



**August 2018**



Swamp milkweed leaf beetle (*Labidomera clivicollis*) laying eggs on the underside of a milkweed leaf. Photo by Chris Dunaway

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By Dr. Joe Willis

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By: Anna Timmerman

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# Who's Bugging You?

When you first see it, you may think it is a pretty beneficial lady beetle (Family Coccinellidae) whose presence and offspring will keep your milkweeds safe from aphid predation. But in fact, what you are looking at is the Swamp Milkweed Beetle (*Labidomera clivicollis*) (Family Chrysomelidae). Its family relatives include the Colorado Potato Beetle and the Cucumber Beetle. Adults often overwinter among the plant leaves, esp. a mullein rosette. In the spring they mate and attach their eggs to the milkweed leaf underside. The larvae emerge, voraciously feed on the milkweed leaves and drop to the ground to pupate. Adults also feed on Asclepiadaceae leaves and flowers. Among their host plants are swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*), common milkweed (*A. syriaca*), Mexican milkweed (*A. curassavica*), aquatic milkweed (*A. perennis*) and butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*). Before diving into their poisonous meal, adults and larvae will cut leaf veins upstream of their feeding site to allow some of the toxic latex to drain out.



Adult Swamp Milkweed Beetle (*Labidomera clivicollis*)  
Photo by Robert Aguilar-Maryland Biodiversity Project



Swamp milkweed beetle larvae-final instar.  
Photo by Nancy Kent-BugGuide.net



Swamp milkweed beetle larvae-instar 2, 3, and 4.  
Photo by Patrick Coin-BugGuide.net

As an adult, the brightly colored lady beetle impersonator is rotund and from 0.3–0.45 inches long. They are typically bright orange with black mottled markings though the patterning and degree of orange coloration can be varied from dark orange to bright yellow. The larvae undergo 4 molts before the final transformation into an adult. They generally go through two life cycles per season in our area.

What do you do about them when you find them? If you are growing milkweed to feed Monarch butterfly larvae, the beetle will be a strong competitor and reduce the Monarch caterpillar population. You don't want to use any insecticides because they will also kill your Monarchs; your best defense is

to pick off and dispose of the adults and any egg masses that you may find. Of course, if you have "beetlemania", then you let them stay in the game and everyone has an equal shot at the milkweed meal. ~Dr. Joe Willis



Swamp milkweed beetle eggs on underside of milkweed leaf.  
Photo by Janet Allen



Newly hatched swamp milkweed beetle first instar pro larvae.  
Photo by Janet Allen

# August Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety	Planting Depth	Spacing Inches	Days Until Harvest * from transplant date
Bell Peppers	Aristotle XR3, Blushing Beauty, King Arthur	⅞ inch	15-18	140-150
Broccoli	Green Magic, Everest, Castle Dome, Packman	⅞ inch	18-24	70-90*
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved	⅞ inch	12-15	90*
Cabbage	Bravo, Rio Verde, Caraflex, Blue Vantage	⅞ inch	12-15	65-75*
Cauliflower	Snow Crown, Cumberland, Incline, Freedom	⅞ inch	18-24	55-65*
Chinese Cabbage	None Given	¼ inch	12	60-80*
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates	⅞ inch	6-12	75
Cucumbers	Slicers = Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare HG, Indy Pickler = Calypso	¼ inch	12-18	50-65
Irish Potatoes	Red-Dark Red Noland, Red Lasoda White-Kennebec, Yukon Gold, Autumn Gold	4 inches	12	90-120
Kale	Siberian, Vates	½ inch	12-18	25-50
Lima Beans	Dixie Buttercup, Fordhook 242, Jackson Wonder	½ inch	2-3	48-55
Luffa Gourd	None Given	½ inch	48	90
Mustard	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Savannah	⅞ inch	1-2	35-50
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer	½ inch	36-60	90-120
Rutabagas	American Purple Top, Laurentian	⅞ inch	4-8	88
Shallots	Matador, Prisma	1 inch	4-8	50
Snap Beans	Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Contender, Derby, Lynx	½ inch	2-3	48-55
Squash	Zucchini = Declaration II, Justice III, Payroll Straight Neck = Multipik, Patriot II, Liberator III Crook Neck = Destiny III, Gentry, Medallion	⅞ inch	36	50-90
Tomatoes	Bella Rosa, Sun Master, Florida 91, Phoenix, Solar Fire, Solar Fire	⅞ inch	16-24	100-115
Turnips	Royal Crown, Purple Top White Globe,	⅞ inch	2-6	40-50

# MarketReady Training to Help Growers Succeed

Local foods are a hot topic, and New Orleans is home to over two hundred sites that engage in local food production, growing healthy fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, and more on lots scattered throughout the city. Both urban market growers and local farmers in the New Orleans area are once again invited to attend an upcoming MarketReady Producer Training workshop presented by the LSU AgCenter. The focus of the workshop will be to assist local food producers in es-

Two-thirds of participants from 2017 stated that they increased or broadened their knowledge, skills, and attitude about sustainable agriculture topics, practices, strategies, and approaches.

MarketReady trainings are free and a great opportunity for local market growers of sustainable agriculture products to get useful information on key business functions while networking with industry professionals over a locally sourced lunch. Participants get to



establishing good business strategies and effectively market to local restaurants and schools, as well as grocers and wholesalers.

Many market growers are hesitant or unprepared to meet the requirements that buyers from local restaurants, schools, and grocery/wholesale/retail businesses have for their suppliers. These larger buyers need their growers to manage food safety factors, carry insurance, uphold high product quality standards, and provide a consistent supply of produce. For growers accustomed to direct consumer sales at local farmer's markets or through on-farm sales, these points can seem like large barriers. MarketReady addresses these issues and seeks to educate local food suppliers about how to scale up and succeed in these larger markets.

Last year's MarketReady program resulted in some serious successes for market growers and farmers who attended, resulting, on average, in two new commercial sales contracts, leading to an increase in sales.

hear from real produce buyers and purveyors about what they expect from their suppliers.

Last year's training in New Orleans featured panel discussions with a representative from local retailer Rouses' as well as area chefs and other wholesale buyers of local foods. Examples of good product displays and marketing tools are shown, and the requirements of the new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) are outlined in detail so that growers can prepare and become well versed in food safety at their operations.

With so many local food initiatives taking root in the New Orleans area, the LSU AgCenter is hoping to provide many more free training opportunities like this in the future. The upcoming MarketReady program will take place on Friday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 8:30 am-2:30 pm. Admission is free, but pre-registration is required. Lunch and training materials will be provided. For more information and to register, please visit <http://lsuagcenter.com/louisianamarketready>.

~Anna Timmerman

# Spreader Selection and Calibration

For lawn maintenance, the use of a spreader is recommended for proper application of granular fertilizers, pesticides, and grass seeds. Properly calibrated, spreaders distribute the product evenly at the desired rate over the target area.

There are 3 common spreader types that most homeowners are likely to find available.



HANDHELD ROTARY SPREADER



DROP SPREADER



BROADCAST SPREADER

**Handheld Rotary Spreader** - This compact spreader is designed to apply a specified amount of product over a known area. For example: To apply 1 pound of fertilizer per 100 square feet of your lawn, divide the lawn into smaller 100 square foot sections (ie. 10'x10' squares). Add 1 pound of the selected fertilizer to the spreader. Use the spreader to distribute the product over one of these areas. Repeat these steps in each section until the entire target area is covered. Hand held spreaders are best for small areas.

Unlike handheld spreaders, broadcast spreaders and drop spreaders are designed to apply product at a pre-set rate. This means that you do not necessarily need to know the total target area. Once calibrated, you can be confident that you are putting out the desired rate of application as long as the hopper is full. Of course you will need to have a rough estimate of the area in order to purchase the correct amount of product.

**Broadcast Spreader** - This is essentially a larger version of the handheld spreader. As you push it forward, a spinning rotor distributes the product over the target area. Even at the proper pace, these machines can scatter material 5 feet to either side of the track making it difficult to control the product placement. This can often lead to off target application to areas like driveways, streets, and gardens. For this reason, these spreaders are best used on larger lawns.

**Warning:** Nearly everything that lands on the street or driveway will end up entering our local waterways. Please remember to clean up any pesticides and fertilizers that land on hard surfaces.

**Drop Spreader** - These spreaders are well suited for the average lawn size and work by dropping a set amount of product in a swath the width of the discharge chute on the bottom. Because the product drops straight down between the wheels it is possible to get very close to the edge of the treatment zone with little fear of off target application. Adjustable settings let you change the rate of application.

In order to determine the rate of application it is necessary to calibrate these spreaders. Companies like Scotts have attempted to make things easier by pre-calibrating the spreaders that they manufacture for use with the fertilizers and other products they make. So if, for example, you want to apply Scotts Turf Builder Southern Lawn Food at the labeled rate, all you have to do is set your Scotts drop spreader to 6, (Continued)

# Spreader Selection and Calibration (Continued)

fill the hopper and go. According to the label, this will apply 2.8 pounds of product per 1000 square feet. ([Click here to see the label](#))

But what does that mean? The guaranteed analysis on our bag of fertilizer states that the product contains 32% Nitrogen, 10% Potassium, 4% Sulfur, and 2% Iron. This means that for every pound of product, only 32% of it is nitrogen and so on. Therefore if we multiply the 2.8 pounds x 0.32 we find that we will be putting out 0.9 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet with each application. Now if we take it one step further we can read on the label that the Scotts recommended feeding routine calls for four applications per year. Multiply 0.9 x 4 shows that we would apply 3.6 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet to the lawn per year.

Again we have to ask ourselves (and our county agents) if this is good or bad. The answer is that it depends. Look at the maintenance recommendations from the LSU AgCenter on page 5 of the [Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices Guide](#). According to the table, St. Augustine grass needs between 2-4 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet per year. This means that 3.6 pounds of nitrogen is at the high end of the range which is ok. However, Hybrid Bermuda grass is a much heavier feeder with the recommendation of between 4-6 pounds per year per 1000 square feet, while Centipede grass needs very little nitrogen per year. If you had either of these grass species then applying 3.6 pounds of nitrogen per year would lead to the underfeeding Bermuda grass, making it more susceptible to pest and weed development or the overfeeding Centipede grass leading to thatch buildup and increased disease outbreak.

Therefore, if you want to adjust the rate or use the spreader to put out products that are not manufactured by Scotts, you will need to know how to calibrate your spreader.

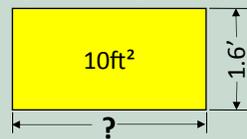
(Continued)

To calibrate a drop spreader, we want to know how much product it is putting out over a 10 square foot area.



**Step 1.** Measure the width of the hopper discharge chute. For ease divide by 12. Seen above, 22.5 inches/12=1.9 feet.

**Step 2.** Since the width of our test area is set by the width of the spreader we need to find out how long the side needs to be to equal 10 square feet.



To do this divide the area by the width.  
Area = Length x Width so Length = Area / Width.  
10/1.9=5.26 feet or 63 inches.

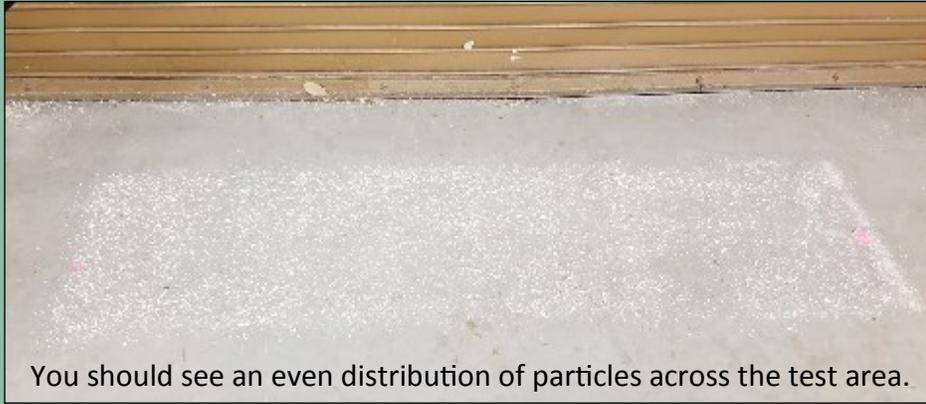
Measure out 63 inches on the ground and mark each end.

**Step 3.** Fill the hopper with the product that you want to apply. Line up the drop chute with the first mark. Open the hopper and move the spreader forward. Close the hopper when you reach the far mark of the test area.



Photo by Dr. Joe

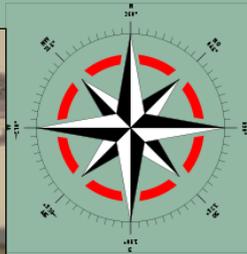
# Spreader Selection and Calibration (Continued)



You should see an even distribution of particles across the test area.



**Step 4.** Collect all of the particles from the test area.



**Step 5.** Measure the amount collected. This will tell you how much of that product you will apply with that spreader at that setting per 10 square feet. Multiply that number by 10 for the rate/100ft<sup>2</sup> or by 100 for the rate/1000ft<sup>2</sup>.

If this rate matches the target rate then you are finished with the calibration and may begin the application.



**Step 6.** If the application rate determined by the calibration is too high or low, adjust the settings and repeat steps 1-5 until you have the spreader dialed in to the proper rate.

## In conclusion:

1. Spreaders are good tools for applying dry granular products evenly over a large area.
2. Different spreaders are better for different needs. Choose the appropriate size.
3. Have a soil test run on your lawn before applying fertilizers.
4. Use fertilizer recommendations based on type of grass grown, soil texture and available nutrients.
5. Carefully read the label for any product that you apply.
6. The rate of discharge from a spreader is greatly influenced by the size of the particles being used.
7. Calibrate your spreader to ensure that you are applying the correct volume.

# Chinch bug or brown patch? Here's what is eating your lawn.



Chinch bug damage is typically random in shape.



Damage by brown patch is typically more circular as the fungal infection spreads outward from the center.



Chinch bugs are very small so look carefully.

Big ugly brown patches, splotchy dead zones and crunchy turf are all things we would rather not see in our lawns. With cooler days ahead, many lawns in our area are breathing a sigh of relief and recovering from the long hot summer, but many homeowners are noticing some things that they would rather not see in their green carpet of grass. Some lawn die back can be attributed to under or overwatering, but if brown spots persist, it may be a good idea to check for chinch bugs and brown patch fungus.



Conduct the water test to check for chinch bugs. This method also works to identify sod webworms, and mole crickets.

Damage from chinch bugs is often irregular and has somewhat jagged edges as the insects move to new food. Chinch bugs are very small, so a magnifying glass helps when trying to identify them. Check the outer edges of the brown spot, gently pulling the grass back to see the base of the plants. A better way of testing for chinch bugs involves cutting the bottom of a coffee can off, sinking it a few inches into the turf, and filling it with water. The chinch bugs should easily float to the surface to be identified. Adults are black and white and the nymphs are reddish. If you suspect chinch bugs, conduct this test before choosing an insecticide to treat the issue. Chinch bugs usually won't kill the roots, so once they are under control the lawn should recover.

Brown patch disease is a little harder to diagnose, but the patches are usually more rounded in nature than chinch bug damage. The blades of grass will have brown spots and streaks on them, often merging to turn the entire leaf brown. The brown patches will have a darker ring around the outer edge of the dead zone where the fungus is attacking new tissue. Heat and humidity (and excessive rainfall) can make brown patch active, but infection usually occurs in cooler temperatures.

Apply fungicide and re-sod, if needed. To prevent brown patch, follow the [Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices \(LSU AgCenter Publication 2940\)](#) by watering during the day, dethatching, and avoiding overuse of nitrogen fertilizers. Removing grass clippings and cleaning lawn equipment is also a good idea.

For more information and the Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices (BMP) publication, please visit [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com).

~Anna Timmerman

# Growing Brussels Sprouts!

As you begin making plans and starting seedlings for your fall garden, one you may want to consider is Brussels sprouts (*Brassica oleracea*). A member of the cole crops group (broccoli, cauliflower, collards, etc.), it is one of the more unique vegetables you can grow in your garden. It produces small cabbages in the leaf axils on a continually elongating central stem that can get over 3 ft. tall. The large blue-green leaves look a lot like collards. The leaves are edible and can be cooked just like collards.

Growing Brussels sprouts requires cool weather. A slow-growing, long-bearing crop, Brussels sprouts should be planted in late summer (8/15-10/15) for a crop that matures in the fall and winter. Brussels sprouts will continue to bear into spring until the weather gets too warm and causes the sprouts to become bitter. Brussels sprouts require 90 to 180 days to begin bearing after transplanting (depending on the variety) so it is a vegetable for the patient gardener. It takes 6-8 weeks to produce transplants.

Like most vegetables, Brussels sprouts need a

minimum of 6 hours of sunlight daily; more is better. They like fertile, well-drained, moist soils with plenty



Brussels sprouts growing in a Master Gardener demonstration plot.



The small cabbage-like sprouts form at the base of each leaf.

of organic matter. The soil pH should be on the high side of the range for vegetables, about 6.8, for optimum growth and to discourage clubroot disease. To be sure about pH, get the soil tested.

Brussels sprouts also need more boron than most other vegetables. Boron is a plant nutrient used in minute quantities by all plants; without it, Brussels sprouts develop hollow stems and small buds. If your plants have shown these symptoms, you can add boron to the soil by dissolving 1 level tablespoon of borax (such as 20 Mule Team) in 5 quarts of water and sprinkling it evenly over 50 square feet of bed. DO NOT be tempted to mix more, because too much causes problems. Also, do not apply unless your plants have shown the deficiency symptoms we just mentioned.

Brussels sprouts get large, so they need to be about 18 to 24 inches apart in a row or bed. Water thoroughly after planting

to encourage good growth. Mulch to keep the ground cool and moist. Water regularly, applying 1 to 1½ inches of water per week if plants

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# Growing Brussels Sprouts!

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don't receive enough rain. Brussels sprouts require larger amounts of fertilizer than other cole crops. Before planting add about 0.5 lb of 13-13-13 per 30 square feet. Side-dress with about 0.5 lbs of calcium nitrate per 30 square feet about 4 weeks after planting, a second side-dress 4 weeks later, and a third side-dress 4 weeks after the second one.

Sprouts first form at the bottom of the plant and continue forming toward the top for several weeks. Brussels sprouts are ready to harvest when the tiny heads are firm, green, and 1 to 2 inches in diameter. Remove sprouts by twisting them until they break away from the plant. As you remove the lower sprouts, you can also remove yellowing leaves; the plant continues to grow upward, producing more leaves and sprouts. The plant will withstand temperatures into the 20's. Sprouts usually taste sweeter after cold exposure. One full-sized, healthy plant can bear 2 to 3 pounds of sprouts. They come quickly at first but will slow down as the weather gets colder. Once a sprout is picked, new ones will not form in that spot. Full-grown sprouts keep well on the plant in cold weather, making them a great winter harvest item for gardeners in the South. Store fresh, unwashed sprouts in plastic bags in the refrigerator. Fresh sprouts taste best, though, so try to limit refrigeration to a day or two.

Insects that attack Brussels sprouts include harlequin bugs, cabbage loopers, diamondback moth, imported cabbageworm, cutworms, cabbage maggot, thrips, and webworms. Aphids can be especially difficult to control. The biggest insect problems with Brussels sprouts are aphids and caterpillars. Start inspecting

your plants when leaves are 2-4 inches across.

Plants can also be bothered by several diseases including powdery mildew, downy mildew, black rot and clubroot. Choose resistant varieties and follow good sanitation.

If you think you don't like Brussels sprouts, try one of the many recipes out there such as caramelized Brussels sprouts and you just may be carving out a space in your garden to grow your own. ~Dr. Joe Willis



Jefferson Parish school children pick Brussels sprouts during a visit to the Master Gardener demonstration garden at LaSalle Park in Metairie.



Cherry Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Pecans



# CAUTION



## MASTER GARDENERS AT WORK

### INSPIRING GARDENERS THROUGH EDUCATION

Want to learn more about gardening in NOLA? Consider the Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans Speakers Bureau, a free community outreach service providing educational programs in Louisiana horticulture to groups and organizations. Speakers are Master Gardener volunteers who have completed the Louisiana Master Gardener training provided by the LSU Cooperative Extension Service. Programs are selected and prepared by Master Gardeners and LSU AgCenter experts that reflect both their expertise and interests.

Already in its fourth year, this popular program continues to grow, now offering over 50 topics delivered by 17 Master Gardeners. From edibles to ornamentals and everything in between, the selection of subjects includes all the hottest horticultural interests. You can learn about butterflies, birds, bees, natives, pollinators, perennials, pests, propagation, salvias, super plants, vegetables, herbs and much more. Some of the exciting new presentations introduced for fall and spring include:

- ◆ *Environmentally Friendly Gardening*
- ◆ *Farm to Table*
- ◆ *Gardening for Small Spaces*
- ◆ *Learning to Live With and Love Water*
- ◆ *Perennials for Shade*
- ◆ *Pollinator Protection*
- ◆ *School Gardens in Louisiana*
- ◆ *Tool Talk*
- ◆ *Home Composting*
- ◆ *Plus many other topics*



Master Gardener Marianne Arata presents a program on gardening to attract birds.

Master Gardeners will speak to groups in the Greater New Orleans area. Garden clubs, schools, businesses, churches, neighborhood and civic organizations are invited to take advantage of this learning opportunity.

Most programs are delivered as PowerPoint presentations and typically last approximately 30 minutes. To learn more about MGGNO's Speakers Bureau and request a speaker, go to [MGGNO.com/Speakers](http://MGGNO.com/Speakers) or email [speakers@mggno.com](mailto:speakers@mggno.com).

~Linda Wegmann



MGGNO President Linda Vinsanu gives a presentation on growing Louisiana irises to the members of a local garden club.



Master Gardener Eileen Hollander presents her program on the Louisiana state wildflower *L. gigantiarulia* the Louisiana Iris.

# Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Cost	Link
Thursday August 2nd 6 pm - 8 pm	The Art and Science of Homesteading: Compost  @ 1531 Eagle St., NOLA	\$30	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1078578262304586/">https://www.facebook.com/events/1078578262304586/</a>
Saturday August 4th 10 am - Noon	Plant Your Mail: Homemade Seed Paper  @ New Orleans Botanical Garden	\$19.75	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/150475075807439/">https://www.facebook.com/events/150475075807439/</a>
Sunday August 5th 4:30 pm - 6 pm	DIY Composting & Soil Health "Make a Composter"  @ All You Need Farm	\$20	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/2176338399047773/">https://www.facebook.com/events/2176338399047773/</a>
Saturday August 11th 9 am - Noon	Plant Sale  @ Pelican Greenhouse City Park	Free Admission	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1967318583520238/">https://www.facebook.com/events/1967318583520238/</a>
Sunday August 12th 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Urban Beekeeping  @ All You Need- Formerly Southbound Gardens	\$20	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/174730860063470/">https://www.facebook.com/events/174730860063470/</a>
Tuesday August 21st 7 pm - 8 pm	Basics on Raising Backyard Chickens  @ Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Library. 4747 W. Napoleon Ave, Metairie, LA	Free Admission	<a href="https://calendar.google.com/calendar/r/week/2018/8/21?eid=Mzcwa3UzNW5qNW40dGc2MWJraTJtNWcxMnYgbHQzbmpxamhvZW8zZTQ0MTI5dXEwZWlkMmNAZw&amp;ctz=America/Chicago&amp;sf=true">https://calendar.google.com/calendar/r/week/2018/8/21?eid=Mzcwa3UzNW5qNW40dGc2MWJraTJtNWcxMnYgbHQzbmpxamhvZW8zZTQ0MTI5dXEwZWlkMmNAZw&amp;ctz=America/Chicago&amp;sf=true</a>
Saturday August 25th 10:30 - Noon	Make a Flower Press  @ New Orleans Botanical Garden	\$20	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/2028128617451184/">https://www.facebook.com/events/2028128617451184/</a>
Sunday August 26th 1 pm - 2:15 pm	Planting for Fall Interest  @ Longue Vue House and Gardens	\$5, Free for members	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1730452093735307/">https://www.facebook.com/events/1730452093735307/</a>
Wednesday August 29th 9:30 am - 11:30 am	Blessing of the Herbs with the Herb Society of America Greater New Orleans Unit  @ Longue Vue House and Gardens	Free	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/365222677338140/">https://www.facebook.com/events/365222677338140/</a>
Saturday September 15th 9 am - 3 pm	Pollination Celebration  @LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA	\$5 per auto	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/PollinationCelebration/">https://www.facebook.com/PollinationCelebration/</a>

# In the Kitchen with Austin

## Eggplant Dip

In the middle of the summer when you have more eggplant than you can shake a stick at, try this dip. It is light enough to eat as a lunch on-the-go or it can be served with pita chips when company comes over unexpectedly. You'll have to turn the oven on, but only for a little while.



### Ingredients:

- 1 medium eggplant, peeled
- 2 red bell peppers, seeded
- 1 sweet onion
- 2 garlic cloves
- 3 Tbs. olive oil
- 1 Tbs. tomato paste
- Salt & Pepper to taste

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Cut eggplant, bell pepper, and onion into large cubes.
- Toss them with garlic, olive oil, salt, and pepper.
- Spread everything on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- Roast for about 30 minutes, or until softened & lightly browned.
- Cool slightly and process with tomato paste, salt & pepper, pulsing 4 or 5 times to blend.
- Serve at room temperature.



**Bon Manger!**



NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK  
**BOTANICAL  
GARDEN**

## 2018 PLANT SALES

### Plants For Rainwater Management

*Botanical Garden Tent*  
January 20  
1 pm - 4 pm

### PLANT SALES

*Pelican Greenhouse*  
9 am - Noon  
March 10 - Rose Sale  
May 12  
June 9  
July 14  
August 11  
September 8

The Pelican Greenhouse is located just off Henry Thomas (Golf) Drive south of the I-610 underpass. Bring a wagon and arrive early.

### GARDEN SHOWS

**Spring Garden Show**  
*Botanical Garden*  
April 7 - 9 am to 5 pm  
April 8 - 10 am - 4 pm

**Fall Garden Festival**  
*Botanical Garden*  
October 6 - 10 am to 5 pm  
October 7 - 10 am to 4 pm

For additional information call 504-483-9464, e-mail [plants@nocp.org](mailto:plants@nocp.org)  
or visit our website at [neworleanscitypark.com](http://neworleanscitypark.com)



# August Checklist/Garden Tips

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

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

Hot, dry weather is ideal for chinch bug damage to show up on area lawns, particularly St. Augustine. Look for enlarging areas of brown, straw-like grass, especially in sunny, dry areas between the sidewalk and the street and along driveways. Treat with acephate, bifenthrin, malathion, or other insecticides labeled to control chinch bugs on lawns. Read and follow label directions carefully.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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