



October 2017

‘Supertunia Vista Bubblegum’ Petunia Named Louisiana Super Plant

Fall is here and the time is now to start adding flowers for the cool months ahead. The new Louisiana Super Plant from the LSU AgCenter for this fall is the ‘Supertunia Vista Bubblegum’ petunia. This is one of the most talked about petunias over the past 3-5 years and one of the best petunias in landscape trials at the



Supertunia Vista Bubblegum in mass planting.

LSU AgCenter’s Hammond Research Station. The flowers are a clear, bright pink. Over the past few years it has been proven that Supertunia Vista Bubblegum is one of the most durable petunia varieties available to Louisiana gardeners

Supertunia Vista Bubblegum is a vigorous petunia with a 3-foot spread at maturity. It can grow 16-24 inches tall. Plant in full sun in well draining soil. Petunias prefer an acidic soil in the pH range of 5.5-6.5. A mulch of pine straw improves the appearance of the landscape bed, minimizes upward splashing of water from irrigation, helps retain moisture in the soil and helps with weed control.

When mass-planted in the landscape bed, it is best to plant the petunias on 18 inch centers. This petunia works equally well in containers and hanging baskets where the flowering branches and shoots can cascade over the edge – a truly spectacular “spiller” plant. Always plant the transplants at the original cell-pack or pot depth. You mostly see Supertunia Vista Bubblegum for sale in 6 inch pots at garden centers.

There is always confusion about the best time to plant petunias in the landscape. In Louisiana, petunias do well when planted in the fall from September through early November and in the late winter / early spring from early February through mid-March. A fall planting of petunias will normally over-winter well and provide blooms until late May. Late winter and early spring planted petunias normally last only until early June but if the weather cooperates the more heat tolerant petunias (Continued)



Supertunia Vista Bubblegum in a container.

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	Toscana, 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](http://apps.lsuagcenter.com/diseaseresistance/) on the LSUAgCenter website.

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

'Supertunia Vista Bubblegum' Petunia Named Louisiana Super Plant

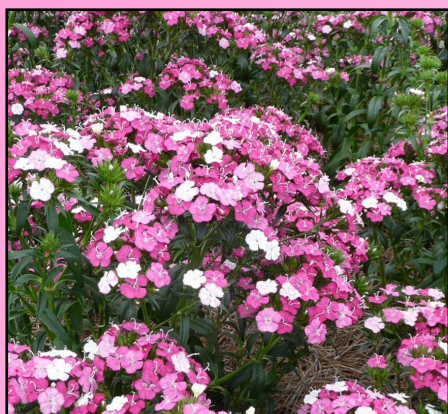
- like Supertunia Vista Bubblegum – can be over-summered successfully. Supertunia Vista Bubblegum are self-cleaning of old flowers. Deadheading (removal of old flowers) is not needed to maintain continued bloom but a light pruning after each bloom flush is recommended.

Early morning watering is best for petunias and other bedding plants. With the vigorous growth habit of these petunias, you may need to pay more attention to the water demands of container grown plants.

All varieties of Supertunias are heavy feeders. For the best growth and flower production, fertilize these plants at planting and periodically during the growing season. Either a controlled-release fertilizer or water soluble fertilizers are good for this purpose.

You can also create a vibrant fall bed using Supertunias planted with some past Louisiana Super Plants such as swan columbine, Amazon dianthus, sorbet violas, redbor ornamental kale, mesa series gaillardia, and diamonds blue delphinium as companion plants. More information on each of these Super Plants can be found at http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/research_stations/hammond/features/super_plants or by searching “LSU Super Plants” on the web.

~Dr. Joe Willis



Amazon Dianthus “Rose Magic”



Swan Columbine



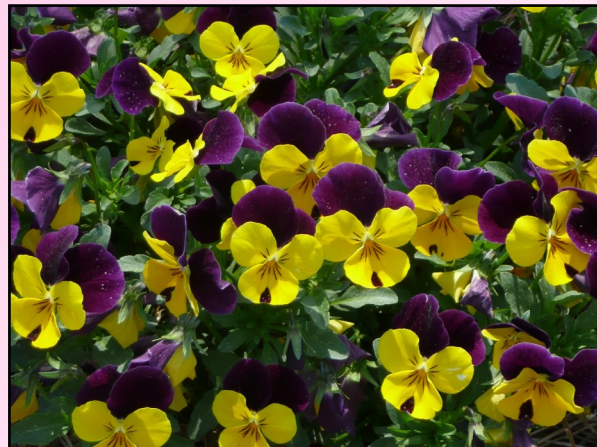
Mesa Gaillardia



Redbore Kale



Diamonds Blue delphinium



Sorbet Viola

Photos courtesy of Hammond Research Station and LSU AgCenter

So Many Names

A friend of mine recently saw a *Lycoris radiata* flower in my back yard and she commented that nothing told her that fall had arrived like seeing the naked ladies blooming. I mentioned it to someone else who did not recognize the plant until I described the flower then they said, "You mean hurricane lilies." Like many plants, *Lycoris* spc. has many common names such as naked lady, spider lily, surprise lily, magic lily, resurrection lily, and hurricane lily. These lilies are members of the amaryllis family, which includes other well-known bulbs such as common amaryllis, daffodils, rain lilies and snowdrops.

These lilies are easy to grow and naturalize readily. If you plant new ones or move to a new location the bulbs should be planted so the "neck" is just below the soil surface. Dormant bulbs are best planted during late summer and fall, whereas actively growing plants can be planted other times of the year. These lilies thrive in sunny to partially sunny areas such as the edges of woodlands and shrub borders or under deciduous trees. They do not require fertilizer or irrigation but grow best in loose, moist soil with good organic matter.

The types of this lily that grow best here will have long, narrow leaves that emerge in fall, persist through winter, and die down in spring. The clumps of blue-green foliage resemble liriopse (monkey grass) but with a pale stripe down the center of each leaf. Leaves turn yellow in spring and should be allowed to die naturally. Cutting back leaves while they are yellowing will harm the bulb and reduce flowering. No leaves are present during summer months when bulbs are dormant or when the blooms arise (hence the name Naked Lady).

They are called surprise or magic lily because in late summer after a heavy rain flowers appear al-

most magically since there is no foliage to indicate where the bulb is planted. Leafless stems emerge and quickly grow 12 to 24 or more inches tall before being topped by 8-inch clusters of tubular flowers. Most species have flowers with narrow, strap-like petals and extremely long stamens giving a spidery appearance to the flowers (and hence another common name, spider lily). These lilies make excellent cut flowers as well as beautiful garden plants.

They have a reputation for inconsistent flowering from year to year. This is often caused by bulb crowding. Large clumps of bulbs should be divided every few years to avoid reduced growth and flowering caused by crowding. Bulb clumps are best divided in early summer when bulbs are dormant. Flowering may be delayed a year or more due to the shock of dividing.

The most common hurricane lily is *Lycoris radiata* var. *radiata* (also known as red spider lily; see photo), producing red-orange flowers. This plant is a sterile triploid, preventing it from forming

seeds and causing it to be free-flowering. Without the burden of producing seeds, this plant is also very fast growing, resulting in large clumps of bulbs that can be separated and planted. *Lycoris radiata* var. *radiata* is vigorous and produces bulbs so prolifically that it is far more common than its smaller, seed-producing diploid form known as *Lycoris radiata* var. *pumila*. Red spider lily has been cultivated since ancient times in China and Japan and since the early 1800s in the US. This plant has naturalized and is considered an "heirloom plant" in the southern US. Article taken from publication ENH1038 from the University of Florida written by Gary Knox. To see the full publication follow this link: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP25500.pdf>



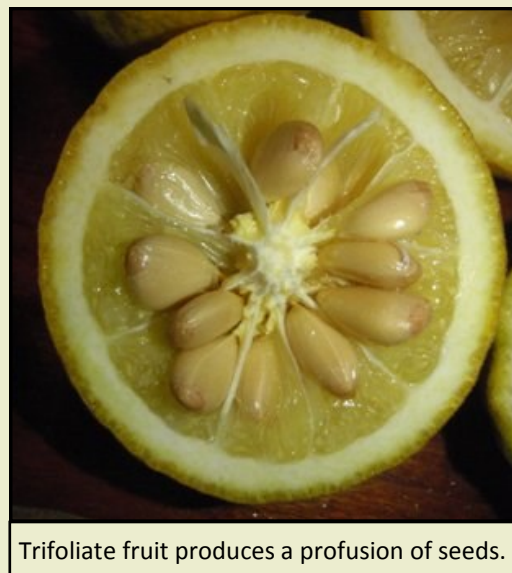
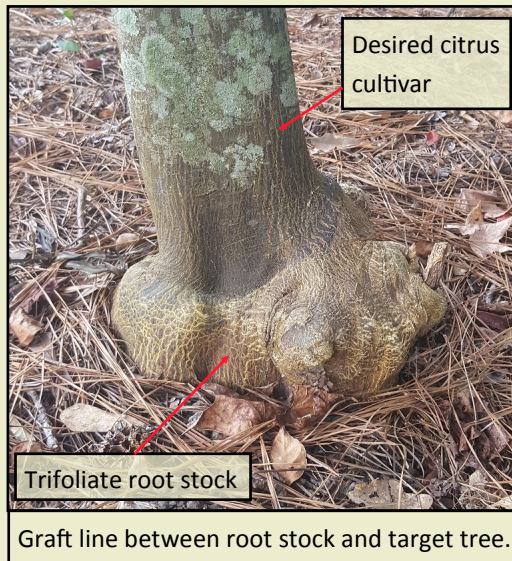
Photo by Chris Dunaway

Trifoliate Orange is a Sticky Situation

Is your citrus tree having problems, specifically spikey, pokey problems? If the branches are covered in long, green thorns and the fruit you are picking sure doesn't look or taste like the variety that you planted, you could have a rootstock issue.

Most citrus nursery stock is grafted onto a hardier rootstock, this helps to protect the more delicate and more delicious variety of citrus from cold damage, nematodes, root rot, and a host of other issues. Trifoliate orange, also known as Japanese bitter orange, is the hardiest closest relative to all edible citrus species. It will tolerate frost and less than ideal conditions. It's native habitat in China and Korea extends into Zone 5. By grafting more delicate varieties onto the roots of trifoliate orange, these strengths are conferred and the tree is stronger for it. There are other rootstock species that dwarf the tree and possess other qualities, but the trifoliate orange rootstock is the most unruly one that I see the most. It is very recognizable by the three-sectioned compound leaves that it has, which contrast to the single leaf of most citrus.

The graft on a typical citrus tree is about 4-6 inches above the soil line. You should be able to see a ridge or trough around the trunk that marks the scar from the grafting process. Once the tissue heals and knits together, the tree is whole. Occasionally, the rootstock portion of the tree will produce



“suckers” that grow out as long, willowy branches below the graft point. These branches have long, green thorns and grow rather quickly. If left unpruned for several years, the rootstock branches may outcompete the grafted and more desirable variety. At times, if the top of the tree above the graft dies, the rootstock will send out branches to save itself. This can create a nice, decorative tree.

There are several downsides to allowing the rootstock branches to grow. First, they hog nutrients that would otherwise be used to grow the desirable parts of the tree, including palatable fruit. Second, the branches are full of spines and the larger they get, the more unpleasant pruning becomes. It is never fun finding out the hard way that those spines will tear right through a contractor bag or a pair of leather gloves. Ouch! Lastly, any fruit that is produced on the trifoliate branches will be pretty gross. Most fruit will be seedy, pithy, and inedible.

Removing suckers from below the graft is advisable as soon as you notice them, this will make the job easier and keep the top part of the tree growing strongly. Use a sharp pair of pruners to cut the sucker as close to the trunk as possible. You'll need to do this periodically, and it does no harm to the tree. Waiting too long can result in a very spikey unpleasant task. Trifoliate orange helps our citrus to succeed in less than ideal conditions, but don't let it take over! ~Anna Timmerman

Good Web Resources for Plant Info

Sometimes the name is right on the tip of your tongue. Other times the common name you have been taught years ago is also the name for something completely different. Friends and family may send you photos on your phone asking “what is it?” We’ve all been there. Identifying plants can be a chore, but several web-based resources are out there that make identifying mystery plants fun again.

www.plants.usda.gov



The USDA has a wonderful database of all plants grown in the United States called the PLANTS Database. The site features and catalogues native and introduced plants and is being constantly updated. This site is hosted through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and has a wonderful search feature. You can search plants via common or botanical name, state, and fun categories such as culturally significant plants, plants with updated distribution maps, invasive plants, and wetland plants. This is a great site if you know the common or scientific name of a plant and would like to confirm the ID or get more information. This site is very user friendly.

www.theplantlist.org

This site is a collaborative project between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. The Plant List has over 1,000,000 plants catalogued and is a work in progress. Searching plants via common names is not available so this resource is better for folks that know what genus or species a plant belongs to and want a positive ID of the species or cultivar. This site is also a great learning tool in that you can browse plant families and learn much about how plants are related to one another. A downside of this site is that there are no photos, and it can be difficult to navigate.

www.wildflower.org/plants

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has an excellent native plant database that is searchable by state as well as a lot of other helpful characteristics. The search page has inputs for light requirements, bloom characteristics, leaf characteristics, and size, which makes identifying unusual wildflowers easier. As a reverse function, this site can also be used to recommend wildflowers that may grow in your garden or area. The photographs are wonderful and the entries are arranged in a very user friendly way. Be prepared to spend extra time on this beautiful site.



www.southeasternflora.com



Specific to just the Southeastern US, this site is easy to use in that the search fields include flower color, leaf type, plant form, and common/species/family or botanical name. This site also has a great index that sorts plants by common and botanical name so that you can pull up individual plants. The photographs are good but less detailed than other sites (no seed/seedling photos). This site is also a work in progress but a good one to use.

www.facebook.com

Yes, you read correctly. Facebook has many groups dedicated to plant ID, several of which utilize only botanists and green industry professionals to ID plants. There are two in particular that I like to use. Both will ID a plant in under five minutes (sometimes it is really fast!) and most responses will include the botanical as well as common name. "Plant Identification" is a purely ID page, staffed almost entirely by botanists from around the globe. No discussion on the plants growth, uses, or other topics is tolerated, this is purely an identification tool. If you'd like a more relaxed group, "Plant Identification and discussion" is as thorough in identifying plants but also makes space for discussion or further questions about plants that have been posted. There are many other more specific ID groups, I am a member of a tree group, an insect group and a mushroom group as well. Be sure to read the rules of each group before joining, some are purely scientific and others are more relaxed communities.

Give these resources a try next time you are stumped trying to correctly identify a plant. Most of them are very easy to click around in, making for an educational as well as enjoyable experience. Plus, learning about new plants is always fun!

~Anna Timmerman



Here is a list of a few of Anna's favorite Facebook groups.

[Mollusk Appreciation And ID Group](#)

[Tree identification](#)

[Antman's Hill](#)

[Plant Identification and Education](#)

[Mushroom Identification Page](#)

[Plant identification and discussion](#)

Herb Society Fall Plant Sale Celebrate Herbs!



Saturday, Sept 30th
9am- 3pm

@ Hollygrove Market and Farm
8301 Olive St, NOLA 70118

"Get in the Know & Grow Herbs"
Presentation at 10:30



The Herb Society of America is dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use and delight of herbs through educational programs, research and sharing the experience of its members with the community.

Medical disclaimer: It is the policy of The Herb Society of America not to advise or recommend herbs for medicinal or health use.

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Herb Society of America-
New Orleans Unit

New Orleans Botanical Garden

Fall Garden Festival

Join garden lovers at this year's Fall Garden Festival to celebrate the event's 22nd anniversary! The annual Fall Garden Festival is an educational experience for home gardeners and professionals.



The festival includes plant and garden product exhibits, sales throughout the garden, a Children's Fun Fest activities area, educational programs, scarecrow contest, live music, arts and crafts, and more. Educational programs will take place at the Garden Study Center and are free with admission to the Festival. There will be live music each day for patrons to enjoy!

Entry: \$10 for Adults
\$5 for Children ages 5-12
Children under age of 4 year old and Friends of City Park receive free admission.

When: Saturday October 7th from 10-5pm,
Sunday October 8th from 10-4pm

Where: New Orleans Botanical Gardens,
New Orleans City Park

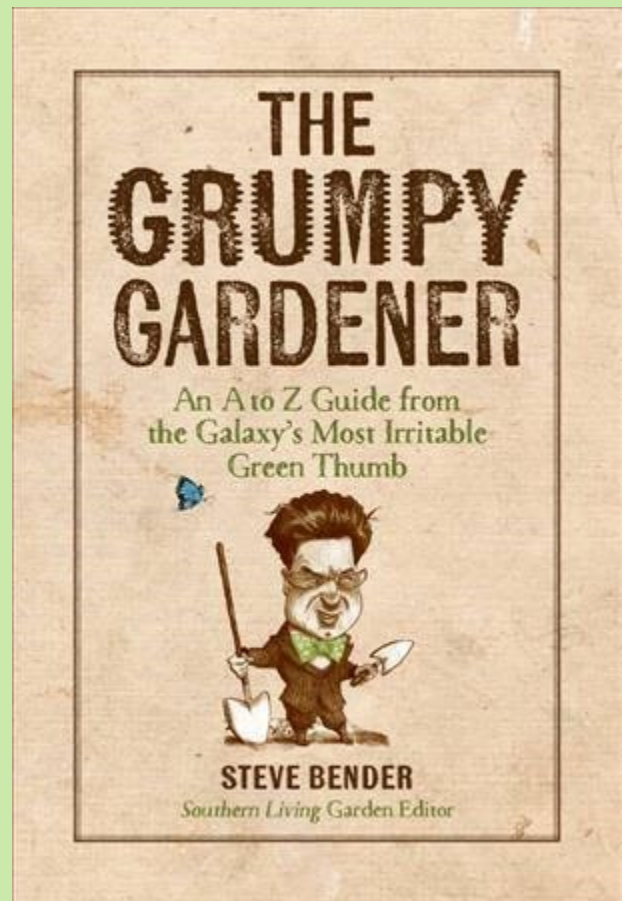
Featuring: "The Grumpy Gardener"

Steve Bender

author and columnist for

Southern Living Magazine.

Steve will give a presentation at the festival on Saturday followed by an exclusive early book release and signing.



Contact: Susan Capley, New Orleans Botanical Garden Education Director

SCapley@nocp.org or call (504) 483-9473



NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK
**BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

2017 PLANT SALES

OCTOBER 7-8
Fall Garden Festival
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 pm

The Pelican Greenhouse is located just off Henry Thomas (Golf) Drive, South of the I-610 overpass. Bring a wagon and arrive early. For additional information, call 504/483-9464, visit our website at www.neworleanscitypark.com, or e-mail to plants@nocp.org

Greater New Orleans Iris Society Annual Louisiana Iris Rhizome Sale

Date: **Saturday October 21**
Time: **8AM - 10AM**
Location: **Longue Vue House & Gardens**
#7 Bamboo Road, New Orleans



A Different Kind of Pepper

Last Spring, Dr. Joe and a few Master Gardener volunteers started a pepper trial by planting 3 plants each of 16 different varieties of sweet and 19 varieties of hot peppers in the raised beds of the New Orleans Botanical Gardens. Although this was not a scientific study it would give us an idea of which peppers could perform well with our local growing conditions. Our biggest obstacle was with supplying sufficient water to the plants. Due to problems with the irrigation system some of the plants received too much water while others suffered from too little. Even with this issue, we did manage to harvest a good number of sweet and hot peppers during the summer season. There were two clear front runners that produced far superior plants that yielded significantly more peppers than the other varieties. Furthermore, they were the only ones that lasted through the hot summer and continued producing peppers into the fall. The two are Aji Rico *Capsicum baccatum* and Mad Hatter *Capsicum baccatum*. The Mad Hatter is a sweet pepper commonly used in Bolivian and Peruvian cuisine and is similar in taste to a bell pepper. Aji Rico is a hot pepper measuring between 45,000 - 75,000 Scoville units. Interestingly, most of the peppers that we grow are all varieties of the same plant species *Capsicum annum*. Both the Aji Rico and Mad Hatter are from the less cultivated species *Capsicum baccatum*.

~Chris Dunaway



Aji Rico peppers on bush.



Harvested Aji Rico peppers.



Mad Hatter pepper on bush.



Bottom of Mad Hatter.

October Checklist/Garden Tips

You can direct seed poppies, larkspur, sweet pea, calendula, alyssum, bachelor's button and Virginia stock now.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Keep compost piles evenly moist and turn 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 compost for bed preparation before you have any finished, you can use partially decomposed organic matter and the composting process will finish in the soil of the bed.

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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.

October Checklist/Garden Tips

Control caterpillars on cool season vegetables and bedding plants with applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (or BT for short). This bacterium is deadly to caterpillars but harmless to other organisms. Control aphids with insecticidal soap or horticultural oils.

Apply pre-emergence herbicides to the lawn this month to control cool season annual weeds such as henbit, chickweed and annual blue grass. These herbicides that prevent weeds from growing must be applied before the weeds show up in the lawn.

Make compost piles from fallen leaves or use them for mulching

Purchase and plant strawberry plants this month in your vegetable gardens (or even in flowerbeds) in full sun with good drainage. Recommended cultivars are 'Festival', 'Camarosa', 'Camino Real' and Chandler.

Collect seeds from your warm annual flowers to plant next year. A few that have seeds relatively easy to harvest include cosmos, cleome, sunflower, abelmoschus, balsam, amaranthus, wheat celosia, marigold and zinnia. Do not save seed from hybrid cultivars.

October weather can be dry; water plantings as needed. Pay special attention to any newly planted areas. It is generally best to water direct seeded beds of flowers or vegetables lightly every day to make sure the seeds do not dry out. Water in newly planted bedding plants with a half strength fertilizer solution to get them off to a good start.

Make every effort to pull up or otherwise control warm season weeds going to seed now. If you let the flower set and drop seed your problems will only be worse next year. Do not put weeds with seeds on them in your compost pile.

Fall is an excellent time to plant many herbs in the garden. A few herb plants provide a lot of harvest, so don't plant more than you can use. Herbs to plant now include parsley, sage, thyme, dill, cilantro, rosemary, oregano, borage, fennel, nasturtium, French tarragon, chives, mint and catnip.

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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