



GN Gardening Magazine

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By Will Afton

“You Cannot Make a Garden with Silk Gloves”

Tips on Selecting the Right Gardening Gloves

Ancient humans learned a long time ago that they could cover themselves in animal skins and other materials to protect their skin from heat, cold, physical damage and other

discomforts. We call these coverings used on our hands gloves and today there are many different types of garden gloves available from general use to those designed for very specific tasks. It can be important to select the proper glove for your intended use; in fact it could save your life. While gardening provides many healthful benefits, there are many hazards that may seem innocuous but can cause minor irritation all the way to serious health concerns.

Some of the potential hazards include:

Mother Earth - Soil serves as an ecosystem for diverse microbes that perform various roles that range from useful organisms to dangerous transmitters of diseases. Viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and parasitic worms can all potentially live in the soil and be transmitted to humans.

Cuts, scrapes, and punctures - While painful enough on their own, bacteria and other foreign material can be introduced into the wound leading to infections and other complications.

Biting and Stinging bugs - There are many

‘unfriendlies’ hiding in our gardens including: imported fire ants, mosquitos, fleas, ticks, bees, wasps, and caterpillars. Potential allergic reactions and disease vectors can increase the risk.



Student volunteers from the Academy of Our Lady in Marrero working in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens model their garden gloves.

Chemical exposure -

There are numerous chemical products used in our gardens including insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. The highest percentage of pesticide exposure occurs through the skin. Even products listed as organic can cause skin irritation. Furthermore, chemicals on the hands can easily be transmitted to the eyes, mouth, and other areas of the body.

Poisonous plants -

Many plants in our

gardens contain compounds that can cause rashes, hives, swelling and itching of the skin. Stinging nettles, poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac are some of the more well known culprits but there are many more that can cause adverse reactions. Some of the less know malefactors are caladiums, calla lilies, philodendron, oleander, daffodils, tulips, English ivy, marigolds, poinsettia, schefflera, and wandering jew.

Sun Exposure - In addition to the potential to cause cancerous skin lesions, sun exposure also leads to wrinkles in the skin, freckles, and age spots. Just about all gloves except those made from translucent material will provide protection from sun exposure.

Blisters - Observed as fluid filled pockets under the top layer of skin, blisters can be a common hazard of gardening. There are numerous causes for blisters but the most frequent encountered in our gardens are from friction and sunburn. Friction blisters are caused by the skin repeatedly rubbing against another object. This is typically associated with the use of tools such as rakes and shovels.

Now that we know what we are up against we can make the appropriate glove selection. If you visit your local hardware store or garden center you may be overwhelmed by the number of choices available. Work gloves alone come in a bewildering array of materials and stated purpose. Let's take a look at some of the available products to get a better understanding of when and where they would offer the best protection.

The most basic garden glove are usually made from cotton canvas material. Although they are thin and lightweight they can still provide protection from many of the hazards listed above. They provide total protection from sun exposure and can greatly reduce friction. Basic cotton gloves can help protect you from many soil borne pathogens but they should be cleaned between uses. They will protect the hands from most insects. However, wasps and bees may still be able to sting through the fabric and poisonous hairs and spines deposited on the gloves by some pests can still cause harm if you touch other areas of your body. This is similarly true with poisonous plants and chemicals in that you can still distribute harmful agents to other parts of your body through touch. Cloth gloves offer very little protection from cuts and punctures but can reduce abrasions. Some canvas gloves are covered with close spaced small plastic pips which add a little more protection and improve grip. Do not use cloth gloves to mix or apply chemicals or work in areas where chemical residues are still wet. Wash gloves between uses to reduce chronic exposure to pesticides and other contaminants.

Another popular choice are fabric gloves that have been coated with rubberized material. The coating provides additional protection but are otherwise similar to untreated gloves. In many of these products the coating only covers the palm and front of the fingers leaving the back less protected. This type of glove is particularly suited for digging in damp soil and dealing with poisonous plants as the coating will block the liquids from reaching your skin.

Gloves made from leather is another choice. Leather gloves provide excellent protection from abrasions, cuts, and punctures. They are also great for preventing blisters when using tools. They are best used in dry situations as liquids can penetrate the leather and expose



Basic canvas gloves. These are reinforced with plastic pips.



The palm and fingers of these gloves are coated with latex.



Leather gloves are excellent for working with tools.

you to contaminate every time the gloves are donned. For this reason, leather gloves and shoes should never be worn during pesticide applications. Leather gloves are also available with extra long cuffs which extend up the forearm to provide additional protection when pruning roses and other thorny plants.

Chemical resistant gloves are recommended to be worn when mixing and applying pesticides. The degree of chemical resistance required depends primarily on the formulation of the product as well as the method of application. While researching this article I found a very comprehensive and informative publication on the topic from the University of Nebraska. 'This NebGuide explains how to choose and properly use gloves when mixing, loading, or applying pesticides; how to maintain such gloves; and how these procedures can help reduce exposure to chemicals and protect human health.' In the publication they recommend the use of unlined, liquid-proof neoprene, butyl, or nitrile gloves. These materials provide good protection under most



Chemical resistant gloves should be worn when mixing, applying, and cleaning up after pesticide applications. Check the product label for specific recommendations.



Gauntlet gloves have long cuffs to help protect the arms from danger. Great for working with roses and other thorny plants.

conditions, are durable, and are reasonably priced. [To see the guide, click here or go to https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/gl961.pdf](https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/gl961.pdf)

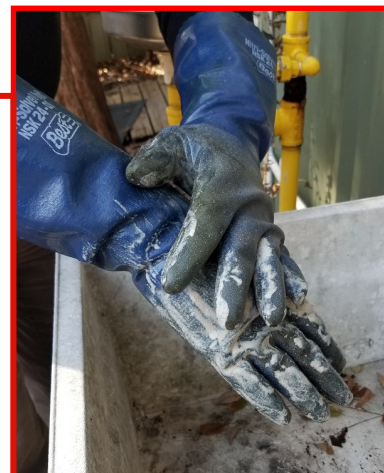
When it comes to personal protective equipment the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure is appropriate for garden gloves. The proper glove can help prevent injury and illness as well as keeping your hands clean, soft, and youthful looking.

~Chris Dunaway



Contrary to intuition, shirt sleeves and pants legs should be worn over chemical resistant gloves and boots. This will prevent pesticides from flowing into the gear.

Tip: After use, wash the outside of non-disposable chemical resistant gloves while still wearing them to make cleaning easier and to reduce exposure when removing them.



May Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Amaranth	None Given
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna
Cucuzza	None Given
Cushaw	None Given
Eggplant	Dusky, Night Shadow, Epic, Santana, Calliope
Hot Peppers (transplant)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla,
Lima Beans (bush or pole)	Dixie Butterpea, Jackson Wonder, Thorogreen Florida Speckled, King of Garden
Luffa Gourd	None Given
Malbar Spinace	None Given
Mirlitons	None Given
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Peanuts	None Given
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Soybeans	None Given
Sweet Potato	Beauregard, Evangeline, Hernandez, Jewel
Watermelon	Seedless: Cooperstown, Gypsy, Matrix, Millennium Seeded: Mickey Lee, Sugar Baby, Amarillo
Yardlong Beans	None Given

Look at Me!

Tuber Vervain *Verbena rigida*

Verbena is nothing new for seasoned home gardeners. The legendary *V. canadensis* 'Homestead Purple' has been used in gardens for years and it was awarded Louisiana Super Plant status back

in the fall of 2015. Verbena plants are well-known for performing all summer long and producing an abundance of nectar which helps support local pollinators. With the widespread use and popularity of this plant you'll find all kinds of new introductions

from the big plant breeders. While the new releases can be exciting, don't write-off some of the older varieties. One of these species that should be discussed is *V. rigida*, or tuber vervain.

Tuber vervain is a perennial plant with stems that lay on the ground with the tips curving upward towards the sky. It can reach heights up to two feet tall. The leaves emerge opposite each node along the stem and display spear shaped leaves with coarsely toothed margin or edges. The flowers on this plant are a beautiful magenta/purple and occur in clusters at the ends of stems.

Most verbenas are native to the Americas and this particular species is native to South America, specifically the areas of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay,

and Chile. At the current time it has now naturalized in the southwest portion of the United States where it grows up and down roadside throughout the deep south. Knowing a little bit about the native climate of

where plants evolved is key to understanding their successful management. The climate is warm and dry in that area of South America, and this explains why you see it thriving alongside highways and byways throughout the region. Bright sunlight warms the pavement



Tuber vervain *Verbena rigida* plants growing along a roadway.

and keeps the surrounding soils slightly drier, mimicking the conditions within an arid climate.

Look for this plant at local plant nurseries that keep a variety of plants in their inventory. It's not as common as some of the newer verbenas out there so keep an open mind while searching. Check online for companies that sell seeds. And, if you just can't wait for a package to come in the mail it is possible to root out cuttings or collect seed from wild plants on the side of the road. Be careful and find an area where you can completely pull off the road. It would also be advisable to wear bright colored clothing so that oncoming vehicles can see you on the side of the road.

~Will Afton

What's Bugging You?

Spartocera fusca

If you grow nightshades (tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, tomatillo, eggplant) in your garden, you may notice some large, colorful insects checking them out. They have no common name and are often confused for other members of the genus Coreidae, which includes the leaf-footed bugs *Leptoglossus phyllopus*, that suck the juices from many of our favorite garden fruits. Like the leaf-footed bug, the young nymphs of *Spartocera fusca* are brightly patterned in orange and tend to congregate on certain plants. As a native to the southern US, the Caribbean, Mexico and south into Argentina, this insect naturally hosts on groundcherry *Physalis spp.* and black nightshade *Solanum americanum*, which grow wild in our area.

Adult *Spartocera fusca* insects measure about 3 cm long, with an orange-russet coloration, red eyes, and some dark banding around the edges of the body. The nymphs begin life as a bright orange with black legs, and gradually get more intricately patterned in black and orange as they grow. They are gregarious, meaning that like a leaf-footed bug, they congregate on the tops of plants that they are feeding on, which in this case includes all members of the nightshade family. The legs lack a flared element, which makes identifying them and telling them apart from leaf-footed bugs possible.

Spartocera, while alarming, especially in large numbers in the garden, are harmless. They pose no threat to crops, people, or pets. While they do feed on

tomato, pepper, eggplant, and tomatillo fruits, they do not transmit the yeast that damages the fruit like a leaf-footed bug, and rarely is their activity noticeable. They do not sting or bite like the Milkweed Assassin Bug *Zelus longipes*. They are also distinct from the



Photo by Ángel Solís

Adult and immature *Spartocera fusca* insects

Chagas Bug *Triatoma dimidiata*, which bites and transmits Chagas disease.

Often, *Spartocera* nymphs will move on in a day or two. I've found in my garden that they vastly prefer to host on the black nightshade growing on a weedy lot nearby and seem to end up on my potatoes and other crops almost by accident. They can be easily removed by hand using a cup to knock them off into. There are no recommendations for chemical control as they have not been observed to be a pest of any significance. They are enjoyable garden visitors and just as colorful as the hummingbirds, butterflies, and ladybeetles that visit, earning them a place as a "neutral" guest in the garden. It's really a shame that these beautiful insects don't have a common name.

~Anna Timmerman

Peanut Greaxing Guide

Peanuts and the south go together like wine and cheese or gumbo and French baguette. The peanut (*Arachis hypogaea*), also known as the groundnut, goober, or monkey nut, is a legume crop grown mainly for its edible seeds. It is a common crop in the tropics and subtropics worldwide grown as a grain legume for its seeds and as an oil crop due to the high oil content in the seed (45-52%). Over 50,000 metric tons are produced annually worldwide. The top peanut producers are China (37%), India (13%), Nigeria (9%), US (5%), and Sudan (5%). The US produces over 2500 metric tons annually. In other parts of the world, peanuts are also grown as a forage crop. Peanuts are grown commercially in 13 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Top producers are Georgia (50%), Florida (11%), Alabama (10%), Texas (9%), North Carolina (8%), and South Carolina (4%). The remaining 7 states produce 8% combined.

The *Arachis* genus is native to South America. The current theory is that the cultivated species (*Arachis hypogaea*) came from a onetime chance hybridization of two wild species that gave rise to a sterile hybrid. A chance spontaneous chromosome doubling restored fertility to the hybrid with selection and domestication resulting in the emergence of the current cultivated species. The domesticated plants are bushier, more compact, and have a different pod structure and larger seeds than the wild types.

Peanuts and peanut products have many commercial industrial uses. Some products from peanuts include: peanuts, peanut butter, peanut flour, peanut oil, hay (tops), and mulch (shells).

Nutritional Value

Peanuts are highly nutritious and an important part

of many diets worldwide. They are high in protein and healthy fats (see Table 1: Nutritional Content). They also contain other healthy nutrients, minerals, antioxidants and vitamins.

There have been lots of studies on other health benefits of peanuts which includes improved gut microbiome, heart-healthy fats that lower LDL (bad) cholesterol, reduced risk of cardiovascular disease, reduced risk of weight gain, low glycemic index that reduces inflammation, reduced blood pressure, and reduced risk for type 2 diabetes. They also contain resveratrol which studies show health benefits of anticancer, antimicrobial, neuroprotective, antiaging, anti-inflammatory, cardioprotective and blood-sugar lowering properties. These studies are usually done with peanuts that still have their skin because many of the active compounds are concentrated in the skin.

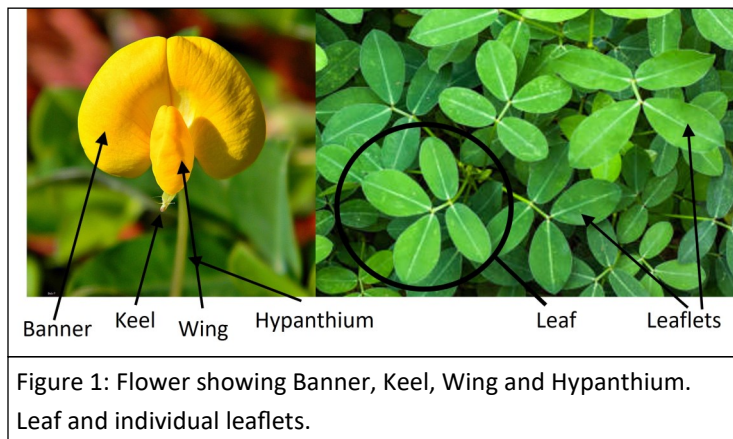
Botany

Arachis hypogaea is a member of the Fabaceae family commonly known as legumes. The peanut is not a nut at all but the seed of a legume. It would be more accurately called a bean or pea. *Arachis* comes from the Greek word meaning pea or vetch. The Greek derivation of *hypogaea* means “under earth”, the fruits are produced underground.

The peanut is an herbaceous annual with opposite, pinnately compound leaves having four leaflets $\frac{1}{2}$ ” – 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ” long by $\frac{1}{2}$ ” – 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ” wide depending on variety. Like many legumes, the leaflets fold shut at night and open in the morning.

The $\frac{3}{8}$ ” to $\frac{5}{8}$ ” wide flowers are yellowish orange with reddish veins and borne in axillary clusters above ground. The self-pollinating flowers last for only one day.

Peanut fruits develop underground, an unusual process known as geocarpy. The fertilized ovary begins to elongate and grows downward from the



node to the soil. This specialized structure, called a peg, becomes visible about 7 days after fertilization. The sharp-pointed peg enters the soil about 10 to 14 days after pollination. The developing pod is located in the tip of the peg. Once in the soil, it begins to enlarge and forms the pod and kernels. The pod will not begin growth until the peg is in darkness. Because several flowers can develop from each node, several pegs and pods can be found originating from a single node. These pods are 1 to 3 in. long, normally containing one to four seeds. The size and number of peanuts is variety dependent. The mesocarp becomes a hard shell with several large veins traversing its length. The indeterminate fruiting habit of the peanut means the plant will have pods of varying maturity. Consequently, peanut harvest determinations are based on the presence of 70 to 80 percent mature pods.

Mature, harvestable pods require 60 to 80 days of development. Temperature (both day and nighttime) interacts with variety, planting date, seasonal moisture, etc., in controlling development of the crop. However, the controlling factor in all plant development is temperature.

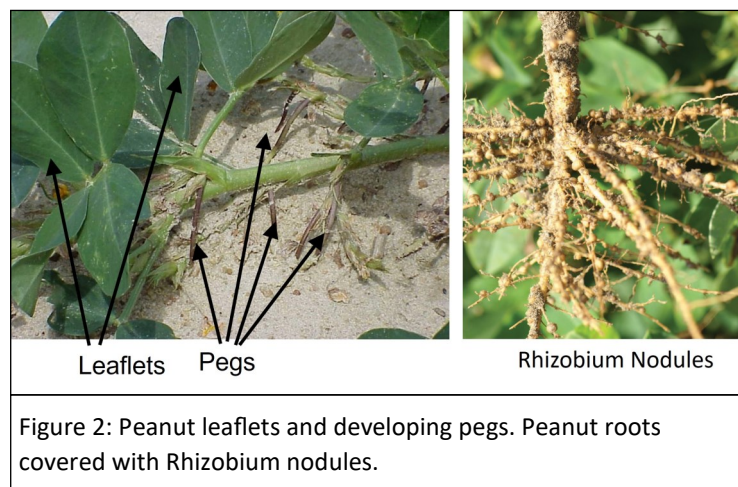
Site

Peanuts grow best in well-drained, light, sandy loam soil with a pH of 5.9–7.0. Peanuts do not grow well in compacted or high clay soils. Peanuts need 8 or more hours of direct sunlight daily for optimal growth.

Planting

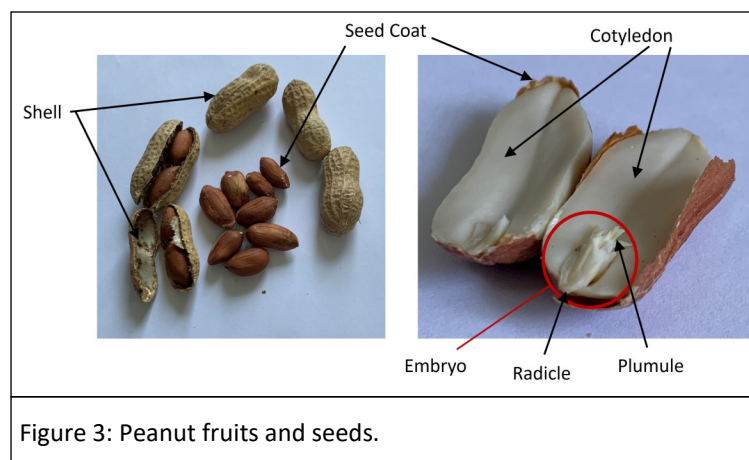
Seeds should be planted in a well-prepared seedbed

in soil that is loose and crumbly with no large clumps. Plant seeds 1.5 to 3 inches deep when soil temperatures are consistently above 65°F. Plants grow optimally at temperatures between 86 and 93°F although they will tolerate a range between 59 and 113°F. Temperatures above 93°F may damage flowers.



Sow 4-6 seeds per foot of row. Seeds germinate and plantlets emerge 5-10 days after planting. When plants are 2" tall, thin to 8-12" apart. Depending on variety, plants will spread 2.5-3.5 feet. Space the rows at least 20 inches apart. Keep the soil moist after planting to ensure uniform germination. Peanuts transplant well and can be started indoors 3-4 weeks before transplanting out.

You need 10-12 plants per person. Each plant yields 25 -50 nuts.



Culture

Keep plants well-watered during dry periods to promote rapid, uninterrupted growth. Plants need about 1 inch of rain per week during the growing

season. Keep the soil moist but not saturated. Peanuts are resistant to drought and can withstand long periods without water, but this will cause a reduction in yield.

Like all legumes, peanuts form a symbiotic relationship with *Rhizobium* bacteria. These bacteria form nodules on peanut roots and fix atmospheric nitrogen making it available for their host. Legume *Rhizobium* inoculant is available commercially. If peanuts nodulate properly, they have little need for addition of nitrogen fertilizer. Leaf yellowing may indicate a need for nitrogen. Peanuts require calcium in the soil for good pod fill. The calcium in the soil is absorbed directly by the pods in the pegging zone. Soil tests will be a good guide to what nutrients, if any, you need to add for good peanut growth. Phosphorus or potassium deficiencies may require the addition of super triple phosphate or muriate of potash.

Harvest

Depending on the variety and weather, peanuts usually reach the harvestable stage 85-130 days after planting. As mentioned in the Botany section, peanuts continually flower and fruit. Harvesting is timed when 70-80% of the pods are mature. Upon harvest, you will have around 20% of the pods still immature.

To harvest, remove the entire plant from the ground. Loosen the soil with a garden fork around the plant prior to pulling so the pods will remain attached. Shake off the excess soil and hang plants to sun dry for 4-7 days. Then remove the pods, spread in a single layer and allow to cure for 2-3 weeks in warm well-aerated space before storing. Peanuts are cured when the outer shell is hard and brittle.

Alternatively, remove the pods immediately after pulling and spread to dry and cure. You can rinse the soil from the pods after removing from the plant and then spread to dry and cure.

If you plan to use the peanuts for boiled peanuts, they should be harvested and boiled prior to curing.

Pollination

Self-pollination means peanuts do not require outside aid such as bees, other insects, or the wind to transfer pollen from one plant to another for fertilization. However, flowers may be visited by pollinators in search of nectar.

Peanut Types and Production

U.S. peanuts fall into four basic types: Runner, Virginia, Spanish and Valencia. Each of these peanuts is distinctive in size and flavor.

Runner (*Arachis hypogaea* subsp. *hypogaea*)

Runners have become the dominant peanut type grown in the U.S. due to the introduction of the Florunner variety in the early 1970s, which was responsible for a spectacular increase in peanut yields. Runners have rapidly gained wide acceptance because of their attractive kernel size range; a high proportion of runners are used for peanut butter. Runners, grown mainly in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Texas and Oklahoma, account for more than 85% of total U.S. production.

Some runner type varieties are: Bradford Runner, Early Runner, Egyptian Giant, Florunner, Sunrunner, Southern Runner, Georgia Runner, Georgia Green, Flavor Runner 458, Rhodesian Spanish Bunch.

Virginia (*Arachis hypogaea* subsp. *hypogaea*)

Virginias have the largest kernels and account for most of the peanuts roasted and eaten as inshells. When shelled, the larger kernels are sold as salted or flavored peanuts. Virginias are grown mainly in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina, South Carolina and West Texas. Virginia-type peanuts account for about 10% of total U.S. production.

Some common Virginia type varieties are: Bailey, Champs, Florida Fancy, Gregory, Perry, Phillips, Sugg, Sullivan, Titan, Wynne.

Spanish (*Arachis hypogaea* subsp. *fastigiata*)

Spanish-type peanuts have smaller kernels covered

with a reddish-brown skin. They are used predominantly in peanut candy but are also used for salted nuts and peanut butter. Spanish peanuts have higher oil content than the other types of peanuts, which is advantageous when crushing for oil. The Ole Spanish variety was released in 2015 after extensive research and is high in oleic acid, a beneficial monounsaturated fatty acid; its high roasted peanut score and increased shelf life make it ideal for candy bars or for snack nuts. Spanish-type peanuts account for 2% of U.S. production.

Some common Spanish type varieties are: Argentine, Comet, Dixie Spanish, Florispan, Georgia 045, Hull, Ole Spanish, Olin, Pronto, Shulamit, Spanco, Tamsan 90.

Valencia (*Arachis hypogaea* subsp. *fastigiata*)

Valencias usually have three or more small kernels to a pod. They are very sweet peanuts and are usually roasted and sold in the shell; they are excellent for fresh use as boiled peanuts. Valencias are also commonly used to make natural peanut butter. Due to greater demand for other varieties, Valencias account for less than 1% of U.S. production and are grown mainly in New Mexico.

Some common Valencia type varieties are: GenTex 118, GenTex 136, Georgia Red, Georgia Valencia, Nu-Mex 01, Tennessee Red, Valencia A, Valencia C.

Common Diseases

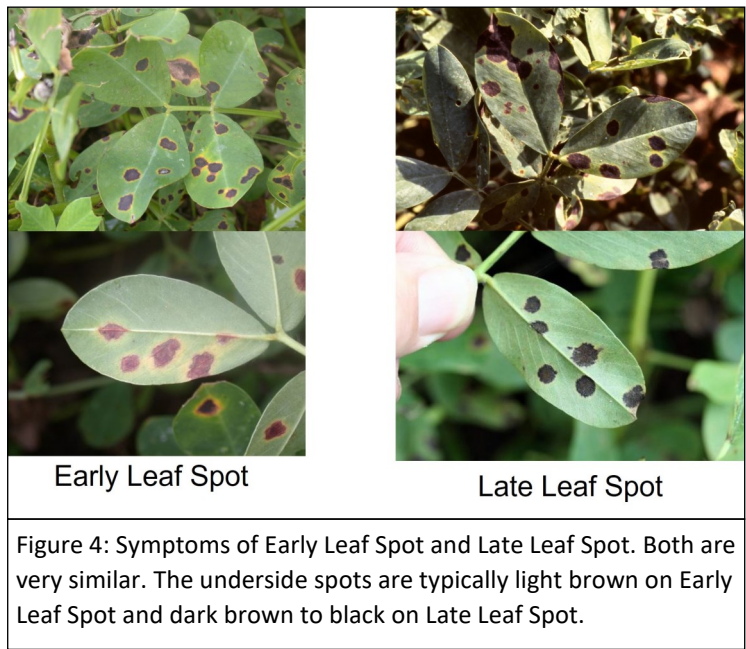
(ALWAYS read and follow label instructions on pesticides).

Late Leaf Spot (*Cercosporidium personatum*): Late leaf spot causes dark brown to black leaf spots (lesions) that penetrate through the leaf and are visible on both the upper and lower leaf surface. The spots may (or may not) be surrounded by a yellow halo. Young late leaf spot lesions appear as dark speckles while older lesions are rounded and dark brown to nearly black. Late leaf spot lesions produce masses of spores in humid weather. On the underside of the leaf, the dark mass of spores on the lower

lesion surface gives the spot a velvety appearance that can be seen without magnification. **Control:** Crop rotation is recommended. Fungicides containing chlorothalonil or thiophanate methyl are effective.

Early Leaf Spot (*Cercospora arachidicola*): Early leaf spot typically causes penetrating brown lesions (spots) visible on the upper and lower leaf surface. A yellow halo usually is present around early leaf spots, but halos are NOT diagnostic since they also are common with late leaf spot. The difference between the brown lesions of early leaf spot and the dark-brown-to-black lesions of late leaf spot is most apparent on the lesions viewed on the underside of the leaf. Early leaf spot lesions are generally round, but can expand or grow together, becoming less regular in shape. The fungus produces tufts of silvery, hair-like spores on lesions during humid weather.

Control: Crop rotation is recommended. Fungicides containing chlorothalonil or thiophanate methyl are recommended.



Stem Rot (*Sclerotium rolfsii*): Southern blight, also known as stem rot, is caused by a soilborne fungus. The disease is widespread on peanuts and other crops in Louisiana. Disease development is favored by hot and humid conditions in the peanut canopy. Therefore, the disease occurs mainly in mid- to late-season. The fungus primarily attacks the base of stems near the soil line, but any plant part in contact

with soil may be damaged. Infected plants are generally killed prior to maturity. Peg and pod infections are common and result in pod loss at harvest. **Control:** Fungicides containing tebuconazole are recommended.

Limb Rot (*Rhizoctonia solani*): Limb rot usually appears in late August and September after the vines of runner varieties have lapped. Elongated spots (lesions) develop on the underside of lower branches in contact with the soil. The lesions are dark brown and may have a target-like appearance. Lesions expand and girdle individual branches causing them to wilt and die. In severe cases where rainfall is



Figure 5: Left - Stem rot; Right – Limb rot.

excessive, leaves within the canopy are covered with a white, moldy growth. **Control:** Fungicides containing tebuconazole are recommended.

Rust (*Puccinia arachidis*): Characteristic orange pustules appear on undersides of leaves which become covered in masses of red-brown spores; pustules may form on pods. Peanut rust is highly specific to peanut; disease emergence and spread is favored by warm temperatures followed by leaf wetness. **Control:** Fungicides containing



Figure 6: Rust pustules on the upper and lower peanut leaf surface.

tebuconazole or azoxystrobin are recommended.

Common Pests

(**ALWAYS read and follow label instructions on pesticides**).

Cowpea Aphid (*Aphis craccivora*): Cowpea aphids have a broad host range with a preference for legume crops. Cowpea aphids are relatively small, ranging from 1.5 to 2.5 mm long. Adults may be winged or wingless and are usually shiny black, while nymphs are smoky gray. They tend to feed in clusters on newly expanding leaves, blooms, and stems. Infested plants become yellowish, stunted, and non-

productive because of direct feeding and the insects' toxic salivary secretions. Cowpea aphids are efficient vectors of several important virus diseases. **Control:** Introduce or attract natural predators into your garden such as lady beetles and wasps which feed on aphids. You can also wash them off with a strong spray, or use an insecticidal soap. Horticultural oils are

also effective as are insecticides containing bifenthrin, permethrin or imidacloprid.

Corn earworms (*Helicoverpa zea*) and **tobacco budworms** (*Helicoverpa armigera*) vary in color from



Figure 7: Cowpea Aphid – Adult & Nymphs

light green to almost black. They are one of the most common caterpillars that feed on peanut foliage. The life cycle requires about 30 days, with 14 to 16 days of

this time spent in the larval stage. There may be several generations in peanuts during a single growing season. **Control:** Soft pesticides like Bt and Spinosad are effective against these caterpillars. Traditional insecticides containing bifenthrin or permethrin are also recommended.

Armyworms (*Spodoptera* spp.): Armyworm feeding leaves singular, or closely grouped circular to irregularly shaped holes in foliage. Heavy feeding by young larvae leads to skeletonized leaves. Egg clusters of 50-150 eggs may be present on the leaves; egg clusters are covered in a whitish scale which gives the cluster a cottony or fuzzy appearance. Young larvae are pale green to yellow in color while older larvae are generally darker green with a dark and light line running along the side of their body and a pink or yellow underside. This varies slightly within the fall armyworm, beet armyworm, yellow-striped armyworm group. **Control:** Soft pesticides like Bt and Spinosad are effective against armyworms. Traditional

also feed on tender stems, buds and pods. **Control:** Soft pesticides like Bt and Spinosad are effective against velvetbean caterpillars. Traditional insecticides containing bifenthrin or permethrin are also recommended.

Threecornered Alfalfa Hopper (*Spissistilus festinus*): The threecornered alfalfa hopper adult is a green, wedge-shaped insect with clear wings. The body is about 0.25 inch long, is higher and wider at the head and tapers towards the end. This insect gets



Figure 9: Threecornered Alfalfa Hopper Adult & Nymph

its common name from the triangular area over the thoracic area as seen from above. It has piercing-

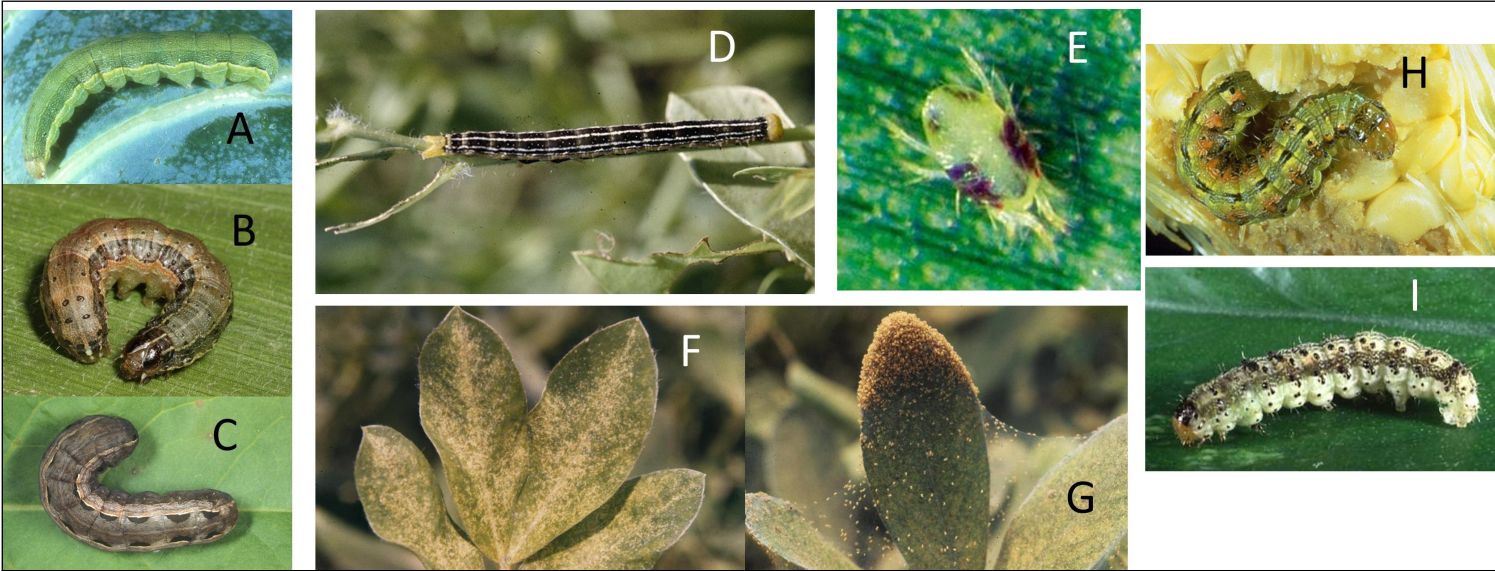


Figure 8: Peanut Pests – A:Beet Armyworm, B:Fall Armyworm, C:Yellow-Striped Armyworm, D:Velvetbean Caterpillar, E:Two-Spotted Spider Mite, F:Flecking from spider mite damage, G:Webbing from spider mites, H: Corn Earworm, I: Tobacco Budworm

insecticides containing bifenthrin or permethrin are also recommended.

Velvetbean caterpillar (*Anticarsia gemmatilis*): The larva causes damage to plants by feeding on leaves. The larva skeletonize the leaves by feeding only on soft parts. Later stage larvae consume entire leaves. They will stripe the plants in a few days. The larvae

sucking mouthparts. Nymphs are grayish white and soft bodied, with a line of saw-toothed spines on their backs. Adults and nymphs of the alfalfa hopper usually feed at the base of the plant near the crown. This makes the stem prone to breaking easily and interferes with nutrient movement in the plant. Damaged stems will often turn a deep purple color.

Three-cornered alfalfa hoppers will also feed on the pegs. **Control:** Insecticides containing bifenthrin, carbaryl, or beta-cyfluthrin have been recommended.

Thrips: Thrips are tiny needle-thin insects that are black or straw colored. They suck the juices of plants and attack flower petals, leaves and stems. The plant will have a stippling, discolored flecking or silvering of the leaf surface. There are several species of thrips that can be found on peanuts, most commonly the tobacco thrips (*Frankiella fusca*) and the western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*). Tomato

Spotted Wilt Virus is a thrips vectored viral disease.

Control: Insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils will work with good coverage. Spinosad is more effective and longer lasting. Insecticides containing imidacloprid are also effective.

Two-spotted spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae*):

They suck on the plant juices removing chlorophyll and injecting toxins which cause white dots on the foliage. There is often webbing visible on the plant. They cause the foliage to turn yellow and become dry and stippled. They multiply quickly and thrive in dry conditions. **Control:** Insecticidal soaps and horticultural oil are recommended contact pesticides.

What About Peanut Allergies

I would be remiss if I didn't also mention peanut allergies. Peanut allergies are one of the most common and potentially dangerous food allergies, affecting at least 1% of the U.S. population and anywhere from 2% to 5% of children. Year after year,

peanut allergies continue to climb, particularly among children previously unexposed to peanuts.

Because of this, the FDA has instructed food

manufacturers to prominently list peanuts—along with any of the seven other common allergens (milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, wheat, and soybean)—on product labels. Some manufacturers may include wording like "may contain peanuts" if the product is produced in a facility that uses nuts in other food products. This can help you avoid hidden nuts if you are especially allergic.

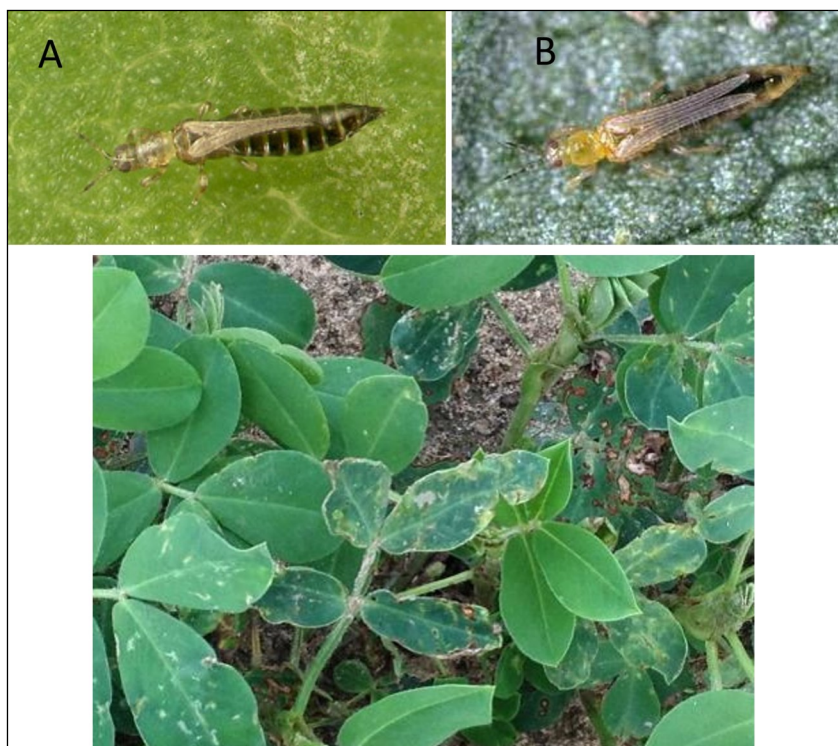


Figure 10: A – Tobacco Thrips; B – Western Flower Thrips; Bottom – Peanut showing stippling and deformation due to thrips.

Peanut allergies are most often a reaction to proteins in peanuts, the most common of which are arachin and conarachin.

Peanut allergies can range from mild to life-threatening. In rare instances, it can lead to an all-body reaction known as anaphylaxis, characterized by a severe rash or hives, shortness of breath, wheezing, rapid heart rate, the swelling of the face or throat, and a "feeling of impending doom." If left untreated, anaphylaxis can lead to shock, coma, heart or respiratory failure, and death.

Although many parents are terror-struck by the very notion of a peanut allergy, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology recommends that peanuts be introduced into a child's diet early to sensitize them to peanuts and avoid the development of an allergy. Research shows that early peanut introduction in a child's life (between age 4-6 months) can reduce peanut allergy risk by 86%.

Serving Size 1 cup	Amount Per Serving	% Daily Value
Calories	828	41
Total Carbohydrates	23.6 g	9
Dietary Fiber	12.4 g	44
Sugars	6.9 g	
Total Fat	71.9 g	92
Saturated Fat	9.2 g	46
Omega-3 Fatty Acids	4.4 mg	
Omega-6 Fatty Acids	22.9 g	
Protein	37.7 g	75
Vitamins		
Vitamin E	12.2 mg	81
Thiamin	0.9 mg	78
Riboflavin	0.2 mg	15
Niacin	17.6 mg	110
Vitamin B6	0.5 mg	30
Folate	350 mcg	88
Pantothenic Acid	2.6 mg	52
Choline	80.7 mg	14
Minerals		
Calcium	134.3 mg	10
Copper	1.7 mg	186
Iron	6.7 mg	37
Magnesium	245.3 mg	58
Manganese	2.8 mg	123
Phosphorus	549.0 mg	44
Potassium	1029.3 mg	22
Selenium	10.5 mcg	19
Sodium	26.3 mg	1
Zinc	4.8 mg	43
Cholesterol	0	

Table 1: Nutrient content of raw peanuts ([Peanuts, raw, all types nutrition facts and analysis. \(nutritionvalue.org\)](https://nutritionvalue.org/peanuts-raw-all-types-nutrition-facts-and-analysis))

Peanut Tidbits

1. It takes about 540 peanuts to make a 12-ounce jar of peanut butter.
2. By law, any product labeled “peanut butter” in the United States must be at least 90 percent peanuts.
3. It takes 3.2 gallons of water to produce 1 ounce of peanuts. (*Bonus fact: 1 ounce of almonds takes 28.7 gallons*)
4. The average person will eat almost 3,000 PB&Js in their lifetime, according to a 2016 survey by Peter Pan Simply Ground Peanut Butter.
5. The Huffington Post (*Sept. 2014*) asked, “What makes the best peanut butter and jelly sandwich? Results show: 36% say strawberry jam is favorite (grape is 31%); favorite bread is white bread (54%); favorite type of peanut butter is smooth (56%) and a whopping 80% like their PB & J with the crust left on the sandwich.
6. Two peanut farmers have been elected president of the USA – Virginia's Thomas Jefferson and Georgia's Jimmy Carter.
7. Former President Bill Clinton says one of his favorite sandwiches is peanut butter and banana; also reported to have been the favorite of Elvis “the King” Presley.

8. There are six cities in the U.S. named Peanut: Peanut, California; Lower Peanut, Pennsylvania; Upper Peanut, Pennsylvania; Peanut, Pennsylvania, Peanut, Tennessee; and Peanut West Virginia.
9. Goober—a nickname for peanuts—comes from “nguba”, the Congo language name for peanut.
10. George Washington Carver was known as the “plant doctor” and the “grandfather of peanuts”. He discovered many ways to use peanuts and innovative farming methods, including crop diversification and soil conservation.
11. There are enough peanuts in one acre to make 35,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.
12. Peanuts are naturally cholesterol-free. They’re a great plant-based option, contain more protein than any nut and several essential vitamins and minerals.
13. Peanuts are the most sustainable nut. From the roots to the hulls, no part of the plant goes to waste. They also have the most efficient water use carbon footprint.
14. Peanuts are the 7th most valuable crop in the US.
15. Have you ever wondered where the term “Peanut Gallery” comes from? The expression, which became popular in the late 19th century, refers to the section of cheap seats in a theater or the group of spectators seated there.
16. Mr. Peanut was created by 13-year-old Antonio Gentile in a logo contest held by Planters in 1916. He won the grand prize of \$5.00. His drawing of a peanut person with arms and crossed legs was refined by a professional illustrator who added the top hat, monocle, white gloves, and cane.
17. Peanuts account for two-thirds of all snack nuts consumed in the U.S.
18. March is National Peanut Month; November is National Peanut Butter Lovers’ Month.

~Dr. Joe Willis

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Disease of the Month

Powdery Mildew in the Landscape

Powdery mildew is a fairly common disease seen in South Louisiana and other areas with long warm and humid growing seasons. Any gardener with a few years of experience has seen this disease at some point in time. The disease can occur on many different herbaceous plants and even some woody perennial plants. You will encounter it in the vegetable garden, in the home orchard, and in some of your flowerbeds. The climate of South Louisiana provides an optimum environment for these pests to reside. As our Horticulture Pathology Extension Specialist says, “These pathogens come to Louisiana

for vacation and never go home!”.

There are several fungal organisms that can cause powdery mildew and are commonly referred to as the powdery mildew fungi. These pathogens infect and inhabit upper leaf surfaces on their host plants. The white-colored hyphae, or branching filaments that make up fungal mycelium, contain specialized organs that produce spores. These specialized structures are called conidia and when they actively release asexual spores, it gives off the white powdery appearance that we all know and recognize. These fungi are also known as obligate parasites, meaning they need a



Photo by Will Afton

Powdery mildew on the leaves, stems and flower buds of a rose bush.

host plant for survival, whereas facultative parasites can survive without one. Powdery mildew fungi extract nutrients from epidermal cells of host plants colonized by their hyphae.

These organisms live in our environment and make up part of our ecosystem. They are also very host specific meaning that there are specific powdery mildew fungi that colonize specific plants. If more than one type of landscape plant is showing symptoms of powdery mildew, expect different pathogens to be causing the symptoms on those different plants. Another interesting characteristic is that these organisms do not require free water on the leaf surface to germinate. They can germinate in environments with high relative humidity. Even with little rainfall these pathogens can infect as long as there is a decent amount of humidity. Hence, their common occurrence in Southeast Louisiana.

Management of this disease is like other fungal issues seen in the landscape. Scouting and observing garden plants is the first step in an integrated approach to combat powdery mildew. Get out and look at your plants to catch problems early. Manage irrigation system so that emitters apply water to the soil and not upwards or onto plant foliage. Adjust frequency and duration to exactly what the plants require.

Basically, manage any excess water to keep the relative humidity as low as possible. For localized infections, simply removing the infected portions and throwing out with the trash will suffice. Lastly, there are several fungicides that can help keep symptoms unnoticeable and slow the disease spread including myclobutanil (Spectracide Immunox Multi-Purpose Fungicide, Monterey Fungi-Max), propiconazole

(Ferti-lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide II, Bonide Infuse Systemic Disease Control), chlorothalonil (Ferti-lome Broad Spectrum Landscape & Garde,



Photo by Will Afton

Powdery mildew on the new growth of a crapemyrtle tree.

Garden Tech Daconil Fungicide), and copper fungicide (various brands). When using a pesticide, it is imperative to read and follow label instructions and with fungicides in general, alternate active ingredients with each application to avoid issues with fungicide resistance.

~Will Afton

What's Wrong With My Plant—Sunscorch, Sunburn, Sunscald

We get a lot of calls, especially in the spring, from gardeners wondering what causes the white blotches on the leaves of their newly planted veggies and ornamentals. Later in the growing season they want to know what the disease is that's causing white sunken lesions on their vegetable fruits. The plants usually haven't been planted very long in the Spring and they're wondering what kind of disease attacks so quickly – almost overnight. Very often, these are abiotic physiological problems caused by intense sunlight and high temperatures. These are termed sunscorch, sunburn, or sunscald. Some writers will separate the different disorders based on whether it occurs on leaves, fruits, or bark and give each a different moniker. Either way, it's caused by the same abiotic conditions, so, we'll lump them all together for our discussion.

In early spring, the condition is very often caused by planting seedlings that have not been hardened off.

Hardening off is the process of gradually exposing seedlings to outdoor conditions. It encourages a change in plant tissue from soft, succulent growth to a firmer, harder growth. It also causes plants that have been grown under greenhouse-like conditions to develop a waxy protective layer on leaves and stems that prevent dehydration. During the hardening off process, the plant undergoes physiological changes: 1) plant growth slows, 2) the natural wax layer on leaf surfaces thickens reducing the rate of water loss, 3) cell walls become more lignified increasing their rigidity and wind resistance, 4) plant cell water content is reduced and the cytoplasm thickens, 5) the carbohydrate content of cell contents increases, and 6) root system growth is stimulated.

Proper hardening off of transplants will increase transplant survival and performance and decrease occurrences of sunscorch. A good method of hardening off seedlings is:



Figure 1: Sun damage to leaves that can be misdiagnosed as disease. A: Tomato, B: Japanese Maple, C: Basil, D: Snap bean, E: Pepper

- Begin the hardening off process 1-2 weeks prior to the desired planting date.
- If possible, start the process on a mild day. Place the plants outside for 2-3 hours in a shady location protected from the wind. Bring them back in at the end of this time period.
- Gradually increase the sun exposure and time outside for your plants 2-3 hours per day. Reduce the frequency of watering to slow plant growth, but don't allow the plants to wilt.
- After several days of 10-12 hours outside, leave the plants outside for 24 hours.
- After 2-3 days of being outside for 24 hours, your plants are ready to transplant.
- Avoid fertilizing your seedlings during the hardening off process. Once transplanted, use a weak fertilizer solution to encourage growth to restart.

As your veggies grow, they will form a strong root system and lots of foliage. Then comes the flowers and fruit. As the fruit develops and matures, the leafy canopy protects the tender developing fruit from extreme temperatures and sun exposure. Anything that causes leaf damage, drop or drooping can lead to damage of mature and maturing fruit.

Some things that can lead to this condition of insufficient leaf canopy are:

- Water stress that leads to wilting or defoliation.
- Nutrient deficiencies, especially nitrogen, leads to poor leaf growth and development.
- Disease that leads to leaf damage. This could be leaf or root diseases.
- Insect infestations that lead to leaf damage or defoliation.

Damage to the fruit will happen very quickly. Most varieties of fruiting vegetables are developed to have thin tender skin which makes them even more susceptible to rapid damage. To help guard against sun damage to your fruit:

- Help plants develop a strong deep root system by watering deeply.
- Keep plants well-hydrated by proper watering regimen.
- Use measures as needed to prevent disease and insect damage.
- Mulch plants to retain soil moisture and keep roots cooler.
- Keep plants healthy by ensuring that sufficient amounts of nitrogen and other nutrients are available.
- Provide physical screens to protect susceptible plants from sun and wind.
- Avoid physical damage to the plant roots or leaves.



Figure 2: Sun damage to vegetable fruits with disease-like appearance. A: Tomato, B: Pepper, C: Eggplant

Another frequently misdiagnosed sun damage problem occurs on tree trunks and limbs. This type of damage sometimes results in splitting bark and healing often leaves scars. There are two types of tree sunscald. One happens in winter, and one happens in summer.

Summer sunscald happens when the bark of trees gets too hot. This usually affects young trees or young branches on older trees where the bark is thinner and more succulent. The bark tissue gets so hot that cells start to die. This is seen more frequently on trees that

have green bark when young; avocado is a good example of this.

Winter sunscald when the sun heats up the bark during the day, followed by a sudden drop to low temperatures at night. These rapid drastic temperature changes cause damage to cells in the bark. This type of injury tends to occur on the southwest-facing sides of trunks of thin-barked trees. Winter sunscald is uncommon in our area.

Both types of sunscald cause lesions or breaks in the

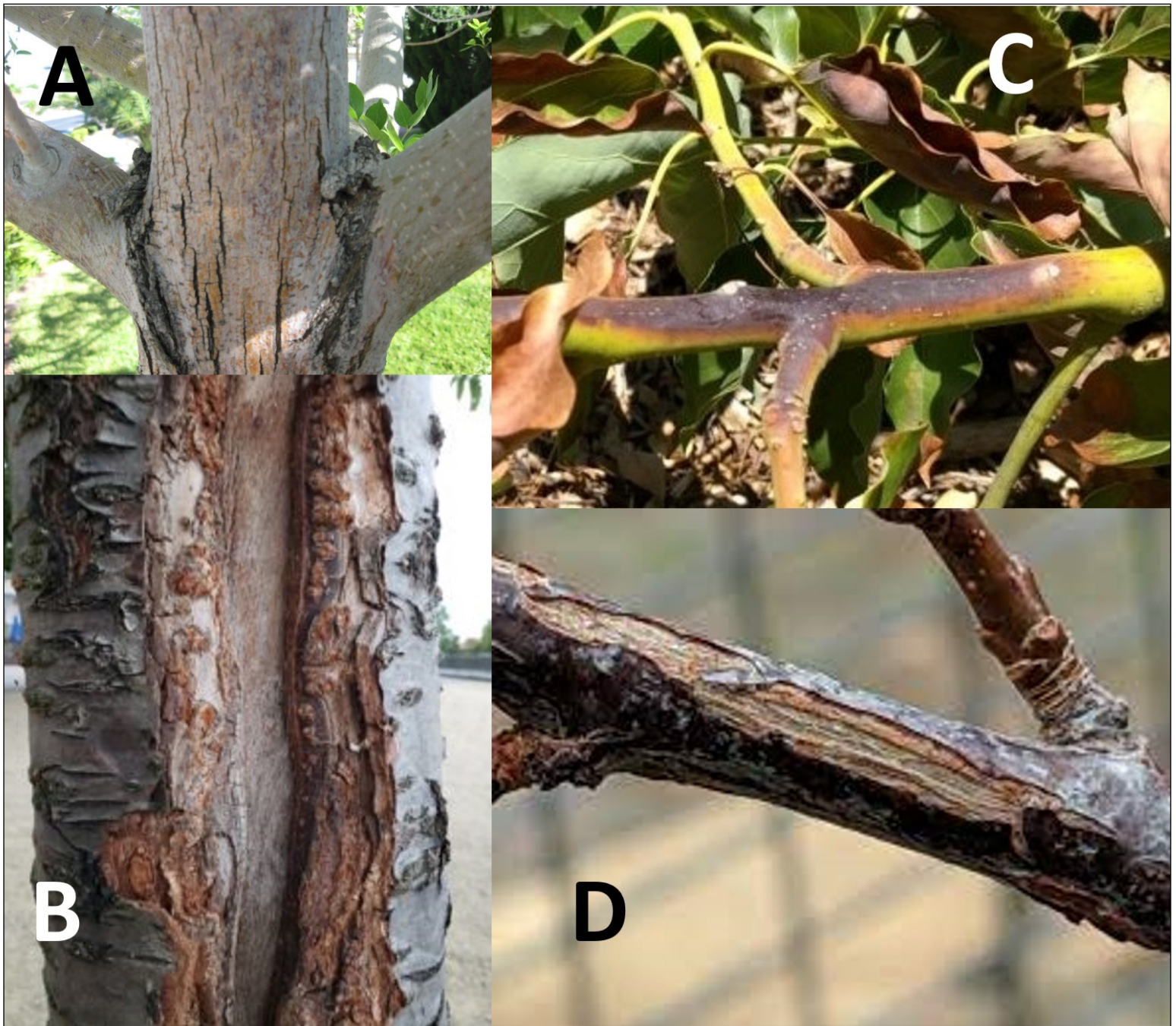


Figure 3: Sun damage to tree trunks and branches. A: Damaged ash showing flattened surface and multiple bark cracks. B: Damaged birch tree that has healed leaving a gaping scar. C: Sunburned avocado branch with lesion-like appearance on green stem. D: Splitting bark on sun damaged plum branch.

bark that over time appear as large damaged areas. As the tree grows, the trunk may develop a flattened surface where damaged.

Measures that will help to prevent this type of damage include the following:

- Painting tree trunks with white latex paint offers some protection.
- Keep trees adequately mulched. Mulch has been shown to reduce sunscald injury.
- Keep trees hydrated by keeping them watered, even during winter months, when there are long spells with no rain.
- Physical screens or shading can also help to prevent this damage.

What about tree wraps and guards? These can be effective if used correctly. Tree wraps are made of a breathable material (burlap, Kraft paper, etc.) that does not adhere to the trunk. Tree protectors are made of a more durable material (plastic, PVC, etc.) and fit loosely around the trunk.

Tree wraps are meant to protect the tree from winter sunscald. They need to be removed as soon as freeze danger has passed. If left on during the growing season, they can provide a perfect, moist environment for insect infestations and disease development.

Tree guards are used to protect from sunscald, protect from animals, guard against wind damage, and protect from physical damage (e.g., string trimmers). Tree guards should be loosely fitting to allow for aeration and growth. Different materials are used depending on the primary purpose of the tree guards. Wire cages are often used primarily as protection from animals and physical damage. Durable plastic guards are used to protect from sun damage, physical damage, and animal damage. These should be light colored. Tree guards that are light or white in color reflect light and heat, thereby reducing the level of harm the sun can cause to young tree trunks. Dark colors do not reflect light; therefore, the temperature inside the guard increases.

With tree guards, check them frequently. They can become a home for nesting rodents. They need to be removed before they begin to damage the tree or restrict its growth. Ensure they are not rubbing the trunk or damaging the tree in any way.

Acclimating young plants to the growing conditions; keeping plants well-watered; proper mulching; providing timely sufficient fertilization; preventing insect, disease and physical damage; and providing protection when needed are great ways to prevent all types of sunscald, sunscorch, and sunburn to your landscape and garden plants.

~Dr. Mary Helen Ferguson, Dr. Joe W. Willis

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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

160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon

Chris in the Kitchen

Refrigerator Pickles

Making pickles is an excellent way to preserve excess cucumbers. However, not everyone has the equipment needed to sterilize the jars, prepare the cucumbers and seal them for storage. Refrigerator pickles, on the other hand, are quick and easy and taste delicious.

Ingredients:

- 1¼ cups distilled white vinegar (5% acidity)
- 3 tablespoons kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 cups cold water
- 1¾ to 2 pounds pickling cucumbers (about 6), cut into halves or spears
- 2 tablespoons coriander seeds
- 6 large garlic cloves, peeled and halved
- 1 teaspoon mustard seeds
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 16 dill sprigs



Jars of refrigerator pickles

Directions: Combine the vinegar, salt and sugar in a small saucepan over high heat. Whisk until the salt and sugar are dissolved. Transfer the liquid into a bowl and whisk in the cold water. Refrigerate brine until ready to use.

Stuff the cucumbers into two clean 1-quart jars. Add the coriander seeds, garlic cloves, mustard seeds, red pepper flakes, dill sprigs, and chilled brine into jars, dividing evenly. If necessary, add a bit of cold water to the jars until the brine covers the cucumbers. Cover and refrigerate about 24 hours, then serve. The pickles will keep in the refrigerator for up to one month.

Look for other recipes to match your taste.

Enjoy

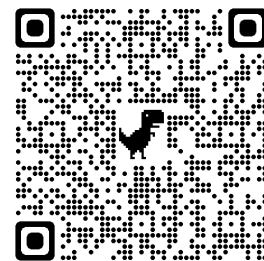
Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

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



Jefferson Parish AgCenter Agent, Chris Dunaway, teaches about composting to school children at 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>

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, Marerro, 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

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
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

Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	https://plantpricks.com/
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St. Tammany

The Boho Being	1184 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458	(985)707-1623
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Photo by Chris Dunaway

Gerbera daisies growing in the Fairgrounds neighborhood in New Orleans.

May Checklist/Garden Tips

Great warm-season bedding plants for sun include abelmoschus, ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, begonia, blue daze, celosia, cleome, coleus (sun-tolerant types), coreopsis, cosmos, Dahlberg daisy, dusty miller, gaillardia, gomphrena, lantana, marigold, melampodium, narrow-leaf zinnia, ornamental pepper, periwinkle, pentas, portulaca, purslane, rudbeckia, salvia, scaevola, sunflower, tithonia, torenia, verbena (perennial), zinnia.

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

Powdery mildew on many ornamentals (crape myrtles, roses, euonymous) and vegetables (squash, cucumbers) continues to be a problem due to dry weather. Treat with chlorothalonil or other labeled fungicides.

Birds will peck holes in tomatoes just before you decide they are ripe enough to harvest. If birds are a problem, cover your plants with bird netting or harvest the fruit in the pink stage and ripen them inside. Bird netting also works well to protect fruit crops, such as blackberries, blueberries and figs, from bird damage, and is available from local nurseries or feed stores.

Grow cucumbers on trellises to save space, increase production and improve the quality of the cucumbers produced.

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.

Cannas that have brown, deformed leaves with holes in them have been attacked by canna leaf-rollers, a caterpillar that is devastating to cannas in our area. Control is difficult and requires regular spraying all summer. If you decide to treat, use a systemic insecticide such as acephate and make weekly applications.

Plant basil plants now and enjoy a wonderful fresh seasoning for summer cooking. Many herbs already in your garden, such as thyme, sage, oregano, lavender, dill, cilantro and parsley, are at their most productive now and will play out as the weather gets hotter. Harvest freely and dry or freeze the extras.

Remove the developing seed pods from such plants as Louisiana irises and amaryllis when they finish blooming. This keeps the plants more attractive and prevents them from wasting effort on seeds that are not needed. It would be better for the plants to put that energy into growing leaves and roots.

Watch azaleas for azalea lace bug damage. Small white spots on the upper surface and small dark brown spots on the back of leaves indicates they are present. Spray with a broad spectrum insecticide getting under the leaves thoroughly.

Caterpillars will feed on the foliage and flowers of ornamentals and the foliage and fruit of vegetables. The tomato fruit worm eats holes in tomatoes. Sevin, spinosad and BT regularly applied will keep them in check.

Termite mating season is upon us and millions of sexually mature Formosan termite alates will be seen flying around light poles at night for the next several weeks. Although termites are active year round, the heightened activity makes it more easy to find the harborages in which they live. Check for the soil and debris that the termites use to hide themselves on local structures and trees. [Click here for more information on termites in trees.](#)

May is one of the busiest months in the flower garden. As cool season annuals become unattractive, the beds need to be cleaned out and replanted with warm season annuals. Don't forget that summer heat makes the care of flower bed uncomfortable to say the least.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. This is the prime planting season for warm season grasses such as St. Augustine, centipede, bermuda and zoysia.
2. This month is the last chance to apply broad leaf weed killers before the weather gets too hot. Button weed is particularly troublesome around the state. This low, mat-forming weed has one inch pointed leaves and small, four petaled white flowers. Most people don't notice it until July, but it is beginning to grow now. LSU AgCenter trials show Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone to work best, especially when applied to young plants in early summer.
3. 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.](#)
4. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches.
5. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Keep an eye open for insect pests and treat if necessary.
8. Spread fill soil and compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
9. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.



Topdressing your lawn with a soil and compost mixture will help break down thatch and improve the root zone.

Don't's

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

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



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For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

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