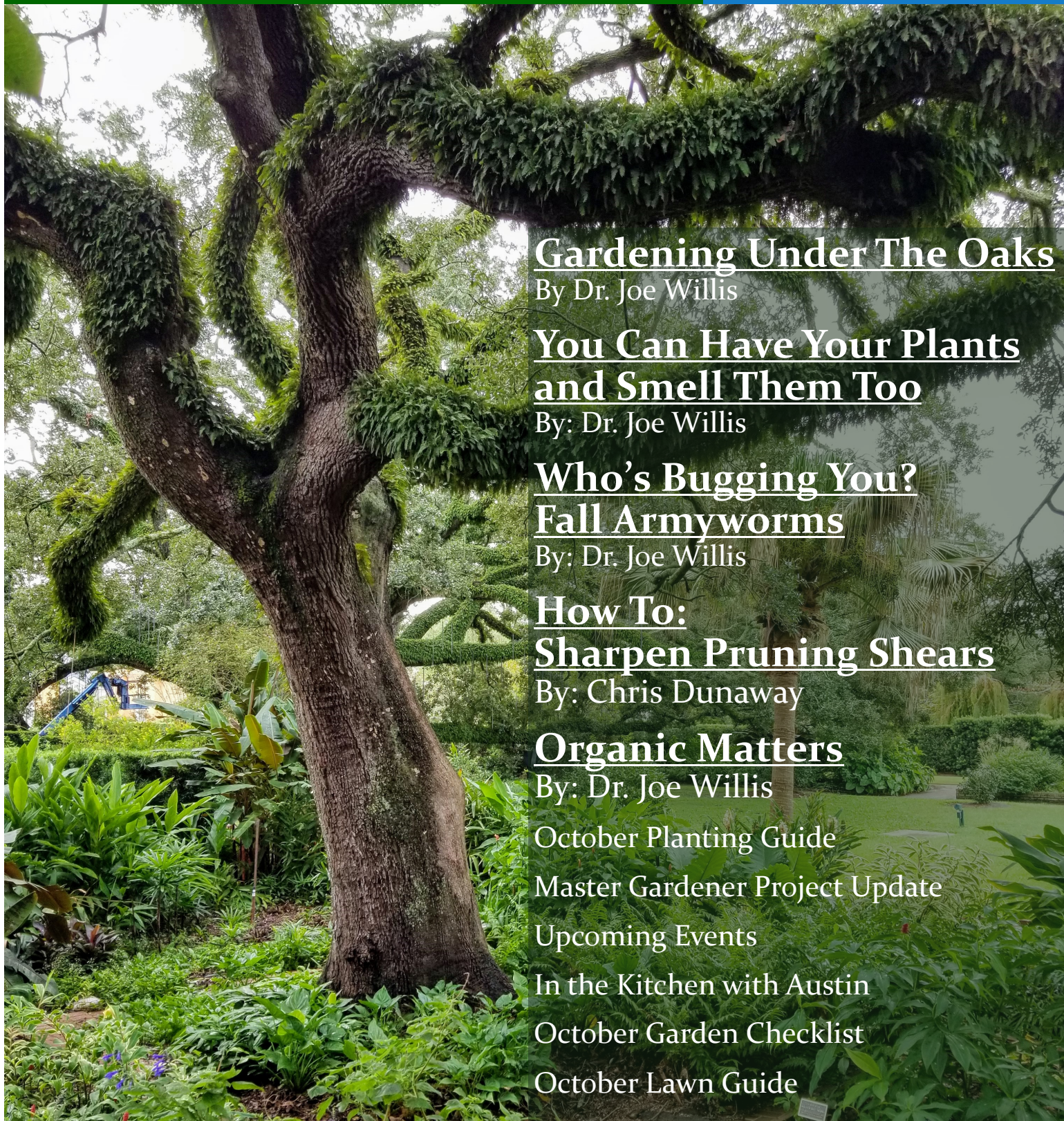




**October 2018**



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By Dr. Joe Willis

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# Gardening Under The Oaks

There is nothing quite so majestic and so individually unique as an old Southern live oak *Quercus virginiana* stretching outward and upward in various twists and turns. Also quite a sight is the large Southern magnolia *Magnolia grandiflora* lifting it's sweetly fragrant massive blooms out for us to enjoy. These are just two examples of large shade trees that are common in our landscapes. In addition to their beauty, they provide cooling shade in the heat of the summer and help to mitigate the 54 inches of rainfall we have annually. But along with these benefits, they provide a real challenge for the gardener who wants to have something other than bare ground underneath them.

Life under the limbs is challenging indeed. There is very little light, the ground is a network of large and small roots from your giant companion, there is constant heavy competition for nutrients, and most of the rainfall never ends up falling all the way down where you live. What can, not only survive, but look good while doing it under here? The following is a list of a few plants you may want to try under your shade tree.

There are the old standbys like cast iron plant *Aspidistra elatior* and the multitude of ferns, but why not try a few of these other less common and often more attractive specimens.

**Clivia** *Clivia miniata* is a member of the Amaryllis family *Amaryllidaceae* that comes in red, orange, gold, yellow and white. The bright fragrant flowers are slightly smaller than amaryllis and they retain their long, broad evergreen foliage year-round. The bulbs are a little pricey, but they are gorgeous and cold hardy in zones 9-11.

**Peacock gingers** *Kaempferia* sp. are mostly low growing with colorfully marked leaves. Brightly colored flowers either emerge in the spring just prior to the foliage or with the foliage, then continuing to flower through the sum-



Clivia *Clivia miniata*



Wedelia *Sphagneticola trilobata*



Chocolate plant  
*Pseuderanthemum alata*

mer. They are hardy to zone 8 and go dormant in the winter.

**Wedelia** *Sphagneticola trilobata* is a rapidly growing, evergreen, mat-forming ground cover with bright yellow flowers that are more abundant the more light it receives. A member of the Asteraceae, wedelia is a Category II invasive in Florida.

**Chocolate plant** *Pseuderanthemum alata*, so named for its foliage, is a southern heirloom perennial about 12" tall and 12" wide with a 18" flower spike covered in purplish-rose flowers. It dies back in the winter but the roots are hardy and it readily seeds itself too.

**Tahitian bridal veil** *Gibasis geniculata* is a tall (18"-36") perennial with small white showy flowers that appear all year long. The flowers are attractive to bees and butterflies and the plant does seed readily.

**Dwarf shell ginger** *Alpinia nutans* is a small ginger with thick lush foliage that has a spicy scent when rubbed. It produces showy flowers on old stems but often does not flower annually.

**Curcuma ginger** *Curcuma* sp. is a heat-loving, long-blooming tropical plant that

(Continued)

# October Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety	Planting Depth	Spacing Inches	Days Until Harvest * from transplant date
Beets	Bull's Blood, Detroit Dark Red, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen	1/4 inch	2-4	55-60
Broccoli (transplants)	Packman, Windsor, Greenbelt, Arcadia, Diplomat	-	18-24	70-90
Brussels Sprouts (transplants)	Long Island Improved, Royal Marvel, Jade Cross	-	12-15	90
Cabbage	Blue Vintage, Platinum Dynasty, Asia Express, Farao, Tendersweet	1/8 inch	12-15	65-75
Chinese Cabbage	Minuet, Rubicon	1/4 inch	8-12	60-80
Carrots	Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Atlas, Nelson F1, Bolero F1, Rainbow	1/8 inch	1-2	70-75
Cauliflower (transplants)	Snow Crown, Freedom, Incline, Skywalker, Cheddar, Graffiti	-	18-24	55-65
Collards	Georgia Giant, Champion, Top Bunch, Flash	1/8 inch	6-12	75
Kale	Toscano, Redbor, Winterbor, Starbor, Red Russian	1/8 inch	12-18	50
Kohlrabi	Vienna, Early Purple Vienna, Early White	1/8 inch	6	55-75
Lettuce	Allstar Gourmet, Oakleaf, Muir, Red Lollo Rossa, Tango, Buttercrunch, Black Seeded Simpson	1/8 inch	2-10	30-70
Mustard Greens	Red Giant, Greenwave, Savannah, Tendergreen	1/8 inch	6-12	35-50
Snow Peas	Oregon Giant, Super Sugar Snap	1/2 inch	2-3	60-70
Spinach	Space, Carmel	1/8 inch	2-6	15-30
Radishes	French Breakfast, Rover, D'Avignon, Ping Pong	1/8 inch	1	22-28
Shallots	Saffron, Conserver, Camelot	1 inch	3-6	50
Swiss Chard	Bright Lights	1/4 inch	8-12	45-55
Turnips	Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo	1/8 inch	2-6	40-50

For more recommended varieties and supplier information click here to visit the [Recommended Varieties Database](#) on the LSUAgCenter website.

<http://apps.lsuagcenter.com/diseaseresistance/>



# Gardening Under The Oaks

(Continued)

produces gorgeous spires of pink, purple, or white flowers all summer long. This genus is sometimes called Siam tulips and includes the edible turmeric. Curcuma prefers moist, well-drained soil that has a lot of organic matter. They grow and flower well in low light conditions.

**Dwarf chenille plant** *Acalypha reptans* produces velvet/fuzzy, erect catkin-like racemes that are bright pink to red. It is a tender tropical perennial (zone 9 with a low, fast trailing growth habit and it loves humidity.

**Hardy gloxinia** *Seemannia sylvatica* spreads rapidly from rhizomes and forms a dense perennial ground cover. It produces bright red tubular flowers that attracts pollinators and has year-round attractive foliage. Hardy gloxinia needs a little more watering than the other plants on this list.

**Chinese taro** *Alocasia cucullata* is a husky, but compact elephant ear with thick, shiny green, heart-shaped leaves. It forms a sturdy, 3' tall x 3' wide clump with 7" wide x 1' long leaf blades at the end of the upright green petioles. It sometimes flowers but is grown for its attractive foliage.

**Leopard plant** *Ligularia spp.*, *Farfugium spp.* are fantastic shade plants grown primarily for their circular foliage which can be large and green or smaller with variegated spots or streaks and smooth or wavy edges. They are members of the Asteraceae family and produce spikes of mostly yellow flowers.

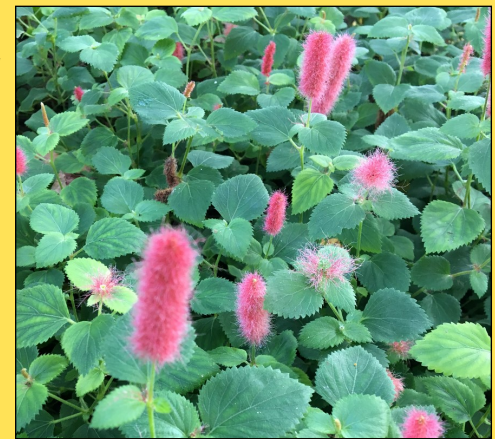
**Cupid's bower** *Achimenes longiflora* is a rhizomatous perennial that can grow up to 24" long, has dark green pubescent leaves and large (2"x3") tubular petunia-like blue flowers with white throats. Achimenes flowers from June through October most years.

**Little White Soldiers** *Drimiopsis maculata* is a deciduous bulb hardy in zones 8-10 with light green oblong-ovate leaves that have darker translucent spots. The flower stalk rises 6 to 12 inches above the 8" tall foliage bearing a tight cluster of small bright white flower buds that open and turn to a pale green.

When preparing the area under your tree for planting, you can add soil to the bed to give the new plants more soil for their root development but NEVER add more than 2 or 3 inches of soil or it can damage the tree's roots. Carefully plant the new plants into the soil amongst the tree roots trying not to cut or disturb the tree's roots. Mulch immediately to help keep the new plant roots moist until they have time to grow deeper and intermingle with the tree roots. Water the first year as needed but don't turn the area into a swamp with constant over-watering. Most of these plants can handle dry conditions so only water as needed in subsequent years. If you want to brighten up the shade in your landscape and add some variety, give a few of these plants a try.

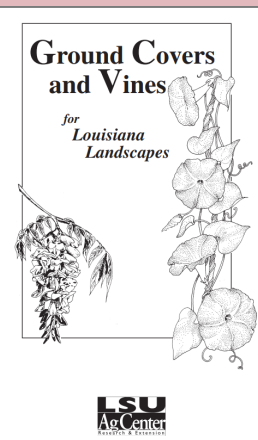


Tahitian Bridal Veil *Gibasis geniculata*



Dwarf chenille plant *Acalypha reptans*

For lists of other plants that may thrive in the shade, check out these publications from the LSU AgCenter.



~Dr. Joe Willis



# You Can Have Your Plants and Smell Them Too!

As the cool (cooler) weather begins to arrive, many have begun planting fall gardens with cool weather vegetables or fall annuals. If you enjoy sitting outside on pleasant evenings, drink in hand, enjoying life in Louisiana, why not enhance the experience by surrounding your favorite landing spot with containers filled with scented cool season plants that infuse the air with their heady aromas.

Here are few you can try starting with perennials:

## **Night-Blooming Jessamine or Jasmine**

*Cestrum nocturnum* is a vining shrub that likes full sun, moist soil and good drainage. It can be readily pruned to maintain size and does well when grown in containers. It produces masses of tubular white to greenish-white flowers that emit an intense, intoxicating heavenly evening fragrance.

**Gardenia** *Gardenia spp.* is a quintessential southern garden plant and one that easily adapts to life in a container. Gardenias like moist, well-drained, somewhat acidic soils and do well in partial shade. For container plants, we recommend some of the smaller varieties like Radicans, Four Seasons, Scentamazing or Buttons; however, you can grow some of the larger varieties if you keep them pruned. There is nothing quite like the romance of an evening filled with the aroma of gardenias.

**Antique and old garden roses** like the boursbons, damasks, albas and such, can be grown in containers and often do better in a large container than inground.



This hummingbird moth is attracted to the enticing aroma of the night-blooming jessamine.



Gardenia flowers.

There are gobs of varieties to choose from in multiple colors; there are even variations in fragrance from musk to citrus to the unmistakable rose. Roses like well-drained soil, full sun, and plenty of air circulation. Many of the David Austen roses are good choices for scented gardens.

Other great fragrant perennials are the perennial herbs such as mints, rosemary, and lemon balm. They aren't as showy but just a light stroke with your hand causes them to release their enticing fragrances into the evening air.

As for annuals...

**Stock** *Matthiola spp.* is not one that leaps to mind for most people as a fragrant annual. But grow some of the smaller varieties like Cinderella and Midget in containers, and you may be surprised by their pleasant scents. You can even use them as cut

flowers.

**Sweet alyssum** *Lobularia maritima* is a cool season annual that covers itself in tiny sweet-smelling flowers of white, rose, pink, lavender or purple and loves to spill over the side of containers.

(Continued)



# You Can Have Your Plants and Smell Them Too!

(Continued)

**Dianthus** *Dianthus spp.* has a sweet spicy fragrance and the edible flowers can live up your fall salad. The Amazon series comes in Neon Purple, Neon Cherry and Rose Magic and is a designated Louisiana Super Plant.

**Sweet peas** *Lathyrus odoratus* are wondrously scented vining annuals that do great in containers if you provide them with rich, well-drained soil and some form of trellising. They come in virtually all the colors of the rainbow and are great cut flowers.

**Petunias** *Petunia spp.* are another cool-season annual that is happy trailing out of containers. They have a unique sweet fragrance and many bloom well into the spring/summer. There are four main types of petunia Grandiflora, Multiflora, Milliflora, Spreading with multiple varieties that do well in our area especially the Supertunia and Wave varieties.

This list not an exhaustive but is a good place to start in creating that wonderful area of your landscape where you can enjoy your plants with all your senses, especially the sense of smell.

~Dr. Joe Willis



Stock



Sweet Pea



Sweet Alyssm

## Greater New Orleans Iris Society Annual Louisiana Iris Rhizome Sale

Date: **Saturday October 20** Location: **Longue Vue House & Gardens**  
Time: **10AM - 12PM** #7 Bamboo Road, New Orleans





# Who's Bugging You? Fall Armyworm



There are several species of armyworms found in Louisiana including the true armyworm *Mythimna unipuncta*, the fall armyworm *Spodoptera frugiperda* and the yellow-striped armyworm *Spodoptera ornithogalli*. Armyworms get their name from their behavior of moving across fields in an army-like fashion. As larvae consume available food sources, they migrate as an army to new host plants. Though they feed primarily on grasses (oats, wheat, fall rye, corn, barley, and forage grasses), they can be a pest of some vegetables (bean, cabbage, carrot, onion, pea, pepper, radish and sweet potato). When possible, larva will even cannibalize the larva of smaller instars.

Native to North America, the true armyworm can be found east of the Rocky Mountains, reaching northward into southern Canada. The true armyworm has a distinct migration pattern in which they travel north in the spring and south in the fall to ensure that mating occurs in a favorable environment over the summer. Armyworms have also been reported from southwestern states, including California as well as Mexico, Central and South America, and many Caribbean islands.

In a given year, there can be two to three generations of armyworms with each generation requiring 30-50 days to complete. Adults lay eggs in groups of 2 to 5 rows on dry leaves and grass. They prefer to lay eggs on the underside of leaves, but in high populations they will lay them just about anywhere. Females may deposit up to 80 eggs per cluster with total production of between 500-1500 eggs. The egg stage lasts 2-5 days depending on temperature. The armyworm's egg is dome shaped, and measures around 0.4 mm in diameter and 0.3 mm in height. They are a white or yellowish color but change to a gray right before hatching. In warm weather, the eggs will hatch into larvae within a few days.

The armyworm larval stage goes through 6-9 instars during which the caterpillar grows from a length of about 0.15" to 1.5". The larval stage lasts about 14-25 days depending on weather. When the larvae hatch, they feed on the foliage on which they were laid, but if disrupted, larvae release silk and fall into the soil. Armyworms feed throughout the day or night but are most active in the morning or after dark. Larvae in the later instars are nocturnal and will often hide under the soil for protection during daylight. Adults are also nocturnal and fare best during warm and humid nights.

When the newly hatched larvae begin feeding on the leaf underside, it results in tiny, white windowpanes in the leaf or frizzing of the leaf tips. This symptom is an early sign that lets you know it is time to treat for armyworms. Mature larvae eat entire leaves. Early treatment can prevent major damage because the larvae consume 80%-90% of the total leaf consumption during the final 2-3 days of development. Pupation occurs underground in a silken case produced by the larvae.

Locally, the fall armyworm is active at a different time of year than the true armyworm. Outbreaks of the true armyworm usually occur during the early part of the summer; the fall armyworm does most damage in the late summer in the southern part of the United States. Larvae initially are gregarious in behavior, but as they mature they disperse, sometimes spinning strands of silk upon which they are blown by the wind.

This is probably a lot more than you care to know about armyworms. All you know is that they are voracious, non-discriminating feeders that are trying to destroy your garden. What to do about them? Possible control measures are listed in the table to the right. Remember to follow label directions.

~Dr. Joe Willis

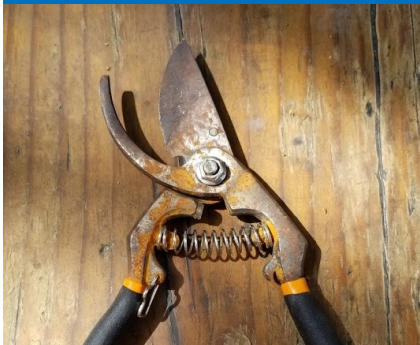
Active Ingredient	Available Products
Cyfluthrin	Bayer Advanced Garden & Vegetable Insect Spray,
Permethrin	Bayer Complete Dust for Gardens, Ortho Bug-B-Gone, Bonide Vegetable, Fruit, and Flower Spray.
Spinosad	Greenlight Lawn and Garden Spray with spinosad, Fertilome Borer, Bagworm, Tent Caterpillar, & Leafminer Spray, Monterey Garden Insect Spray, plus others.
Carbaryl	Sevin, Ortho Bug-B-Gone, Bayer Complete Insect Killer
Bt ( <i>Bacillus Thuringiensis</i> )	Dipel, Thuricide, BT Worm Killer
Bifenthrin	Ortho Bug-B-Gone Max Lawn and Garden Insect Killer



# How To...Maintain Bypass Pruning Shears

With proper maintenance your garden equipment may last for many years. Take the following steps to keep your bypass pruning shears in top condition.

~Chris Dunaway



These pruners are very dull and were left out in the rain to rust.

We need to:

1. Clean off the rust.
2. Sharpen the blade.
3. Apply protective lubricant.



Use a fine wire brush or rotary tool with a wire wheel to clean the rust from the tool.



Use a rotary tool with a sharpening wheel or a small fine file to sharpen the blade.

After sharpening the cutting blade on the side facing away from the anvil blade, use the file flat against the opposite side to remove the burr that results from sharpening and smooth other damage to the blade.



## Notice:

Only sharpen one side of bypass pruners.

Set the angle between 25-30°. Lower angles make the blade sharper but more fragile.

Do not use sharpeners that sharpen both sides at once.



Finally, spray your pruners with your favorite water repelling lubricant to protect them and keep them operating smoothly.



# Coming Events

## Fall Garden Festival

### At the New Orleans Botanical Garden

Join garden lovers at this year's Fall Garden Festival to celebrate the event's 21st anniversary. The annual Fall Garden Festival is an educational experience for home gardeners and professionals.

The festival includes plant & garden product exhibits, sales throughout the garden, a Children's Fun Fest activities area, educational programs, music, arts & crafts, and more. Educational programs take place in the Garden Study Center and are free with entrance to the show. There will be live music each day for patrons to enjoy. This event is sponsored by the New Orleans Botanical Garden, New Orleans City Park, the New Orleans Botanical Garden Foundation, and Friends of City Park.

**Admission:** \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 -12  
Children under 4 years old and Friends of City Park receive free admission .

**When:** Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 5 PM  
Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM

**Where:** New Orleans Botanical Garden, New Orleans City Park

**Contact:** Susan Capley, New Orleans Botanical Garden Education Director  
SCapley@nocp.org or call 483-9473.



Volunteers at the Botanical Gardens have cleaned out Pelican Greenhouse in preparation for the City Park Plant Sales at the Fall Garden Festival.

## CITY PARK PLANT SALES



# Fall Garden Festival

**October 6, 10am – 5pm**

**October 7, 10am - 4pm**

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



# Organic Matters

In most native soils in our area, organic matter accounts for less than 1% of the total weight. Organic material exists in several states in the soil. There are the organisms in the soil – bacteria, fungi, worms, insects, arthropods, mollusks and the like. There is also the undecomposed plant debris – roots, buried stems and leaves. And there is the fully decomposed organic matter which is resistant to further decomposition (humus). When you do a standard soil test, organic matter is not one of the tests performed. This is an additional test you can request and usually costs an extra \$5 or so.

What does organic matter do for your soil?

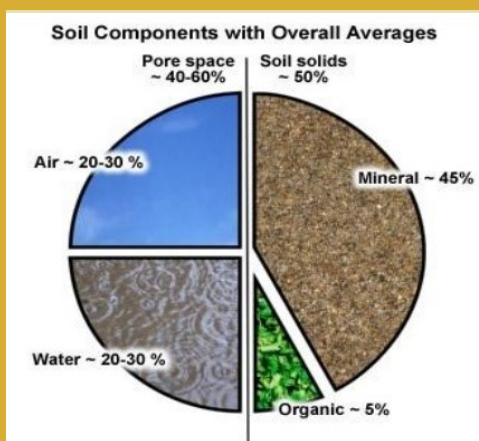
**Increases Nutrient Supply.** Organic matter is a reservoir of nutrients that can be released to the soil. Each percent of organic matter in the soil releases 20 to 30 pounds of nitrogen, 4.5 to 6.6 pounds of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (a source of phosphorous), and 2 to 3 pounds of sulfur per year.

**Increases Water-Holding Capacity.** Organic matter behaves somewhat like a sponge, with the ability to absorb and hold up to 90 percent of its weight in water. A great advantage of the water-holding capacity of organic matter is that the matter will release most of the water that it absorbs to plants.

**Improves Soil Structure Aggregation.** Organic matter causes soil to clump and form soil aggregates, which improves soil structure. With better soil structure, permeability (infiltration of water through the soil) improves, in turn improving the soil's ability to take up and hold water.

**Prevents Erosion.** Data indicate that increasing soil organic matter from 1 to 3 percent can reduce erosion 20 to 33 percent because of increased water infiltration and stable soil aggregate formation caused by organic matter.

**Increases Soil Organisms.** The organic matter in soil is food for the majority of organisms in the soil. Increasing the food levels leads to an increase in soil-inhabiting organism populations.



There are even studies that show that for each 1% increase in organic matter, there can be as much as a 12% increase in productivity.

Many publications on soil organic matter and organic gardening recommend achieving a soil organic matter level of 5%. To achieve this, organic amendments must be added to the soil. Organic amendments

that can be added to the soil are fresh manures, composted manures, plant-based compost, and green manure. For safety reasons, fresh manure is not recommended. Composted manures and plant-based composts are the easiest to use and have virtually no odor. Green manures, especially legumes also make great soil amendments to increase soil organic matter. Just remember, with green manures the entire plant needs to be tilled into the soil.

When organic material is added to the soil, about 90% will break down and/or be utilized by your plants during the year. In other words, if you add 100 lbs. of organic matter only 10 lbs. will remain in the soil at the end of the year. Maintaining soil organic matter is an ongoing process that requires regular replenishment. General recommendations for increasing soil organic matter levels is to add 2-4 lbs. per square foot annually. Once desired levels are attained, adding 1-2 lbs. of organic matter per square foot annually is the recommendation in order to maintain the soil organic matter percentage. It is a good idea to develop the habit of adding organic matter regularly between crops or when mulching. Increasing soil organic matter is a practice that will never go unrewarded.

~Dr. Joe Willis



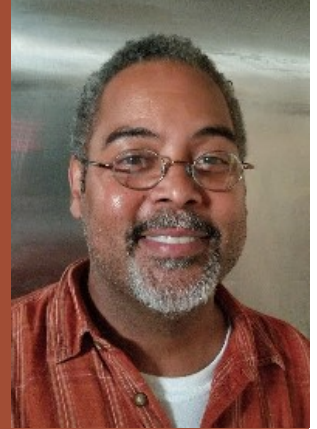
# In the Kitchen with Austin

## Patty Pan Squash

Once the weather starts to cool down a bit, these lovelies begin producing again. They are my absolute favorite squash...and once you make this recipe, they will be yours as well! **Note:** Try to find patty pans that are no more than 5 inches around. The skins on these are thinner and the seeds don't have to be cored out.

### Ingredients:

- 2 Tbs. butter + 1 Tbs.
- 1 small onion, chopped
- ½ bell pepper, chopped
- 2 lbs. patty pan squash, peeled and cubed
- ¼ cup water
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/3 cup + 2 Tbs. seasoned bread crumbs



### Directions:

Melt 2 tbs. of butter in a heavy bottomed pot over low fire. Sauté onion and bell pepper in butter until translucent. Add squash, water and bay leaf to pot, stirring well to combine ingredients. Cover completely and cook for 40 to 50 minutes, stirring occasionally. Season with salt and pepper.

Squash will break down into a pulp. Turn the fire off and blend 1/3 cup bread crumbs into the squash. Cover and allow to sit for 10 minutes. Remove lid and sprinkle top of squash with remaining 2 Tbs. bread crumbs. Dot with additional 1 Tbs. butter and bake for 20 minutes, or just until top is browned.

**Bon Manger!**

## Compost Cleaning



In the [September 2016 issue of GNO Gardening](#) we showed you how to make a compost screen to help separate finished compost from trash and uncomposted plant material. This is especially useful for single compost systems in which fresh material is regularly added to a single compost pile. The example shown in the photographs above was designed by Louisiana Master Gardener Volunteer Greg Maurer to fit the wheelbarrow that we have for use in our demonstration garden. Simply place some mixed material from the compost pile on top of the screen. Agitate the material allowing the finished compost to fall through the screen. Remove and dispose of any captured trash. Place the uncomposted plant material to the side and add it back to the compost pile when you are finished.





# CAUTION



## MASTER GARDENERS AT WORK



While it may look untamed to us, that is just the way the wildlife likes it.



A viceroy butterfly nectaring from a dianthus flower.



A gulf fritillary caught in mid flight.

**The Butterfly Walk in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens** is one of my favorite places in the city. This tiny space is overflowing with a profusion of plants favored by butterflies and hummingbirds. As I entered the garden recently on a chase to capture photos for this article, immediately two hummingbirds flashed past my head in a frenzied race. And yes there were butterflies along with a host of other nectar and pollen

(nectar=sugar, pollen=protein) seeking insects including solitary bumble bees, honeybees, moths, and even a solitary hover fly.

Mrs. Mary is the

project coordinator. She has been a Louisiana Master Gardener since the second class offered in the New Orleans area in 1999. In addition to her usual crew, two recent graduates from the 2018 MG class have adopted the gardens as their prime project and are continuing their learning the best way that I know how, by doing. Unlike most of the other Master Gardener projects, you do not actually have to be a Master Gardener to volunteer. The Butterfly Walk is just one of many areas that the Botanical Gardens rely on volunteer assistance to maintain. Work days in the Butterfly Walk are every Tuesday from 9 AM-NOON. Check out the [MGGNO.org/projects](http://MGGNO.org/projects) for more information about the Butterfly Walk and other MGGNO projects. Visit <http://neworleanscitypark.com/botanical-garden/volunteer> to find out more about volunteer opportunities in the Botanical Gardens. ~Chris Dunaway



Some of the inhabitants may be a little standoffish. To really enjoy the garden, take a moment to sit on the butterfly bench. Be still and quiet, and let the madcap menagerie come to you.



# Coming Events

Date	Event	Cost	Link
Thursday October 3 <sup>rd</sup> 5:30-7:30 PM	Managing Water With Green Infrastructure for St. Bernard Parish @ 721 Friscoville Ave., Arabi	Free	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/266672286335316/">https://www.facebook.com/events/266672286335316/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Thursday October 4 <sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00 PM	Mini Plant Sale @ Delgado GrowthWorks Greenhouse	Free	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/270803476896234/">https://www.facebook.com/events/270803476896234/</a>
October 5-6 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Fall Native Woody Plant Sale @ Crosby Arboretum	Free	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/282755585675768/">https://www.facebook.com/events/282755585675768/</a>
Saturday, October 6 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM-5:00 PM Sunday, October 7 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM - 4 PM	Fall Garden Festival @ New Orleans Botanical Garden	\$10 Adults \$5 Children	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1507902669301289/">https://www.facebook.com/events/1507902669301289/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Sunday, October 7 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	For The Love of Weeds: Roadside Flower Arrangements @ Longue Vue House & Gardens	\$20 Members \$25 Non- Members	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1083873981775512/">https://www.facebook.com/events/1083873981775512/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Saturday, October 13 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM - 4 PM Sunday, October 14 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm - 4 pm	Secret Gardens of the Vieux Carre Self Guided Tour. @ 533 St. Ann Street	\$20 Each Children 12 and under FREE	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1407052706061044/">https://www.facebook.com/events/1407052706061044/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Saturday, October 13 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Creating Edible Ecosystems @ All You Need	\$20	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/301087724035813/">https://www.facebook.com/events/301087724035813/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Tuesday, October 16 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Autumn Centerpiece Workshop @ Catahoula Hotel with Pistil & Stamen Flower Farm	\$125	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/307500783401679/">https://www.facebook.com/events/307500783401679/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Thursday, October 18 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Sip and Learn About The Edible Schoolyard @ Samuel Green Charter School	Free	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/2165213553735334/">https://www.facebook.com/events/2165213553735334/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Saturday, October 20 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	GNO Iris Society Annual Louisiana Iris Rhizome Sale @Longue Vue House & Gardens 7 Bamboo Rd, New Orleans	Free	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/580785458969126/">https://www.facebook.com/events/580785458969126/</a>
Saturday, October 20 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Sweet Potato Festival @ Arthur Ashe Charter School	Free	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/269923087194860/">https://www.facebook.com/events/269923087194860/</a>
Saturday, October 20 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Jefferson Beautification Fall Garden Show @ LaSalle Park	Free	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/357827621424934/">https://www.facebook.com/events/357827621424934/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Saturday, October 20 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Fall Garden Prep Class @ All You Need	\$20	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/2175616159124246/">https://www.facebook.com/events/2175616159124246/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Saturday, October 27 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM—3:00 PM	Urban Beekeeping @ All You Need	\$20	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/299799770811802/">https://www.facebook.com/events/299799770811802/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!
Monday, October 29 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Designing a Cutting Garden and Arranging With Local Blooms @ Catahoula Hotel with Pistil & Stamen Flower Farm	\$125	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1947454878889435/">https://www.facebook.com/events/1947454878889435/</a> Master Gardener Education Credit!



# October Checklist/Garden Tips

Flowers to plant in October and November include seeds or transplants of calendula, carnation, Chinese forget-me-not, clarkia, cornflower, dianthus, foxglove, hollyhock, larkspur, lobelia, nasturtium, nicotiana, pansy, petunia, phlox, poppy, snapdragon, stock, sweet alyssum, sweet peas and wall flower.



Calendula



Clarkia



Nicotiana

Summer bulbs may still be growing, but colder weather is in the not too distant future and none of them should be fertilized now. Bulbs that are in active growth such as Louisiana iris, calla lily, Easter lily and spider lily (Lycoris) could be fertilized lightly now.

Azalea lace bugs will be active through November. These insects feed from the underside of the leaves causing small, white dots on the upper side of the leaves and dark brown spots on the back. Do not let a lot of damage occur before you treat. Once the damage occurs, the leaves will not turn green again even if you control the lace bugs. Spray under the leaves with Orthene (acephate), Malathion or horticultural oil every ten days or as needed.

Gardeners often place their tropical plants in containers outside for the summer and bring them indoors during winter. Move any plants you intend to winter indoors to very shady areas outside, such as under carports or trees, for the next three or four weeks. This will allow them to adjust to lower light intensities before you bring them inside where light is more limited. Make sure you place plants in front of bright windows when you bring them indoors. Also check them for insect pests and other hitchhikers before bringing them in.

Spray plants such as camellia, holly, gardenia, magnolia, privet and citrus with horticultural oil sprays to control scale and whitefly.

Dig, divide and transplant perennials such as daylilies, ajuga, daisy, rudbeckia, coreopsis, yarrow and others now through February. Keep plants well watered and mulched.

Water in newly planted bedding plants with a half strength fertilizer solution to get them off to a good start.

Don't forget that late October through early December is the time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Tulips and hyacinths are exceptions that are planted later. They must first be chilled in the vegetable bin of your refrigerator for six to eight weeks, and are planted in late December through mid January.

Plant sweet peas now through November. If you wait and plant them in the spring they will not have time to grow and bloom before hot weather sets in, so planting in fall is a must. Choose a sunny location at the base of something they can climb on such as a chain-link fence or lattice work. Sweet peas planted now will generally begin to bloom in March and last until early May.



# October Lawn Care

## Do:

1. Collect grass clippings and dispose of them if there are weeds setting seed in the lawn.
2. Apply selective herbicides and sedge killers to kill off summer weeds and sedges.
3. Apply pre-emergent herbicides to prevent winter weed germination.
4. Continue to scout for insect damage and control with insecticides if necessary.
5. 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.](#)
6. Take a soil test.
7. Apply sulfur or lime to adjust the pH if necessary according to soil lab recommendations.
8. Use a bagging mower to shred and collect fallen leaves. Put them in your compost pile or use them as mulch in your gardens.



## Do Not:

1. Do not apply fertilizer until mid-February or March of next year.
2. Do not lay sod.
3. Do not spread warm-season turfgrass seed.
4. Do not dethatch the lawn.
5. Do not aerate the lawn.
6. Do not overseed St. Augustine grass with winter ryegrass. In these lawns, ryegrass can compete with the turfgrass as spring comes on.

## Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

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



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