizing lotion, and the roots are used to treat rheumatism. In Indonesia, the leaves are used to treat boils. In Gabon and Kenya, the leaves are used as a soap substitute. In Mexico and India, the roots are used to treat toothache.



Tropical Checkered-Skipper butterfly (*Pyrgus oileus*)

*Sida rhombifolia* is also a butterfly host plant, which is why I tend to leave a few in my pollinator garden each year. The caterpillars of the Tropical Checkered-Skipper butterfly (*Pyrgus oileus*) utilize *Sida* as their food source. This small butterfly (30-40 mm. wingspan) is

quite beautiful, with a checkerboard pattern of black and white coloration on the wings and a slight blue blush on the thorax. Just like its host plant, this gem of a butterfly can easily be overlooked. It tends to fly low to the ground, “skipping” along as it goes.

Each time I research and dig into the Weed of the Month, I’m often surprised by the uses of these plants, the stories and industry that develops around them, and the natural history of some of our most overlooked and unloved plants. I hope that you come away from this month’s article with a new appreciation for *Sida* and leave one or two for the butterflies.

~Anna Timmerman



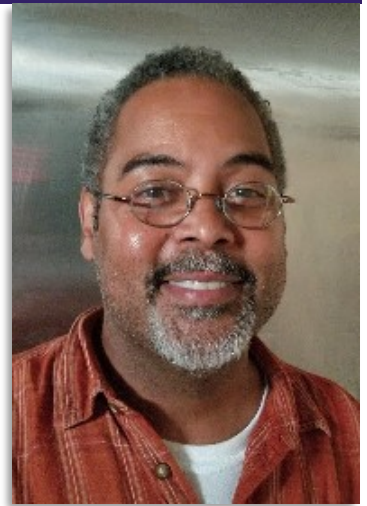
# In the Kitchen with Austin

## Eggplant Dip

My little backyard garden is bursting with eggplants. This recipe uses them to create a dip that is both delicious and healthy.

### Ingredients:

3 small eggplants	1 tsp. paprika
2 cloves garlic	Salt and pepper, to taste
2 Tbs. tahini (sesame paste)	Cilantro, optional
1 lemon, juiced	
2 Tbs. olive oil, plus extra when serving	



A bowl of eggplant dip.

### Directions:

Using a fork, poke several holes in eggplants. Then, place them on a tray and rub with olive oil and sprinkle with salt.

Bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

Let eggplants cool, slice them open and place flesh in a food processor with the remaining ingredients. Pulse until dip is smooth.

Serve dip in a bowl topped with a splash of olive oil, a sprinkling of paprika, and some chopped cilantro. It is excellent with fresh veggies, pita chips, or even flatbread.

*Bon Manger!*

## 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

**Re-Opening Saturdays September 25th**  
**8am - 1pm**

**Location:** Pelican Greenhouse  
2 Celebration Drive.  
(not inside the Botanical Garden)



Visit [NewOrleansCityPark.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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-Laffite

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](http://www.sheauxfresh.org)

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

533 St. Maurice

First & Third Saturday of the month, 10:00AM-2PM

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## 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  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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



This bioswale was in the parking lot of the hotel in St. Louis Missouri where my family and I stayed during our evacuation from our home due to Hurricane Ida.

Structures like these can catch stormwater to reduce street flooding.

Water tolerant plants like the swamp mallow, irises and cypress trees perform well and are very attractive.





# 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	<a href="http://www.hotplantsnursery.com">www.hotplantsnursery.com</a>
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
Crazy Plant Bae	800 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans LA 70119	(504) 327-7008

## 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 <sup>rd</sup> St., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 469-0077
Laughing Buddha Garden Center4	516 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) 739-5715

## 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 <sup>rd</sup> St., Luling, LA 70070	(985) 785-6165

## St. Bernard

Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
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## 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) 887-4336
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



# September Checklist/Garden Tips

Mulches may have decayed and thinned out over the summer. Replenish mulch layers with fresh material to maintain about a two to three inch thickness. Ideally, use what you can get for free – such as leaves, dry grass clippings or pine straw. If you prefer the appearance of a purchased mulch, put down an inch or two of leaves, dry grass clippings or pine straw, and then top it off with an about an inch of your favorite purchased mulch. This will save you money and still give you the look you like.

Only light pruning will be appropriate on shrubs from now on. Late, heavy pruning will stimulate growth in the fall and increase the chance of cold damage to your shrubs. Remember, spring flowering shrubs and gardenias, hydrangeas, sasanquas and camellias have already set their flower buds. Any pruning now will remove flower buds and reduce the display.

From now until next spring, do not apply fertilizers containing nitrogen to most landscape plants. Fertilizing trees, shrubs, lawns and ground covers with nitrogen in the fall can reduce the hardiness of some plants and promote winter injury.

Plant petunias into the garden now for blooms this fall and next spring. Petunias, snapdragons, nicotiana, calendula and dianthus are among the more heat tolerant cool season bedding plants, and can be planted earlier than more heat sensitive plants such as pansies.

Control caterpillar problems on ornamentals with a pesticide containing BT, spinosad or carbaryl (Sevin). BT is a bacterium that only attacks caterpillars and is harmless to other organisms. It is essentially non toxic and is appropriate for use by organic gardeners. Spinosad is also organic. Make applications before damage is too extensive, and make sure the damage is fresh and the caterpillars are still active before you treat. Keep these materials well away from butterfly garden areas. They are also toxic to butterfly caterpillars.

Evaluate caladium plantings. When the plants begin to look tired and less attractive and about two-thirds of the leaves have fallen over, it's time to dig the tubers. Caladiums may return the next year if left in the ground, but it is more reliable to dig them and store them indoors over the winter. 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.

Many summer weeds are setting seeds now. Do not let this happen! Pull these weeds and dispose of them to reduce weed problems next year.

Remove the canes from blackberry bushes that produced fruit this summer. They will not produce again. Vegetative canes may be tipped back to control their growth

It is time to divide and transplant Louisiana irises, Easter lilies, and calla lilies. Louisiana irises generally do best when divided every three years.

Mail order spring bulbs in time for them to arrive in October or November. Bulbs are also readily available in local nurseries now. You can go ahead and purchase them, but there is no hurry to plant them.

Water your vegetable and flower gardens deeply and thoroughly once or twice a week during dry weather. When a good rain occurs (one-half to one inch), adjust your watering schedule accordingly. A daily watering is not recommended for established plants. It increases diseases and encourages a shallow root system. Newly seeded beds, however, should be watered daily until the seeds come up. New transplants also need to be watered more frequently. And plants in containers may need to be watered everyday.

High winds from Hurricane Ida have left many broken branches hanging from trees. These should be removed by cutting the limb back to the nearest Y-branching to help the tree heal properly.

# Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

## Do's:

1. Finish laying sod by the middle of the month to give it time to establish before winter.
2. Apply pre-emergent herbicide to prevent winter weed seeds from germinating in the lawn.
3. As the weather gets cooler, you may apply selective herbicides to eliminate broad leaf weeds in the lawn.
4. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
5. Dethatch the lawn if necessary. This is the last month before winter to dethatch.
6. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass. [Click here to find information about large patch disease from the LSU AgCenter.](#)
7. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. The best time to water is in the morning.
8. Keep an eye open for insect pests. Chinch bugs and tropical sod webworms have been reported lately.
9. Spread a mixture of fine compost and coarse builders sand over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
10. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.
11. Take a soil test. Test kits are available in our offices in the Botanical Gardens, the Yenni Building, and New Orleans City Hall as well as local garden centers. Follow this link to see Dr. Joe demonstrate how to take a soil sample: <https://www.facebook.com/1030624690304124/videos/1452161988150390/>

## Don't's

1. Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn again until April of next year.
2. Do not apply phosphorous winterizer to the lawn without taking a soil sample first. We have ample amounts of phosphorous in our soil already.
3. Do not attempt to install a new lawn with sprigs or seeds.
4. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height of lawn grass at a single time.
5. 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](mailto:GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu)**



**Follow us on Facebook at GNOGardening**

**For more information visit [LSUAgCenter.com](http://LSUAgCenter.com)**

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