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Cover photo: The large tree in the photo has dead branches, rotting roots, detached bark and termites. It is definitely dangerous and should be removed soon.
Photo by Chris Dunaway

Evaluating Trees for Storm Resistance

Getting Ready for Hurricanes

Whenever hurricanes blows onto the land trees in their path can be devastated by the high winds and heavy rainfall. While a properly placed, storm resistant healthy tree my help protect structures during a storm event, broken branches and falling trees can cause catastrophic damage. As I mentioned in a previous article, just one foot of a 10 inch diameter log can weigh over 40 pounds. So imagine a 10 foot limb weighing 400 pounds crashing down. Few roofs, cars or people could withstand that force. At this time of year, government officials and news stories tell us to examine our local trees and to remove hazardous limbs and trees. In the following article I will discuss what to look for to help evaluate a tree for storm readiness.



This huge live oak tree fell over during hurricane Ida completely demolishing the golf cart parked nearby.



Here we can see shelf mushrooms growing from the trunk along with split, detached bark.

One of the first things to consider is the condition of the root system of a tree. It is the job of the roots to anchor the tree to the ground and provide support. In an ideal situation, the roots have plenty of room to grow in every direction and provide support from all sides. Any damage to the support roots from disease, insect feeding or physical damage can greatly reduce the stability of a tree leaving it vulnerable to falling over. Also look to see if the roots have been cut or damaged from things like construction or road building.

Inspect the trunk of each tree. Look for sections of bark that are disconnected from the trunk and/or falling off of the tree. Detached bark can mean that the living cambium layer and the tree's vascular system has died in that area. Also look for mushrooms growing from the trunk or roots. Mushrooms are the reproductive portion of fungi so their presence means that there is most likely internal decay that the fungi are feeding on. As the decay progresses, the tree will weaken and eventually fall.

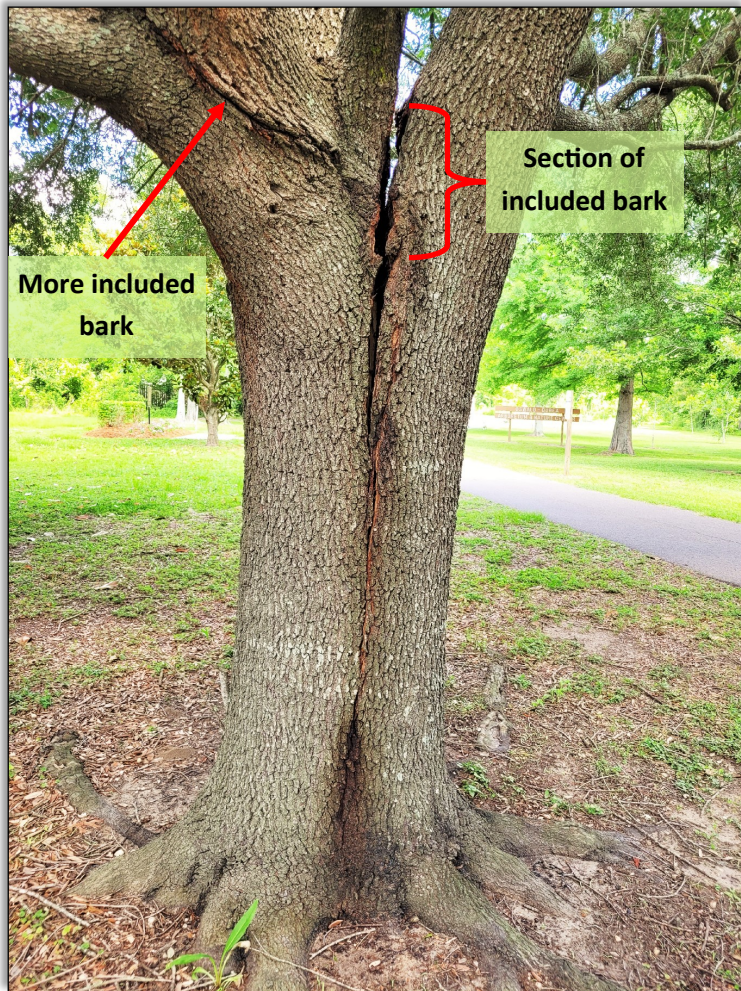
Formosan termites can also greatly weaken a tree by consuming the internal support material. All trees should be inspected for termites. Caught early enough, the termites can be killed before they cause catastrophic damage to the trees.

[Watch a short video on inspecting trees for termites by clicking on the link or going to the following address: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fjb6zZGWBeU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fjb6zZGWBeU)

Dead trees and branches should be removed (see photo on cover). At this time of year it is pretty easy to see them since they will be the ones with no leaves. These will rot and eventually fall. Dead branches that



I saw this 30-40 foot long broken branch hanging precariously in this large live oak tree in New Orleans City Park.



A small section of included bark caused this oak tree in LaSalle Park to split completely in half down the middle. Another section of included bark can be seen between two branches in the upper left corner. This tree was doomed.

have broken but are still caught in the tree are called hangers and are another major hazard.

Another issue that can be a serious issue with trees is called included bark. Included bark occurs when two bifurcating limbs grow closely together, in the shape of a narrow "V," rather than the normal, healthy shape of a "U" or a "Y." The fundamental difference between these shapes lies in the strength of the branch union. When two stems are crammed side by side (also known as co-dominant stems), bark begins to grow into the branch union. You might think that adding bark between two limbs would strengthen the connection, but in fact it has the opposite effect. This is because the bark provides no structural support for the tree and as the layers of bark build up between the branches it actually pushes them apart. Included bark typically looks like a scar-like line running along the junction of the branches or trunk. The sad part is that these branches could have been easily removed as they were forming.

When selecting an arborist, make sure that you choose one that is licensed to work in Louisiana. You should also inspect their work and make sure that they made correct pruning cuts. All pruning cuts should be made at the junction of the side branch and the trunk or parent branch. Cutting back to the parent branch will allow for



Photo by Keith Hawkins

This section from a pecan tree shows a deep V-shaped angle with a major bark inclusion at the red arrow.



Photo by Keith Hawkins

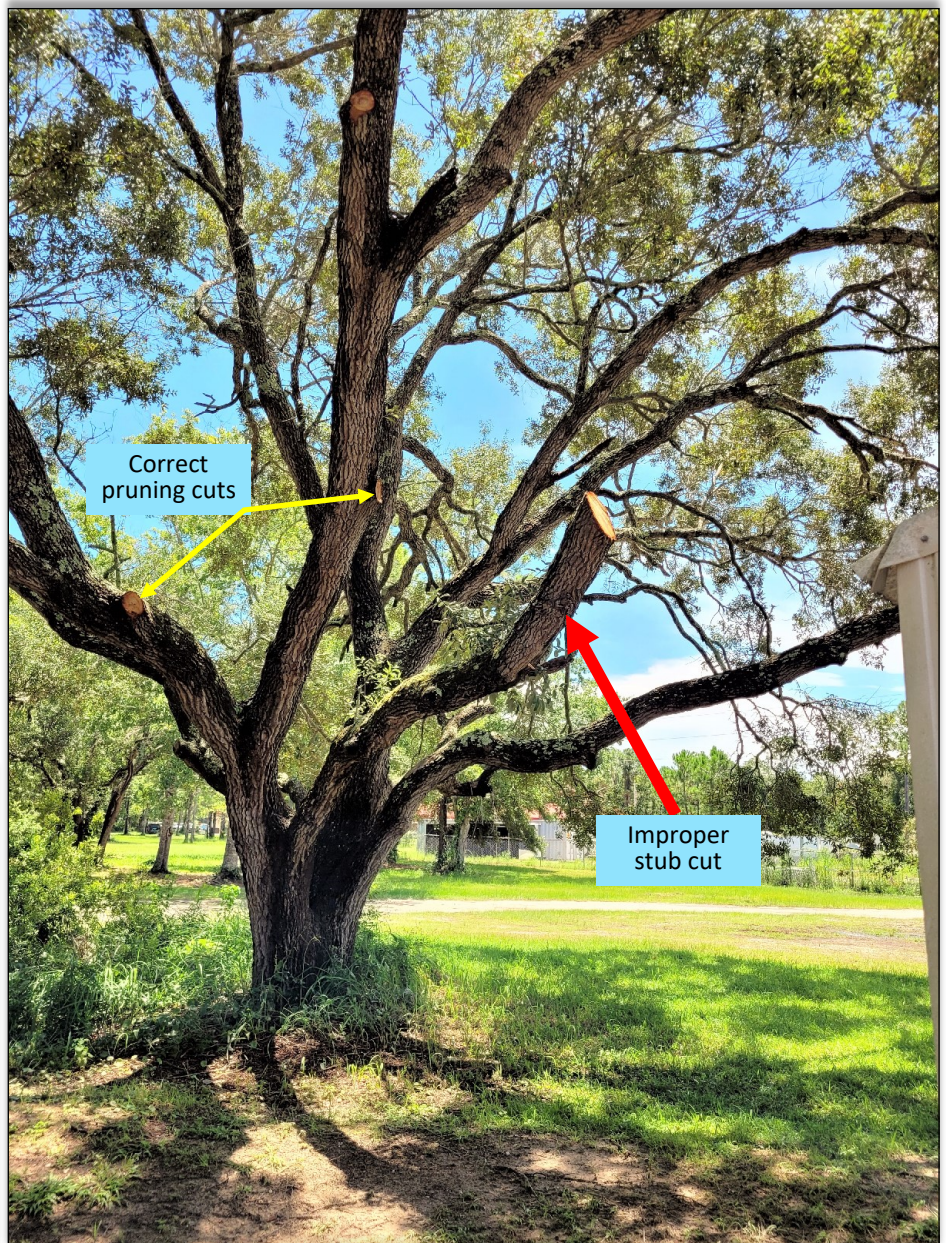
A cross section of a good branch connection with no included bark.

the surrounding tissue to grow over the cut and seal wound from moisture and decay. Cuts made at other locations on the limb are called stub cuts and should be avoided. Stub cuts will not seal and will begin to rot. Insects and decay will enter the tree causing internal rot. Local guidelines for arboriculture work are regulated by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and improper pruning should be reported to the agency for investigation. You may also contact the department for a list of licensed operators in the state.

~Chris Dunaway



This image shows a proper pruning cut at the limb collar.



The large branch indicated by the red arrow has been improperly pruned using a stub cut. The cuts indicated with the yellow lines were done properly.

August Vegetable Planting Guide

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

Prepare for Fall Tomatoes

Any lingering tomato plants in the garden are likely to be in pretty rough shape right now. Between the leaf-footed bugs, stink bugs, spider mites, blight, and heat, these tomatoes are on the ropes. Luckily there are two strategies that can set up the garden for a good crop of fall tomatoes that

will produce right up to the first frost. I love picking red, ripe tomatoes in December, sending photos of my BLT sandwich to my northern family whose garden by then is asleep under a layer of snow and ice. Fall planted tomatoes often have fewer pest and disease problems compared to spring-planted tomatoes.

There are two routes to accomplish this.

The first option is to take an objective look at the tomato

plants still hanging around the garden. These can be cut back to about 10-12" from the soil, re-staked, and heavily side dressed with nitrogen to encourage new growth and a second crop for fall after a good spray of a copper fungicide. This strategy is best if there is no evidence of southern blight infection. If the leaves or stem tissues are exhibiting symptoms of this disease, it would be best to pull and discard (bag and trash) these plants and start fresh by planting heat tolerant, disease resistant varieties. You can find examples of

these symptoms online. If the leaves are stippled with spider mite damage or chewed up by hornworms with no other obvious damage, they may be good candidates for cutting back and regenerating. I've done this successfully with both determinate and indeterminate cultivars of tomatoes. I've had good



Ripe tomatoes on the vine.

luck doing this with 'Celebrity', 'San Marzano', 'Midnight Snack', 'Super Sweet 100' and 'Florida 91'. I used a ¼ cup scoop of Ammonium sulfate buried next to each plant to jumpstart them again for fall production. This is a good way to work with what you have planted already.

The second strategy would be to pull up any lingering tomato plants from the garden and start fresh with heat tolerant transplants

started from seed in July. These transplants will be ready to set out into the garden in mid to late August. Seed can be purchased from seed companies via catalogs and online. Some of the best ones to plant include 'Florida 91', 'Phoenix', 'Floralina', 'Heatwave II', 'Bella Rosa', 'Tribeca', 'Tribute', 'Solar Fire', 'Solar Set', 'Sunbeam', 'Sunchaser', 'Sunleaper', and 'Sunmaster'.

Start seeds in a good quality sterile seedling mix and

grow outdoors in a protected area with sun exposure. This can be tricky, the seed trays or pots need to be sheltered from heavy rainfall that can wash them out, and also protected from strong afternoon sunlight that can dry the trays or pots out quickly and burn the tender young sprouts. An overhang, carport, or patio with a roof and morning sun exposure can be a good place to get fall tomatoes started. Be sure to rotate the trays or pots to encourage seedlings to grow straight, the light should also be adequate to prevent leggy seedlings. A florescent shop light can help supplement the morning sunlight. Seedlings can be started under lights indoors, however they will need to be acclimated and hardened off outside in a shaded area to prepare them for planting. Water tomato seedlings from the bottom using a capillary mat system or shallow tray, and avoid getting the leaves wet. This can invite fungal pathogens. Once



A chef prepares a tasting of different tomato varieties.



Spider mites can be seen inside of their protective webbing on this tomato plant. The stippling damage to the leaves is from their feeding activity.

transplants are 6-8" tall, they can be planted out into the garden. Prepare the soil by adding fertilizer or compost, for general fertility guidelines, check out the LSU AgCenter Vegetable Planting Guide (available by searching online). Fall grown tomatoes generally thrive. Many pests have completed their annual life cycle for the year and lie dormant. Leaf-footed bugs, stinkbugs, and most of the caterpillar pest species are not an issue. Declining ambient air and soil temperatures slow many diseases down. Dry fall air helps to prevent mildew and blight. I've found it to be a much better season for tomatoes in our area. The plants will produce right up until first frost without protection. If you'd like to extend the season, you can protect them by covering them as you would other tender landscape plants in the event of a light frost. Often the leaves will sustain a little cold damage, but the plants will continue to grow and produce, especially if you side dress with a little more Ammonium nitrate. Using these tricks, you can enjoy Christmas tomatoes.

~Anna Timmerman

Weed of the Month – Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

A GNO Master Gardener read an article about poison hemlock in a Pennsylvania newspaper and asked me recently about its presence in Louisiana. Poison hemlock (*Conium*

maculatum), a member of the parsley family (Apiaceae), is a non-native poisonous plant that tends to grow along roadsides, railroad tracks, streambanks, and in meadows.

It is native to

Europe and North Africa. It was introduced to the U.S. as an ornamental plant because of the pretty white flowers similar to Queen Ann's lace. Plants contain highly toxic piperidine alkaloid compounds, including coniine and gamma-coniceine, which cause respiratory failure and death in mammals. All parts of the plant are poisonous: leaves, stems, seed, and roots. However, the toxins must be ingested or enter

through the eyes or nasal passages to induce poisoning; they, generally, do not cause skin rashes or blistering. However, this plant should not be handled because sap on the skin can be rubbed into the eyes



The photo labeled **A** on the left is of the leaves of Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) Image **B** on the right are the leaves of Water Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*)

or accidentally ingested while handling food. This is the plant believed to be responsible for the death of Socrates.

Poison hemlock is a biennial herbaceous plant in the carrot family (Apiaceae) that grows 3-8 ft. tall. Stems are stout, hollow, ridged, and purple-spotted. The plant has a thick, white taproot that may easily be mistaken for wild parsnips. Leaves are shiny green, 3-



The photo labeled **A** on the left is of the flowers of Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) Image **B** on the right are the flowers of Water Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*)

4 times pinnately compound, and clasp the stem at the swollen nodes. Flowers are small, white, and held in umbels about 3 in. across (appearing in early summer). An umbel is made of many small flowers

that are all attached, more or less at the same point. Fruits are ridged and flattened, and each fruit holds two seeds.

The good news – I checked with LSU AgCenter experts Dr. Ron Strahan and Dr. Christopher Reid. According to them, “poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is very rare in LA with only a few specimens found in north LA from Ouachita and Caddo Parishes. Most recent record is from 1993 along RR tracks in Monroe.

However, “there is another toxic carrot family member that is common in LA: water hemlock or cowbane (*Cicuta maculata*). And there is Mexican cowbane (*Cicuta mexicana*). Mexican cowbane is common in open marsh and swamps in south LA.

Conventional sources lump *C. mexicana* with *C. maculata*.”

Cicuta maculata is a native occurring in Alaska, Canada and all lower 48 states. Water hemlock is usually a large, highly branched plant growing to 8 feet tall in wet meadows, swamps, and shoreline thickets. Water hemlock grows large, dome-shaped umbels of flowers. The flowers are tiny, white, and have 5 petals. The flower umbels are in long stalks that grow from leaf axels at the tips of the stems. Water hemlock leaves are large and double- or triple-compound. These compound leaves are often a foot or more long and 2 feet wide alternately arranged on the stem. The leaflets of water hemlock are lance-shaped and have coarse teeth along their margins. The stem is fleshy and hollow. It usually has purple stripes. All parts are extremely poisonous. The tuberous roots are the most poisonous parts. USDA records indicate that a pea sized portion of the root

will kill a man.

So, while poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) may not be common in Louisiana, it's close native relative, water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*) is quite common along streams, in marshes, and in other wet places throughout Louisiana.

Both should be avoided.

~Dr. Joe Willis



The photo labeled **A** on the left is of the stems of Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) Image **B** on the right are the stems of Water Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*)

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Plant Nutrition Part 2 – Organic vs Chemical Fertilizers & Crop-Specific Fertilizers

Remember this table from last month's article?

Element	Uptake Form	Source	Element	Uptake Form	Source
CARBON	CO ₂	Air & Water	boron	H ₃ BO ₃ , H ₂ BO ₃ ⁻ , HBO ₃ ²⁻	Soil
HYDROGEN	H ₂ O	Air & Water	chlorine	Cl ⁻	Soil
OXYGEN	H ₂ O	Air & Water	copper	Cu ²⁺	Soil
NITROGEN	NO ₃ ⁻ , NH ₄ ⁺	Soil	iron	Fe ²⁺	Soil
PHOSPHORUS	H ₂ PO ₄ ⁻ , HPO ₄ ²⁻ , PO ₄ ³⁻	Soil	manganese	Mn ²⁺	Soil
POTASSIUM	K ⁺	Soil	zinc	Zn ²⁺	Soil
Sulfur	SO ₄ ²⁻	Soil	molybdenum	MoO ₄ ²⁻	Soil
Calcium	Ca ²⁺	Soil	nickel, silicon	Ni ⁺ , Si ⁺	Soil
Magnesium	Mg ²⁺	Soil	sodium, cobalt	Na ⁺ , Co ²⁺	Soil
			vanadium	V ₂ O ₅	Soil

Table 1: Essential plant nutrients, their uptake form and their usual source.

This lists the essential plant nutrients and the chemical form the element must be in for plant uptake. Looking at this table, you can see that there is no distinction between the uptake form whether the nutrient is from organic or synthetic chemical fertilizers. It's like when my body needs calcium for bone development. I don't care if it's from milk, ice cream, yogurt, spinach, okra, or kale. Calcium will enter the biochemical pathways and be utilized for bone building in the same ionic form no matter what the original source. For example, plants can only take up nitrogen as either nitrate or ammonium. It doesn't matter whether the nitrogen comes from blood meal, alfalfa meal, urea, ammonium nitrate, or chicken manure.

In summary, plants take up required nutrients in specific chemical forms. No matter where the nutrient comes from, it must be converted to that specific chemical form in order for a plant to import it and utilize it in metabolism. Organic or synthetic, a plant doesn't really care. From a strictly chemical nutrient point of view organic is not better, nor is it

worse than synthetic. It is exactly the same.

So, what's the difference between organic and synthetic fertilizers? Let's compare and contrast the two.

Nutrient Availability

With synthetic chemical fertilizers, all the nutrients are in the chemical form that plants can take up. Therefore, 100% of the nutrients are immediately available to the plant. If you use 100 lbs. of 13-13-13 fertilizer, all 13 lbs. of the nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium are available for the

plants as soon as you apply it. There is no need for microbial activity or chemical conversion to make the nutrients available. This is not totally true because most chemical fertilizers use urea (CH₄N₂O) as a source of nitrogen. In the presence of water and urease (an enzyme found in plants, bacteria, fungi, and some invertebrates), urea is digested to yield ammonium (NH₄⁺) and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Plants can take up urea which is then broken down within the plant. Urea is also broken down in the soil by soil microorganisms.

Organic fertilizers contain plant- or animal-based materials that are either a byproduct or end product of naturally occurring processes, such as animal manure and composted organic materials. With organic fertilizers, the majority of the nutrients are bound up in complex macromolecules that require microbial activity to break down and convert them to the form that plants can take up. The amount of immediately available nutrient is 3-5% of the total. If you use 100 lbs. of blood meal (16-0-0), only 0.5 to 0.8 lbs. of nitrogen is immediately available for plant

uptake. The rest is released over time with the rate of release being influenced by moisture, temperature and microbial population. Organic fertilizers are actually a form of slow-release fertilizer.

Nutrient Concentration

The difference between 13-13-13 chemical fertilizer and 8-8-8 is the amount of filler that is used in preparing the fertilizer. Simply, 8-8-8 is more dilute than 13-13-13. Chemical fertilizers can be formulated to almost any ratio; it just requires adding the chemicals at the desired ratio along with carrier materials. Some of the highest nutrient content can be found in these fertilizers: urea (46-0-0), triple superphosphate (0-46-0) and muriate of potash (0-0-60). I’ve seen balanced fertilizers as high as 30-30-30 available. This means that 90% of that fertilizer is actual plant nutrients with only 10% other material.

Organic fertilizers, on the other hand, are based on specific organic components. Table 2 is a listing of some common organic fertilizers or soil amendments and their NPK value. Many, especially manures and composts, vary greatly in NPK value depending on the source. As you can see by the table, many organic products are so low in NPK that they cannot be considered fertilizers at all but rather soil amendments.

Effect on Soil Microbiota

In their enthusiasm for organic gardening and organic products, many proponents make a statement similar to this one: “Using synthetic chemical fertilizers is bad because it kills soil microorganisms.” Is this a true statement? There have been many scientific studies looking at the effect of adding fertilizers to soil on the soil microorganisms. By comparing populations of soil bacteria and fungi in soils with no additions, soils with added chemical fertilizer, and soils with added organic fertilizer, researchers came to the following conclusions. Adding synthetic fertilizer resulted in no change in the number of bacteria and an increase in the number

of fungi. Organic treatment increased both fungi and bacteria. Proper use of synthetic fertilizer does not kill soil microorganisms.
Soil microbiota need nutrients to carry out metabolic

Organic Fertilizer/Amendment	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium
Alfalfa Meal	2	1	2
Bat Guano	10	6	2
Blood Meal	16	0	0
Bone Meal	3	15	0
Coffee Grounds	2	0.3	0.3
Compost (variable)	0.5-4.5	0.5-1.0	0.8-1.0
Cottonseed Meal	6.6	2.5	1.5
Cow Manure (variable)	0.6-2.1	0.7-1.1	0.5-3.6
Crab Meal	5	2	0
Eggshell	1	0.4	0.1
Feather Meal	12	0	0
Fish Emulsion	5	2	2
Fish Meal	9	4	1
Greensand	0	0	3
Hair	15	0	0
Kelp Meal	1	0	1.2
Pig Manure (variable)	0.6	0.4	0.3
Pine Needles	0.5	0.1	0
Poultry Manure (variable)	2.5-4.5	2.5-5.0	1.5-3.0
Rabbit Manure	2.4	1.4	0.6
Rock Phosphate	0	33	0
Spanish Moss	0.6	0.1	0.6
Worm Castings	1	0	0

Table 2: NPK values of selected organic fertilizers and soil amendments. NPK values for most organics can vary. These numbers are based on figures gathered from multiple sources.

functions just like plants. Therefore, adding these nutrients in either organic or synthetic form will be providing nutrients to both plants and existing soil microbiota. Either way you are benefiting soil microorganisms so it’s easy to understand why adding either leads to an increase in population.
The real benefit of most organic fertilizers/ amendments is that it builds soil structure and provides a slow continual release of nutrients needed by soil microorganisms. Soils high in organic matter also have a greater diversity of microorganisms.

What About Crop Specific Fertilizers?

What do I mean by crop specific fertilizers? Just walk into any garden center or garden section of a store and you will know immediately what I mean. You'll see fertilizers made specifically for citrus or tomatoes or flowering plants or palms or vegetables. These are crop specific fertilizers; fertilizers formulated by the company to optimize plant growth and production. Figure 1 points out one of the fallacies with most crop specific fertilizers.

These are all fertilizers formulated to give your citrus trees the optimal supply of nutrients they need. Using this fertilizer formulated by plant nutrient specialists should lead to optimal plant growth and fruit production. But look closely at the labels. They all contain different amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and they all have different ratios of NPK. The experts don't agree. So, which one is truly the best for your citrus trees?

I show these to make a point. Plants in general all need the same basic nutrients and in the same basic ratios for health and vigor. What additional nutrients they need is a function of the soil conditions and what is already available in the soil. That's why doing soil tests is so important. This analysis helps you see what nutrients might be a limiting factor to optimal plant growth and advises what you need to add to the soil to eliminate the nutrient deficiency. Soil test results will also tell you which nutrients are already in the soil so that you can avoid adding unnecessary amendments. This can save money and is better for the environment.

In general, crop specific fertilizers also end up being more expensive per nutrient unit than general purpose complete fertilizers. Doing a soil test and amending the soil with the specific nutrients needed

is a much better way to garden. Crop specific fertilizers usually optimize a company's profits more than optimizing plant growth.

There are a few caveats to this: 1) excess nitrogen does lead to increased vegetative growth and reduced flower and fruit production. That is one reason that

most lawn fertilizers have a high nitrogen ratio. 2) Plants that do best at low soil pH (e.g., blueberry, gardenia, hydrangea) benefit from fertilizers formulated for acid-loving plants. Components of these fertilizers have a tendency to lower soil pH and they are recommended when growing acid-loving plants.

~Dr. Joe Willis



Figure 1: Commercially available fertilizers formulated specifically for citrus.

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Another Weed to Battle

Chamberbitter (*Phyllanthus urinaria*)

Extension offices across the entire state have been receiving phone calls about a troublesome weed that looks like a little mimosa tree. These abundant and fast-growing plants seem to be taking over the world one

Louisiana landscape at a time. In most, if not all, cases these plants are not planted on purpose but will literally try and grow anywhere like cracks in the driveway, in potted plants, in the lawn, and all over a flowerbed. Weed scientists know this plant as *Phyllanthus urinaria*, but home gardeners know it by several different common names. Whether you call it leafflower, niruri, chamberbitter, or gripeweed, this prolific landscape pest has been tormenting gardeners for years. If you aren't familiar with it now, continue reading to learn more.

Chamberbitter, or *P. urinaria*, is a warm-season annual plant, meaning that it goes through its whole life

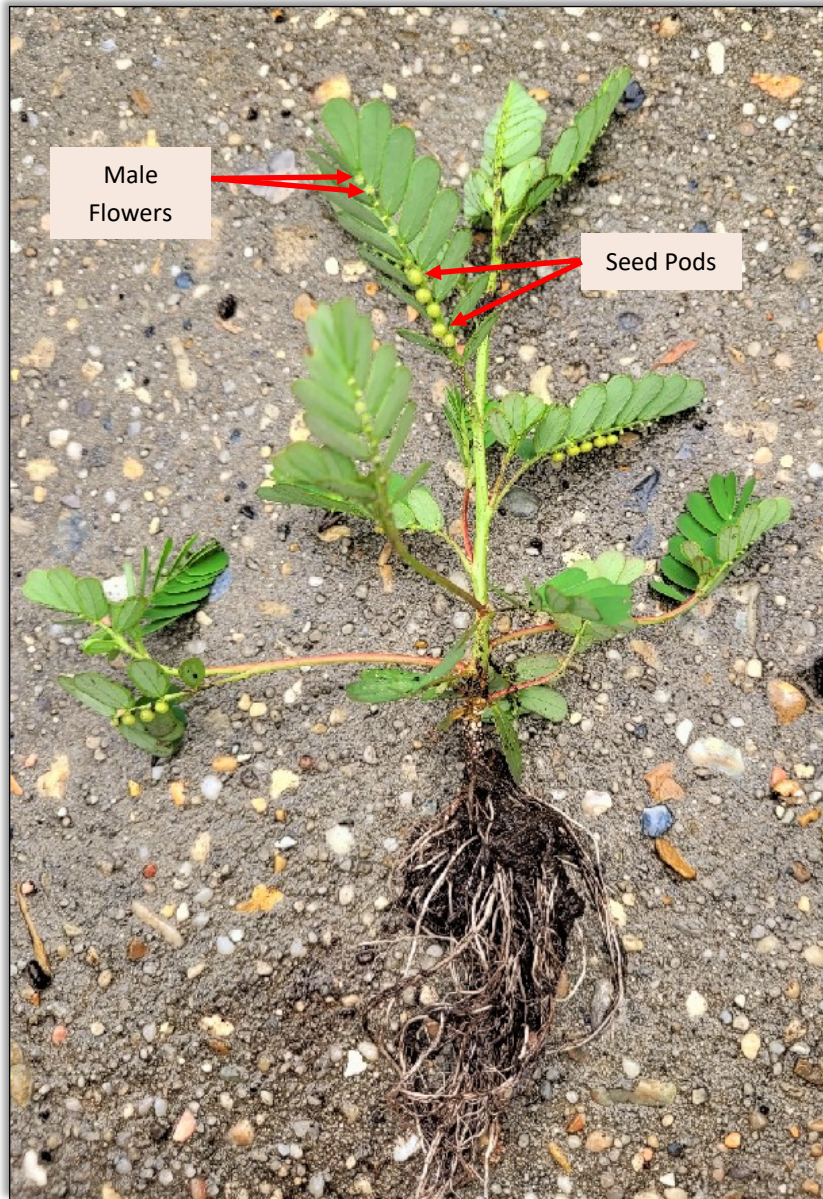
cycle within a calendar year. It germinates later in the year than most of the common warm-season weeds that gardeners manage on regular basis. The leaves of the plant resemble a young mimosa seedling (*Albizia julibrissin*). However, mimosa trees have compound

leaves whereas the leaves of chamberbitter are simple but appear to be compound at first glance. The leaves in general are oblong and lanceolate in shape and ranging between ¼ to 1 inch in length as they emerge alternately down the stem. The root system is considered fibrous

but displays a well-developed taproot. Even though small and inconspicuous, chamberbitter plants are monoecious (a botanical term meaning that male and female flowers are produced on the same plant). Male flowers occur in groups on distal nodes and female flowers occur on proximal nodes. That's just a fancy way of saying that male and female flowers occur at opposite ends of the branchlet. The fruit is termed a capsule and contains six seeds. These seed capsules appear on the underside of each branchlet (female flowers) and are a common identifying feature.

Control of chamberbitter weeds is not an easy task. Especially, if nothing has been done over multiple years. The

main reason being that chamberbitter plants produce an epic number of viable seeds in short time. When allowed to grow, flower, and seed in a landscape setting, seed accumulation helps to keep a steady crop of plants for at least three years and possibly longer. Preventing



A chamberbitter plant. In the photo you can see the roots, stems, leaves, male flowers and seed pods

seed production is an effective management step for dealing with any problematic weed, but more so with chamberbitter. Chamberbitter has a harder time establishing in a thick, healthy, vigorous lawn so make sure you provide your lawn with proper care. An important step is mowing at the recommended height for your turfgrass species and at the proper frequency. Frequency of mowing is based on the growth rate of the grass. The lawn should be cut so that no more than 1/3 of the grass plant is removed with each mowing event. So if you set your lawn mower at 3 inches to cut a St. Augustine lawn, you should cut the grass when it reaches 4.5 inches high. Review mowing height information for your grass species and adjust the mower deck so that the cutting height falls inline with the given ranges. While mowing the lawn is an important step in maintaining a healthy lawn, it is important to point out that mowing alone will not kill chamberbitter. In fact, it can make things worse by causing the plants to grow prostrate along the ground and form dense mats that can crowd out the desired turfgrass.

Other cultural practices equally important to follow include adding nitrogen fertilizer in the recommended amounts at the recommended times, soil aeration, topdressing, thatch management and irrigation during as needed. It is similar in flower bed situations as well. Maintain healthy vigorous landscape plants that will shade the soil below. Combine that technique with effective mulching program and you can keep most chamberbitter plants away.

Chemical controls for chamberbitter are available but please keep in mind that an integrated approach with respect to combining several control methods together in an overall management plan will yield the best results. With chamberbitter being an annual plant, most would think to incorporate a pre-emergent herbicide prior to the onset of the warm season. Its commonly recommended to apply pre-emergent herbicide to home lawns during the month of February, specially when going after the dreaded crabgrass weed. Chamberbitter doesn't start germinating until May in most areas of Louisiana. For a pre-emergent herbicide applied in February, there won't be much of it left in 8-10 weeks to be effective at controlling chamberbitter seedlings. Aim to make a second application of preemergent herbicide 2-3 months after the first. Atrazine is a common home

lawn herbicide with both pre and post-emergent qualities and can help prevent some seedling growth. For flowerbeds look for the active ingredient, isoxaben, for decent control. Fertilome Broadleaf Weed Control with Gallery and Snapshot 2.5TG contain this active ingredient and can be applied at a similar time. An over-the-top application of atrazine over a centipedegrass or St Augustinegrass during mid to late spring can also work as a post-emergent treatment to kill young chamberbitter seedlings that made it through the pre-emergent herbicide barrier.

Atrazine is one of the better post-emergent herbicide options, but both three and four-way lawn herbicides have their place. Products that contain 2,4-D, mecoprop, and dicamba are termed three-way herbicides because they contain three different active ingredients. Look for trade names like BioAdvanced Southern Weed Killer for Lawns, Bonide Weed Beater Lawn Weed Killer, Gordon's Trimec Lawn Weed Killer, and Ortho Weed B Gon Weed Killer for Lawns when searching for a three-way herbicide. As with many of my lawn weed recommendations, Fertilome Weed Free Zone is a common recommendation. The reason being is that it is a four-way herbicide which contains the above three active ingredients along with the addition of carfentrazone, making it a game changer. Be sure to read the entire label and follow the directions for application. Take care to review warnings about applying in high temperatures.

Lastly, but definitely not least, is hand removal. In smaller growing areas this is actually my preferred method of control because even though it might take more time and energy to perform, the gentle tug and release generated by the slight resistance of that well-developed tap root makes for an oddly satisfying experience! Call me crazy but this weed pulls up quite easily and you get most of the root system every time. Scouting your lawn for weeds and other problems is an important part of proper lawn care. Caught early, a few weeds can usually be easily removed before they become a problem.

Combine all of these different strategies and you can keep chamberbitter populations low and undetectable. Now if we only get our neighbors to do the same thing...

Super Plant Spotlight

Beacon Impatiens

Impatiens are one of the most popular bedding plants in the United States because of their wide -ranging color availability and tolerance of shade. Because they flower reliably from spring until the beginning of the cool season, they are a great way to add color to

hardscapes in pots and baskets or to liven the oft -green color palette of many shade gardens. They also attract pollinators and beneficial insects. Because impatiens are historically very susceptible to downy mildew, their usage has declined over the last decade, especially in the humid Gulf South. The award-winning variety Beacon impatiens is said to “bring flower color back to shade gardens everywhere” because of its high resistance to impatiens downy mildew.

In the AgCenter trials, Beacon impatiens showed vigorous growth and high flower density with very few disease or pest issues.

Requirements

Beacon impatiens can be purchased as seed or transplant.

Prepare beds by incorporating bark or compost and general-purpose fertilizer into the top 2 inches of soil. Plant transplants in April through August in partly shady areas with adequate drainage and high organic matter.

Optimal soil pH is 5.5 to 6.5.

Space plants 8 to 12 inches apart in the landscape; also suitable for planting in containers, window boxes

and hanging baskets.

Growth Habit

Beacon impatiens have a mounding and upright habit, reaching 14 to 18 inches tall and 12 to 14 inches wide.



A collection of beacon impatiens in a garden.

Suitable as a ground cover, border plant, for container gardens or in hanging baskets — any shady spot where color is desired.

Care and Maintenance

Impatiens require an even supply of moisture, so do not allow them to dry out. Container plantings will require daily watering during the summer. Mulching around the base of the plant helps to retain soil moisture.

Higher sun exposure will increase water needs.

Apply general use fertilizer every eight weeks during the growing season to ensure continuous blooms.

Deer may browse on impatiens, so consider planting in protected areas if deer frequent your yard.

Deadheading is not necessary.

Varieties for Louisiana Landscapes

Beacon impatiens are currently available in seven different colors, including bright red, violet shades, salmon, coral, orange, white and rose, all of which perform fantastic in Louisiana landscapes. You can also find Beacon impatiens available in different mixes to bring a unique burst of color to any shady area.

~Chris Dunaway

In the Kitchen with Austin

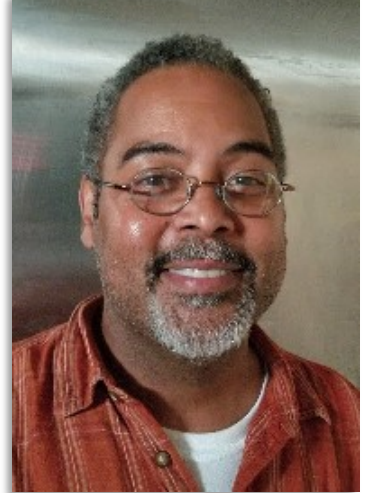
Tomato Pie

Talk about good! This recipe takes the classic combination of tomatoes and basil to new heights.

Ingredients:

1 9-inch pie shell
½ cup yellow or red onion, chopped
3 to 4 tomatoes, diced
¼ tsp salt
¼ cup basil leaves, sliced
2 cups grated cheese (a combination of sharp cheddar and either Monterey Jack or

Mozzarella)
½ cup mayonnaise
1 tsp Tabasco
Black pepper, to taste



A slice of tomato pie.

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pre-bake pie shell for 8 to 10 minutes, until lightly browned.

Salt the tomatoes and set them in a colander to drain while pie crust is baking. Using a clean kitchen cloth, squeeze as much moisture as you can out of the drained tomatoes.

Layer pre-baked pie shell with onions, tomatoes, and basil (in that order).

Make the cheese mixture in a bowl by combining cheeses, mayo, hot sauce, and black pepper. Spread over tomatoes and bake for 25 to 45 minutes until browned and bubbly.

Bon Manger!

Pelican Greenhouse Plant Sales



**NEW ORLEANS
BOTANICAL GARDEN**
CITY PARK

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

Saturday, August 13, 2022

8 AM—NOON

Pelican Greenhouse

2 Celebration Drive.

(Not inside the Botanical Garden)

Visit NewOrleansCityPark.com for park map

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Orleans Parish

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Mid-City

500 N. Norman C. Francis
Thursdays from 3-7PM
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders at
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- City Park

Tad Gormley Stadium parking lot at
Marconi and Navarre
Sundays from 8AM-Noon
Preorder contact-free drive through only,
info at www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Uptown

200 Broadway
Tuesdays from 8AM-Noon
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders, info at
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

SPROUT NOLA ReFresh Market-Truck Farm Table

200 N. Broad (In Whole Foods lobby or in
parking lot, weather permitting)
Walk up

SPROUT NOLA ReFresh Market-Lafitte Greenway

2606 St. Louis
Mondays from 3-6PM
Walk up and pre-orders at [https://
app.sourcewhatsgood.com/markets/refresh-
farmers-market/products](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](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. 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](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 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/
farmers-market](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/](https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/)
985.640.7112

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
See calendar on their website for dates and
times: [https://
www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/](https://www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/)

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 2-7PM

Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview

4516 Clearview
Store Pickups, preorder online at [https://
www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/buy-
groceries-1](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, 10 Am—2PM

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

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

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

13786 River Rd., Destrehan, LA
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon



Fairy rings of mushrooms have popped up all over the area due to the heavy rainfall.

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
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

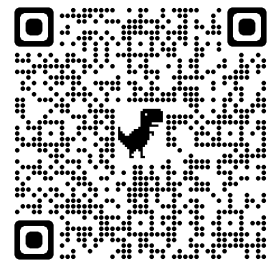
Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

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>

August Checklist/Garden Tips

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Transplant fall tomato plants into your garden by mid-August. Be prepared to spray with insecticides and fungicides since insect and disease pressure is usually greater in the fall than in the spring. The cultivars that have produced satisfactorily in the fall are Mountain Pride, Mountain Delight, Hawaiian Hybrid, Pelican, Bingo, Whirlaway, Floradel, Celebrity, Pacific and Solar Set.

If you need to, dig and divide Louisiana irises, Easter lilies and calla lilies this month.

Many bedding plants that will continue to bloom through fall were planted months ago and may be somewhat leggy and overgrown by this time. Cut them back by about 1/3 to 1/2 to produce stockier, fuller plants for the fall blooming period. Fertilize after you cut them back to stimulate new growth. This is often done to bedding plants such as impatiens, begonia, lantana, blue daze, verbena, pentas, salvia and periwinkle.

As your flowers and vegetables grow, they deplete the soil of organic material. Be sure to add plenty of compost to your garden plots before planting your Fall crop. You should also take a soil test and add fertilizer and amendments according to the test results

Many banana trees in the area have fruit this year. Wait until the fruit reach full size, cut off the whole stalk and hang it up somewhere convenient. Pick the fruit from the stalk as it turns yellow.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. You may fertilize at this time if you have not already done so. Look on page 5 of the [Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices Guide](#) for information on the correct timing and application rates.
2. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass. [Click here to find information about large patch disease from the LSU AgCenter.](#)
3. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. The best time to water is in the morning. It is safest, from a disease standpoint, not to keep a grass wet all night long. Watering established sod during midday is discouraged because of extra loss from evaporation
4. Now is a good time to core Aerate the soil to alleviate compaction.
5. Topdress the lawn by spreading a mixture of course sand and finely sifted compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Keep an eye open for insect pests. This is the season for chinch bugs and sod webworms.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.
9. This is the last month to lay sod Bermudagrass.

Don't's

1. Do not apply selective herbicides to the lawn due to high heat.
2. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time.
3. Do not try to grow grass in deep shade.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

Contact your local extension agent for assistance.



Follow us on Facebook at GNOGardening

For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

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