



GN Gardening Magazine



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Cover photo: Large old fashion daylilies in a garden in New Orleans.

Photo by Chris Dunaway



Daylilies (*Hemerocallis* sp.)

Daylilies are native to Asia but were introduced to Europe in the early days of the Silk Road, possibly as long ago as the second century. From there daylilies traveled with immigrants to North America where they became ubiquitous in early gardens. There was a resurgence in popularity in the 1920's when the cultivar Hyperion was released. The new cultivar produces a profusion of long lasting bright yellow flowers that have a sweet scent. After nearly 100 years, this cultivar is still available today. The modern era of daylilies was introduced by Dr. Arlow Stout while he was working at the New York Botanical Garden from 1911-1948. Dr. Stout is considered the father of modern daylily breeding and introduced over 100 new hybrid cultivars with his cross breeding experiments. While all daylilies are in the *Hemerocallis* genus, there

are at least 16 different species. Through breeding, however, there are now over 90,000 named cultivars according to the American Daylily Society. Most of these cultivars are descendants of just two daylily species; *Hemerocallis fulva* and *Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus* (flava).

Description:
The daylily is a member of the lily family, and its Latin name *Hemerocallis* translates to “beauty for a

day” because the flowers typically open for only one day. However, what they lack in longevity, they make up for in numbers, with a quick succession of blooms throughout the summer and into the fall.

Daylily flowers are trumpet-shaped, with double and single versions that range in size from 2 to 6 inches. Originally found only in burgundy, yellow and orange, these days there are many new colors from which to choose, including gorgeous peach, creamy whites, purples, lavender, rose and even pinks. There are multi-colored selections as well.

Daylilies grow in thick clumps with their dark green, blade shaped leaves emerging in a profusion of arches from the soil. During the blooming season they will produce long scapes (flower stalks) with multiple blooms each.

The scapes of most cultivars range in height from 12 inches to 5 feet.

Modern daylily cultivars

commonly produce 15 or more flowers per scape.

The root system of daylilies can form a dense matt and can be useful to help control erosion. Be careful planting daylilies over the roots of trees and shrubs because the extensive root system of the daylilies will out compete them for water and nutrients.

Daylilies reproduce themselves sexually through pollination of the flowers or asexually by creating new



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A golden yellow daylily variety. The flowers are star shaped with pinched petals.

plants from underground stolons. Asexual reproduction will make plants that are genetically identical to the parent whereas sexual reproduction will result in plants that can appear similar to or wildly different from the parent flowers. It is through sexual reproduction that new varieties are developed. Plants are easily propagated by dividing clumps, or they can be grown from seeds.

Site and Soil:

Daylilies are adaptable to different light conditions but will flower best if they receive at least 6 hours of direct sun per day. Light shade during the hottest part of the day will help the flowers last longer. They are tough plants that can grow in a wide range of soil types but prefer slightly acidic soil with plenty of organic material. The soil should also be relatively well-draining if you want your daylilies to grow year after year. Planting in mounds, raised beds or planters will help if the soil is too wet.

Planting and Dividing:

The best time to plant and divide daylilies is in the early spring and fall after the flowers have stopped.

Dividing daylilies-Daylily clumps can be divided every three to five years. Dig up the entire clump with a spade. Carefully pull the clump apart by hand or

divide the clump into sections with a large knife or spade. Each division should consist of 2 or 3 fans of leaves and a good root system. You can replant some in the same area and find a new home for the offspring in another part of your landscape, with friends and neighbors or put them in your compost pile.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A medium sized pale yellow variety of daylilies growing in a local garden.

Planting

1. Till the soil deeply before planting or use a garden fork to break up the soil.
2. Add compost and work it in to increase organic matter.
3. Take a soil test. The result will tell you the nutrients that are available in the soil as well as the soil pH.
4. Incorporate fertilizer according to the soil test recommendations or use a complete slow release fertilizer. You may also add soil amendments to change the soil pH at this time.
5. Dig a hole wide enough for the roots to spread out without bending or crowding them.

6. Place the plant in the soil so the crown (the portion where the stem and root meets) is one inch below the soil level. If needed, add soil back into the hole to lift the plant up.
7. Once the plant is at the right level, back-fill with the garden soil, lightly packing it down around the plant.

8. Water until the soil around the plant is thoroughly saturated. Not only does watering hydrate the plant, but it also settles the soil around the roots eliminating large air pockets.

How to care for daylilies:

Daylilies are hardy plants that require very little care.

- In early spring, cut back and remove the dead and damaged from the previous year's growth and pull any weeds.
- Apply one application of fertilizer in the spring according to the soil test results or use a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10. Be careful, too much fertilizer will lead to heavy foliage growth with few flowers.
- A spring application of compost around the base of the plants is beneficial each year.
- Add mulch to help minimize weeding and help keep the soil cool and moist.
- Keep soil moist — 1 inch of water weekly is ideal, more frequent watering may be necessary in sandy soils or for plants grown in containers or raised beds. Daylilies tolerate drought, but they perform best when the soil is kept moist.
- Remove dead flowers after bloom to prevent seed production. This is called "deadheading." Plants that produce seeds are likely to have fewer flowers the following year.
- Overcrowding of plants can cause a decline in flower production, so thin the plants every three to five years in late fall or after plants have finished blooming. You can replant in other areas or share them with friends.

Pests:

Insect control measures are usually not necessary. Aphids, spider mites and thrips sometimes feed on the flower buds. These pests can be controlled with insecticidal soaps or a repeated strong spray of water.

Disease:

One disease problem is daylily rust, identified by orange powder spots on the undersides of leaves.

Figure 1: Types of daylily flowers

Several terms may be used to describe daylily flowers.



Single

Photo by Pat Loveland

Flower consists of 3 petals and 3 sepals.



Double

Photo by Terrie Mann

Flower has more than 1 petal whorl or a stamen whorl that contains petal-like stamens.



Circular

Photo by Arthur M. Kroll

Flower appears to be round when viewed from the front of the bloom.



Triangular

Photo by Tim Fehr

Petals and sepals form a triangle when viewed from the front of the bloom.



Star

Photo by Brian Nahleu

Flower appears to be three or six pointed star when viewed from the front of the bloom.



Flat

Photo by Rebecca Board

The flower is flat, except for the concave throat, when viewed from the side of the bloom.



Trumpet

Photo by Brian Mahleu

Flower resembles a true lily when viewed from side.



Triangular

Photo by Tim Fehr

When viewed from the side of the bloom, the ends of the petals and sepals (sometimes just the sepals) roll back or tuck under.



Pinched

Photo by Bob Schwarz

Flower petals are pinched or folded.

Photos and information from the Iowa State University Extension Svc.

Infected plants should be cut back to an inch or less and treated repeatedly with labeled fungicides. Foliage from infected plants should be removed and destroyed or you may choose to remove the infected plants altogether and replace with a variety less susceptible to the disease. Fungicides recommended (for prevention more than control) are Systhane, Banner Maxx, Contrast and Heritage. All are systemic materials. Others to consider are Strike (systemic)

and Dithane (protectant/contact). Most broad-spectrum contact and systemic fungicides may be somewhat effective and may be useful in combination; however, effectiveness is limited.

Varieties less susceptible to the disease include Little Business, Mini Pearl, Butterscotch Ruffles, Mac the Knife, Yangtze and Holy Spirit. Local nurseries can also help identify less susceptible varieties.

Selecting your Daylily:

With so many varieties available on the market it can be difficult to pick the plant that is right for you. Here are some things to think about when selecting daylilies for your garden.

Know your zone-Varieties of daylilies are “regional performers,” which means they grow well only in certain parts of the country, usually over three hardiness zones. Select varieties that are described as or proven to work in your zone.

Bloom time-Daylilies have early, mid and late-season bloom times. Furthermore, some varieties have the ability to rebloom meaning they can produce flowers at least twice per year. With our long season, many varieties can be encouraged to produce new blooms by removing faded flowers. Select varieties that will bloom at your desired time or select several varieties with different bloom times to prolong the flowering season.



This flowers of this daylily are on long scapes emerging from the foliage.

Plant Size:

The size of individual plants can range from less than a foot to over 4 feet tall. This is just the leaves. The flower bearing scapes can be even taller.

Flower color, shape and size:

As you can see from figure 1 on the previous page daylily flowers come in a large variety of shapes and styles. They also range in size from 2 to six inches and come in nearly every color of the

rainbow (except blue) and combinations of colors.

Ultimately you should pick what you like while keeping the criteria above in mind.

Currently I do not have any daylilies in my home garden but I probably will soon. If you have not noticed them already, take a look around you and you will likely start to see daylilies all around you. As you are looking, think about which ones you like and which you think would look nice at your home.

~Chris Dunaway

June Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates
Cucuzza	None Given
Eggplant	Dusky, Night Shadow, Epic, Santana, Calliope
Hot Peppers (transplant)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla,
Luffa Gourd	None Given
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Peanuts	None Given
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Sweet Potato	Beauregard, Evangeline, Hernandez, Jewel
Swiss Chard	None Given
Watermelon	Seedless: Cooperstown, Gypsy, Matrix, Millennium Seeded: Mickey Lee, Sugar Baby, Amarillo

July Vegetable Planting Guide

Start Seeds for Transplant		Direct Seed or Transplant		
Broccoli	Cauliflower	Cantaloupe	Luffa Gourd	Shallots
Brussels Sprouts	Bell Peppers	Collards	Okra	Southern
Cabbage	Tomatoes	Cucumbers	Pumpkins	Peas

August Vegetable Planting Guide

Bell Peppers	Cauliflower	Irish Potatoes	Mustard	Snap Beans
Broccoli	Chinese Cabbage	Kale	Pumpkins	Squash
Brussels Sprouts	Collards	Lima Beans	Rutabaga	Tomatoes
Cabbage	Cucumbers	Luffa Gourd	Shallots	Turnips

Breeding Daylilies

While researching information for my article on daylilies, I found out a lot of information about daylily breeding and

creating new cultivars. Basically, when sexual

reproduction occurs, genetic material from both parents combine in different ways to create a new life. This new creation typically has traits similar to the parents but sometimes the offspring can have differing attributes.

Furthermore, even when the same parent material is combined, each combination can produce young with different characteristics.

My sister and I have the same parents but we don't look alike. In

breeding programs people combine the genetic material from parents with desirable traits in hopes of creating a new form. This is the same for developing a new plant or a new kind of puppy.

These kinds of breeding programs have been going on since the beginning of civilization and is responsible for the way many of our domestic animals and food plants appear today. Did you know that all dogs descend from wolves. It is hard to believe when you see a nervous chihuahua but it's true. Even today, large numbers of professional scientists and hobbyists continue to breed countless numbers of plants and animals to fit current needs or just for fun. Many ornamental plant breeders are in the hobbyist category. Most of them have a great passion for the particular plant that they are breeding and are doing

it for fun and bragging rights. I am sure it is a joy to unveil your newest creation at your local plant society meeting.

You may be able to imagine that some organisms are easier and faster to work with than others. For example, if you are breeding citrus trees to develop a new fruit, you may have to wait many years before your new young plants are mature enough to produce fruit to see if you have achieved the desirable results. Plus you will need a lot of room for each developing plant to grow. Daylilies, on the other hand, mature rapidly, produce seeds quickly after

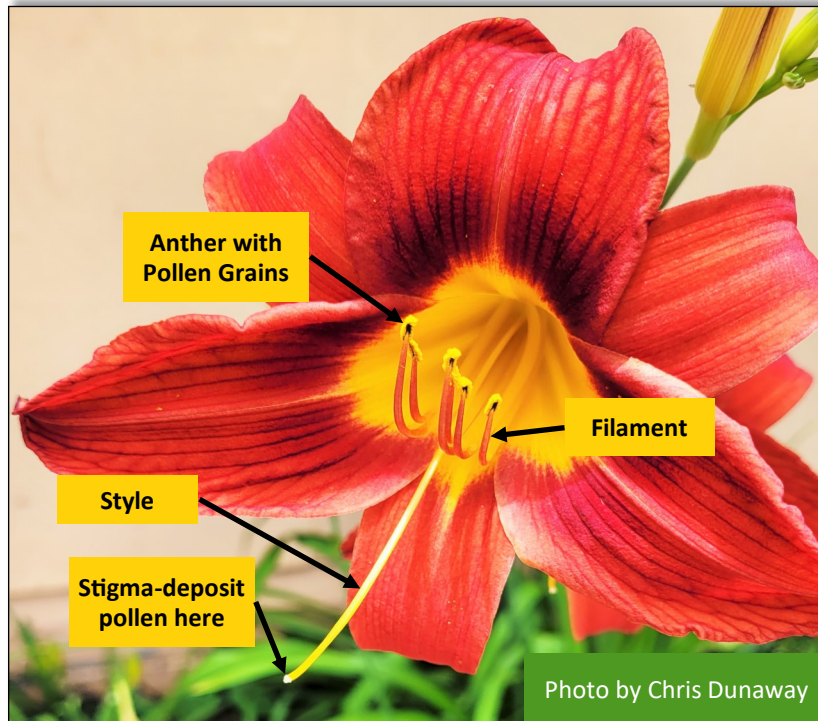


Figure 1. Labeled reproductive parts of a daylily flower.

insemination and are easy to cross breed. Other plants that are popular for their ease of breeding are coleus and Louisiana irises.

The basic skills for plant breeding are patience and good observation. When looking for potential parent material, plant breeders ask themselves questions about the plants. Some questions may be:

- Are the leaves or flowers a different shade or color?
- Are the blooms larger, double or uniquely shaped or patterned?
- Is the plant taller or shorter than usual or particularly compact?
- Is there an unexpected fragrance?
- Is it flowering out of season, or for longer than usual?

How to do it:

1. Grow plants of the types to be crossed.

2. Make the cross. Once the pollen on the anthers has become “fluffy”, it is ready to be used on the stigma. Typically from around 10 AM to Noon is the best time. To transfer the pollen, carefully remove one of the six stamens consisting of the filament and pollen laden anther from the donor plant. Next gently rub the anther against the stigma at the end of the single long style. (See the flower diagram in figure 1.)

3. Label each crossed flower with the names of the pod donor (mother) and the pollen donor (father) and attach it to the scape below the flower.

Do not remove the old bloom after applying pollen, let it fall off on it's own accord. If the cross was successful, there will be a tiny green pod right at the spot where the flower was attached. This pod contains the seeds and will continue to grow during the next few weeks. Note that in some cases there may be a green pod at first but will fall off after a short time. In that case, there were no viable seeds forming in the seed pod.

4. Harvest the seeds. Typically, the seeds take between 40 and 60 days to mature to the point where they can be harvested. The seed pods will turn brown and begin to split open when it is time to harvest. Remove the seeds from the pods and let them air dry overnight.

5. Depending on the variety the seeds may need to be cold stratified before planting. To do this put the seeds in small plastic bags or other containers and place in the refrigerator for at least 4-6 weeks. Seeds from dormant daylilies will germinate much better

after refrigeration and seeds from semi-evergreen varieties also seem to germinate better after refrigerating. Seeds from evergreen parents probably don't need refrigeration to help germination. Unused seeds can be refrigerated to preserve their freshness.

6. Grow the new plants. Now you must use your skills as a gardener to let the plants grow to maturity.

7. Select and cull. As the plants grow and flower you

must make observations and decide what to keep, what to cull and what to give away.

Modern daylilies display a complex variety of color patterns that were unknown in the original wild types. The following are some of the terms used to describe daylily flowers use by plant breeders.

Self-The simplest pattern in which the flower segments (i.e., petals and sepals) are all the same color (e.g., pink and rose). The stamens and throat may be different.



Here someone holds the anther next to the stigma of a daylily flower

Blend-The flower segments (i.e., petals and sepals) are a blend of two or more colors. The stamens and throat may be different.

Polychrome-The flower segments have an intermingling of three or more colors (e.g., yellow, melon, pink, and lavender). The stamens and throat may be different.

Bitone-The petals and sepals differ in shade or intensity of the same basic color. The petals are the darker shade (e.g., rose pink), while the sepals are lighter (e.g., pale pink). A Reverse Bitone has sepals which are darker than the petals.

Bicolor-The petals and sepals are of different colors

(e.g., red and yellow or purple and gold). The petals are the darker of the two colors.

Eyed/Banded-The flower has a zone of different color or a darker shade of the same color located between the throat and the tips of the flower segments. It is an **Eye** if the zone occurs on both the petals and the sepals. It is a **Band** if the zone occurs only on the petals. It is a **Halo** if the zone is faint or only lightly visible. It is a **Watermark** if the zone is a lighter shade than the rest of the flower segments.

Edged or Picoteed-On some daylilies, the edges of the flower segments are either lighter or darker than the segment color. The width of the edge can range from a very narrow “wire-edge” to as much as 1/4 to 1/2 inches.

Tipped-The segment tips, or more frequently just the petal tips, are a different or contrasting color from the body of the segment (sometimes for as much as one third of the length).



‘Cerise Beauty’ – Pod parent

X



‘Bullfrog Kisses’ – Pollen parent

=

Dotted/Dusted-The surface color of the flower appears to be unevenly distributed over the background color of the bloom rather than being smoothly applied. It is **Dusted** if the color appears to be finely misted onto the surface. It is **Dotted** if the colors are clumped into larger pools. Other terms used to describe uneven coloration include: **Flecked**, **Flaked**, **Speckled**, and **Stippled**.

Midrib-This is the center vein running lengthwise through each flower segment. In some cultivars, the midrib is different in color from the rest of the segment. The midrib can be flush with the surface, raised above it, or recessed.

Diamond Dusting-Tiny crystals in the flower’s cells reflect light, especially in the sun, to give the flower a sparkling or glistening appearance as if sprinkled with gold, silver, or tiny diamonds.

And these are just descriptions of the color of the flowers. There are other terms to describe the flower shape, foliage, bloom time, growth habit and more. But while it may sound complicated, don’t be afraid to try a little crossbreeding in your garden. Who knows, you may be the first person to develop a blue daylily and be filthy rich.

~Chris Dunaway



In this example, breeders Doug McKemie and Sandy Perkins crossed Cerise Beauty with Bullfrog Kisses to develop the new flower seen in the photo above. Photos by Doug McKemie and Sandy Perkins with East Texas Daylilies.

Weed of the Month- Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*, *S. canadensis*)

It is June and one of my favorite “weeds” is out in full force. This weed is one that elsewhere in the world people pay money for and order from fruit tree suppliers, garden centers, and nurseries. We are lucky that elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) grows freely in our area and fruits and flowers year-round (more on why this is exciting later!). Check any empty lot or unused corner of property in the area, chances are good that this useful herbaceous plant is making a foray there.

Elderberry grows as a shrub or tree in the southern regions of its range; however, it will grow “up north” as a shorter/scrubby shrub. The range for North America extends from Zone 3 to 10. In our area, 6-9 feet in height is average. They are perennial and return even after they have been mown or cut back. The shoots are green and tender, hardening into a thin brown bark with maturity. Leaves are serrated, pinnate, and arranged in an opposite pattern. The flowers appear year-round in the New Orleans area, but more prolifically in April-August. They are formed into umbels, with small white, five petaled flowers. Small deep purple berries form in the umbels and can be harvested in clusters. The genus *Sambucus* occurs in tropical and subtropical regions of the world, and it is widely grown for a variety of uses. Elderberry is regarded as both a pesty weed and a fruit producing wild edible in our area.

As a weed, elderberry spreads via an extensive root system which can send up suckers in favorable growing areas. The seeds of the elderberry fruit are often eaten as a food source by birds and other wildlife, who then distribute the seed in their excrement. New elderberries germinate from these seeds easily. They have a tendency to thrive on fence rows, between houses, and on empty lots. To control them, young elderberries can be dug and transplanted or

discarded. Larger, woody elderberry plants can be cut back and a little triclopyr (sold as brush and stump killer) or metsulfuron methyl can be applied to the wound to translocate and kill the extensive root system. All-purpose weed killers like glyphosate usually take several applications to kill an elderberry, especially older established stands.



Photo by Anna Timmerman

A large elderberry plant growing in Anna's neighborhood.

Elderberry is a widely cultivated food and medicinal crop. Many large-fruited cultivars are in the nursery trade and available. These cultivars have been selected for larger sized fruits, larger clusters of fruit, and flavor. American elderberries are reputed to be slightly sweeter than European cultivars. 'Adams', 'John', 'Nova', 'Wildewood', 'Bob Gordon' and 'York' all grow well in orchards or gardens. The wild, uncultivated elderberry frequently found out there is also very productive. Elderberry can be transplanted, grown from seed, and propagated from softwood cuttings. Plant in full to partial shade. Elderberry enjoys rich soils that drain well but will tolerate heavier soils with poor drainage. They have few pest or disease issues worth noting.

Lately there's been a lot of buzz about growing elderberry in home orchards, wildlife gardens, and permaculture/food forest systems. As far as fruit trees go, it's hard to find one that's lower maintenance than elderberry for our area. It quite literally "grows like a weed". It has tremendous value as a wildlife plant.

Many of our migratory birds enjoy eating the fruit. Bluebirds, indigo buntings, cardinals, grosbeaks, blue jays, cedar waxwings, mockingbirds, finches, and kingbirds have all been observed eating the fruits. Opossums, raccoons, and even Louisiana black bears (our official state mammal) will chow down on the berries. Several species of moths utilize elderberry as a host plant. Bees and other insect pollinators enjoy collecting pollen and nectar from the prolific blooms.

Humans have also made good use of the elderberry plant for many generations. The hollow stems can be used as blowguns, to make toy flutes, as straws, and to blow the coals of a fire. The flowers are edible and can be dipped in a simple sweet batter (I make a French crepe batter and use that) and fried. They are wonderful with elderberry syrup, made from the berries stewed down in sugar. The flowers are also used to make elderflower liqueur, including the well-known brand St-Germain. You can make your own by packing a mason jar with the fresh or dried elderflowers, I've included the recipe below.

Elderberry is used to make jams and jellies, pies, dried berries for baking, simple syrup, wine, and even dietary or

medicinal supplements. Elderberry is being studied for its traditional uses in medicinal applications, however there is little current research to back up claims of efficacy as a medicine. It remains popular in many holistic and traditional healing cultures, especially as a cold and flu

remedy. Be sure to do your research before consuming elderberry as it may interfere with certain medications and pregnancy.

Elderberries are out in force right now, with blooms and fruits available for foraging. Be sure to harvest away from any roadways and avoid trespassing. They are easily found throughout the city, including in parks and neighborhoods. This is one foraged food that I never feel bad about stripping bare.



Photo by Anna Timmerman

Chopped elderberry flowers.



Photo by Anna Timmerman

A glass canning jar filled with elderberry flowers and vodka.

Our long growing season means they will fruit and flower again, often more prolifically. Many recipes are available online for making cocktails with the liqueur, lemonade, jelly, and more. This is one useful "weed" to keep on the lookout for in the New Orleans area.

Homemade Elderflower St-Germain Liqueur

Quart mason jar with lid

750 ml good quality vodka

4-5 oz fresh or dried elderflowers

Choose elderflowers free of insects or brown/dead sections. Clip the stems off, leaving the smaller stems and flowers intact in small clusters. Place in a clean mason jar and cover with the vodka. Label your jar with the date. Store in a cool, dark place for 2-4 weeks. Strain mixture through a cheesecloth, discard the steeped elderflowers. Use the liqueur

in cocktails such as a French 77, French gimlet, champagne cocktail, or white cosmo. The flavor is light and makes a good summery drink.

~Anna Timmerman

What's Bugging You – Hammerhead Worm

Hammerhead worm is the common name applied to a long planarian that has been found in Louisiana and creeps people out when first encountered. Planarians are flatworms in the Planariidae family. Planarians live in fresh water, salt water and some are terrestrial. The hammerhead worm is a terrestrial planarian. The hammerhead worm most often encountered in Louisiana is

Bipalium kewense, first described from a greenhouse at Kew Botanical Gardens near London, England, in 1878. It is thought to be native to southeast Asia but has been found in American greenhouses since 1901. In the U.S., they have been found living outside in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, California, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. They have been reported in greenhouses in Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Arizona.

Land planarians are soft, have bilaterally symmetry, have no body cavity (acoelomate), flattened worms, 1 to 20 inches long by 0.2 to 0.5 inches wide. They have no respiratory system (gas exchange happens on the worm's moist surface) and no circulatory system (fluids flow openly), no skeleton, and no anus. The head is expanded into a half-moon shape (lunate). A mouth, which also serves as an anus, is present near the mid-body on the abdominal (ventral) surface. Excretion of fluid wastes is accomplished by protonephridia, specialized cells located throughout the organism that excrete wastes directly to the

outside. The mouth has a muscular pharynx that they can protrude which serves as a feeding organ and is attached to a three-branched intestine. Circular and longitudinal muscles are present. A cerebral ganglion serves as a brain with a ladder-shaped nervous system running the length of the body. All species of *Bipalium* are hermaphroditic, having both testes and ovaries. But in temperate regions *B. kewense* rarely



Hammerhead Worm (*Bipalium kewense*). Photo by Martin LaBar

develop a reproductive system; therefore, they are unable to sexually reproduce. Reproduction is primarily through pinching off segments at the posterior end. Unlike the common misconception about earthworms, if a planarian is cut into segments, each segment will develop into a free-living individual.

Land planarians are predatory on earthworms, slugs, insect larvae, and are cannibalistic. They are their own worst natural enemy. Prey are located by

chemoreceptors located in a single ciliated (covered in microscopic projections that look like tiny hairs) pit under the head or in a ciliated ventral groove. Terrestrial flatworms capture prey by engulfing it with mucous and wrapping their bodies around it. Two species (*Bipalium adventitium* and *B. kewense*) have been shown to produce tetrodotoxin, a powerful neurotoxin (also found in pufferfish) which may be used to paralyze and immobilize prey in addition to their mucous. *Bipalium* species secrete chemicals through their skin to make themselves noxious to predators, and aid in the digestion of prey. These chemicals can cause skin irritation on humans if they hold the flatworm, and domestic mammals if they consume the flatworm. Once the prey is immobilized, the flatworm releases digestive enzymes that dissolve their prey. The liquified results are sucked into the protruded pharynx (mouth) for further metabolism.

Hammerhead worms do eat earthworms but are seldom in numbers high enough to be of any concern except in earthworm rearing systems or vermicomposting systems. There are no easy control measures for eliminating or preventing hammerhead

worms. Individual worms can be killed with vinegar, citrus oil or salt or dropped into alcohol. Don't chop them up in an attempt to kill them. Each piece will make a new hammerhead worm. If handled, it should be while wearing gloves. If handled with bare hands, wash hands immediately with soap and water. There have been no studies to determine the actual effects of the mucous on humans if touched or accidentally consumed. Therefore, precaution is the best approach.

~Dr. Joe Willis

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Hammerhead worm attacking an earthworm. Photo by Jean-Lou Justine.

Torenia-A look into Torenia for a Louisiana Garden

Looking for something to fill in and add substance to a shady garden bed? Or maybe you're looking for something to mix in with a hanging basket that will be placed in an afternoon shaded or filtered light location for the summer months? Intermediate and experienced gardeners understand that the local growing environment dictates what plants will thrive and what will merely

fournieri or "bluewings" is the common species used by gardeners in the United States. The species is described as multi-branched and glabrous (smooth, free of hair) annual reaching heights around 12 inches tall and 6-9 inches wide. The leaves of *T. fournieri* are described as long-stalked, ovate in shape, 1.5-2 inches long, and pale green in color.

There have been a couple of Torenia lines released

over the years. The Clown series produces compact plants that reach heights around 8-10 inches tall. Some of the flower colors in the Clown series include white, pink, deep-purple, and lavender-blue. The Panda series of Torenia produces an even more compact plant around 4-8 inches tall. It also produces similar flower colors like white, pink, purple, and lavender-blue shades. The most recent line of Torenia flowers to hit the market is the Kauai series. The plants in this series produces sizes closer to that of the original species, *T. fournieri* around 8-12 inches tall. You get a little better color options in this series including white, pink, magenta, rose, yellow, and blue.



Kauai Magenta Torenia (*Torenia fournieri*)

survive. If you've been having trouble finding annual color options for shady areas or just want to try something other than impatiens, then give wishbone flower, *Torenia* spp. a try.

The genus *Torenia* contains about 40 species of both annual and perennial plants originating from Asian and African continents. They are classified as subtropical and tropical. These plants didn't evolve in areas where freezing weather occurred. Hence, why they are treated like annuals in the United States. Of the 40 different species known in the world, *Torenia*

The Kauai Series of Torenia also holds an accolade with the LSU AgCenter as being selected as a Louisiana Super Plant back in the spring of 2014.

Although torenia plants are excellent choices for home gardeners throughout the state they still have pest issues from time to time. Botrytis, powdery mildew, and phytophthora can be problematic during multi-day rain events and extended periods of high humidity. Aphids, whiteflies, leafhoppers, and thrips infestations can become problematic during the growing season. To minimize the negative effects of

pest issues and torenia plants, follow basic integrated pest management practices related to physical, mechanical, and cultural control methods. Avoid botrytis issues by planting a later in the spring when nighttime temperatures start to warm up. Manage disease pressure by increasing the amount of space in between plants, avoiding excess moisture on leaf surfaces, and irrigating in the early morning hours. And, don't forget that healthy plants help themselves. Perform the occasional soil test and correct deficiency gaps with an appropriate fertilizer product to ensure that plants are receiving adequate nutrition. Lastly, there are pesticides that can also help in these situations. Be sure to read the label for proper mixing and application instructions.

~William Afton

LSU AgCenter County Agent
St. Tammany Parish



Kauai Rose Torenia



A large planting of Kauai Lemon Drop Torenia at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station.

It's Milkweed Cutback Time

As of June 1, we can be confident all the northbound migratory monarchs from Mexico have completed their Louisiana passage. We are a monarch spring breeding ground. Eggs laid here in March and April hatched into caterpillars that matured into butterflies through May. We now pass the baton to gardeners in the Midwest and Canada, where milkweed is fresh and the heavy lifting of monarch summer breeding has begun.

Summertime monarchs in the NOLA area are something of a fluke. A few late season caterpillars

become get stuck here after temperatures get too hot (85 degrees plus) for long distance flying. A kind of heat dome traps these late-bloomers into an environment full of their natural predators: Wasps, geckos and spores from the dreaded Oe (*Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*) disease thrive in heat. Hot weather also breeds problems for milkweed plants like fungal and beetle infestation.

Linda Auld recently organized a small group of monarch home rearers to monitor for Oe infection. As of May 20, of thirteen wild caught monarchs, three were Oe positive (23%) and of forty-four home-reared monarchs (using sanitary protocols) seven were

positive (16%). These numbers will inevitably climb. So please do what responsible monarch conservation groups like the Xerces Society and Project Monarch Health ask. Cut back all milkweeds to six inches now. Yes, native too. After cutting them down keep taking

care of the plants and they will regrow. Since the Southward migrating butterflies do not need host plants be ready to cut it back again on October 1st.

Tropical milkweed grows easily from seed so you just pull it out and sow seeds in November for the Spring migration. If you have pods you want to keep for seed, net the



Here we see Oe spores from this monarch butterfly.

entire plant using a tomato cage or other framework. Net holes should be large enough to let bees in but small enough to keep butterflies out.

Then turn your attention to other butterfly host plants such as passion flower vine, dill, fennel, citrus, legumes and sassafras. All these support caterpillars of the wonderful Louisiana butterflies that actually belong here during the hot summer! Happy pollinator gardening!

~Ginna Hoff

NOLA Butterfly Club and Monarch Watch conservation specialist

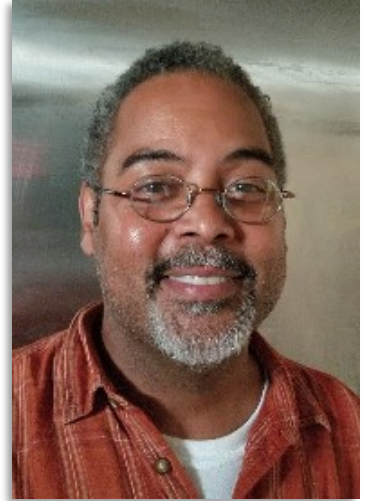
In the Kitchen with Austin

Peach Cobbler

I love peaches! This cobbler recipe is simple and delicious. Try it and I know you won't be disappointed.

Ingredients:

½ cup butter, melted	2 tsp. baking powder
1 lb. fresh peaches, peeled and sliced	¼ tsp. salt
1 cup sugar, divided	1 cup milk
1 cup flour	



Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Pour melted butter into a baking dish and set aside. Place peaches and ¼ cup sugar in a saucepan. Simmer over low heat just to a boil, stirring occasionally.

Meanwhile, in a bowl, combine remaining sugar, flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir in milk, mixing well. Pour batter over butter in baking dish. Spoon peaches and their juices over batter and bake until golden, 20-25 minutes. Serve warm plain or with whipped cream.

Bon Manger!

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



**NEW ORLEANS
BOTANICAL GARDEN**
CITY PARK

Friday, June 3 & Saturday, June 4

9 AM—1 PM

Pelican Greenhouse

2 Celebration Drive.

(Not inside the Botanical Garden)

Visit NewOrleansCityPark.com for park map

Coming Events

Louisiana Super Plant Garden Tour

Generously maintained by the Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans, the LSP garden is nestled in the triangle between the Pavilion of the Two Sisters and the Besthoff Sculpture garden on Victory Drive in New Orleans City Park.

The Louisiana Super Plant program is an educational and marketing campaign that

highlights tough and beautiful plants that perform well in Louisiana landscapes. Louisiana Super Plants have a proven track record having gone through several years of university evaluations and observations. Louisiana Super Plants are “university tested and industry approved”.

**Across from Pavilion of the Two Sisters entrance at
3 Victory Drive, New Orleans, LA
Thursday, June 16, from 5 to 6 pm**



36th Annual Creole Tomato Festival in the French Market



The French Market's annual Creole Tomato Festival celebrates the bounty of southeast Louisiana with live music, Creole tomato dishes, and more!

June 11-12th, 2022.

At the French Market in the
Historic New Orleans French Quarter

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

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

German Coast Farmer's Market at St. Charles Parish Eastbank Regional Library

160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA
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

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

2216 Metairie Rd.
1st Thursdays monthly, 2PM-7PM
3rd Saturday monthly, 10AM-3PM

St. Tammany Parish

Covington Farmers' Market

Covington Police Department
609 North Columbia St., Covington, LA 70433
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
Covington Trailhead
419 N. New Hampshire
Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (rain or shine)
www.covingtonfarmersmarket.org
General information: 985.966.1786

Mandeville Trailhead Community Market

Mandeville Trailhead
675 Lafitte St, Mandeville, LA 70448
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMandevilleTrailhead>
985.624.3147

Madisonville Market

Riverside Park South
Water St., Madisonville, LA 70447
Sunday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
www.madisonvillemarket.org

Folsom Village Market

Hwy 40, one block east of Hwy 25
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (weather permitting)
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday
985.507.6496 (daytime only)

Abita Springs Art and Farmers' Market

22049 Main St., Abita Springs, LA 70420
Sunday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.townofabitasprings.com/farmers-market>
985.892.0711

Camellia City Farmer's Market

Old Towne Slidell
333 Erlanger St. (Corner of Third St.)
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/>
985.640.7112



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	Online Sales	www.neworleans-green.com

Plaquemines

Southern Gateway Garden Center	107 Timber Ridge St., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 393-9300
Belle Danse Orchids	14079 Belle Chasse Hwy., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 419-5416

St. Charles

Plant & Palm Tropical Outlet	10018 River Rd., St. Rose, LA 70087	(504) 468-7256
Martin's Nursery & Landscape	320 3 rd St., Luling, LA 70070	(985) 785-6165

St. Bernard

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) 739-5715
Plumeria Insanity Nursery	https://www.facebook.com/Plumeria-Insanity-Nursery-102123651930419	

Soil Vendors

Schmelly's Dirt Farm	8301 Olive St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 535-GROW
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 887-433
Reliable Soil	725 Reverand Richard Wilson Dr., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 467-1078
Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
Rock n' Soil NOLA	9119 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 488-0908
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713

If you would like your licensed retail nursery listed, please email gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

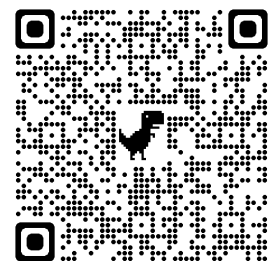
Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

Funding helps the LSU AgCenter agents provide help for:

- School and Community Gardens
- Educational Training Events
- Seed Libraries
- Demonstration Gardens
- Educational Scholarships
- Local Research
- and Much More



Dr. Joe and Anna install plants in a butterfly garden for AgMagic on the River.



Scan the QR code above to go to the LSU Foundation donation webpage.

Or Click here: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1585/17/interior.aspx?sid=1585&gid=1&pgid=666&cid=1464&bledit=1&dids=5517>

June Checklist/Garden Tips

During dry weather don't forget to keep your compost pile evenly moist. Dry organic matter will not decompose. Do not, however, keep the pile saturated as that can cause bad odors.

Be sure that your citrus trees receive enough water to prevent fruit split.

Apply paint or shade cloth to greenhouses to prevent heat buildup. Fans should run just about constantly.

Prune climbing roses and ramblers that bloom on one year old growth now if needed to shape and train them.

Prepare trees for hurricane season by pruning out all weak, rotting or dead branches. Remove dead or rotten trees that might blow over in high winds.

Remove any flowers that appear on caladiums or coleus to promote continued production of colorful foliage.

When a gladiolus finishes blooming, prune off the faded flower spike but leave the foliage intact. The foliage will produce food that is stored in the newly developing corm ensuring a large, healthy corm that will bloom well next year.

Trim dead flowers from chrysanthemums that bloomed earlier if you have not done so already. Cut plants back about half way and fertilize to encourage vigorous growth. Pinch vigorous shoots over the next six weeks to create a bushier, fuller plant. Do not pinch or cut back after late July.

Plant a row or two of peanuts in the home garden now as early summer crops are pulled up. Shell raw peanuts and plant about three to four seeds per foot of row. Water once a day until the seeds come up. Peanuts also make an excellent green manure crop. Just as the plants come into flower turn them under. They will enrich the soil with nitrogen and organic matter. Allow the bed to sit for a few weeks while the organic matter decomposes, and you will be ready to plant a fall crop.

Dig and store gladiolus corms after the foliage turns brown. The largest corms are the ones that will flower next year.

Watch the rainfall you receive carefully, as it varies widely around the area. Cut back on irrigation whenever your garden receives one half inch or more of rain. Over watering is entirely possible if you are not careful, and that can lead to fungus problems such as stem, crown and root rot.

High temperatures and high humidity create a high heat index here in the summer. Adjust your gardening schedule to take advantage of cooler times of the day. Remember to drink plenty of water.

Spray peach tree trunks with permethrin to prevent the peach tree borer from getting into the trunk and causing damage.

Keep caladiums well watered during hot, dry weather to keep the foliage in good shape through the summer. Fertilize occasionally to encourage vigorous growth. Break off any flowers that form.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

2. Chinch bugs, which are most damaging during hot dry weather, often begin to show up in June. Look for irregular dead areas that enlarge fairly rapidly. The grass will have a dry, straw-like appearance. Treat with acephate, permethrin, cyfluthrin or other labeled insecticides to prevent extensive damage. Follow label directions carefully.



Image at left shows the life stages of a chinch bug from egg to adult.

3. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches.
4. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
5. You may fertilize Your lawn in June if desired. See page 5 of the [Louisiana Lawns Best Management Guide](#) for information about proper fertilization rates for your turf grass variety.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Spread fill soil and compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
8. Set your mower to the correct height. See page 5 of the [Louisiana Lawns Best Management Guide](#) for information about proper mowing height for your turf grass variety.
9. You may still plant warm season grasses such as St. Augustine, centipede, bermuda and zoysia. You may need to pay particular attention to watering properly. Do not let the new grass dry out.

Don't's

1. Do not apply selective herbicides (weed killer) to the lawn. It is too hot. Pull weeds by hand or spot treat with non-selective herbicides.
2. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

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



Follow us on Facebook at [GNOGardening](#)

For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

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