



Thyme to Plant Cool Season Herbs

At the recent Farm to Table conference in New Orleans, someone made the comment that “Anyone who considers themselves a chef, should be growing their own herbs.” Fortunately, Louisiana chefs can successfully grow a wide variety of herbs. When selecting which herbs you want to grow in your garden, consider what you commonly cook with. Look at the herbs in your kitchen cabinet and start off growing those types of herbs. Be very careful if you decide to grow and use medicinal herbs. You must know exactly what you are doing. Used improperly, some medicinal herbs can be quite toxic.

Most herbs require at least four to six hours of direct sun a day and excellent drainage. Raised beds are best for most herbs. If raised garden beds are not practical for you and your drainage is poor, try growing herbs in containers.

Locate your culinary herb-growing area as close to the kitchen as possible so they are convenient to use while you are cooking. If you have to walk all the way across the yard to harvest them, they’ll likely be underutilized.

For growing purposes in Louisiana, herbs can be loosely grouped into cool-season annuals and warm-season annuals that live for one season and then die and perennials, which live for several years.

Cool-season herbs can tolerate normal winter freezes. They should be seeded or transplanted September through early February. You can plant transplants now because we are late in the cool season at this point, and you can still expect to get acceptable harvests in May or early June. Excellent herbs to plant now include borage, celery, chervil, cilantro/coriander, dill, fennel, parsley, bay, scented geraniums, beebalm, catnip, chives, garlic chives, horseradish, lemon balm, (*Continued*)



Borage: Collect young leaves and flowers to add to salads for a light cucumber flavor.



Celery: Eat leaves and stalks raw or as flavoring to cooked dishes. Part of the creole cooking trinity.



Thyme: One of Herbs de Provence. Used in French Cooking



Winter Savory: One of Herbs de Provence.



Horseradish: Grown for the hot and spicy roots.



Dill: Unique flavor from fresh or dried leaves or seeds.

November Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety	Planting Depth	Spacing Inches	Days Until Harvest * from transplant date
Beets	Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen	¼ inch	2-4	55-60
Cabbage	Blue Vantage, Platinum Dynasty, Stonehead, Cheers, Blue Dynasty, Emblem, Rio Verde	⅝ inch	12-15	65-75*
Carrots	Danvers 128, Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Enterprise, Maverick, Sugar Snax 54	⅝ inch	1-2	70-75
Celery	None Given	⅝ inch	6-8	210
Chinese Cabbage	None Given	¼ inch	12	60-80*
Collards	Champions, Flash, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates	⅝ inch	6-12	75
Garlic	Creole: Early, Louisiana, White Mexican; Italian: Early Red, Lorz; Large: Elephant (Tahitian)	1 inch	4-6	210
Kale	None Given	½ inch	12-18	50
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner	⅝ inch	6	55-75
Leeks	Alora	⅝ inch	2-4	135-210
Lettuce	Esmeralda, New Red Fire F1, Nevada, Tall Guzmaine Elite	⅝ inch	4-12	45-80
Mustard Greens	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Tendergreen	⅝ inch	4-6	35-50
Onions	Red: Red Creole, Southern Belle; White: Candy, Savannah Sweet; Vidalia: Candy Ann, Caramelo, Century, Georgia Boy, Mata Hari	½ inch	4-6	85
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross	⅝ inch	1	22-28
Shallots	Matador, Prism	1 inch	4-8	50
Spinach	Bloomsdale Long Standing, Melody, Tyee, Unipak 151	⅝ inch	3-6	35-45
Swiss Chard	None Given	¼ inch	6-8	45-55
Turnips	Alamo, All Top, Purple, Top White Globe, Seven Top, Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo Cross	⅝ inch	2-6	40-50

To find vegetable gardening tips from LSU click [here](#) or enter the terms **Vegetable + LSU AgCenter** in your internet search engine.

Thyme to Plant Herbs Part II

mints, oregano, pennyroyal, rosemary, sage, sorrel, marjoram, thyme, winter savory, French tarragon, feverfew, lavender and chamomile.

Terrific warm-season annual herbs are basil in all its myriad forms and flavors, sesame and perilla. They can be seeded in pots now and transplanted into the garden as soon as they are big enough. Purchased transplants could also be planted in late March and through the summer.

Harvest herbs frequently and regularly, being careful not to deplete all the plant's foliage. Take no more than one third of the total foliage at any one time. The flowers of herbs may also be used as a garnish or to flavor dishes.

Sometimes the herb garden can be too productive. At these times, it is important to know how to preserve the extras. Most herbs – but not basil – can be kept for about a week after harvesting in plastic bags in the vegetable storage section of your refrigerator or with their stems placed in small glasses of water. Ways to preserve them for longer periods are drying and freezing.

To dry herbs, harvest with the stems long enough to easily tie them together. Next, rinse them with water and blot dry. Make small bundles of about three to five stems held together with rubber bands and insert an un-bent paper clip or S-shaped piece of wire to make a hook. Hang the bundles in a cool, dry place indoors with good air circulation. Another way to dry herbs is to lay leaves or short sprigs on a cookie sheet lined with paper towels. When the herbs are thoroughly dry, store them in tightly sealed containers labeled with the name of the herb or herb blend and the date. You can leave the leaves whole or crumble them to the desired fineness.

To freeze herbs, harvest, rinse and blot dry. Remove leaves from woody stems and chop them finely before freezing. Place chopped herbs in a freezer bag, spreading them out in a one-half-inch layer. This makes it easier to break off usable pieces later when the herbs are frozen solid. Force out as much air as possible, seal the bag and freeze. Be sure to label the bag with the name of the herb because chopped frozen herbs tend to look the same.

Try using more fresh herbs in your Thanksgiving dishes and enjoy the aromas and lively flavors that they bring to a meal.

~Dan Gill



Chervil: has a faint taste of liquorice or aniseed. Along with tarragon, chives, and parsley, it is one of the four traditional French fines herbes which are essential to French cooking.



Chives: Flavor is much milder and more subtle than other members of the onion family



Parsley: mild, herbaceous flavor can harmonize the flavors of other strongly flavored herbs



French Tarragon: has a distinctive sweet Anise-like flavor described as uniquely spicy, sharp and aromatic.

November is Ideal Rose Planting Time

The cooler temperatures of November make for perfect rose planting conditions. Many of our roses will continue to bloom into December, and depending on the severity of our winter (or lack thereof), they may not go dormant at all. Planting roses now will give them extra time to get themselves established before blooming the following year. Roses planted in the fall are more likely to be healthy heading into the spring growing season, and have well established root systems to support the flush of new growth that comes with higher spring temperatures.

Most nurseries should be offering a diverse selection of low-maintenance varieties like Knock-Out and Drift roses, and some may also offer home gardeners some of the heirloom or hybrids that require more care. Knock-Out and Drift varieties are typically recommended to casual rose gardeners for their increased resistance to disease and pest pressures, as well as lack of fussiness about how and when they are pruned.

Regardless of what type of rose you choose to plant, be sure to prepare your planting bed correctly by amending the soil with plenty of organic material such as compost and checking that the pH of the soil falls somewhere between 6.0-6.5. Wait to add any additional fertilizer material until the springtime. Container grown roses are likely root bound, be sure to

gently tease the roots apart before planting them. It is a good idea to plant them at a depth that keeps the grafted portion of the rose about two inches above the soil level to avoid infection.



Belinda's Dream rose variety in the New Orleans Botanical Garden.

The fall in Southeastern Louisiana can be fairly dry, so be sure to water newly planted roses and established plantings deeply once or twice a week as needed. Freshly planted roses may require additional irrigation, monitor them carefully and water if you notice the leaves drooping. Be careful to not overwater as this can lead to root rot issues. Always be sure to water in a way that keeps the leaves dry. Wetting the foliage can encourage bacterial and fungal issues. If you absolutely must overhead

water, be sure to do so early in the morning on a sunny day so that the leaves dry as quickly as possible.

Mulching newly planted roses as well as established roses helps to keep the soil moisture levels consistent. Choose a pine straw mulch or recycled wood product. Lay the mulch to a depth of three inches, this will allow for some settling. Be sure to not let the mulch come in direct contact with the base of the roses, especially the grafted area. This can cause excess moisture and an entry point for infection.

Get out there and plant some fall roses to ensure that they get the best possible start for the following year, and enjoy this cooler weather!

~Anna Timmerman

Upcoming Events

Louisiana Winter Gardening Workshop



Date: November 11, 2017

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: Longue Vue House & Gardens
7 Bamboo Road, New Orleans

Winter is an excellent time to garden in the New Orleans area. Guided by LSUAgCenter Agent Anna Timmerman, learn how to prepare your garden for cooler temperatures and choose the right plants to add plenty of seasonal color to last all winter long! We will cover ornamental flowering plants as well as the best cool season vegetables and herbs for your garden. Winter is also a great time to get some of those heavy garden tasks done, including pruning some roses and woody ornamentals, trimming trees, and pruning back unruly tropicals. This presentation will give you the right knowledge to get the job done!

\$10 for non-members, \$5 for Longue Vue members.

Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register click on the following link or go to:

longuevue.com.



[Click Here to Register](#)



Two Composting Events/One Day



Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans

Mini Series

Composting



Saturday, November 4th at 10 am

at the Federal City Community Garden in Algiers

The event is open and free to the public

Learn how to build a compost bin and make your own compost for use in your home gardens.

The FCCG is located on Guadalcanal St. between Carmick St. and Savage St. on the site of the former tennis courts.

For more information contact Charlotte Baham at reebee_1957@yahoo.com.



Compost Conference "Let's Talk Trash!"

Compost now is hosting a free conference about the state of composting in New Orleans, the challenges, opportunities and next steps.

Saturday November 4th

Mid City Library 4140 Canal Street

10:30 am Registration & Mapping Project - Where are food waste & food recovery efforts taking place?

11:00 am Opening Plenary: Why Compost?

12:00 Light Lunch

Register by November 1st in order to receive the free lunch (RSVP as Going).

12:45-1:35 Food Recovery: Feeding People, Feeding Animals

12:45-1:35 DIY Composting Indoors: Worms, Worms, Worms!

1:45-2:35 Community Models in Composting & Food Waste Recovery.

2:45 - 3:15 Let's Talk More Trash:

3:15 - 4:00 Closing Plenary: Next Steps

[Click here to register through Facebook](#)

Contact Lynne Serpe at lyneserpe.nola@gmail.com
for more information.

SCHOOL GARDEN BOOT CAMP



Saturday December 9th, 2017

Longue Vue House & Gardens Playhouse

7 Bamboo Rd, New Orleans, LA 70124



A full day of school garden information geared towards new and existing school garden programs.

Lunch is included. Participants will receive a flash drive with LSU AgCenter gardening publications.

Preregistration is required so that we may have an accurate count for lunch. Registration closes December 1st.

Registration fee \$20. **Early registration fee if postmarked by November 20th is \$10.**

For more information and registration form please email: gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

Agenda

8:30-9:00 AM– **Registration and Coffee, Welcome Address;** Dr. Joe Willis, LSU AgCenter

9:00-10:00 AM– **Introduction to Farm to School Programming;** Dr. Carl Motsenbocker, Professor, LSU AgCenter

10:00-11:00 AM– **Sustaining a Successful School Garden;** Dr. Kathryn Fontenot, Asst. Professor & Extension Specialist LSU AgCenter

11:00-11:30 AM– **School Garden Funding Sources;** Anna Timmerman, Assistant Horticulture Agent, LSU AgCenter

11:30– 12:00 Noon– **School Garden Curriculum;** Lauren Rouatt, Longue Vue Education & Family Programs Coordinator

12:00 Noon– 1:00 PM– Lunch catered by Liberty's Kitchen

1:00 PM– 2:00 PM– **Panel Discussion: Putting the Pieces Together;** Emily Neustrom, Edible School Yard Manager; Mallory Naquin, Associate Garden Educator, Langston Hughes School; Dr. Carl Motsenbocker; Dr. Kathryn Fontenot. Moderated by Chris Dunaway, LSU AgCenter

2:00-3:00– **Longue Vue Children's Garden Tour** with Amy Graham, Longue Vue Horticulture Director

LOUISIANA



Master
Gardener™

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter



For the latest
research-based
information on
just about anything,
visit our Web site:
www.lsuagcenter.com

Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans

mggno.org



‘Let it Rain’

Living with Water in our Louisiana Landscapes

Presented by Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans and LSU AgCenter

Winter Gardening Symposium

Saturday, January 20, 2018

8:00 A.M. to Noon

New Orleans Museum of Art Auditorium, City Park

Join our outstanding speakers and specialists in their fields, **Dana Brown** and **Dan Johnson**, as they discuss managing stormwater in your home garden. A forum of local experts, including Urban Conservancy, SOUL and Water Wise, will then present their options to maximize your landscape potential while using our bountiful rainfall.

Using Plants for Stormwater Management. Sharing wonderful pictures from her book by the same title, Dana Brown will give a brief overview of water flow in the Southeast and which plants are well suited to meeting our water challenges. Learn about flowers, grasses, and trees which are native to our greater New Orleans area and beyond.

Using Green Infrastructure at Home. Discover ways to manage the rain that falls on your property. Learn from Dan Johnson (a.k.a. Greenman Dan) how simple changes to your yard can significantly help lessen the costly damage created by stormwater runoff such as poor water quality, urban flooding, subsidence and the rising costs to maintain New Orleans' pumping stations and drainage system.

Forum: Local Water. Dana and Dan join leaders from three local groups to educate us on what is being done with stormwater management in the greater New Orleans area and how you can help. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions of our forum panel on anything from city projects to your own backyard.

Your morning of learning will include a continental breakfast from Café NOMA, complimentary admission to NOMA immediately following the program and an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Besthoff Sculpture Garden adjoining the museum.

In addition, symposium attendees will receive a **discount coupon to the Pelican Greenhouse Plant Sale** which follows immediately after the program. Shop an amazing selection of native plants including a wide selection of shrubs and trees.

Registration fee is \$35.00. Please go to mggno.org/symposium for complete details and to register securely online through our Eventbrite site. **Registration opens October 18, 2017.**

Have a question? Call **504-452-9262** or email symposium@mggno.org. Follow us on **Facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfGreaterNewOrleans** for updates and the latest news. about our 2018 Winter Gardening Symposium.

[Click Here To Register!](#)

Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans

Our Mission: To increase the public's love and knowledge of gardening and responsible stewardship of the environment.

November Checklist/Garden Tips

Now is a good time to divide and transplant most hardy perennials. Do not divide perennials in active growth now, such as Louisiana irises, acanthus, Easter lilies, calla lilies and lycoris.

Cut back chrysanthemums after they finish flowering to remove the old faded flowers. Sometimes the plants will set a new crop of flower buds and produce more flowers during the winter if weather is mild.

As leaves fall from trees, be sure to keep them off of your lawn grasses by raking or mowing (mower should have a bag attached) as needed. If they are left on the lawn, considerable damage to the grass could result. Once they are matted down by winter rains, they can form a cover that seals off the light. Put the leaves in your compost pile.

Don't forget to hose off and check outdoor container tropicals carefully for pests and critters before moving them inside for the winter.

Paperwhite narcissus (and other Tazetta narcissus such as Soleil d'Or) may be planted in pots this month and are easily grown for winter bloom indoors.

Don't worry about those yellowing and dropping leaves on broad leaved evergreens such as gardenia, citrus, magnolias, azaleas, cherry laurel, hollies and others. Many of these plants shed their older leaves in the fall, and will often lose some more this spring.

Harvest broccoli when the largest buds in the head are the size of the head of a kitchen match. Do not focus on the size of the head itself as that is not an indication of when the broccoli is ready to harvest. If you begin to see yellow flowers you waited too long.

Make sure you mulch new beds of cool season bedding plants as soon as they are planted to control weeds. It's also helpful to water them in with a soluble fertilizer to get them off to a good start. Repeat the application every 7 to 10 days until the plants begin to grow well.

Cut garden mums back to remove the old flowers after the blooms fade. Left in place and given good care, they will bloom for you again next fall and in years to come.

Finish planting spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, Dutch irises, narcissus, lilies, etc this month.

Harvest sweet potatoes before a frost browns the leaves. Freshly harvested sweet potatoes will not bake properly until they are cured. To cure them, keep them in a warm location with high humidity for a couple of weeks.

Keep compost piles evenly moist and turn them every month, if possible, to speed decomposition. The compost will be finished when it has turned into a crumbly, dark brown material. If you need organic matter for bed preparation before you have any finished compost, you can use partially decomposed organic matter and the composting process will finish in the bed.

Dormant amaryllis bulbs become available in the fall, but they should not be planted into the garden now. Plant amaryllis bulbs into pots using a well drained potting soil with the neck above the soil surface. The pot should be large enough that there is a one inch clearance between the pot rim and the bulb. Place the pot in a sunny window and keep the soil evenly moist. When the flower stalk begins to emerge rotate the pot one-half turn every few days so it will grow straight. Flowering generally occurs in December or early January. Sometime . After the flowers have faded cut the stalk at the point where it emerges from the bulb, but do not cut any foliage. Keep the plant inside and continue to provide plenty of light or the leaves will be weak. Water regularly when the soil begins to feel dry. Plant bulbs into the garden in April, where they will get into the normal cycle of blooming in April each year.

November Checklist/Garden Tips

Tulips and hyacinths go into paper or net bags in the lower drawers of your refrigerator by the end of November. This is necessary because our winters are not cold enough long enough to satisfy the chilling requirements of the bulbs. Without this cold treatment, the bulbs will not bloom properly. Do not place apples, pears or other fruit into the same drawer with the bulbs. Ripening fruit give off ethylene gas which can cause the bulbs to bloom abnormally (too short, blasted buds). Plant in late December or early January.

Lettuces, especially the leaf and semi-heading varieties are very productive in the cool season garden. Fall is the best time to plant lettuces as they mature during progressively cooler temperatures. Problems with bitterness that often affect spring grown lettuce do not occur in the fall. Keep lettuce growing vigorously with regular watering and occasional side dressing with a nitrogen containing fertilizer such as ammonium sulfate or blood meal.

Don't overlook the ornamental qualities of many of the cool season vegetables and herbs. Curley parsley makes a great edging plant for flower beds. Curley leaf mustard and red leaf mustard are outstanding mixed with cool season bedding plants. Bronze fennel is used as often in flower beds and perennial borders as it is in the herb and vegetable garden. Bright Lights Swiss chard, Bull's Blood beets, Red Bor kale and many leaf lettuces have colorful foliage. Watch your use of pesticides on vegetables in ornamental beds if you intend to harvest them.

Mums are still available at local nurseries. Buy plants with few open flowers and mostly buds. The plant will be attractive longer. Do not buy mums if all the flowers are fully open, especially if some of them have begun to fade, as the display will be short-lived. Plant in a sun to part sun location and keep well watered. When all of the flowers have faded cut the plant back about a third. Sometimes we get a few more flowers. Cut chrysanthemum plants back hard in late January and they will bloom again for you next year in the fall.

November is an active month for planting beds of annuals. Plant heights should be considered when selecting and placing bedding plants into the landscape. Low growing flowers, which include sweet alyssum, lobelia, pansy, Johnny-jump-up, viola, ageratum and dwarf stock, generally grow to about 6 to 8 inches and should be planted in the front of beds. Medium height plants that will reach 8 to 15 inches include dwarf snapdragons, candytuft, calendula, annual phlox, blue bonnet, dianthus, sweet William, ornamental kale and cabbage, nasturtium and California poppy. Cool season bedding plants that will grow 15 inches or taller include Iceland poppy, Shirley poppy, peony-flowered poppy, stock, snapdragons, statice, larkspur and sweet peas

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

[E-mail us at: GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu)



[Follow us on Facebook at GNOGardening](#)

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

Joe Willis
Orleans Parish
Horticulture Agent

Anna Timmerman
Jefferson Parish
Horticulture Agent

To subscribe to this newsletter please send a request to GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu