



June 2016

Farwell From Our Friend

Dear Friends of the LSU AgCenter,

As many of you already know, I have completed my time as the Jefferson Parish Horticulture Agent, and my family will be moving this month. It has been a pleasure to work with the LSU AgCenter and the residents of Greater New Orleans over the last two years. I will certainly miss this work and living in this area; however, I am happy to say that the projects that I began will be continuing under the guidance of Lee Rouse and Chris Dunaway. Thank you all for your support.

~Sarah Everhart



June Planting Guide

Cantaloupe	Eggplant	Peanuts	Southern Peas	Watermelons
Collards	Luffa	Hot Peppers	Sweet Potatoes	
Cucuzzi	Okra	Pumpkin	Swiss Chard	

Edibles: Start seeds for tomatoes, bell peppers and eggplant in late June for fall transplant production.



“Crimson Sweet” Watermelon



“Ambrosia” Cantaloupe



“Queen Anne” Peas



“Dusky” Eggplant

Bedding Plants

Blue Daze	Lantana	Pentas	Scaevola
Celosia	Marigold	Periwinkle	Torenia
Coleus	Melampodium	Purslane	
Gaillardia	Narrow-Leaf Zinnia	Salvia	



Scaevola



Narrow-Leaf Zinnia



Coleus



Lantana

Ornamentals:

Ornamental Grasses



Fireworks Fountain Grass



Japanese Sedge



Miscanthus



Pennisetum

Volunteer Spotlight



Aimee Bonomolo - Aimee is one of our newest Master Gardener volunteers. She told me that she has enjoyed gardening since she was a child. However, an early attempt at a vegetable garden of her own failed miserably from overexcitement matched with a lack of practical knowledge. Basically she said that she tried to plant everything all at once. She was introduced to the master gardener program while attending the Spring Garden show several years ago and knew right away that they were a group with whom she would be interested in becoming a part. She finally had the opportunity and was a member of the 2015 graduating class. Even before graduation, Aimee was already proving to be a hard worker and a valuable asset. She has not let us down

since. Aimee has been a regular volunteer at the LaSalle Park Demonstration garden, the City Park Botanical Garden, the Spring Garden Show, AgMagic, as well as a wide variety of office work. Thank you Aimee.

Plant of the Month

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Drive just about anywhere during the summer months and you are sure to see masses of these bright orange and black flowers growing along the side of the road or in large fields. These wildflowers are native to the United States and were established from coast to coast when the first European explorers arrived. They are an excellent pollinator plant, attracting several species of bees and butterflies and providing food through the hot summer when many plants have stopped flowering. Black-eyed Susans will grow in just



about any soil type as long as it is moderately well drained and prefer direct sun. Seeds should be sown in the fall in order to have flowers the following June. Once established, the flowers will reseed themselves in the fall. This economic feature along with its ability to push out other weeds makes it an ideal plant for unattended fields and right of ways. Planting these and other wildflowers also reduces the amount of mowing which reduces fuel consumption, labor cost, machine wear, and carbon emissions.

The Ugly, The Bad, and The Good

35% of all households in America, or 42 million households, are growing food at home or in a community garden. This has risen 17% in the past five years (National Gardening Association 2016). Of those 42 million households, nearly 90% stated that environmentally-friendly lawn and garden maintenance was important to them (Environmental Lawn and Garden Survey 2008). It is great to see that so many gardeners are taking up the charge for organic or responsible gardening and food production in their own back yards. While sustainable and organic gardening is not a new idea, there are many gardeners to whom the idea seems new.

One very important aspect to gardening responsibly is knowing which insects are beneficial and which ones are pests. It is alarming how many e-mails I receive with a picture of a lady bug larvae, and the homeowner is waiting eagerly with their pesticide sprayers at their hip, ready to spray. I then have to explain to the homeowner, "Yes, you're right. This looks nothing like a cute little lady bug. But trust me, in a few weeks it will turn into the ladybug we are all familiar with." Similar to a butterfly, lady bugs also have four distinct life stages, the egg, the larva, the pupa, and the adult.

The female adult lady bug will seek out a location in which she can lay her eggs. This location will most likely be around a leaf or plant that has a food source nearby. This helps the newly emerged ladybug larvae quickly find food as they come out of the egg. She will lay 10-50 eggs on the underside of a leaf.

The Ugly (Larvae Stage): The ladybug larvae comes out hungry and on the prowl for soft bodied insects such as mites, aphids and white flies. This is the stage that many people will mistake this insect for a plant eating pest.



Ladybug Larvae along with aphids



Ladybug Pupa



Ladybug Adult

The Bad (Pupa Stage): This stage isn't actually bad, but the lady bug is in a resting stage which doesn't eat any pests. After two to three weeks of devouring the soft bodied pests, it will then begin to change into the pupa stage. They will find a leaf or stem to which they will attach themselves. They will cover their bodies with a layer of molting skin for about a week until they emerge as the ladybug that we are more familiar with.

The Good (Adult Stage): Once the ladybug emerges from its last transformation it will have to dry out and wait some time for its elytra to harden. Elytra is the modified second pair of wings that are characteristic of all beetles. This is the red-with-black-dots portion of the insect that gives it its distinct look. Now the lady bug can go back to devouring our garden pests for us. One adult lady bug can eat up to 50 aphids every day.

Knowing what our beneficial insects look like at every stage of their life is very important to maintaining an organic or sustainable garden. Without this knowledge, gardeners may be killing good bugs as well as bad bugs in hopes to rid their plants of pests. If you happen to see the larvae stage of the ladybug on your plant, refrain from spraying anything for a while and let the beneficial do what they do best. Eat!

~Lee Rouse

Upcoming Events

2016 PLANT SALES



NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK
**BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

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

MARCH 5

Rose Sale – Pelican Greenhouse

9:00 a.m. - Noon

APRIL 2-3

Spring Garden Show

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

MAY 7

Pelican Greenhouse

9:00 a.m. – Noon

JUNE 4

Pelican Greenhouse

9:00 a.m. - Noon

JULY 9

Pelican Greenhouse

9:00 a.m. - Noon

AUGUST 6

Pelican Greenhouse

9:00 a.m. – Noon

SEPTEMBER 10

Pelican Greenhouse

9:00 a.m. - Noon

OCTOBER 8-9

Pelican Greenhouse

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 pm

For additional information, call 504/483-9464, visit our website at www.neworleanscitypark.com, or e-mail to plants@nocp.org

Plants are now available for sale in our new Garden Gift Shop



Super Saturday Volunteer Day

City Park hosts Super Saturday, a community volunteer event, and wants you to volunteer! Many groups from the community, including high schools, colleges, churches, service groups, and individuals, attend the event. Work assignments and tools are handed out at the Volunteer Center at 9am, and volunteers work until noon doing various tasks, including painting, pruning, raking, mulching, planting, and maintaining areas around City Park.

Where to be: Volunteer Center at 1009 Harrison Avenue

When to be there: 8:45am (work begins promptly at 9am)

Who to call with questions or to sign up: Tyler at (504) 483-9459

What to bring: Close-toed shoes or boots, a water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, a brimmed hat, and snacks.

June Checklist/Garden Tips

Chinch bugs, which are most damaging during hot dry weather, often begin to show up in June. Look for irregular dead areas that enlarge fairly rapidly. The grass will have a dry, straw-like appearance. Treat with acephate, permethrin, cyfluthrin or other labeled insecticides to prevent extensive damage. Follow label directions carefully.

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

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

You may fertilize Your lawn in June if desired.

Prune climbing roses and ramblers that bloom on one year old growth now if needed to shape and train them.

Apply paint or shade cloth to greenhouses to prevent heat buildup. Fans should run just about constantly.

Remove any flowers that appear on caladiums or coleus to promote continued production of colorful foliage.

Prepare trees for hurricane season by pruning out all weak, rotting or dead branches. Remove dead or rotten trees that might blow over in high winds.

Trim dead flowers from chrysanthemums that bloomed earlier if you have not done so already. Cut plants back about half way and fertilize to encourage vigorous growth. Pinch vigorous shoots over the next six weeks to create a bushier, fuller plant. Do not pinch or cut back after late July.

When a gladiolus finishes blooming, prune off the faded flower spike but leave the foliage intact. The foliage will produce food that is stored in the newly developing corm ensuring a large, healthy corm that will bloom well next year.

Dig and store gladiolus corms after the foliage turns brown. The largest corms are the ones that will flower next year.

Plant a row or two of peanuts in the home garden now as early summer crops are pulled up. Shell raw peanuts and plant about three to four seeds per foot of row. Water once a day until the seeds come up. Peanuts also make an excellent green manure crop. Just as the plants come into flower turn them under. They will enrich the soil with nitrogen and organic matter. Allow the bed to sit for a few weeks while the organic matter decomposes, and you will be ready to plant a fall crop.

Remove any flowers that appear on caladiums or coleus to promote continued production of colorful foliage.

Watch the rainfall you receive carefully, as it varies widely around the area. Cut back on irrigation whenever your garden receives one half inch or more of rain. Over watering is entirely possible if you are not careful, and that can lead to fungus problems such as stem, crown and root rot.

High temperatures and high humidity create a high heat index here in the summer. Adjust your gardening schedule to take advantage of cooler times of the day. Remember to drink plenty of water.

June Checklist/Garden Tips

Avoid using weed killers or herbicides on your lawn now. High temperatures increase the chance of discoloring or damaging the grass. Spot treat areas of weeds rather than the entire lawn.

Spray peach tree trunks with permethrin to prevent the peach tree borer from getting into the trunk and causing damage.

Cut back early summer flowering perennials in the garden when they finish flowering to keep the plants looking attractive and, in the case of some perennials, encourage more flowering.

Keep caladiums well watered during hot, dry weather to keep the foliage in good shape through the summer. Fertilize occasionally to encourage vigorous growth. Break off any flowers that form.

Despite the heat and dry weather, you can continue to plant colorful bedding plants to brighten summer flower beds. Keep newly planted bedding plants well watered during the first few weeks while they get established and be sure to mulch beds to conserve soil moisture. When the bed is first planted and the plants are still small, take the opportunity to run a soaker hose through the bed and cover it with mulch. It will make watering the bed much easier and efficient later on.

Ornamental grasses are an excellent choice for gardeners trying to introduce more drought tolerant pest resistant plants into their landscapes. There are many types suitable for virtually any landscape situation.

Plant palms during the summer through August as they establish best when planted into warm soil. Select hardier palms such as cabbage palm, windmill palm, Mediterranean fan palm, Canary Island date palm, palmetto and needle palm. Keep them well watered during their establishment period.

When parsley sends up its flower stalks, or bolts, its productive season is over. However, the tiny flowers provide food for and attract parasitic wasps to the garden. So, consider leaving your blooming parsley in place until flowering is over before removing it.

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

Lee Rouse
Greater New Orleans
Horticulture Agent

(504)483-9471



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