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Know Your Natives: *Hibiscus moscheutos*

A Native Beauty for Southern Landscapes

Hibiscus *moscheutos*, also known as swamp rose mallow, is a show-stopping native perennial that brings bold color and ecological value to Louisiana gardens. With its massive blooms and adaptability to wet soils, this plant is a favorite for rain gardens, pollinator habitats, and ornamental borders.

Hibiscus moscheutos is an herbaceous perennial in the mallow family (*Malvaceae*). It typically grows 4 to 7 feet tall, with multiple sturdy stems emerging from a woody crown each spring. The leaves are alternate, ovate to lanceolate, often with a slightly toothed margin and a soft, hairy texture. The plant produces large, saucer-shaped flowers—often 6 to 10 inches across. Blooms range in color from white to pink to deep rose, frequently with a contrasting dark red eye. Each flower has a prominent and showy central staminal column of white to pale yellow anthers surrounding an even longer style. Flowers are short-lived lasting only 1-2 days but new flowers open daily for a long bloom period. A large plant can produce 20 or more flowers per day.

Hibiscus moscheutos is native to wetlands, marshes, swamps, and moist meadows across the southeastern and eastern United States—from Ontario and Massachusetts down to Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana. It thrives in areas with consistently moist or wet soils, often along riverbanks and ditches.

This plant is an herbaceous perennial, meaning it dies back to the ground in winter and regrows from the root crown each spring. New shoots emerge from the base in Spring. This is followed by rapid vegetative growth in Summer with flowering beginning in mid-



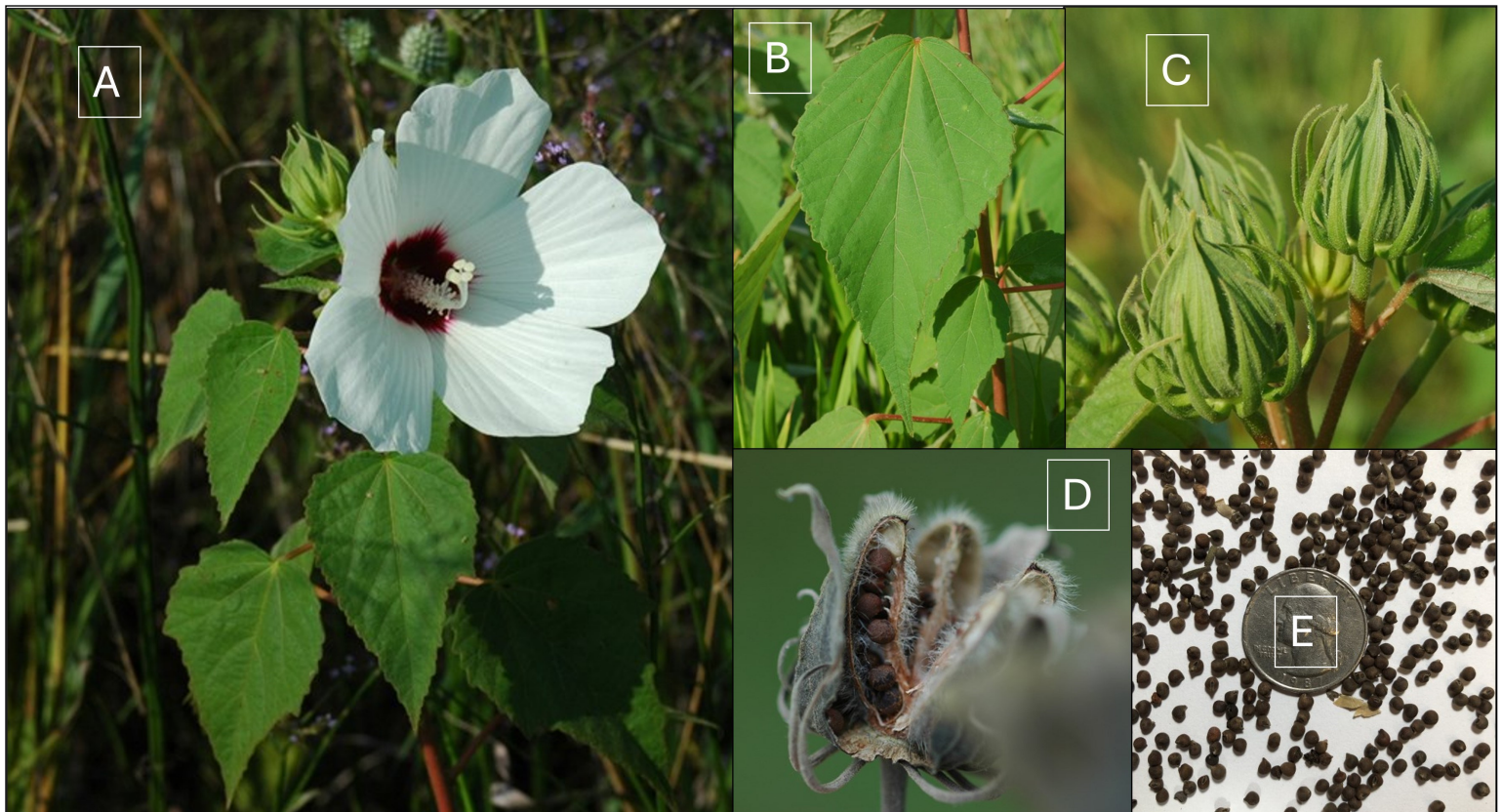
Luna hibiscus series colors – red, rose, white, pink swirl. LSU AgCenter.

Summer. Flowering continues into early fall and seed capsules develop from pollinated flowers. The above-ground parts die back in Winter.

Landscape Uses

Hibiscus moscheutos is prized for its large, saucer-shaped flowers—often 6–12 inches across—in shades of white, pink, red, or bi-color with a contrasting eye. It's ideal for:

- Rain gardens and bioswales
- Pollinator and butterfly gardens
- Borders and backdrops in perennial beds
- Large containers (with consistent moisture)
- Naturalized wetland edges



Hibiscus moscheutos – A: White-flowered growing in the wild. B: Typical leaf. C: Flower Bud. D: Mature capsule showing seeds. E: Small seeds of swamp mallow. Larry Allain, U.S. Geological Survey

Its blooms attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and native bees, making it a valuable addition to wildlife-friendly landscapes.

How to Grow *Hibiscus moscheutos*

Soil: Prefers moist to wet, rich soils with good organic content. Tolerates clay and slightly acidic conditions.

Sunlight: Thrives in full sun (6+ hours/day); tolerates partial shade but with reduced flowering.

Water: Requires consistent moisture. Ideal for low-lying or poorly drained areas.

Spacing: Grows 3–7 feet tall and 2–4 feet wide. Space plants 3–4 feet apart.

Maintenance:

- Deadhead to improve appearance.
- Cut back stems to 12–24 inches in late fall or early spring.
- Pinch tips in early summer to encourage bushier growth.
- Leave some hollow stems standing over winter for native bee nesting.

Propagation: By seed, stem cuttings, or division in spring.

Cultivars

Numerous cultivars offer variations in flower size, color, and plant habit. Luna is one of the outstanding series of commercially available *Hibiscus moscheutos* and is a Louisiana Super Plant. Some popular cultivars include:

- ‘Luna Red’ – Compact, deep red blooms
- ‘Kopper King’ – Pink flowers with red eye and coppery foliage
- ‘Lord Baltimore’ – Large, bright red flowers on tall plants
- ‘Midnight Marvel’ – Large, dark crimson flowers and dark violet-purple foliage

As a native species, *Hibiscus moscheutos* supports local ecosystems. It provides nectar for pollinators and habitat for beneficial insects. Its tolerance for wet soils makes it a natural choice for stormwater management and erosion control in designed landscapes.

~ Dr. Joe W Willis

Resources:

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS. *Hibiscus moscheutos* Plant Profile. [USDA Plants Database Plant Profile General](#)

2. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. *Hibiscus moscheutos* (Swamp rose mallow). [Hibiscus moscheutos \(Crimson-eyed rose-mallow\) | Native Plants of North America](#)

3. Missouri Botanical Garden. *Hibiscus moscheutos* Plant Finder. [Hibiscus moscheutos - Plant Finder](#)

4. LSU AgCenter. 2021. Louisiana Super Plants: Luna Hibiscus. [Louisiana Super Plants: Luna Hibiscus](#)



Four popular cultivars of *Hibiscus moscheutos* - Luna Red, Kopper King, Lord Baltimore, Midnight Marvel. Photo credits on each photo.

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	⅝ inch	15-18	140-150
Broccoli	Green Magic, Everest, Castle Dome, Packman	⅝ inch	18-24	70-90*
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved	⅝ inch	12-15	90*
Cabbage	Bravo, Rio Verde, Caraflex, Blue Vantage	⅝ inch	12-15	65-75*
Cauliflower	Snow Crown, Cumberland, Incline, Freedom	⅝ inch	18-24	55-65*
Chinese Cabbage	None Given	¼ inch	12	60-80*
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates	⅝ 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	⅝ inch	1-2	35-50
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer	½ inch	36-60	90-120
Rutabagas	American Purple Top, Laurentian	⅝ 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	⅝ inch	36	50-90
Tomatoes	Bella Rosa, Sun Chaser, Florida 91, Phoenix, Solar Fire, BHN-216, Solar Set	⅝ inch	16-24	100-115
Turnips	Royal Crown, Purple Top White Globe,	⅝ inch	2-6	40-50

Got a Water Feature?

Mosquito Control Options.

A water feature in the landscape such as a small pond, fountain, or even a bird bath can add value and curb appeal of your home, visual interest, and attract desirable garden visitors such as songbirds. Unfortunately, these water features can also

attract mosquitoes. We are certainly all familiar with this pest, but it is always a good idea to limit their breeding habitat in our yards as much as possible by removing sources of standing water where we are able, keeping weeds and grass cut

short, especially around outdoor recreation areas, and using a control option where needed.

Garden water features like ponds, fountains, bird baths, and rain barrels can provide ideal breeding habitat for mosquitoes, including those that vector diseases harmful to humans. In our area, public health officials regularly trap and monitor mosquitoes and then test them in the lab for dengue fever, Eastern equine encephalitis, malaria, West Nile virus, Zika, and chikungunya. West Nile virus is the most common mosquito-borne illness in Louisiana. There are many species of mosquito in Louisiana, and most are harmless but can cause itchy bites. Use repellents

outdoors when mosquitoes are active, when possible, to reduce risk. If you see the small, squiggly mosquito larvae swimming in your water feature, here are some options:

Add movement. Mosquito larvae thrive in still,

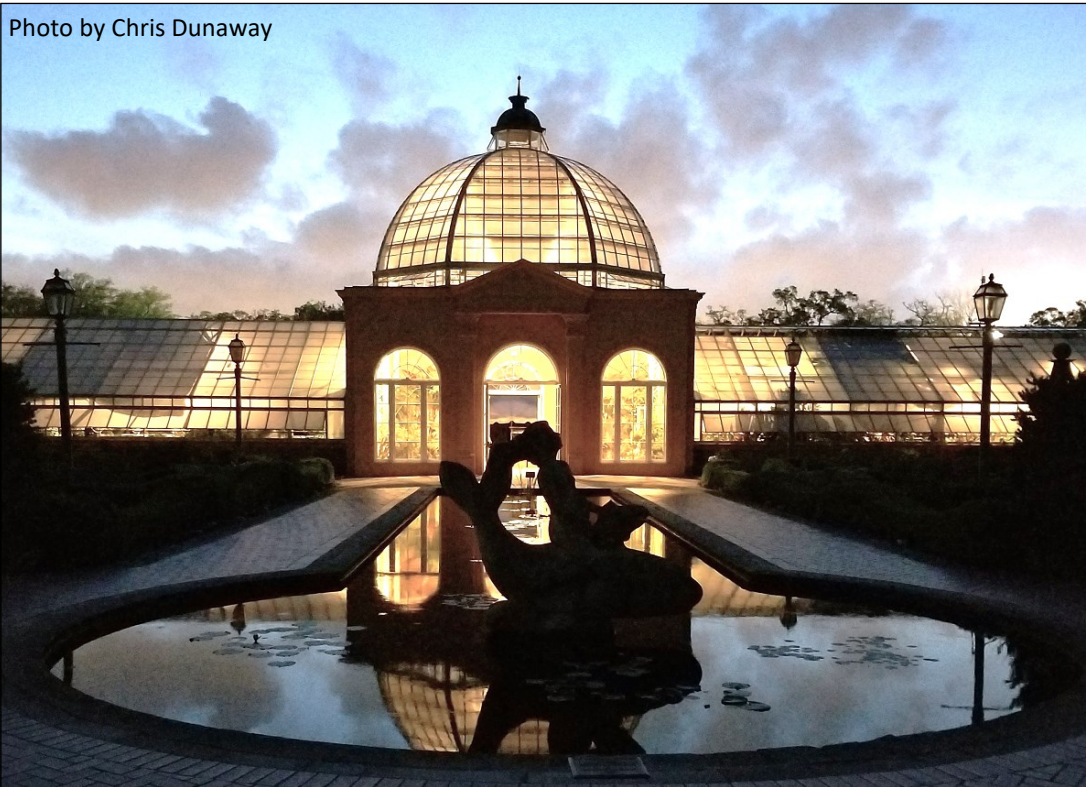
stagnant water. Adult mosquitoes also prefer to lay their eggs in still water, so adding movement or current of some kind can help to disrupt their breeding cycle. An agitated water surface will help reduce the population of hatched larvae.

Consider

adding a fountain, aerator, or bubbler to any still water features. Waterfalls are also a great addition to small ponds, and they can be built using a kit or from scratch. Be sure to regularly remove algae and leaf litter from your system to avoid clogged pumps.

BT Dunks. These are small, compressed discs of barley straw that have been inoculated with the naturally occurring bacterium Bti, or bacillus thuringiensis israelensis. This bacteria attacks mosquito and black fly larvae in the water and has low toxicity to other organisms, such as fish and birds. Add a dunk to your pond or water feature following the label directions. The bacteria dissipate slowly into the water and kills the mosquito larvae.

Photo by Chris Dunaway



Dusk at the lily pond at the conservatory in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens.

Most area garden centers carry mosquito dunks. These can also be an effective tool for controlling fungus gnats in your houseplants. Break small pieces of the disk up and add it to the soil surface. As you water, the bacteria are able to release and control the fungus gnat larvae. Mosquito bits also work great and are a small, pelletized shakable product.

Mosquitofish are a great option also. These small 2-3" long grey fish are voracious eaters of mosquito larvae and algae. They can thrive and breed in even small water features with no additional care or feeding. There are two species of mosquitofish, with the Western mosquitofish being the native species found here in Louisiana. Many pet stores, some garden centers, and online vendors offer Western mosquitofish for around \$1-3 each. They breed rapidly

so you just need a few to establish a population. Goldfish and koi can also eat mosquito larvae but usually require supplemental food daily and produce a lot of nitrogen-heavy waste that can cause other problems in a water feature.

~Anna Timmerman

Resources:

UC ANR Pests in the Urban Landscape: Mosquito Management for Ponds, Fountains, and Water Features [Mosquito Management for Ponds, Fountains, and Water Gardens | UC Agriculture and Natural Resources](#)

UF-IFAS Gardening Solutions: Mosquitofish: [FA202/FA202: Eastern Mosquitofish, Gambusia holbrooki, for Control of Mosquito Larvae](#)



A mosquito fish about to consume a mosquito larvae.

Disease of the Month

Southern Blight on Tomatoes

(*Athelia rolfsii*, *Sclerotium rolfsii*)

In June or July, I can expect at least one call from a concerned tomato-loving client wondering what happened to their tomato plants. Their happy and healthy-looking plants have suddenly taken a turn for the worst, looking wilted and yellow despite plenty of water. Then they often comment on a weird white fuzz at the base of the stem and soil surface. This is a telltale sign of southern blight, a soilborne fungus that proliferates in warm, wet conditions (aka southeast Louisiana). At this point, the plant cannot be saved.

Fortunately, fellow tomato

heads, we are blessed with a fall tomato season in southeast Louisiana! There is still hope for a 2025 crop even if you were blighted this spring.

Disease Development

Southern blight has a wide host range, attacking many vegetable crops and ornamentals alike. The fungus attacks the plant stem at or near the soil surface. The infected stem becomes girdled, resulting in wilting despite adequate water. Wilted plants may be when you first notice the disease. An examination

of the stem will reveal lesions near the soil level. Inside, the stem will be brown and necrotic at the base of the plant. As the disease progresses, white cottony mycelium appears on the lower stem and soil

surface. Among the mycelium, you will notice tan mustard seed-like sclerotia, a resting or dormant mass of compact mycelium. The sclerotia allow southern blight to survive in the upper surface of the soil for several years. Ultimately the lower stem dies, followed by the rest of the plant.

Culture

Management

- Crop rotation – the primary

management recommendation is to avoid fields or areas of the garden with confirmed disease presence for two or more years. Since southern blight has such a wide host range, rotating with non-host crops can be difficult. Non-host crops are limited to grasses, like corn and small grains. Keep in mind that many weeds are susceptible to southern blight, so a fallow without controlling weeds will likely not reduce disease inoculum.

- Sanitation – Do not compost infected plant



Photo by Will Afton

An wilted tomato plant is with healthy plants on either side. Wilted plants will be the first symptom you notice when dealing with southern blight infestation

material and sanitize any equipment used to remove infected plants. Tools used in infected soil should also be sanitized (consult LSU AgCenter Pub. 3887).

- Increase plant spacing – increasing plant spacing reduces humidity by improving air flow. A less humid environment is less favorable for disease development.
- Bury sclerotia to 8-12 inches – the survival rate of sclerotia declines below six inches. Use deep tillage or soil inversion to bury sclerotia.
- Adjust soil pH – Southern blight prefers acidic soils. Applying lime to raise your soil pH closer to 7 can help minimize the disease. Using non-acidifying fertilizers, like calcium nitrate, can also help.
- Physical barriers – Wrapping the bottom of the stems with aluminum foil, below the soil surface to two inches above the soil line, can help provide physical protection against the pathogen.

Chemical Management

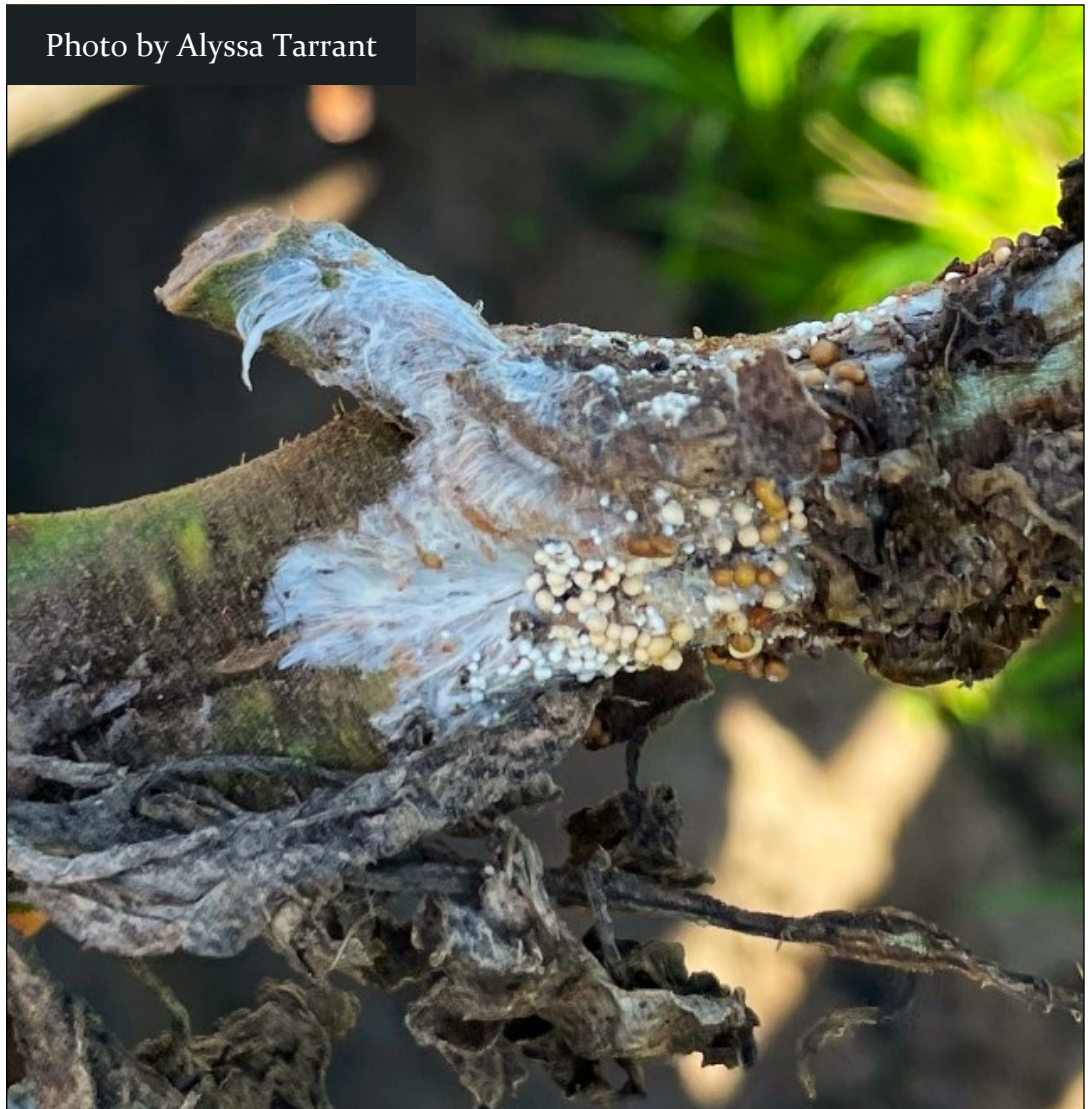
- For commercial growers, there are seven products labeled for use in fresh market tomatoes: Aftershock, Aprovia Top, Blocker 4F, Cabrio 20EG, Evito 480SC, Fontelis, and Priaxor 500SC.
- For organic growers and home gardeners, the biofungicide, Regalia can be used.

~Alyssa Tarrant

Resources:

- Abdi and Fields. (2023). Landscape Ornamental Series: Sanitizing Tools to Prevent Disease. LSU AgCenter, [Pub. 3887](#).

Photo by Alyssa Tarrant



White cottony mycelium and tan mustard seed-like sclerotia develop on the stem near the soil surface. Sclerotia are resting or dormant masses of compact mycelium.

- Ferrin, D.M. (2008). Southern Blight. LSU AgCenter, [Pub. 3052](#).
- Pfeufer, E., Bradley, C., and Gautheir, N. (2018). Southern Blight. University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, [PPFS-GEN-16](#).
- Singh, R. (2024). Southern blight presents challenges for Louisiana growers. LSU AgCenter, <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page171407266551l>.

SunPatiens in Light

I plant my SunPatiens in light,
So I can, so I can,

Enjoy the features of a shade garden staple in sunny areas of the landscape. While Impatiens are typically thought of solely as a go-to plant for shady sites in the landscape, the 'SunPatiens' series is a hybrid impatiens that thrives in the full sun. Is the name deceiving me? Not at all. The blooms of this plant provide appeal in a variety of colors (commonly white, pinks, purples, and reds) that last throughout the warm season while basking in the sun.

Don't be afraid of a little shade, oh no, as SunPatiens can handle partial/filtered light and reduced hours and still look appealing. Go fetch the blade when you plant them in shade, because pruning shaded SunPatiens can help maintain a more bushy, compact form. But you already got it made with impatiens in

shade, especially if you go with the 'Beacon' series, so you don't need to masquerade with SunPatiens there.

SunPatiens are low maintenance and present a convenient color option for sunny sites, adding interest as a container plant or as a mass planting – so much so to earn a distinction as a Louisiana Super Plant in 2017. The compact varieties of SunPatiens maintain a modest size of 1.5-2' tall and wide, making it a preferable option to vigorously spreading varieties that may get too large over the long Louisiana growing season. Avoid overwatering SunPatiens, let them wilt ever so slightly between waterings. For best results, put your sunglasses on and see the light that's right before your eyes.... And remember.... I plant my SunPatiens in light, so I can, so I can, keep all the colors in the vision of my eyes.

~Dr. Damon Abdi



SunPatiens planted in a sunny garden. Photo by Dan Gill

Easy Garden Hack

Planting in Bagged Soil



Sunpatiens planted in a bag of garden soil. (Top)

Sunpatiens growing in a mulch covered bag of garden soil. (Bottom)



Here is a fun easy way to start a garden with minimal costs with no need for permanent planters or garden beds.

You can grow many different kinds of plants directly in bags of garden soil by using the bags as the planters.

1. Poke several small drain holes in the bottom side of a bag of soil.
2. Flip the bag over and cut larger holes on the top side and install the desired plants. This can work for a variety of plants including edible and ornamental plants.
3. Place the bags where you want them in the landscape where they can receive appropriate sunlight and the bags can drain.
4. Cover the bags with your favorite mulch to hide them from view.
5. Grow the plants as normal.
6. At the end of the season you can add the soil to another garden bed, spread over the lawn or add to your compost bin.

~Chris Dunaway

Battling the Buzz: Mosquitoes in Louisiana

Louisiana's warm, humid climate and abundant water sources make it a paradise for mosquitoes and a challenge for residents. And with this year's regularly occurring rains and hot weather, they seem to be more abundant than normal. These tiny pests are more than just a nuisance; they're also vectors for diseases like West Nile virus, Zika, Eastern equine encephalitis, La Crosse encephalitis, chikungunya, dengue, and dog heartworm. Fortunately, there are ways we can reduce mosquito populations and protect our health and sanity.

Mosquitoes belong to the order Diptera which includes house flies, midges, and gnats. The majority of mosquitoes can be distinguished from other Diptera by their long, needle-shaped proboscis which is used to take blood meals from their hosts. Only females take a blood meal.

Mosquitoes need standing water to breed,

and our frequent rains, bayous, and wetlands provide ample habitat for them to thrive. Urban

environments add to the problem with clogged gutters, birdbaths, and forgotten containers that collect rainwater or irrigation water.

Mosquito Species in Louisiana

There are at least 64 mosquito species in Louisiana. Each mosquito species prefers a particular host for their blood meal which can include birds, humans, or other mammals. Different mosquito species are active at different times of the day and prefer specific types of habitat in which to lay their eggs.

There are three common species of mosquitoes that are the main concern in our area. The Yellow Fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) and the Asian Tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) which are active during the daytime, dusk, and dawn. *A. aegypti* is a known carrier of chikungunya, dengue, and Zika. *A. albopictus* is



The Yellow Fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*)



the Asian Tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*)



Southern House mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus*)

a known carrier of chikungunya, dengue, Zika, EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis), LAC (La Crosse encephalitis), and dog heartworm. The third species is the Southern House mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus*) which is most active in the evening from dusk to dawn and is a known vector for WNV (West Nile virus), SLE (St. Louis Encephalitis), and dog heartworm.

Mosquito Life Cycle

Controlling mosquitoes effectively starts with understanding their life cycle, which consists of four stages. The first stage of the mosquito life cycle is the egg, which can be laid on a variety of substrates. *C. quinquefasciatus* lay their eggs in rafts in standing water, while *A. aegypti* and *A. albopictus* lay their eggs singly in containers.

After being exposed to water, larvae, sometimes called “wigglers” hatch from the eggs. All mosquito larvae must develop in water where they feed and grow through four different larval stages called instars.

Mosquito larvae can often be found on top of the water surface where they use their siphon to breathe.

Larvae usually prefer shaded, still water. After the 4th instar, mosquito larvae develop into pupae.

Pupae, sometimes called “tumblers”, are also aquatic, but do not feed.

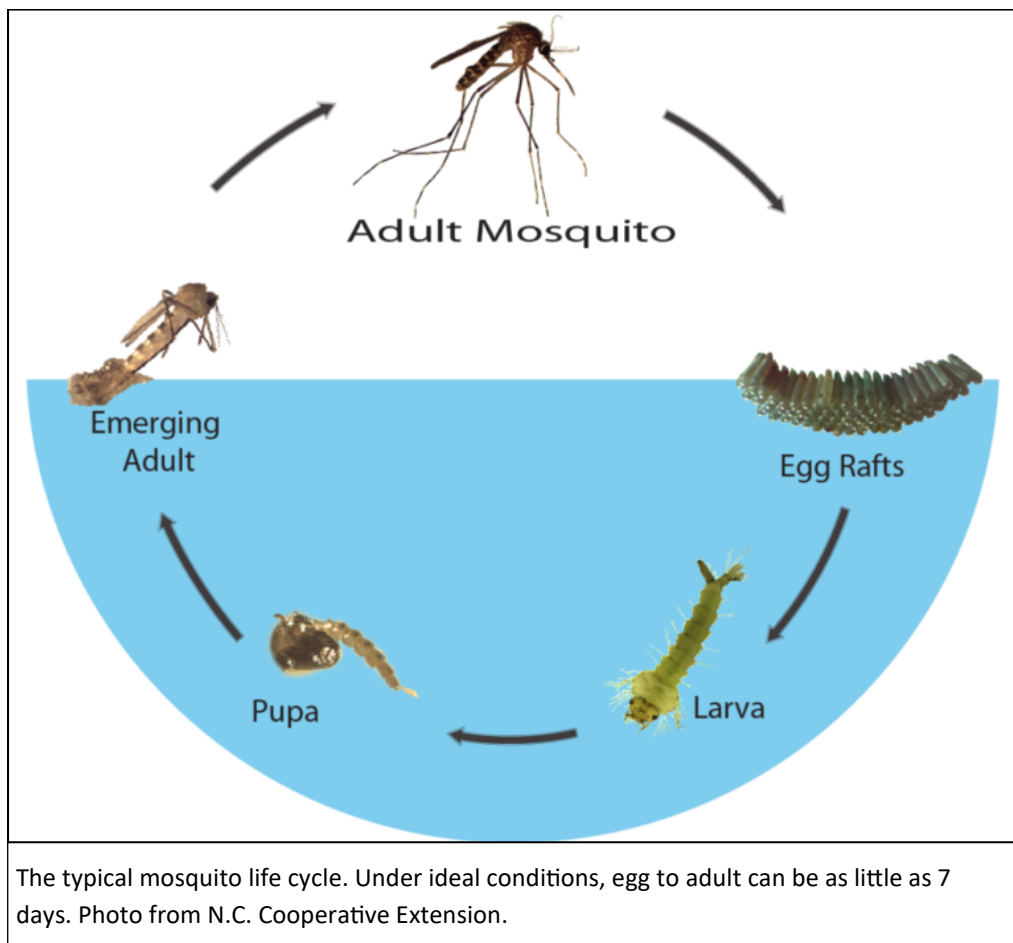
Adults emerge from the pupal case and begin flying within hours.

Under ideal conditions, mosquitoes can complete this cycle in 7–10 days. Interrupting any stage can drastically reduce populations. Control applied during the aquatic stage has the greatest impact on mosquito populations.

Mosquito-Borne Disease Statistics (2025 YTD)

Here are some interesting statistics on mosquito-borne diseases according to the Louisiana Department of Health. The data is for 2025 thus far.

- West Nile Virus (WNV):
 - 18 confirmed human cases of neuroinvasive disease (NID).
 - 12 presumptive viremic blood donors (PVD).
 - Over 1,200 mosquito pools across 30 parishes tested positive.



- Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE):
 - 1 confirmed human case.
 - 5 positive mosquito pools.
- Imported Cases:
 - Dengue: 4 cases
 - Zika: 1 case
 - Chikungunya: 2 cases
 - Malaria: 3 cases

Note: Up to 90% of WNV infections are asymptomatic and go unreported.

Preventing and Controlling Mosquitoes At Home

Mosquitoes need a water source to complete their life cycle. Eliminating this water source is a very effective way to reduce mosquito populations. To reduce water

sources and prevent mosquitoes and mosquito bites:

- Empty and scrub, turn over, or cover containers that may hold water
- Tightly cover any water storage containers (buckets, rain barrels, etc.)
- Dispose of or recycle used tires and other trash that can hold water
- Cover containers that cannot be emptied with a fine wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito
- Use screens on windows and doors and keep them in good repair
- Clean clogged roof gutters
- Wear mosquito repellent
- Wear long pants and long-sleeve shirts
- Drill holes in the bottom of tire swings.
- Empty or change water in pet dishes, bird baths, horse troughs, etc. at least once a week.
- Fix any low spots in the yard that hold water for long periods of time.
- Limit outdoor activity at dusk or dawn

Larviciding is the process of applying insecticides, either chemical or biological, to water sources to kill mosquito larvae and pupae, preventing them from developing into biting adult mosquitoes. Larviciding is one of the most commonly employed methods of mosquito control used today and is considered the best course of action after source reduction. When mosquitoes are in their immature stages, they are concentrated in a relatively small or fixed area.

There are all kinds of larvicides, but some of the safest to people and the environment are methoprene



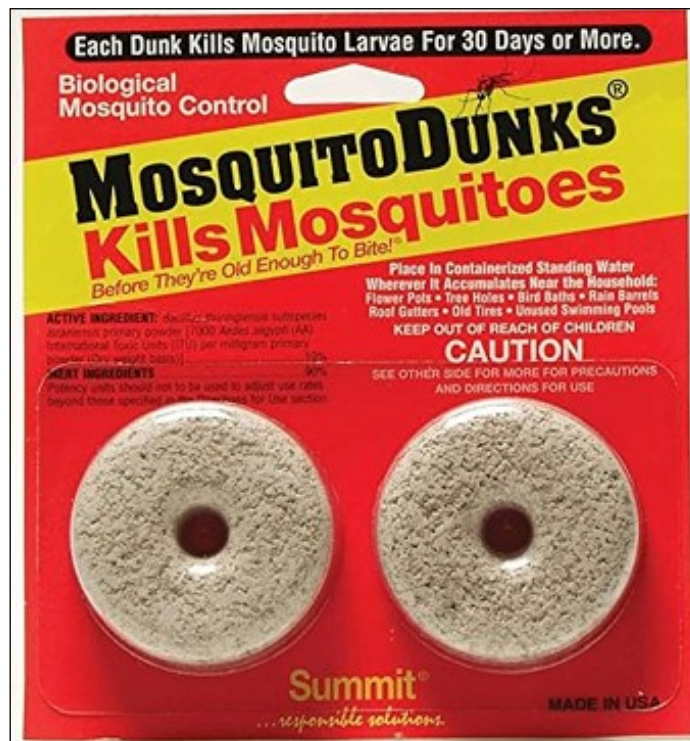
products and "Bti". Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) is a strain of bacteria that was isolated from a dead mosquito larva found in Israel in 1977. Bti has since been developed into many commercial formulations that are available to mosquito control personnel. It is also available to homeowners at local garden stores as dunks (donut-looking objects) and bits (granules).

The dunks (Mosquito Dunks) are sustained-release products that float on water and release a long-term larvicide which must be eaten by the mosquito larvae. Under typical environmental conditions, it will work for about 30 days. These dunks can be used in bird baths, flower pots, tree holes, rain barrels and roof gutters, unused swimming pools, old automobile tires, and water gardens. The bits (Mosquito Bits) provide a quick kill (within 24 hours) versus the dunks that generally take longer to work due to a lower Bti concentration. However, the bits do not provide long-term control. Using a combination of dunks and bits will give a quick kill with a long term effect.

Methoprene is an insect growth. It can be used in bird baths, old tires, flowerpots, ornamental fountains, urns, rain barrels, roof gutters, abandoned swimming pools, tree holes, water gardens, pool covers, and other water holding receptacles. These granules also offer residual control for up to 21 days. When used as directed, this product will not adversely affect humans, animals, fish, or vegetation.

Adulticides are used to kill adult mosquitoes and quickly reduce the biting adult population. The most commonly used products are synthetic pyrethroids. These are man-made versions of natural insecticides found in chrysanthemum flowers. Examples include

permethrin, resmethrin, and sumithrin. True pyrethrins are also used.



Summit brand of Mosquito Dunks. Other brands are available.



Summit brand of Mosquito Bits. Other brands are available.

Municipalities apply these products using Ultra Low Volume (ULV) spraying. Equipment. When applied with ULV equipment via truck, backpack foggers, or planes and helicopters, adulticides remain suspended in the air as fine aerosol droplets. These droplets kill mosquitoes on contact as they fly through the target area. A primary benefit of ULV sprays is adulticide optimization. Very little product is necessary to treat large areas of land, typically less than one ounce per acre. This industrial mosquito spray method ensures effective coverage with minimal product use.

Personal Protection

EPA-registered mosquito repellents recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) include DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535.

DEET (N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide or N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) is one of the most effective mosquito repellents and is

readily available under many brand names. DEET has been used safely for over 40 years. DEET is applied directly to skin, is safe for use on pregnant women and children when used as directed. Products containing 20-30% DEET work best to prevent

mosquito and tick bites and typically provide protection for many hours. Products with very high amounts of DEET (over 50%) will not work any better or provide any longer protection.

Picaridin is a synthetic active ingredient similar to the natural compound piperine, which comes from black pepper. Picaridin is applied directly to skin and safe for use on pregnant women and children when used as directed. Picaridin doesn't have a strong odor.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) (p-Menthane-3,8-diol) is a naturally derived active ingredient from the lemon eucalyptus plant. OLE is NOT the same as pure, essential oil of lemon eucalyptus, which is not recommended for use as

repellent. OLE is applied directly to skin but is not for use on children under 3 years of age. It is safe for pregnant women and children over 3 years old when used as directed. Para-menthane-diol (PMD) (p-Menthane-3,8-diol) is the synthetic version of oil of lemon eucalyptus and has the same usage recommendations.

IR3535 (3-[N-Butyl-N-acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl ester) is a synthetic active ingredient similar to the naturally occurring amino acid beta-alanine. IR3535 is applied directly to skin and safe for use on pregnant women and children when used as directed. It has been used widely in Europe.

Other types of repellents that EPA registers include:

- Clip-on products that have a pad with the repellent and a fan or other mechanism that disperses the repellent near your body.
- Spatial repellents use a heating mechanism to disperse repellent in an outdoor area. Examples of dispersal mechanisms for spatial repellents include:

- Lanterns.
- Torches.
- Table-top diffusers.
- Candles.
- Coils.



Note that both stationary and wearable spatial repellents are for outdoor use only, unless the label specifically states they can be used indoors.

You can also reduce mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and pants when out at dawn and dusk.

By understanding their life cycle and taking simple steps at home, we can all reduce the mosquito population; therefore, reducing the risk of

mosquito-borne diseases in our communities. And combined with the use of appropriate repellents, we can save ourselves a lot of pain and itching.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis

Resources:

- Carter, Brendan, Greg Thompson, and Sarah Michaels. 2016. Mosquitoes: A General Guide. City of New Orleans Mosquito, Termite & Rodent Control Board. [Mosquitoes - A General Guide](#)
- EPA-Registered Repellent Ingredients. 2023. California Department of Public Health (CDPH). [EPA-Registered Repellent Ingredients](#)
- Louisiana Department of Health – Arbovirus Surveillance. [ARBO_2529.pdf](#)
- Mosquito Control. 2025. EPA. [Mosquito Control | US EPA](#)
- Mosquitoes. 2025. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Mosquitoes | CDC](#)
- Mosquito Prevention: What the Homeowner Can Do. 2025. Mississippi State Department of Health. [Mosquito Prevention: What the Homeowner Can Do - Mississippi State Department of Health](#)
- Repellents: Protection against Mosquitoes, Ticks and Other Arthropods. 2025. EPA. [Repellents: Protection against Mosquitoes, Ticks and Other Arthropods | US EPA](#)

Look At Me!

Angelonia, the summer snapdragon.

As we endure the warmest part of our growing season, a lot of spring flowering bedding plants start to fizzle. Deadheading and pruning help to improve appearance, but the long warm season and sporadic rainfall events wreak havoc on these plants. On a recent site visit, I noticed a

group of bedding plants that seemed to be unaffected. In fact, they seemed to enjoy the current weather conditions. Those plants were angelonias and that memory will stick with me for a while.

Angelonia plants are not new to Louisiana gardeners. We've been growing angelonia bedding plants for as long as I can remember. If you aren't

familiar with the name, then maybe you're familiar with the old common name, summer snapdragon, because the flowers resemble snapdragon flowers. Snapdragons on the other hand are planted during the cool season. You may see gorgeous snapdragon plants in spring, but as soon as it heats up, they go down fast. Not so much with angelonia because they thrive during the warm season. In fact, they are

known for their high heat and humidity resistance.

Angelonia is a genus of plants that makes up about 30 different species. Most are small shrubby, evergreen, soft-stemmed perennials originating from subtropical Central and South America. However, we treat them as annuals, planting them at the beginning of the

warm season and terminating them when it's time to plant cool season color. Leaves tend to have a narrow or broad lance-like shape. The flowers are "two-lipped" in shape, giving them a snapdragon-like appearance. Common flower colors include white, pink, purple, and blue. Some series offer a white/blue bi-color option as well.

The LSU AgCenter has

promoted two varieties of angelonia in the Louisiana Super Plant Program. The 'Serena' series was promoted back in 2011 and 'Serenita Raspberry' was promoted in 2016. The 'Serena' series produces plants that grow 12 to 18 inches tall and 12 to 14 inches wide. Flowers come in blue, purple, rose, and white. 'Senorita Raspberry' produces a very similar plant but grows to a slightly more compact size at 10 to 14



Photo by Allen Owings

Serena angelonia produces spikes of flowers that resemble snapdragons.

inches tall and 12 to 14 inches wide. There are other colors in the 'Senerita' series but the reddish-pink blooms and outstanding performance of 'Senerita Raspberry' were the main reasons it was selected as a Louisiana Super Plant. Both the 'Serena' series and the 'Serenita' series can be purchased as seeds.

With the current popularity of angelonia plants in today's market, plant breeders are actively looking to produce new versions. As a horticulturist, it is exciting to see all the new genetics coming out. The Archangel series is one of these new exciting varieties. They

produce the largest flowers of all angelonias and come in similar colors of white, pink, purple, blue, and bicolor, but with the addition of a true red, Archangel Cherry Red.

Looking for a trailing option? The Angelface® series has got you covered! These plants grow 8 to 14 inches tall and 12 to 30 inches wide. The cascading growth habit is perfect for creating a spillover effect in a mixed container or for use in hanging baskets. They come in traditional angelonia colors, with the addition of two bi-color options. Angelface® Wedgewood Pink features pink and white flowers while Angelface® Wedgewood Blue features blue and white flowers.

Go wild with whatever angelonia plants you like. Use them in mass plantings, group plantings, border

plantings, containers, or mixed containers. The flowers can even be cut and taken inside for use in arrangements. Look for a sunny growing area with at least 6 hours of accumulated sunlight throughout the day. For proper nutrition, apply a complete fertilizer

product at planting. Once planted, provide supplemental irrigation during the establishment period to ensure healthy, productive plants that will last all summer long. If your angelonia plants look tired and worn out during the summer months, you can prune them in half in late July/early August, so they fill back out and keep going until frost.



Serenita Raspberry angelonia growing in a container Photo courtesy of Ball Seed

What are you waiting for? The next time you get a moment to visit a garden center ask about angelonias and see what varieties are available to you. Don't miss out on this summertime workhorse.

~William Afton

Resources:

- Armitage, A. 2009. The color encyclopedia of garden plants. Timber Press, Inc. Portland, OR.
- Brickell, C. and H. M. Cathey. 2004. A-z encyclopedia of garden plants. DK Publishing. New York, NY.
- Kirk-Ballard, H. and J. Fields. 2019. Louisiana super plants: serena Angelonia. LSU AgCenter Pub 3707-D. Baton Rouge, LA.
- Kirk-Ballard, H. and J. Fields. 2020. Louisiana super plants: serenita raspberry Angelonia. LSU AgCenter Pub 3707-E. Baton Rouge, LA.

Misunderstood Plant of the Month

Peppervine (*Nekemias arborea*)

The misunderstood plant of the month is a native in the grape family. While the fruit isn't very tasty to humans, birds and other wildlife love it.

Peppervine (*Ampelopsis arborea*) as mentioned above is in the Vitaceae family which includes grapes. It is a vining plant that can grow over 40 feet long. The vines produce clasping tendrils to support the weight of the plant as it climbs. The vines produce alternate, bipinnately compound leaves that are glossy-red when they emerge, turning medium to dark green; leaves are 4-8" long and about 2/3 as wide, with 1/2 to 1 1/4 inch long leaflets with toothed margins. Small white flowers are produced on late spring and summer. The fruit consists of 1/3 inch diameter berries that turn purple when mature.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

The leaves and fruit of peppervine

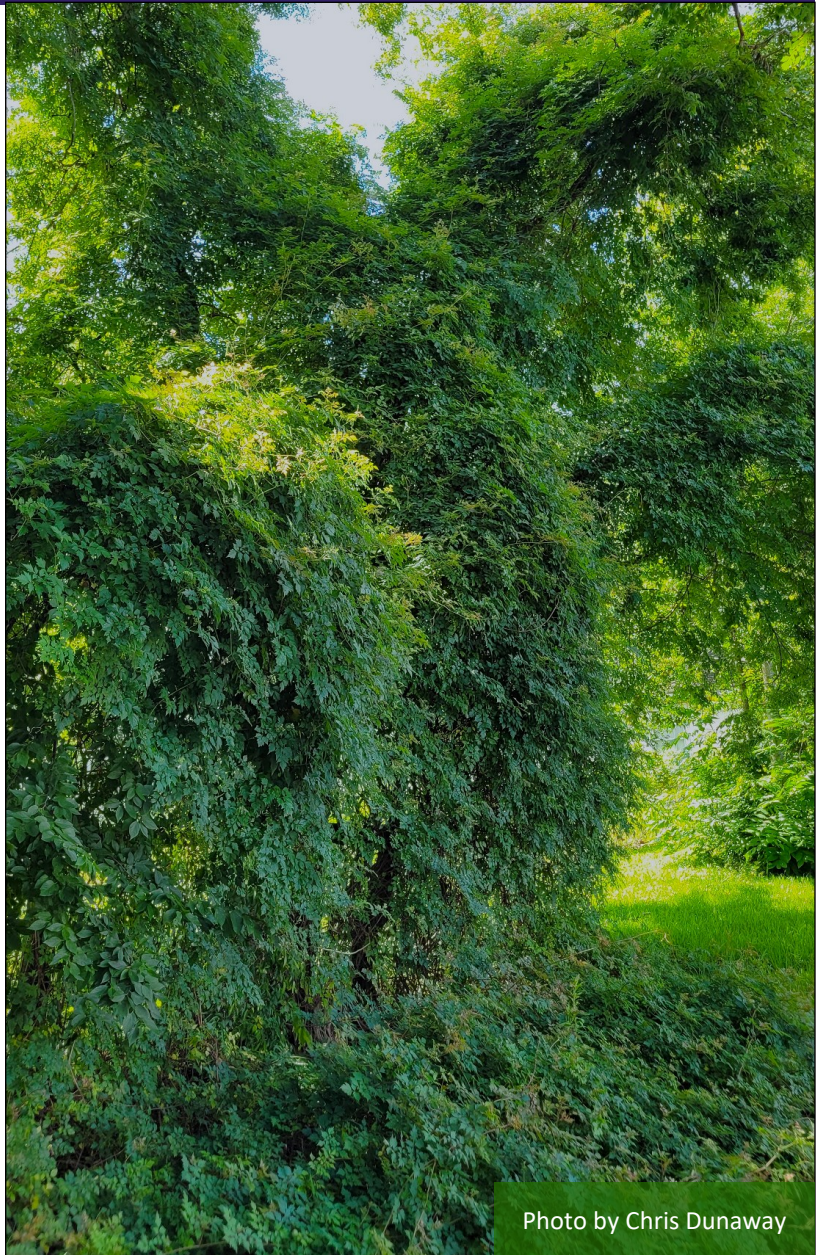


Photo by Chris Dunaway

A massive growth of peppervine covering shrubs and growing up trees.

The vine is a perennial plant that can survive by dying back to the ground in cold weather. This plant is an aggressively growing plant that can quickly grow out of control and take over large areas. The vine can grow up tall trees and shrubs and envelop them. Cut the vines at the ground level and apply Cut Vine and Stump Killer to the cut on the roots emerging from the soil.

~Chris Dunaway

Photo by Chris Dunaway



Mushrooms growing in a lawn. These are part of a large fairy ring.

In the Kitchen with Austin

Corn Fritters

Hush puppies stand back! These fritters are a great side for summer cook outs or a brunch table. Although the recipe requires deep frying, the result is utter deliciousness.

Ingredients:

2 cups vegetable oil

1 cup flour

½ Tbs. sugar

1 tsp. baking powder

½ tsp. salt

1 egg

½ cup milk

1 Tbs. butter, melted

2 ears corn, shucked & removed
from cob



Directions:

Place the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a bowl. Whisk to combine.

In a separate bowl, place egg, milk, and butter. Whisk to combine. Add corn and stir to coat.

Fold dry ingredients into corn mixture until just combined. Let batter sit on the counter until oil has heated; about 10 minutes.

In batches, drop heaping spoons of batter into oil. Fry until golden brown and drain on paper towels. Serve plain, sprinkled with powdered sugar, or with syrup on the side for dipping.

Enjoy!

Corn Fritters

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Orleans Parish

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Mid-City

500 N. Norman C. Francis at the Bayou
Thursdays from 3-6PM
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders at
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- City Park

City Putt Parking Lot
Dreyfous Dr. @ Anseman Ave.
Sundays from 8AM-Noon
Info at www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Uptown

200 Broadway
Tuesdays from 8AM-Noon
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders, info at
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Vietnamese Farmer's Market

4861 Alcee Fortier Blvd., New Orleans East
Saturdays, 5:30AM-9:00AM

Marketplace at Armstrong Park

901 N. Rampart
Thursdays from 3-7PM
<https://www.facebook.com/MarketplaceArmstrongPark/>

New Orleans French Market

Lower Decatur Street
Daily, 9AM-6PM

Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market

Comiskey Park, New Orleans
Market dates vary.
Check <http://midcityaf.org>

Laughing Buddha Farm

4516 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, LA
Or online at:
<https://laughing-buddha-nursery.localline.ca/online-store>

Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9th Ward

2301 Gallier Street at the garden, Saturdays from 10AM-1PM
3440 Piety Street Fresh Market open daily, 10-4.
Check here the link below for other times and locations.
<https://www.facebook.com/BarceloGardens/>

BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point

530 Powder St, New Orleans, LA
First and Third Sundays of the month, from 10AM-1PM
See more times and events at the link below.
<https://www.bounyfulgreenmarket.com/>

Sankofa Fresh Stop Market

5200 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA
<https://sankofanola.org/rfq/>

Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods

2500 Bayou Road
Order online at:
sheauxfresh.food

FUBU Market NOLA

3101 Erato Street New Orleans, location changes, check website/social media
<https://www.facebook.com/TheFUBUMarket/>

St. Tammany Parish

Covington Farmers' Market

Covington Police Department
609 North Columbia St., Covington, LA 70433
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
Covington Trailhead
419 N. New Hampshire
Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (rain or shine)
www.covingtonfarmersmarket.org
General information: 985.966.1786

Mandeville Trailhead Community Market

Mandeville Trailhead
675 Lafitte St, Mandeville, LA 70448
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMandevilleTrailhead>
985.624.3147

Folsom Village Market

Hwy 40, one block east of Hwy 25
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (weather permitting)
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday
985.507.6496 (daytime only)

Abita Springs Art and Farmers' Market

22049 Main St., Abita Springs, LA 70420
Sunday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.townofabitasprings.com/farmers-market>
985.892.0711

Camellia City Farmer's Market

2055 2nd Street, Old Towne Slidell
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/>
985.640.7112

St. Charles Parish

German Coast Farmer's Market-East Bank

St. Charles Parish East Regional Library
160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

German Coast Farmer's Market-West Bank

Westbank Bridge Park-Luling
13825 River Road, Luling, LA
Wednesdays, from Noon-5PM
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Jefferson Parish

Gretna Farmer's Market

Between 3rd & 4th St. along Huey P. Long
Every Saturday, except the Saturday of
Gretna Fest, 8:30AM-12:30PM
<https://www.gretnala.com/visitors/farmers-market/>

Nawlins Outdoor Market

1048 Scotsdale Dr., Harvey
Saturdays 9AM-5PM & Sundays 9AM-4PM
Fridays 11AM-3PM
<https://www.facebook.com/NawlinsMarket/>

Old Metairie Farmer's Market

Bayou Metairie Park, Between Metairie Lawn
Dr. and Labarre
1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:30PM-
7:30PM** Check for seasonal dates!
<https://www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/tag/farmers-art-metairie-market/>

Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte

920 Jean Lafitte Blvd.
Last Saturday of the month, 9AM-2PM
<https://www.facebook.com/JeanLafitteLa/>

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie

3000 Downs Blvd.
Wednesdays, from 1-6PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064920097975>

Westwego Farmer's Market

484 Sala Ave., Westwego
3rd Tuesday of the month, 11AM-3PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075979938725>

Laughing Buddha Farm

4516 Clearview
Store Pickups, preorder online at
<https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/>

Westwego Shrimp Lot

100 Westbank Expressway at Louisiana St.,
Westwego
Daily Mon-Thurs 8AM-6PM, Fri 8AM-7PM,
Sat 7AM-7PM, and Sun 7AM-6PM
<https://www.facebook.com/officialwestwegoshrimplot>

Harahan Farmer's Market

501 Oak Ave., Zeringue Park, Harahan
Sundays, 9AM-1PM
<https://www.facebook.com/HarahanMarket>

The Market at Kenner City Park

3800 Loyola Drive, Kenner, LA
Thursdays 1PM-6PM
2nd & 4th Saturdays 10AM-2PM
<https://www.facebook.com/RivertownFarmersMarket>

Local Independent Garden Centers

Jefferson

Perino's Garden Center	3100 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 834-7888
Rose Garden Center	4005 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 341-5664
Rose Garden & Pet Store	5420 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 347-8777
Banting's Nursery	3425 River Rd., Bridge City, LA 70094	(504) 436-4343
Jefferson Feed	4421 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson, LA 70121	(504) 733-8572
Nine Mile Point Plant Nursery	2141 River Rd., Westwego, LA 70094	(504) 436-4915
Palm Garden Depot	351 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 305-6170
Double M Feed Harahan	8400 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 738-5007
Double M Feed Metairie	3212 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 835-9800
Double M Feed Terrytown	543 Holmes Blvd., Terrytown, LA 70056	(504) 361-4405
Sunrise Trading Co. Inc.	42 3 rd St., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 469-0077
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 887-4336
Creative Gardens & Landscape	2309 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058	(504) 367-9099
Plumeria Insanity Nursery	https://www.facebook.com/Plumeria-Insanity-Nursery-102123651930419	
Garden Specialties, Inc.	3601 Florida Ave., Kenner, LA 70065	(504) 468-2300
Clearview Plant and Garden	4511 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 888-7700

Soil Vendors

Schmelly's Dirt Farm	8301 Olive St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 535-GROW
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 887-433
Reliable Soil	725 Reverand Richard Wilson Dr., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 467-1078
Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
Rock n' Soil NOLA	9119 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 488-0908
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713

If you would like your licensed retail nursery listed, please email gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

Local Independent Garden Centers

Orleans

Harold's Plants	1135 Press St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 947-7554
We Bite Rare and Unusual Plants	1225 Mandeville St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 380-4628
Hot Plants	1715 Feliciana St., New Orleans, LA 70117	www.hotplantsnursery.com
Pelican Greenhouse Sales	2 Celebration Dr., New Orleans, LA 70124	(504) 483-9437
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713
Jefferson Feed Mid-City	309 N. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119	(504) 488-8118
Jefferson Feed Uptown	6047 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 218-4220
Ninth Ward Nursery	2641 Deslonde St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 296-8398
Crazy Plant Bae	800 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans LA 70119	(504) 327-7008
Canopy Plant Company	6030 St. Claude, New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 381-4033
Too Tall Nursery	2817 N. Roman, New Orleans, LA 70117	tootallfarm@gmail.com
Plantery NOLA	Pop Up Locations	www.planterynola.com
Canopy Plant Co.	Pop Up and Online Sales	www.canopyplantco.com
New Orleans Succulent Boutique	Online Sales	https://sites.google.com/view/nolasucculentshop/home
Root Life Mobile Plant Nursery	Pop Up Locations	https://rootlifeplantnursery.com/
New Orleans Green LLC	Online Sales	www.neworleans-green.com

Plaquemines

Southern Gateway Garden Center	107 Timber Ridge St., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 393-9300
Belle Danse Orchids	14079 Belle Chasse Hwy., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 419-5416

St. Charles

Plant & Palm Tropical Outlet	10018 River Rd., St. Rose, LA 70087	(504) 468-7256
Martin's Nursery & Landscape	320 3 rd St., Luling, LA 70070	(985) 785-6165

St. Bernard

Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	https://plantpricks.com/
Nice Plants, Good Pots	6720 St. Claude Ave., Arabie, LA	Etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots

St. Tammany

The Boho Being	1184 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458	(985)707-1623
Banting's Nursery-Northshore	26300 Hwy 190, Lacombe, LA 70445	(985)882-5550

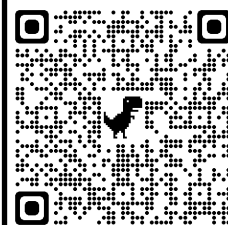
Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

Funding helps the LSU AgCenter agents provide help for:

- School and Community Gardens
- Seed Libraries
- Demonstration Gardens
- Educational Scholarships
- Local Research
- and Much More



A youth internee working in the vegetable garden at the Rivarde Juvenile Detention Home.



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Greater New
Orleans
Horticulture
Support Fund**

Scan the QR code above or click the link below to go to the LSU Foundation donation webpage.

[Click here or go to: https://bit.ly/3UQRS7H](https://bit.ly/3UQRS7H)

August Checklist/Garden Tips

Small, yellow aphids on your butterfly weed or milkweed 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.

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

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.

Transplant fall tomato plants into your garden by mid-August. Be prepared to spray with insecticides and fungicides since insect and disease pressure is usually greater in the fall than in the spring. The cultivars that have produced satisfactorily in the fall are Mountain Pride, Mountain Delight, Hawaiian Hybrid, Pelican, Bingo, Whirlaway, Floradel, Celebrity, Pacific and Solar Set.

If you need to, dig and divide Louisiana irises, Easter lilies and calla lilies this month.

Many bedding plants that will continue to bloom through fall were planted months ago and may be somewhat leggy and overgrown by this time. Cut them back by about 1/3 to 1/2 to produce stockier, fuller plants for the fall blooming period. Fertilize after you cut them back to stimulate new growth. This is often done to bedding plants such as impatiens, begonia, lantana, blue daze, verbena, pentas, salvia and periwinkle.

As your flowers and vegetables grow, they deplete the soil of organic material. Be sure to add plenty of compost to your garden plots before planting your Fall crop. You should also take a soil test and add fertilizer and amendments according to the test results

Many banana trees in the area have fruit this year. Wait until the fruit reach full size, cut off the whole stalk and hang it up somewhere convenient. Pick the fruit from the stalk as it turns yellow.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. You may fertilize at this time if you have not already done so. Look on page 5 of the [Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices Guide](#) for information on the correct timing and application rates.
2. 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](#).
3. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. The best time to water is in the morning. It is safest, from a disease standpoint, not to keep a grass wet all night long. Watering established sod during midday is discouraged because of extra loss from evaporation.
4. Now is a good time to core Aerate the soil to alleviate compaction.
5. Topdress the lawn by spreading a mixture of course sand and finely sifted compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Keep an eye open for insect pests. This is the season for chinch bugs and sod webworms.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.
9. This is the last month to lay sod Bermudagrass.

Don't's

1. Do not apply selective herbicides to the lawn due to high heat.
2. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time.
3. Do not try to grow grass in deep shade.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help



Follow us on Facebook at [GNOGardening](#)

For more information visit [LSUAgCenter.com](#)

Have Questions? Contact the LSU AgCenter Extension Agent in your Parish.

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