



September 2016

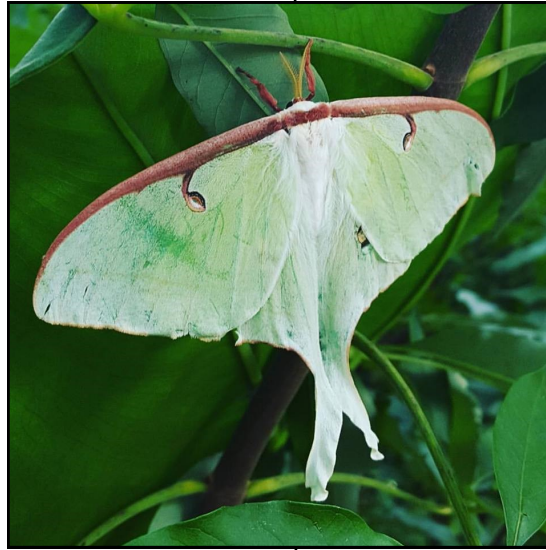
The Lovely Luna

This past Sunday I was walking through my yard admiring all the plants that were somehow still alive through this summer heat and summer rains. It was nearing the end of the day and the heat had begun to take its toll on me. I decide to go to sit on my patio which was under the shade of a grouping of River Birch. After sitting in the quiet for some time, I looked into the trees and saw a familiar lime green and yellow shape. As a horticulturist, I knew this wasn't the river birch foliage that I had spotted. Immediately I jumped up out of my seat in excitement. It was the insect that I had only read about it text books; it was the insect that I had yet to see in person, until now. I ran inside as fast as I could to drag my pregnant wife out of bed to come see my discovery. I told her it was the greatest entomological find that I have ever found. As I was dragging her by the arm to see the discovery, she asked me repeatedly "What did you find? What is so important that you have to come see it now?" When we finally got to back of the yard, I pointed up into the tree and revealed to her a beautiful, giant, 6-inch Luna Moth.

For some reason, my wife was not nearly as enthusiastic about the Luna Moth as I was. Maybe it was the 90 degree weather, maybe it was because she is not an entomologist, or maybe, just maybe, it was the fact that I dragged her out of bed, while she was pregnant, into the 90 degree weather to see an insect that I could have simply taken a picture of instead and brought to her in bed. The reason why I was so excited about this insect, was because this moth has be-

come more rare over the years due to human interference. To have more of these rare species of insects in our yard,

Although adult luna moths are very short lived they are one of the most beautiful moths. They cause no damage because they have no functioning mouth-



parts. Their only function is to find a mate and reproduce. Once done they will die shortly after. The females release a sex pheromones into the air which can attract males from long distances. After mating, the females will begin laying eggs the next evening. She will lay about 200 eggs in small groups on the leaves of host plants. The infant caterpillars take about 10 days to develop and will begin feeding immediately after hatching. The caterpillars will feed and

grow going through 5 stages of development called instars. When the caterpillars are fully grown they will spin silk from near its mouth and wrap itself in a leaf creating a protective cocoon. Depending on the temperature, it takes about 2-3 weeks for the caterpillar to transform into an adult. Those that develop in colder months may wait until spring to emerge.

Luna moth caterpillars do not cause significant damage to trees and there are no treatment recommendations. In fact, I encourage everyone to plant more host plants to provide habitats for the moths to reproduce. Host trees include: Sweetgum, Mockernut Hickory, Red Maple, White Oak, American Beech, Black Cherry, Black Willow, Black Walnut, Smooth Sumac, River Birch, Persimmon, and Hopehornbeam.

~Lee Rouse

September Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety	Planting Depth	Spacing Inches	Days Until Harvest * from transplant date
Beets	Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen	¼ inch	2-4	55-60
Broccoli	Arcadia, Diplomat, Gypsy, Packman, Premium Crop, Windsor, Greenbelt	⅝ inch	18-24	70-90*
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved, Royal Marvel	⅝ inch	12-15	90*
Cabbage	Blue Vantage, Platinum Dynasty, Stonehead, Cheers, Blue Dynasty, Emblem, Rio Verde	⅝ inch	12-15	65-75*
Chinese Cabbage	None Given	¼ inch	12	60-80*
Carrots	Danvers 128, Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Enterprise, Maverick, Sugar Snax 54	⅝ inch	1-2	70-75
Cauliflower	Candid Charm, Cumberland, Freedom, Incline, Majestic, Show Crown, Wentworth	⅝ inch	18-24	55-65*
Collards	Champions, Flash, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates	⅝ inch	6-12	75
Kale	None Given	½ inch	12-18	50
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner	⅝ inch	6	55-75
Lettuce	Esmeralda, New Red Fire F1, Nevada, Tall Guzman Elite	⅝ inch	4-12	45-80
Mustard Greens	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Tendergreen	⅝ inch	4-6	35-50
English Peas	Mr. Big, Novella II, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sugar Ann, Super Sugar Snap	½ inch	2-3	60-70
Potatoes, Irish	Dark Red Norland, Red LaSoda, Red Pontiac, Kennebec, Yukon Gold	4 inches	12	90-120
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Gooligan, Sorcerer, Sprint, Silver Moon	½ inch	36-60	90-120
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross	⅝ inch	1	22-28
Shallots	None Given	1 inch	4-8	50
Swiss Chard	None Given	¼ inch	6-8	45-55
Turnip Greens	Alamo, All Top, Purple, Top White Globe, Seven Top, Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo Cross	⅝ inch	2-6	40-50

Volunteer Spotlight



Sharon Dowty - is another graduate of the Master Gardener class of 2015. She took the first available class after her retirement from working 40 years as a social worker. Although she says that she was looking forward to switching her energy from people to plants, in reality, she has just switched her methods of helping people through plants and gardening.

Sharon's love for gardening began as a child at the home of her grandparents. She describes a beatific garden with ornamental flowers, a vegetable patch along the picket fence, fig trees, and a concord grape vine that bore delicious fresh fruit every year. The prize of the garden was a collection of stunning camellias that the other residents in the town would go out of their way to pass by for a look when they were in bloom.

Before becoming a master gardener Sharon has mostly grown ornamental plants in her own gardens. This summer she planted a few different plants and proved that you can get a lot of food from very little input. From just two cucumber plants she said she was able to harvest enough for over a dozen jars of pickles. Plus she had tomatoes and okra as well.

Sharon has worked on a variety of projects but she has been especially helpful in the Botanical Gardens and the 9th Ward Demonstration garden. She is a very hard worker and has come out to help on days when no one else could come. Sharon says that she considers being in the garden is a privilege and not really work at all. She has made new friends and enjoys being around other gardeners. In her own words, "Gardeners are a faithful and optimistic clan. No matter what's going on in our lives we are always looking to better days ahead. That's what tucking a seed in the ground is all about! Gardening sustains us physically and emotionally!"

Plant of the Month

American Beautyberry *Callicarpa americana* - is a native plant to the Southeast United States. It is a medium size deciduous perennial shrub that grows 3-5 feet or more depending on the conditions. They are an excellent understory tree meaning that they thrive in the filtered light coming through the taller trees above. They also favor moist to wet soil conditions so they are a good choice for



poorly drained areas and water gardens. The most noticeable feature of the American Beautyberry are the purple berries that grow in clusters around the branches at the leaf axils. These berries provide an important food source for local and migrating birds. The flowers and berries only produce on new growth so you can prune them in the winter to maintain size and form. You may cut them back to 12 inches from the ground in the winter to keep them small and compact. The American Beautyberry is easy to propagate from seeds, woody cuttings, or digging up volunteers sprouting near a mature plant.



September, the Second Spring

St Tammany Master Gardener Association

in conjunction with the LSU AgCenter

Presents our Fall Seminar

"September, the Second Spring"

Friday, September 16, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Registration and Table Talks begin at 8:00 a.m. Program begins at 9:00 a.m.

Lunch Catered By:



Church of the King

22205 Little Creek Rd,
Mandeville, LA 70471

Sponsored By:



Presenters include:

Margot Shaw, Editor in Chief/Owner Flower Magazine – "Best of All Seasons"

Troy Rhone, Landscape Designer – "Garden Design for Everyone"

Dan Gill – "Fall: The Ideal Time to Plant Fruits and Vegetables in our Landscapes"

Amy Graham, Director of Horticulture, Longue Vue House and Gardens – "Propagation: From Green Stems to Gorgeous Flowers"



Table Talks include:

Propagation, Good
Bugs/Bad Bugs, Computer
Gardening Tips, Beautiful
Caladiums &
"Meet Your County Agent"
with Will Alton

The Garden Boutique:

"Gotta Have It"
Plants, Pottery,
Baskets, Bird Houses,
& Garden Follies

NEW!



"The LSU AgCenter is a statewide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment."

Registration fee is \$30.00 per person. Registration will be confirmed via email. Call if you need registration form mailed.

Please detach and return the bottom portion with your registration fee.

Advanced registration required. Make checks payable to STMGA

Send to: September, the Second Spring, c/o LSU AgCenter, P.O. Box 5438, Covington, LA 70434

For further information: LSU AgCenter (985) 875-2635 or STPMGA@gmail.com

If attendees are a current member of STMGA, please indicate by placing MG behind each member's name.

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed (\$30.00 per person) _____

Additional Attendees: _____ Number Attending: _____

E-mail Addresses: _____

Office Use Only: Amount enclosed: _____ Confirmed: _____



\$10
Parking
includes speakers
& activities

**Vendors
Market**



Louisiana Master Gardener
is an educational program
of the LSU AgCenter

'Pollination Celebration'

Saturday, September 24, 2016

9am - 3pm

an educational experience for all ages



"Bee There"

**Kids Activities
Dynamic Speakers
Make & Take Projects**



**LSU AgCenter
21549 Old Covington Hwy
Hammond, LA 70403
(985) 543-4125**

**PLEASE NO: alcohol, outside food or drinks, ice chests,
pets, skate boards
LSU is a smoke-free environment**

If you have any questions or if you need a special accommodation for your participation in the event, please contact Whitney Wallace, wwallace@agcenter.lsu.edu at (985) 748-9381 at least two weeks prior to the event.
The LSU AgCenter is a statewide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

LSU/AgCenter.com/MasterGardener

tpmgblog.wordpress.com



Essence of Style Design Symposium

featuring René van Rems AIFD

Holiday Centerpiece Workshop

November 19, 2016 from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m.

Visit Longue Vue House and Gardens for a Holiday Centerpiece Workshop. Part of the three-day Essence of Style Design Symposium, floral enthusiasts will work alongside world-renowned floral designer, René van Rems and learn how to create a holiday centerpiece using autumn foliage.

\$150 for Longue Vue members and Design Symposium Luncheon attendees. \$175 for nonmembers.

Purchase tickets by calling 504.488.5488 or online at:

www.longuevue.com

Upcoming 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 8th from 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, October 9th 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.



2016 PLANT SALES



OCTOBER 8-9

Fall Garden Festival

Sat. October 8

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sun. October 9

10:00 am-4:00 pm

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

Upcoming Events

Home TWEET Home

Birdhouse Exhibit & Fundraiser

Who & Where: New Orleans Botanical Garden

When: Exhibit-October 1-October 23, 2016 during garden Culmination Party-October 23rd from 5-7 pm

The New Orleans Botanical Gardens is hosting a birdhouse exhibit fundraiser to help fund construction of a new outdoor kitchen. The public is requested to build a unique birdhouse for donation to the exhibit. The birdhouses will be displayed in the garden for three weeks in October. While on display, visitors may bid on their favorite birdhouses.

During the three week exhibit, the Botanical Garden will also provide educational programs about local birds, birdwatching, birdhouse and feeder construction, and gardening to attract birds. Winning bids will be announced at the culmination party on October 23rd from 5-7 pm.

Guidelines:

- All birdhouses must be works created by the exhibitor. Commercially produced birdhouses or assembled kits will not be accepted unless embellished or artistically painted. Be creative!
- Birdhouses should not have a business logo on it. Signage will be provided including the participants name and organization.
- Birdhouses must be sturdy and able to last outside throughout the year.
- Birdhouses can either hang or be mounted on a flat surface. All birdhouses will be mounted to a 36" pole.
- Size Limitations: Base should not exceed 24" square. Height should not exceed 24" tall.
- Birdhouses may be dropped off from September 1-16, 2016.
- Construction tips and registration info can be found at: neworleanscitypark.com/botanical-garden/home-tweet-home.
- For more information contact Susan Capley at scapley@nocp.org or call (504)483-9473



Do-It-Yourself

If you plan on composting in your garden then you will probably want to have a compost sifter. A compost sifter will allow you to clean your compost of trash, rocks, uncomposted material etc. Below are the steps for constructing a simple compost sifter that can be made in a couple of hours but will last for years. Materials required: 1 -8' long 2x4 board, 8- 3" wood screws, 1-2x5' roll of hardware cloth, 2 cabinet handles, staple gun and staples..



Cut the 2x4 board into 2-2'6" pieces and 2-1'6" pieces.



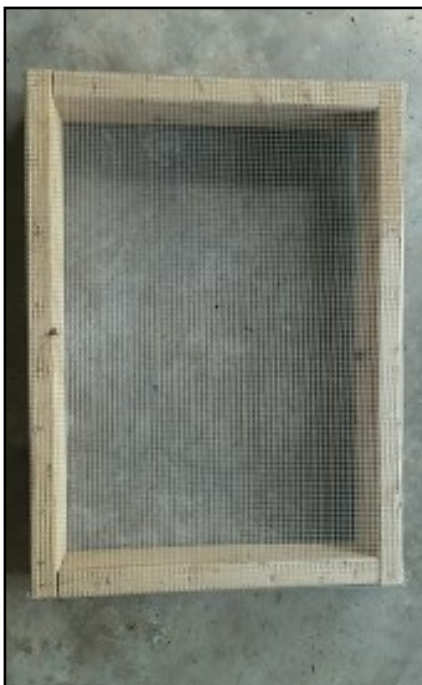
Arrange the boards into a rectangle and join the ends with the wood screws.



Stretch the hardware cloth over one open side of the box.



Fold the edges over and attach with staples on the sides and bottom.



Trim away the extra hardware cloth.



Attach handles to each end and you are ready to go.

September Checklist/Garden Tips

Chinch bugs are very active this time of the year. Look for dead, tan, straw-like areas in sunny, dry locations (along concrete surfaces, between the sidewalk and the street) that get bigger each day. Treat promptly with Oftanol, Talstar, bifenthrin, acephate or other labeled products following label directions carefully.

Only light pruning will be appropriate on shrubs from now on. Late, heavy pruning will stimulate growth in the fall and increase the chance of cold damage to your shrubs. Remember, spring flowering shrubs and gardenias, hydrangeas, sasanquas and camellias have already set their flower buds. Any pruning now will remove flower buds and reduce the display.

Start watching for the wonderful display of wild flowers along interstates and especially country roads we have each fall.

From now until next spring, do not apply fertilizers containing nitrogen to most landscape plants. Fertilizing trees, shrubs, lawns and ground covers with nitrogen in the fall can reduce the hardiness of some plants and promote winter injury.

If you intend to plant a bermuda lawn using seed, do so now in early September to allow the grass sufficient time to establish before cold weather. It's too late to plant other types of lawn grass seeds, such as centipede. St. Augustine, centipede, zoysia or bermuda sod may be installed up to the end of October. Dormant sodding may be done January through March.

Control caterpillar problems on ornamentals with a pesticide containing BT, spinosad or carbaryl (Sevin). BT is a bacterium that only attacks caterpillars and is harmless to other organisms. It is essentially non toxic and is appropriate for use by organic gardeners. Spinosad is also organic. Make applications before damage is too extensive, and make sure the damage is fresh and the caterpillars are still active before you treat. Keep these materials well away from butterfly garden areas. They are also toxic to butterfly caterpillars.

Many summer weeds are setting seeds now. Do not let this happen! Pull these weeds and dispose of them to reduce weed problems next year.

Evaluate caladium plantings. When the plants begin to look tired and less attractive and about two-thirds of the leaves have fallen over, it's time to dig the tubers. Caladiums may return the next year if left in the ground, but it is more reliable to dig them and store them indoors over the winter. Dig the tubers carefully leaving the foliage attached. Spread out in a well ventilated area to dry. When the foliage is dry and brown, remove it from the tubers and store them in paper or net bags indoors.

Many summer weeds are setting seeds now. Do not let this happen! Pull these weeds and dispose of them to reduce weed problems next year.

Plant petunias into the garden now for blooms this fall and next spring. Petunias, snapdragons, nicotiana, calendula and dianthus are among the more heat tolerant cool season bedding plants, and can be planted earlier than more heat sensitive plants such as pansies.

Camellia flower buds are starting to swell but generally will not bloom until November or December. Water now if weather is dry to prevent problems with blooming later on.

Mail order spring bulbs in time for them to arrive in October or November. Bulbs are also readily available in local nurseries now. You can go ahead and purchase them, but there is no hurry to plant them.

Regularly remove the flower spikes of your basil to encourage plants to continue to produce leaves into the fall. Ultimately, as the weather cools down, the plants will begin to lose steam and finish.

Flower plumes or seed heads of ornamental grasses can be cut and used in arrangements. Spray with a little clear shellac or hair spray to keep them from shattering.

It is time to divide and transplant Louisiana irises, Easter lilies, and calla lilies. Louisiana irises generally do best when divided every three years.

Not much in the way of ornamentals to plant this month. It is too late to plant warm season plants and too early for cool season plants. If you remove failing warm season plants then prepare the soil for the fall planting and cover with mulch.

September Checklist/Garden Tips

September 1 is your last chance to cut back poinsettias if you need to. Pruning after this time will interfere with their blooming. Make sure poinsettias in your landscape do not receive artificial light at night from nearby flood lights, porch lights or street lights. There is a good chance that they will not bloom if they do.

Pecan trees tend to produce heavy crops every other year. Pecan trees have relatively brittle wood and their branches are prone to breakage when a heavy crop is produced, especially during thunderstorms with gusty winds. Although it is disheartening to see a good sized branch that has broken and fallen from the tree, there is not much you can do. Keep the trees watered if this month is dry to minimize nut drop.

Water your vegetable and flower gardens deeply and thoroughly once or twice a week during dry weather. When a good rain occurs (one-half to one inch), adjust your watering schedule accordingly. A daily watering is not recommended for established plants. It increases diseases and encourages a shallow root system. Newly seeded beds, however, should be watered daily until the seeds come up. New transplants also need to be watered more frequently. And plants in containers may need to be watered everyday.

Many of the summer blooming perennials are finished or finishing up their floral display for the year. Cut back the flower stalks and old faded flowers to keep the plants looking attractive.

Mulches may have decayed and thinned out over the summer. Replenish mulch layers with fresh material to maintain about a two to three inch thickness. Ideally, use what you can get for free – such as leaves, dry grass clippings or pine straw. If you prefer the appearance of a purchased mulch, put down an inch or two of leaves, dry grass clippings or pine straw, and then top it off with an about an inch of your favorite purchased mulch. This will save you money and still give you the look you like.

Remove the canes from blackberry bushes that produced fruit this summer. They will not produce again. Vegetative canes may be tipped back to control their growth

When winters are mild in south Louisiana, it is not unusual for banana trees to produce fruit during summer. Wait until the fruit start to turn yellow, cut off the whole stalk and hang it up somewhere convenient. Pick the fruit from the stalk as they turn yellow. You may also cut the stalk when the bananas are full size but still green. The bananas will ripen off of the tree.

The hurricane season is kicking into high gear now, and if you haven't already done so, its time to look over your landscape. In particular, shade trees in the landscape should be carefully evaluated to make sure they are in good shape. Dead branches must be pruned off and dead trees removed entirely.

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

