



GNO Gardening Magazine

April 2024

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Cover photo: a close up image of a bottlebrush flower.

Photo by Chris Dunaway

In Bloom

As we exit winter, we turn our attention to warmer conditions and the blooms that accompany this time of year. Weather certainly can change moods – in the last two years we have observed impromptu frosts/freezes in late winter/early spring. However, once April rolls around we can confidently

say spring is here again. With that brings an assortment of flowers, or reproductive glands.

Bottlebrush
(*Callistemon*)

Here is one that likes all our midday sun. With flowers bright and long, a range of pollinators are drawn... and it sure grows well in heat. This evergreen Australian native is

often observed as a shrub, where the red/yellow hued flowers pop out. The form of the flowers resemble that of the plant's namesake – with the fine textured stamens of the flower resembling the bristles of a bottlebrush. With the showy blooms, pollinators (especially butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees) find themselves in a state of nirvana around this shrub.

Fringetree (*Chionanthus*)

The profuse, showy white flowers of *Chionanthus* are a bright beacon in the landscape. Even with the lights out, it sustains this glow... perfect for guests arriving in the evening for entertainment. There are native (*C. virginicus*; or as we like to call him – Grancy Graybeard, Grandfather Graybeard, or any of the Graybeards) and non-native (*C. retusus*, from China) fringetrees that may be selected in your landscape. While it may not smell like teen spirit, the fragrant

flowers have been known to feature an appealing lilac-like scent. These small, deciduous trees are a great selection for the landscape.

Viburnum (*Viburnum*)

There are several Viburnums that are common in the Louisiana landscape, but one of our favorites is the

Louisiana Super Plant - 'Mrs. Schiller's Delight'. This native viburnum has small, fragrant flowers that cast clusters of white over the evergreen, fine-textured foliage of this shrub. This selection has a compact, dwarfing growth habit that suits it well for small spaces... so if something in the way, this variety will



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A large Chinese fringe tree in bloom in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens.

not encroach.

We can list some more. Nature is a chore.... but it is indeed a labor of love. With spring weather, it is necessary to prepare for disease issues and other seasonal considerations. Clean tools are essential to healthy landscapes. Make sure to wash off your tools if they are doused in mud, and if you are concerned about disease spreading, soak pruning blades in bleach (diluted to 10%). One last thing – for most spring flowering plants, it is best to prune right after blooms fade (to allow time for flower buds to develop for the next spring). You don't have to rush to do this – take your time, but hurry up before you get sidetracked. The choice is yours, but don't prune too late. Most importantly, take time to take a rest with some friends in your garden, and create a memory.

~Dr. Damon Abdi and Dr. Jeb Fields

April Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Snap Beans (bush or pole)	Bush-Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Derby, Lynx, Strike Pole-Blue Lake, Kentucky Blue, McCaslin
Sweet Corn	Merit, Silver Queen, Honey ‘n Pearl, Ambrosia
Summer Squash	Gold Rush, Justice III, Multipik, Patriot II
Hot Peppers (transplant)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla,
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Tomato (transplant)	Better Boy, Big Beef, Cupid, Pink Girl, Juliet, Sweet Milton, Bella Rosa, Carolina Gold
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Vates
Cucumbers	Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Indy, Olympian, Sweet Success, Sweet Slice
Cucuzza	None Given
Lima Beans (bush or pole)	Dixie Butterpea, Jackson Wonder, Thorogreen Florida Speckled, King of Garden
Bell Peppers (transplants)	Aristotle X3R, Jupiter, Lilac, Plato, Tequila
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross
Swiss Chard	None Given
Winter Squash	Honey Bear, Sweet Mama, Table Queen, Tivoli
Eggplant	Dusky, Night Shadow, Epic, Santana, Calliope

Look at Me:

Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa caucasica*)

One of the more unusual cool season flowers that make gorgeous cut flowers is Scabiosa, also called pincushion flower. It is in the Caprifoliaceae family, along with honeysuckles and weigela. Scabiosa have prominently protruding stamens which look like pins stuck in a round cushion, hence the name. This plant is native to Europe. In cooler parts of the United States it can be a perennial, in the New Orleans area it is treated as a cool season annual.

Scabiosa plants are low growing with mounded foliage. The foliage is usually 10-15" tall, with taller flower stems emerging to support up to fifty blooms per plant, though twenty blooms per plant is more usual. The flowers vary in size based on the cultivar but are button-like, round, with ray flowers surrounding the central disc, from which the stamens protrude. Scabiosa come in shades of lavender and purple, white, blue, cream, black, violet, pink, apricot, and red.

Scabiosa is fairly easy to grow from seed. Sow in potting mix indoors under lights a month before the last frost date. In the New Orleans area, this means the ideal time to sow the seeds is mid-January through into early March. Scabiosa transplants can also be found at many local garden centers in the

spring, as well as from floral vendors at the garden shows. Plant your scabiosa in full sun with at least six to eight hours of light per day. They enjoy rich, well-draining soil. They need roughly an inch of rainfall or

irrigation water per week to thrive. Fertilizer is generally not needed in good quality soil. They have no pest and disease issues of note.

There are many cultivars and mixes of scabiosa colors available from seed companies. Some are bred specifically for the cut flower trade and feature upright, strong stems. Others are cottage flowers or bedding plants. Here are a few of the cultivars available on the market:



Photo by Anna Timmerman

'Pink Mist' Scabiosa Flowers

Violet: 'Oxford Blue', 'Stellata'

White: 'Snowmaiden' and 'Fama White'

Cream: 'Fata Morgana', 'Drumsticks', and 'Starflower'

Black: 'Black Knight' and 'Black Beauty', 'Ace of Spades'

Blue: 'Fama Deep Blue', 'Blue Note'

Pink: 'Salmon Rose', 'Salmon Queen'

Red: 'Merlot Red'

Blends: 'Pincushion Formula Mix', 'Triple Berry Mix', 'Isaac House Blend', 'Tall Double Mix', 'Night and Day', 'Imperial Mix'

~Anna Timmerman

What's Bugging You?

Two-lined Spittlebug (*Prosapia bicincta*)

Two-lined spittlebug (*Prosapia bicincta*) is a pest of warm-season turfgrasses but especially favors centipede and bermudagrass. Adults have also been reported to feed on woody ornamentals, especially hollies, and perennial ornamentals like aster and morning glory. Adults and nymphs have piercing-sucking mouthparts. When feeding, they inject toxins into the plant and suck sap from the grasses. Injury results in chlorotic stippling and yellowing of grass blades and may show as weakened patches of yellowing turf that may eventually die. They belong to the order Hemiptera in the family Cercopidae which includes froghoppers and spittlebugs.



Adult two-lined spittlebug (*Prosapia bicincta*). Picture by Katja Schulz.

Spittlebug nymphs hatch in the Spring from overwintering eggs and begin to feed right away. As the nymphs feed, they create a foamy mass of juice from the plant sap, the appearance of which gives them their common name. This spittle mass is a defensive mechanism to protect the nymphs from predation and dehydration. The spittle mass may contain more than one nymph and is unsightly in the lawn. Spittlebugs can also become a nuisance in pastures. The life cycle takes less than 50 days and includes egg, four nymphal stages, and adult. Females lay up to 40 tiny, orange eggs, usually on grass stems near the soil surface. There are two generations per year in our area with the second generation occurring

in late Summer/early Fall.

Adult two-lined spittlebugs are ¼" to ½" long, black with two red stripes running horizontally across their body. They have bright red eyes and a red underbelly that is prominent in flight. When disturbed, they can

leap over two feet in less than a second. The folded wings create a V on the adult's back.

Nymphs look very similar to the adult but have no wings and are yellow to white with red eyes. Only the nymphs create the spittle mass.

The bright orange eggs are a little over 1 mm long and are usually laid singly.

As mentioned earlier, symptoms of spittlebug infestation result from injection of phytotoxins during feeding and the damage caused by sucking sap from the plant. Purple, red, or white streaking may sometimes be observed running the length of the leaf blade. Heavily infested grasses will wilt followed by the leaf blades turning brown and dying. Though

heavy infestations can lead to turfgrass death, the usual effect is weakening of the turf but mostly aesthetic.

Properly maintained lawns are one of the best guards against spittlebug invasions. High humidity, prolonged rain or excessive irrigation, and a thick thatch layer creates an ideal environment for the spittlebug life cycle. Chemical control measures should only be used if lawn maintenance and care doesn't prevent heavy infestations. Chemicals that are effective and labeled for spittlebug control include those with active ingredients such as acephate, bifenthrin, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos, deltamethrin, and imidacloprid+cyfluthrin. Good coverage is essential for best control and liquid formulations are more effective than granular

formulations. Damage to turf is usually worse with the second generation so controlling the first generation that you see now will reduce the impact of the second generation.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis



Two-lined spittlebug nymph in protective spittle mass. Photo by Purdue University.

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Weed of the Month

Narrowleaf Vetch (*Vicia sativa*)

A lot of people think of warm weather when they think of spring. It's the season that directly follows winter so you can't blame them. As we get closer and closer to spring some folks start noticing certain weeds in lawn and flowerbed situations that are

growing and thriving in early spring weather patterns like cool nights, increasing day light, and increasing day temperatures. This is the peak season for a cool-season plant. It's the same reason pansies, snapdragons, and petunias look like they are on steroids during this same time. Just like bedding plants and other annuals, weeds offer cool-season types that thrive during this time of year. One of the more common weeds that I am seeing

now is common vetch and all of its pea-like flowers.

Common vetch, *Vicia sativa*, is an annual plant in the bean family, Fabaceae. This is an interesting family of plants because it includes trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that can all be recognized by the seed pod made after flowering. So yeah, that means that water locust trees (*Gleditsia aquatica*), soybean plant (*Glycine max*), and common vetch (*V. sativa*) all share a common ancestor! Members of this family utilize mycorrhizal fungi to fix atmospheric nitrogen (N_2) and convert it to plant available nitrogen (NO_3) so that there is always a source of usable nitrogen within the root zone.

The plant itself is easy to identify due to its

compound leaf and pea-like flower. The leaves of common vetch are made up of 5-6 pairs of leaflets and emerge alternately down the stem. Tendrils can be seen at the tips of leaves and provide a way for the plant to climb onto structures or nearby plants. The

flowers are pea-shaped and somewhat inconspicuous because they occur in leaf axils, the area between the stem and the petiole (stem of a leaf). The upper petal flares up because it's wider and displays a notch at the tip. The lateral petals are more of an oval shape and can be a slightly darker color than the upper petal. The color of the flower can be various shades of purple or lavender. Sometimes a darker purple can appear as

blue. Once flowers are pollinated a 1-3 inch seed pod forms, eventually turning black when mature.

This plant doesn't always identify as a weed, a plant growing out of place. Organic and sustainable producers will use this plant as a cool season cover crop to help regenerate and maintain soil health. Naturalist minded folks enjoy the dainty growth habit and flower show of this plant treating it like a wildflower. Hunters will even add this plant to a fall winter wildlife food plot. These folks have no issue with it at all! However, sometimes weed pressure gets out of hand in a flower bed or home lawn and steps need to be taken.

To control this plant growing in a flower bed situation



you can always hand pull. Common vetch has a weak taproot that tends to break off at soil level. Think about using an assisted weeder tool to help remove plants along with root systems. Pull plants as they appear so you don't get overwhelmed. For those looking for help from a conventional insecticide the only option in a flowerbed situation is glyphosate. It will need to be applied from a shielded sprayer because glyphosate is non-selective and will injure any plant with green leaves. Some folks get crafty and use a large sheet of cardboard to physical block desirable plant from any unintended spray drift. To control this plant in a lawn situation, start by growing healthy turfgrass. Take soil samples and add deficient plant nutrients via fertilizer. Provide supplemental irrigation during long stretches of drought. Under sufficient light conditions, all warm

Photo by Harry Rose



a compound leaf on a common vetch plant. Notice the tendrils at the very tip. This is how the plant attaches to other plants and features in the home landscape.



Photo by Will Afton

The flower of *V. sativa*. Notice the enlarged top petal with notch compared to the two lateral petals. This is why some say that the flowers are pea-like.

season turfgrasses should outcompete common vetch. Look to improve sunlight conditions in shadier areas of the lawn. Some situations may require you to expand a flowerbed or mulched area. Conventional control in a home lawn can be achieved via pre-emergent and post emergent herbicides. An application of dithiopyr (Hi-Yield Weed and Grass Stopper II containing Dimension) in mid-September will reduce initial germination and an application of a 4-way herbicide (Weed B Gon Max for Southern Lawns or Fertilome Weed Free Zone) in late winter will get the rest.

Whether you enjoy the company of common vetch or you can't stand the look of it, you now know a little more about the plant. The rest is up to you!

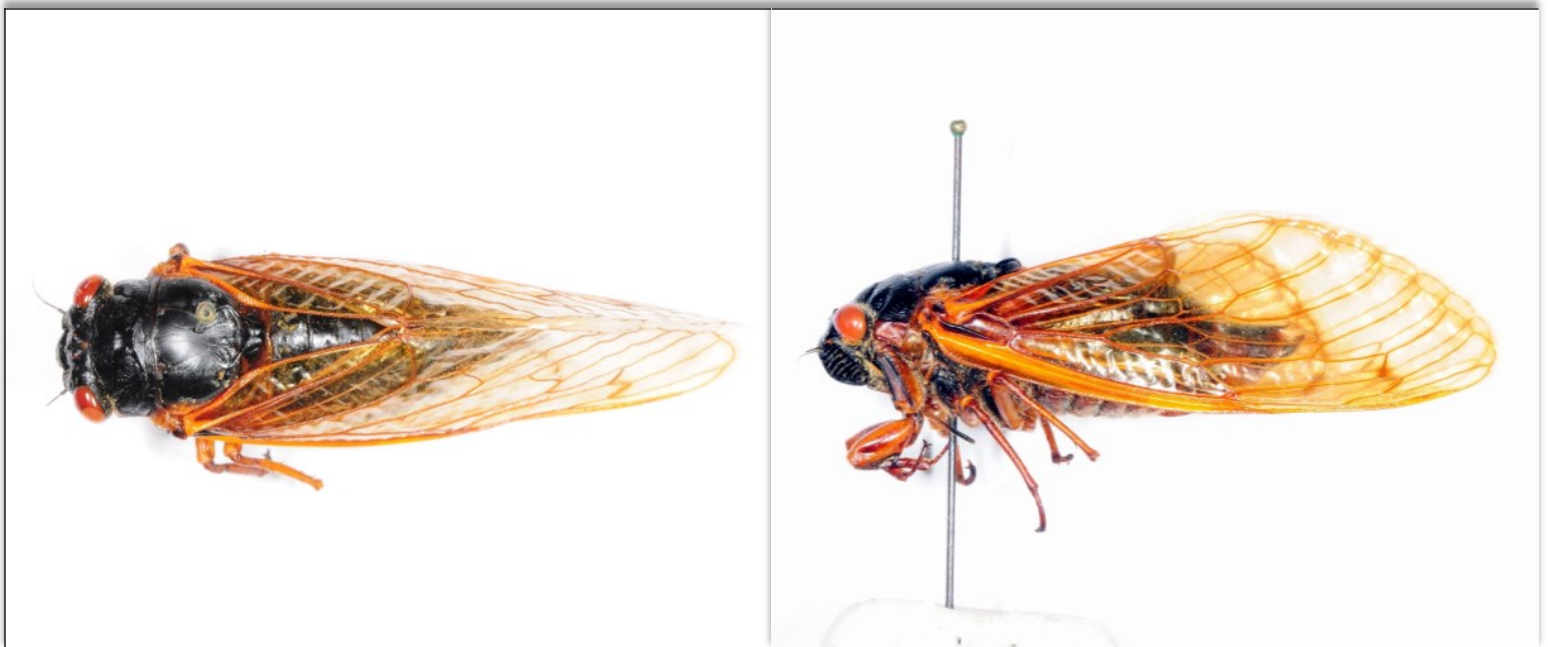
~William Afton

Periodical and Annual Cicadas in Louisiana

Periodical cicadas (order Hemiptera: genus *Magicicada*) employ a remarkable life cycle strategy known in no other group of insects. Immatures (nymphs) remain under ground for either 13 or 17 years within discreet populations called broods, identified by Roman numerals. Underground, they feed on sap from tree roots and slowly grow to maturity. After 13 or 17 years, during spring when the soil at 7 or 8 inches of depth reaches a temperature of 64° F, they emerge in mass, mate, and die within a few weeks. All cicadas molt to adults as soon as they emerge from underground, leaving their molted immature exoskeletons on various elevated surfaces as familiar reminders of their existence. Adults feed very little, but males put on a spectacular chorus of songs to attract females. They use specialized organs called tymbals and resonating chambers in their abdomens to produce their songs. Periodical cicada emergences include up to three species that are nearly identical in appearance, each with a different song and daily activity pattern, reducing competition and potential failed mating interactions. The entire

phenomenon plays out within a few short weeks. Newly hatched cicada nymphs burrow into the ground, adults die, and the whole cycle begins again. There is a strong selection pressure against occasional off-cycle adult emergence, as they are quickly consumed by predators and do not have an opportunity to reproduce.

This year, as temperatures rise and summer approaches, Louisianians could potentially witness the emergence of periodical cicadas, as 13-year cicada Brood XIX is scheduled to make an appearance spanning several states, including northern Louisiana. Historical records indicate the parishes where they may be found are Caddo, Claiborne, and Webster. Lack of documentation of the previous emergence in the state has led to concerns about Brood XIX's potential extinction. During 2011, the scheduled emergence of Brood XIX resulted in no reliable records from Louisiana. Factors such as habitat destruction and pesticide use pose threats to periodical cicadas, underscoring the need for conservation efforts, especially without current



Left image: dorsal view, right image: lateral view. *Magicicada tredecim*, one of three species of 13-year periodical cicadas occurring in Louisiana. The dorsal thoraxes of adults are black, and the undersides are caramel colored. They have reddish eyes and golden yellow wing veins. Adults are 1.1–1.3 inches in body lengths (Photo credit: Louisiana State Arthropod Museum).

documented sightings. Amidst uncertainty about the fate of Brood XIX, we call on citizen scientists to aid in documentation efforts. Platforms like iNaturalist.org and Bugguide.net provide avenues for

enthusiasts to upload observations and location of periodical cicadas which would provide new information on the distribution and survival of the brood XIX cicada population. Camp sites in long-standing recreation areas such as wildlife management areas and state parks in Caddo, Claiborne, Webster and adjacent parishes are ideal places to search for periodical cicadas starting early-May through early June. If populations still exist, these records will allow proactive conservation measures to ensure their survival. By keeping their eyes and ears alert for possible occurrences and uploading pictures of periodical cicadas, citizen scientists can play an important part in resolving the question of Brood XIX's continued existence in Louisiana.

In addition to the 2024 emergence of brood XIX, two additional 13-year broods will be emerging during the coming years, brood XXII during 2027, and brood XXIII during 2028. Both of these broods cover a large area of eastern Louisiana, and have been documented

as far south as Baton Rouge. Thus, if you live in the New Orleans area, you will have to travel to either Northern Louisiana (Caddo, Claiborne, Webster and adjacent parishes) to see Brood XIX this year. If you

are interested in seeing Brood XXII, East and West Baton Rouge, East and West Feliciana, and the Iberville parishes should be planned for 2027. In 2028, we anticipate Brood XXIII in Northern Eastern Louisiana, and they have a broader distribution, starting from Ouachita parish and transversing over into Alabama. The 17-year broods are more northern in distribution and do not occur in Louisiana.

Periodical cicada emergences are a remarkable natural spectacle. Cicadas also play an important role in the ecosystem, providing a food resource for wildlife and enriching the soil after mass die offs following emergences. Periodical cicada broods are



Top image: dorsal view, Lower image: lateral view. *Pacarina puella*, the little mesquite cicada, one of the smallest cicadas occurring in Louisiana. Adults are variable light and dark gray on the dorsal thorax, with green hues. The eyes of *P. puella* are black or gray and they have light brown wing venation. Adults are 0.8–1.0 inch in body lengths (Photo credit: Louisiana State Arthropod Museum).

distinguished by their dormancy periods of 13 or 17 years. The length of their cycles are prime numbers, which ensures that each brood can emerge in synchrony and maintain separate cycles without genetically disruptive overlaps of emergences. While their loud calls may be annoying, cicadas pose no harm to humans or pets. Adult females deposit eggs

in new growth of trees, which may cause temporary minor damage, but this is not considered detrimental and trees quickly sprout new growth.

Louisiana residents are probably more familiar with the annual emergence of dog day cicadas and several other smaller species. These annual cicadas, commonly encountered throughout Louisiana and beyond, exhibit different life cycles that set them apart from periodical cicadas. While both belong to the family Cicadidae, their emergence patterns and behaviors differ significantly. Annual cicadas, as their name suggests, emerge yearly, with individual species exhibiting variations in their life cycles. Unlike periodical cicadas, which undergo extended dormancy periods of 13 or 17 years, annual cicadas complete their life cycle within one to five years. Annual and periodical cicadas also differ in appearance. The large dog day cicadas are roughly one to two inches in length, primarily green, with intricate black patterning on their bodies. Several smaller species occur in Louisiana, including the little mesquite cicada (*Pacarina puella*), a tiny, delicate species barely three-fourths of an inch in length. In total 17 species of Louisiana native cicadas are documented in the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum, with seven additional species recorded on

iNaturalist.org. The wing venation and eyes of annual cicadas are black or gray. Periodical cicadas are around an inch in length, primarily black, and do not have patterning on their bodies. The wing veins of periodical cicadas are golden yellow, and their eyes are red. While periodical cicadas emerge in synchronized broods, annual cicadas follow an asynchronous emergence pattern, with different populations emerging at varying times throughout the summer months. This asynchronous emergence allows annual cicadas to avoid competition for resources and predators that may target them during emergence in their vulnerable nymphal stage. Annual cicada emergences begin during late spring, populations are less dense, and extend throughout the summer.

In conclusion, if you are inclined, please visit the parishes in the northern part of the state and be alert for possible periodical cicada emergence during spring 2024 (approximately early May to Early June). If you are lucky enough to witness this remarkable natural phenomenon, please take photos as positive documentation of the continued existence of Brood XIX in Louisiana.

~Dr. Aaron Ashbrook and Dr. Chris Carlton



Left image: dorsal view, right image: lateral view. *Megatibicen resh*, the resh cicada, one of the largest cicadas occurring in Louisiana. The dorsal thoraxes of adults are black, green, and brown in a camouflage like pattern. Wing vein coloration is similar to body color. Eye color is variable, but typically dark gray. Adults are 1.3–2.0 inches in body lengths (Photo credit: Louisiana State Arthropod Museum).

Disorder of the Month

Lawn Thatch

I find that many of the lawncare issues that I see are the result of excess thatch buildup. Specifically what I see is a thick basketweave of intertwined stolons growing across the soil surface. As new roots begin to grow from the nodes, they have to traverse several inches of this thatch layer before reaching the soil. This can leave the plants vulnerable to damage from insects and drought conditions.

You can check for thatch several ways.

First, push down on the grass. It should feel firm while thatch buildup will make it feel spongy. Next, grasp some of the grass with your hand and try to move it back and forth. If it is firmly rooted to the soil then it should not move. If there is thatch buildup, the grass that you are holding will not only move but surrounding grass will also move. If you do have a basketweave of thatch you should also be able to easily pull out some of the stolons and examine the roots. Grass growing in thatch will have sparse, long woody roots that are incapable of absorbing water and nutrients.

This problem is often times exacerbated by compaction of the soil below. Soil compaction is caused by loss of organic material over time, traffic on the surface from people, lawnmowers and other factors. Compaction is detrimental to plant growth because it prevents root growth and reduces water and air penetration. Grass roots growing in compacted soil will be short and less developed than those growing in healthy soil. Healthy, non-compacted soil is capable of holding more water than compacted soils and deeper roots will allow the plants to reach moisture deeper in the soil which makes them much more drought tolerant.

Recommended Cultural Practices



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A long St. Augustine grass stolon (runner) with exposed roots. Nodes are spaced about 1 inch apart on the stolon. Each node can produce leaves and roots.



The deep intricate root systems of grass growing in healthy soil. Healthy roots are generally white in color like these in the photo.

There are steps that should be a part of your lawncare regimen that will alleviate thatch buildup and prevent it from recurring.

Top dress the lawn with topsoil using 0.75 ft³ (one bag) of topsoil per 100 ft² of lawn area. Spread the material with a rake so that it settles down to fill in around exposed roots and blades of grass. This is best done in the warmer months while the grass is actively growing. Repeat twice per year to correct thatch buildup and annually afterward to maintain. Add fertilizer and soil amendments prior to adding topsoil.

Soil compaction can be addressed using core aeration. In this process use a handheld device or aeration machine to remove cores of soil from the compacted ground. This will open passages in the soil for water and air to enter. Back fill the holes by topdressing with topsoil to improve plant root penetration. This should also be done while the grass is actively growing. Aeration can be done twice per year to correct compaction and every 3 years to maintain.

If you are installing a new lawn, it is important to add compost and till the soil to eliminate compaction, add organic material and create a favorable planting bed.

The final step to take to eliminate this type of basketweave thatch is to verticut the grass using a dethatching machine. These machines have numerous sharp blades that spin vertically and can cut down through the grass stolons. Rake up and remove the excess material and spread out a dressing of topsoil.

These steps are just part of a good lawncare program. Adopting best management practices will not only

Photo by Chris Dunaway



Thick thatch layers, like in the above photo, are frequently visible along sidewalks and driveways where the lawn was cut with an edging machine.

Photo by Chris Dunaway



Bags of compost are easy to use to top dress a lawn. Each 0.75 ft³ bag can cover about 100 square feet of lawn area.

create a better lawn but also reduce inputs and environmental impact.

To learn more about the best management practices for lawncare please read our lawncare publication.

[Click here to find the link to Louisiana Lawns.](#)

~Chris Dunaway

In the Kitchen with Austin

Loquat Crumble

Before the birds get to them, pick a bowl full of loquats and make this crumble. I promise, you will not be disappointed.

Ingredients:

Filling

5 cups loquats, seeded & blossom end removed
¼ cup sugar
Juice of 1 lemon
1 Tbs. lemon zest
Pinch of salt
2 Tbs. cornstarch
1 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. vanilla

Crumble Topping

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 cup light brown sugar
¼ tsp. salt
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
1 stick butter, melted



Loquat Crumble

Directions:

For topping, stir flour, sugar, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl to combine. Pour in melted butter to make large crumbs. Set aside and preheat oven to 375°.

In a large bowl, combine loquats with lemon juice and toss. Add lemon zest, sugar, cornstarch, salt, ginger, and vanilla. Stir to combine.

Pour loquat mixture into an 8x8 baking dish, then cover filling with crumble topping.

Bake for 45 minutes, until lightly browned.

Bien Manger



If I only had a dollar for every dollarweed leaf in this lawn.

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 Truck Farm Table

200 N. Broad (In Whole Foods lobby or in
parking lot, weather permitting)
Walk up <https://www.sproutnolaform.org/>

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
<https://www.facebook.com/MarketplaceArmstrongPark/>

New Orleans French Market

Lower Decatur Street
Daily, 9AM-6PM

Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market

Comiskey Park, New Orleans
Market dates vary.
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/](https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/events)
events

Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9th Ward

2301 Gallier Street at the garden, Saturdays
from 10AM-1PM
3440 Piety Street Fresh Market open daily,
weekly bulk produce sale.
<https://www.facebook.com/BarceloGardens/>

Bywater Market at Trap Kitchen-Bywater

1043 Poland Ave
Sundays from 10AM-3PM

BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point

4123 Woodland Dr. Algiers
First and Third Sundays of the month, from
10AM-1PM
<https://www.bounyfulgreenmarket.com/>

Sankofa Fresh Stop Market

Coming soon!
<https://sankofanola.org/rfq/>

Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods- Treme-Laffite

585 N. Claiborne at Lafitte Greenway
(under overpass)
Check for current dates/times at
www.sheauxfresh.org

FUBU Market

3101 Erato Street New Orleans, location
changes, check website/social media
<https://www.facebook.com/TheFUBUMarket>
www.fubumarket.com/

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/](https://www.facebook.com/TheMandevilleTrailhead)
TheMandevilleTrailhead
985.624.3147

Madisonville Market

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

Folsom Village Market

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

Abita Springs Art and Farmers' Market

22049 Main St., Abita Springs, LA 70420
Sunday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM (rain or shine)
[https://www.townofabitasprings.com/](https://www.townofabitasprings.com/farmers-market)
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/](https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/)
CamelliaCityMarket/
985.640.7112

St. Charles Parish

Luling Farmer's Market at Westbank Bridge Park-Luling

13825 River Road, Luling, LA
Wednesdays, from 1-5PM
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

German Coast Farmer's Market

160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

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
<https://www.gretnala.com/visitors/farmers-market/>

Nawlins Outdoor Market

1048 Scotsdale Dr., Harvey
Every Saturday & Sunday, 9AM-5PM
<https://www.facebook.com/NawlinsMarket/>

Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte

920 Jean Lafitte Blvd.
Last Saturday of the month, 9AM-1PM
<https://www.facebook.com/JeanLafitteLa/>

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie

3000 Downs Blvd.
Wednesdays, from 2-7PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064920097975>

Westwego Farmer's Market

484 Sala Ave., Westwego
3rd Tuesday of the month, 10AM-2PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075979938725>

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
<https://www.facebook.com/officialwestwegoshrimplot>

Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview

4516 Clearview
Store Pickups, preorder online at <https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/buy-groceries-1>

Harahan Farmer's Market

501 Oak Ave., Zeringue Park, Harahan
Sundays, 9AM-1PM
<https://www.facebook.com/HarahanMarket>

Rivertown Farmer's Market

400 Block of Williams Blvd., Kenner
Thursdays Noon-6PM (Off for August)
<https://www.facebook.com/RivertownFarmersMarket>

Old Metairie Farmer's Market

Bayou Metairie Park, Between Metairie Lawn
Dr. and Labarre
1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:30PM-
7:30PM** Check for seasonal dates!
<https://www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/tag/farmers-art-metairie-market/>

Coming Events

25th Annual Hibiscus Show



The New Orleans Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society is happy to announce its 25th annual Hibiscus Show and Sale.

April 21, 2024

Judging from:

8 until 11 am.

Plant Sale and exhibition from:

1 to 4:30pm

Location:

Bonnabel High School Cafeteria
2801 Bruin Drive,
Kenner, LA 70065

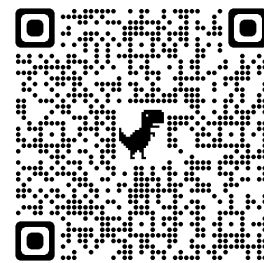
Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

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



Master Gardener volunteers working hard in the aromatic garden



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

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

Local Independent Garden Centers

Jefferson

Perino's Garden Center	3100 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 834-7888
Rose Garden Center	4005 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 341-5664
Rose Garden & Pet Store	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
Plumeria Insanity Nursery	https://www.facebook.com/Plumeria-Insanity-Nursery-102123651930419	

Soil Vendors

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

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

Local Independent Garden Centers

Orleans

Urban Roots	2375 Tchoupitoulas St., New Orleans, LA 70130	(504) 522-4949
The Plant Gallery	9401 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 488-8887
Harold's Plants	1135 Press St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 947-7554
We Bite Rare and Unusual Plants	1225 Mandeville St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 380-4628
Hot Plants	1715 Feliciana St., New Orleans, LA 70117	www.hotplantsnursery.com
Pelican Greenhouse Sales	2 Celebration Dr., New Orleans, LA 70124	(504) 483-9437
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713
Jefferson Feed Mid-City	309 N. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119	(504) 488-8118
Jefferson Feed Uptown	6047 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 218-4220
Ninth Ward Nursery	2641 Deslonde St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 296-8398
Crazy Plant Bae	800 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans LA 70119	(504) 327-7008
Canopy Plant Company	6030 St. Claude, New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 381-4033
Too Tall Nursery	2817 N. Roman, New Orleans, LA 70117	tootallfarm@gmail.com
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

Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	https://plantpricks.com/
Nice Plants, Good Pots	6720 St. Claude Ave., Arabie, LA	Etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots

St. Tammany

The Boho Being	1184 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458	(985)707-1623
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April Checklist/Garden Tips

1. Constant watering rapidly leaches nutrient elements from the soils of container grown plants. To replace them it is best to use either soluble fertilizers or slow release fertilizers. Soluble fertilizers are easy to apply especially when you use a hose end applicator, but they must be applied every two weeks to maintain a constant supply of nutrients. Slow release fertilizers provide nutrients over several months from one application and so cut down on labor.
2. If crape myrtle aphids have been a problem on your trees in the past, treat this month with Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control with Merit. This is applied as a drench to the base of the trees and is absorbed by the roots. The insecticide travels through the tree's circulatory system up into the foliage making it toxic to the aphids. One treatment protects the tree all summer, preventing aphids and the unsightly black sooty mold they cause
3. Spray crape myrtles with mancozeb , chlorothalonil or other labeled fungicides to control serious infections of powdery mildew. Powdery mildew appears as a white, powdery material on the leaves. Unlike many fungus diseases that are worse when weather is rainy, this disease is favored by humid, warm weather without rain. It is also occurs on a variety of other landscape plants such as dogwood, euonymus, gerbera daisy, rose and hydrangea, to name a few.
4. Oak trees infested with buck moth caterpillars should be sprayed before the caterpillars begin to migrate down the trunk. Contact local tree care companies to get your trees sprayed.

April Checklist/Garden Tips

5. Aphids are a real problem on roses and many other plants in spring. Control with insecticidal soap, oil spray, Malathion or Acephate.
6. As much as is practical, continue to deadhead or remove faded, dead flowers from cool season bedding plants such as pansy, snapdragon and dianthus to promote extended flowering.
7. Keep your Louisiana irises well watered now while they flower and through mid summer. Remove any developing seed pods after flowering is finished.
8. Small birds called sapsuckers peck holes in neat rows. The holes just penetrate the bark and cause sap to bleed from them. Later, the sapsuckers return to feed on the sugary sap and any insects that may have been attracted to it. The damage is usually minor, and control is generally not necessary or practical.
9. Do not delay planting many of the warm season vegetables beyond the middle part of this month. Tomatoes, snap beans, lima beans and bell peppers all set fruit poorly when temperatures are hot. Squashes and corn are both far more likely to have major insect and disease problems when planted later.
10. Cool season herbs and those that thrive during mild weather, such as parsley, dill, tarragon, thyme, sage, cilantro, borage, lavender, chamomile, chervil and arugula, are at their peak this month. They will begin to decline toward late May and finish in early June, so harvest them generously over the next six to eight weeks. Extra harvest can be dried or frozen for use during the summer.
11. If you need to prune spring flowering shrubs such as spirea, viburnum, quince, azalea, camellia, jasmine and mock orange, you may do so as soon as they finish flowering. Remember to prune with a specific purpose in mind, and, unless you are trying to create a clipped formal hedge, try to preserve the natural shape of the shrub.
12. Watch for spider mite damage on many vegetables and ornamentals during dry weather. Very tiny, spider mites are not readily visible to the naked eye. Use a magnifying glass to inspect the plant and look for the tiny red or green eight legged mites. Infested plants get a dull, dusty, unhealthy look to the foliage which eventually turns brown. The spider mites are primarily under the leaves. Spray with a horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, Malathion or Kelthane.
13. It is very important to pull up and dispose of cool season annual weeds such as henbit, bedstraw and chickweed now. These weeds are currently setting thousands of seeds that will plague you next winter if not removed now.
14. Save some of your own seed from your cool season annuals to plant again in your garden this fall. This time of year collect seeds from sweet peas, violas, nicotiana, poppies, calendulas and cosmos. Make sure the seed pods are mature before harvesting.
15. Tomatoes are staked to keep the plants from sprawling on the ground where the fruit would be more likely to rot. Wait for the first cluster of flowers to appear, and place the stake on the opposite side of the plant's stem. All of the flower clusters will grow from the same side of the stem, and this will keep developing fruit from getting caught between the stake and the stem.
16. Azaleas with leaves that have tiny light spots all over them have been attacked by azalea lacebugs. Treat with Malathion or Acephate as needed through the summer and fall. Any damage that has already occurred will not go away, but treatment will prevent any more damage.
17. Pay careful attention to thoroughly watering newly planted trees, shrubs, bedding plants, ground covers and lawns during dry spring weather. Continue watering about twice a week until there is significant rainfall.
18. After planting bedding plants, water them in with a half- strength solution of your favorite water soluble fertilizer. This gets them off to a good start.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do:

1. This is the prime planting season for warm season grasses such as St. Augustine, centipede, Bermuda and zoysia.
2. Take a soil test.
3. Apply sulfur or lime to adjust the pH if necessary according to soil lab recommendations.
4. Make the first application of the recommended rate of nitrogen fertilizer for your turf variety if you have not done so. See the fertilizer recommendations on page 5 of the Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices Guide. [Go to https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/7/c/8/e/7c8e4b17a12a51839443d9296bd03edc/pub2940louisianalawns_march2008.pdf to see the guide.](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/7/c/8/e/7c8e4b17a12a51839443d9296bd03edc/pub2940louisianalawns_march2008.pdf) Do not apply phosphorous or potassium fertilizer unless recommended by a soil test.
5. Apply selective herbicides to kill off weeds growing in the lawn. You may also scout the lawn and remove weeds by hand. Make a game out of it with kids and grandkids.
6. Use a core aerator to open up channels in the soil. Spread a mix of fine compost and sand over the lawn in a 1/4 inch layer.
7. Add 0.75 ft³ (1 bag) of top soil per 100 square feet of lawn. Spread the material so that it fills in between the blades of grass.
7. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type. This is one of the most important things that you can do. See Table 1 on page 5 of the Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices guide. The link may be found at point #4 above.
9. Continue to scout for disease and insect pests and apply treatment if necessary.
10. Find a list of informative videos on lawn care from the experts at the LSU AgCenter by going to <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2hr6qmeDGT5zaBnUbeeJ-tA3-nlYPg>

Do Not:

1. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time.
2. Do not let winter weeds go to seed in the lawn. Use the bagging mower to collect clippings and dispose of them if seed heads are present.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help



Follow us on Facebook at **GNOGardening**

For more information visit **LSUAgCenter.com**

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