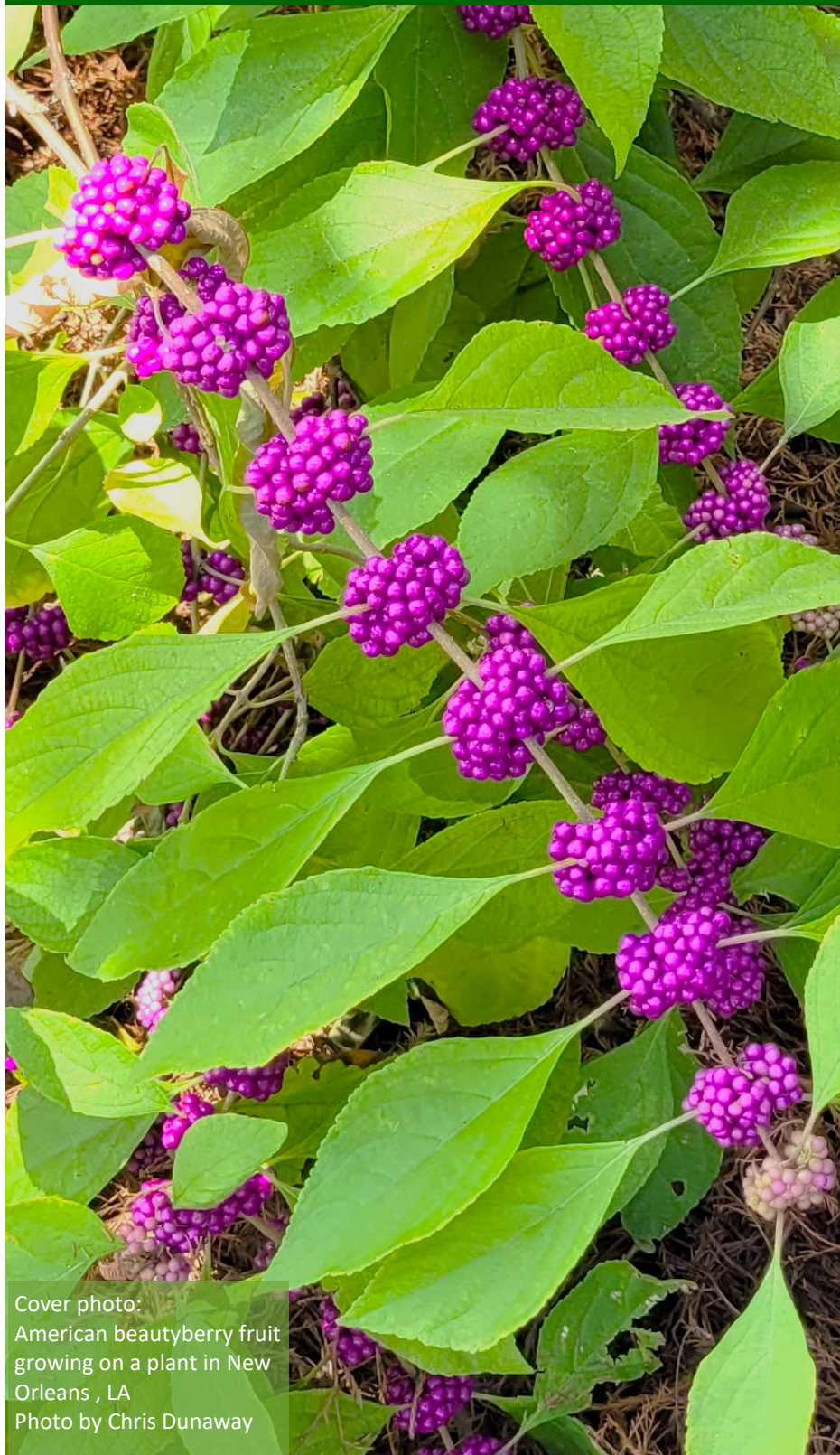




GN Gardening Magazine

Summer 2025



Cover photo:
American beautyberry fruit
growing on a plant in New
Orleans, LA
Photo by Chris Dunaway

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(*Callicarpa americana*)

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Know Your Natives

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)



American beautyberry hedge in fall splendor. Photo by Clare Jones.

If you're looking for a native plant that adds vibrant color, supports local wildlife, and thrives with minimal maintenance, look no further than *Callicarpa americana*, commonly known as American beautyberry. This striking shrub, found throughout the southeastern United States, is cherished for its unique appearance and ecological benefits.

One of the most captivating features of American beautyberry is its clusters of bright purple berries, which appear in late summer and persist well into winter. These berries contrast beautifully against the plant's arching branches and soft green foliage. In spring and early summer, small, delicate pink or white flowers emerge at leaf axils, attracting pollinators and setting the stage for the vibrant berry display that follows.

As a native species, *Callicarpa americana* plays an essential role in the local ecosystem. Its berries serve as a vital food source for birds, including mockingbirds, cardinals, and other songbirds. Deer also nibble on the leaves, making it a great addition to landscapes where wildlife conservation is a priority. Furthermore, the shrub provides shelter and nesting sites for various species. Beautyberry is a deciduous shrub that reveals its smooth barked stems in winter.

Growing Conditions and Care

One of the greatest advantages of American beautyberry is its adaptability. This hardy plant thrives in a variety of soil conditions, from sandy to loamy, and is tolerant of both drought and excessive rain. It prefers full sun to partial shade, making it versatile for different landscape designs. Beautyberry

requires little maintenance - occasional pruning helps maintain its shape, and once established, it rarely needs supplemental watering. Applying a balanced fertilizer in early Spring will improve growth. Do not fertilize in Fall or Winter.

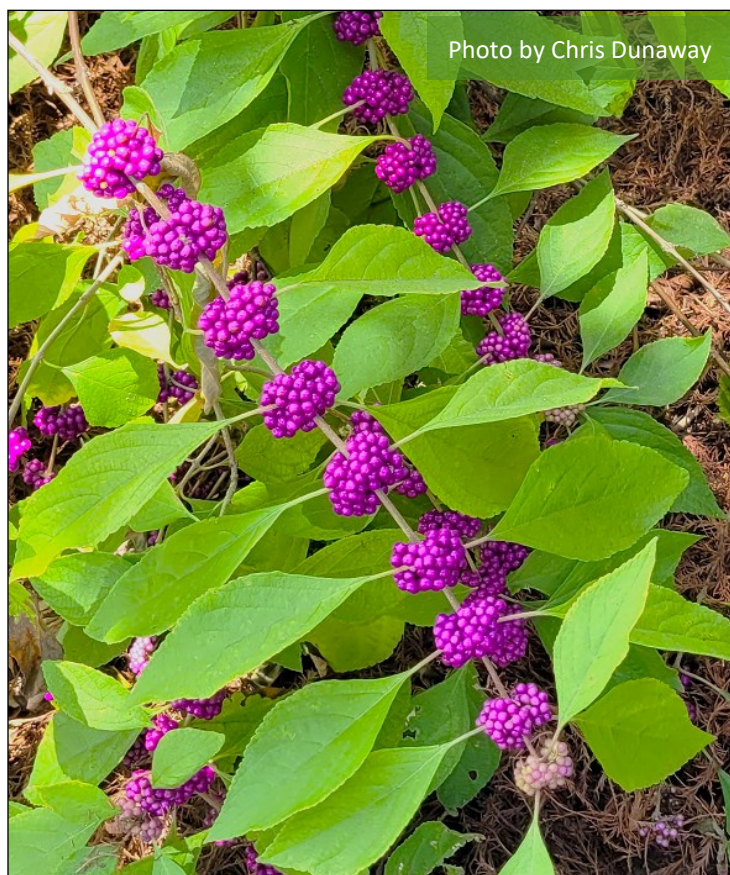
American beautyberry is easily propagated by seed, root cuttings, and softwood tip cuttings.

Landscape Uses

Thanks to its ornamental appeal and natural resilience, American beautyberry is perfect for various landscaping applications:

- **Wildlife gardens** – Supports pollinators, birds, and small mammals.
- **Naturalized areas** – Ideal for creating a low-maintenance, native plant garden.
- **Foundation plantings** – Adds seasonal interest around homes and buildings.
- **Border hedges** – Can be used to define spaces while providing year-round beauty.

Whether you're enhancing a backyard garden or



Callicarpa americana ripening purple fruit.

restoring a native habitat, *Callicarpa americana* is



Photo by Chris Dunaway

American beautyberry flowers and unopened buds.

great native plant choice. Its stunning berry clusters, ecological benefits, and easy-care nature make it a worthy addition to any landscape. By choosing native plants like American beautyberry, you're not only beautifying your surroundings but also supporting biodiversity and local ecosystems.

American beautyberry is also a Louisiana Super Plant. The wild-type form has deep purple berries but selections are available in a variety of colors including white, pink, and burgundy.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis

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NC State Extension. *Callicarpa americana*. *Callicarpa americana* (American Beautyberry, American Mulberry, Beautyberry, French Mulberry, Sour-bush) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox

July Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Broccoli (Seeds for transplant)	Green Magic, Everest, Castle Dome, Packman
Brussels Sprouts (Seeds for transplant)	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved
Cabbage (Seeds for transplant)	Bravo, Rio Verde, Caraflex, Blue Vantage
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Passport, Primo, Verona
Cauliflower (Seeds for transplant)	Snow Crown, Cumberland, Incline, Freedom
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates
Chinese Cabbage (Seeds for transplant)	None Given
Cucumbers	Slicers = Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare HG, Indy Pickler = Calypso
Luffa Gourd	None Given
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Peppers, Bell (Seeds for transplant)	Aristotle XR3, King Arthur, Paladin, Carmen
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Shallots	Matador, Prisma
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Squash	Zucchini = Declaration II, Justice III, Payroll Straight Neck = Multipik, Patriot II, Liberator III Crook Neck = Destiny III, Gentry, Medallion
Tomatoes (Seeds for transplant)	Bella Rosa, Sun Chaser, Florida 9l, Phoenix, Solar Fire, BHN-216, Solar Set
Watermelon	Seedless: Cooperstown, Gypsy, Matrix, Millennium Seeded: Mickey Lee, Sugar Baby, Amarillo

[For more recommended varieties and supplier information click here to visit the Recommended Varieties Database on the LSUAgCenter website.](http://apps.lsuagcenter.com/diseaseresistance/)

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

Look At Me:

Roughleaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*)

This month's showstopper is a native, small tree that holds tremendous wildlife benefit and graces the landscape with delicate, lacy white flowers. Roughleaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*) is native to Louisiana and has a range that extends up the Mississippi River into the great plains and upper midwestern states, west into Texas, and east into New York. Here in Louisiana, it is often found growing on roadsides, on the margins of forests and fields, and along canals and levees. It grows well in a wide range of soil conditions, including dry soils and saturated soils.

Unpruned and grown naturally, Roughleaf dogwood grows in a shrub form, but can be limbed up easily into a single or multi trunk tree form. It grows relatively fast and is comparable to a Crepe Myrtle, making it a good alternative for those looking to add more native plant material to their properties. While not always found at the local garden center, many of the smaller, independent growers of natives are offering it.

Roughleaf dogwood can reach a mature size of 15 feet tall, and 8-10 feet wide. In spring and summer, it produces flat topped creamy white flower clusters, which then develop into small clusters of hard, ¼ "round white fruits on reddish brown or grey

branchlets. The leaves are oppositely arranged, petioled, and have blades up to 4" long. The leaves are

ovate with a drawn-out tip. The name of this plant comes from the rough-textured upper surface of the leaf. The underside is slightly velvety in contrast. This plant is deciduous, and the leaves do change to a red or red-brown color in the fall, giving it a rare bit of fall color in south Louisiana.

Roughleaf dogwood grows from runners, from seed, and from cuttings fairly readily. In the wild, fruit eating birds such as cardinals, mockingbirds, and cedar waxwings consume the berries and poop out the seeds. This tree also benefits other



The rough leaves and flowers of a Roughleaf Dogwood.

types of wildlife. The flowers are a favorite nectar source for butterflies, including swallowtails.

Unlike cultivated, showier types of dogwoods grown in gardens across the country, Roughleaf dogwood is resistant to most pests and diseases, especially when the tree is in good health. It is resistant to Dogwood Anthracnose, which usually kills any and all dogwood planted in the New Orleans area eventually. Several decades ago, this disease swept through the south and killed many beautiful dogwood trees. Luckily, their native counterpart is able to thrive and bloom in our gardens.

~Anna Timmerman

What's Bugging You

Spotted cucumber beetles

(*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*)

For those growing cucumbers, squash, honeydew melons, watermelons, mirlitons, and other related plants, spotted cucumber

beetles are a tiny pest that can cause big problems. These common pests may look harmless, but they can wreak havoc in a vegetable garden by feeding on plant parts and causing a poor appearance, unmarketable fruit, and general stress. The immature stages can even feed on plant roots in the ground!

Spotted cucumber beetles, *Diabrotica undecimpunctata*, are a common pest

of warm-season vegetable gardens. Adult beetles can get up to ¼ inch long with a black head, green thorax, and an easily recognized pair of elytra or wing coverings. Overall, they have a light green, more yellow appearance. The common name comes from the 12 black spots that occur on the yellow elytra along the back of the insect.

Beetles display a complete metamorphosis (think butterfly lifecycle), where they go through drastic differences in the larval and adult phases. The young look nothing like the adults. Immature spotted cucumber beetles are known as corn rootworms.

They are white with a dark brown head, narrow in width, and less than 1 inch in length. Some may show a dark colored plate on top of the tail section, which

the casual observer might perceive as a second head. These immatures live in the soil where they feed on plant roots, hence the common name rootworms. These immatures eventually pupate and emerge as adult spotted cucumber beetles. Adult spotted cucumber beetles emerge from the soil in mid-spring as soil temperatures rise above 55°F. They feed on a wide



Adult cucumber beetle. (David Cappaert, Bugwood.org)

range of plants but seem to be fond of cucurbit plants. After adults emerge in spring, they look to mate and deposit eggs. Immatures hatch and begin feeding as rootworms in the ground. After 2-4 weeks, those immatures will pupate and emerge as adults, where they feed on above-ground plant parts and continue the cycle, producing multiple generations during the growing season.

Immature feeding stresses root systems on older plants and can cause complete failure in young seedlings. Adults feed on leaves (reduced photosynthesis), flowers (reduced pollination), and

fruit (reduced appearance). Not only do they cause physical injury, but they can also vector plant diseases like bacterial wilt and cucumber mosaic virus.

A good management program for spotted cucumber beetles in the home vegetable garden starts with scouting. The adults are easy to recognize because of their greenish-yellow appearance and 12 black spots. Some organic gardeners have reported success using spinosad, a biopesticide derived from a naturally occurring soil bacterium. This product is considered a contact insecticide and needs to come into direct contact with pest insects to be effective. The use of diatomaceous earth in the rootzone and interplanting with marigolds, radishes, and nasturtiums can also be helpful when integrated into a spotted cucumber beetle control program. Conventional gardeners should look for products that contain permethrin or cyfluthrin that include labeled directions for use in

vegetable gardens. As with all organic and conventional pesticides, be sure to read and follow label instructions for proper use and storage of these helpful products.

~William Afton

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Striped cucumber beetle adults and feeding injury to cucurbit leaves and flowers.
Image courtesy of University of Georgia Coll. of Ag. and Environ. Sci.

Weed aka Misunderstood Plant of the Month

Lady's Tresses Orchid (*Spiranthes*)

When we think of orchids, it's typically the ubiquitous grocery store floral department

Phalaenopsis orchids in cute, colorful pots that come to mind. There are several native orchids in Louisiana, however, and they are no less beautiful. This spring in a horse pasture in Meraux, Louisiana, I had the opportunity to look at thousands of Lady's Tresses orchids, in the genus *Spiranthes*, which is from the Greek words for "spiral", and "flower".

Lady's Tresses orchids are found across the state, with *Spiranthes vernalis*, or Spring Lady's Tresses being the most common species in the greater New Orleans area. These orchids are perennial, need full sun, and grow best in pastures, meadows, grasslands, or parkland that is not overgrown. It produces 3-5 basal rosette leaves that persist through flowering, and bears a spike inflorescence with up to 50 white or cream colored florets, arranged in a spiral pattern around the stem. Lady's Tresses orchids can grow in dry to moist environments, but seem to prefer a bit of moisture in our area. It blooms on the Chalmette Battlefield from April through June. *Spiranthes* orchids have been known to pop up in lawns, but don't tend to survive frequent mowing. If you have these orchids on your property and would like to encourage them to grow and propagate, try to mow quarterly and raise the deck height so that

it's cutting at 3.5" or greater to avoid scalping the leaves from the root systems. Mow after seed pods



Photo by Anna Timmerman

Flower spikes of the *Spiranthes* plant with the namesake spiraling florets

become dry, open, and empty.

Lady's Tresses orchids draw in a variety of pollinators,

including honeybees, orchard bees, bumblebees, and halictid bees. The population of *Spiranthes* orchids is stable and abundant throughout North America so they are not a protected species. You can carefully transplant them into new areas to establish populations, which is best done in the fall. Use a utility flag to mark where the orchids are at while they are in bloom so you can retrieve them during the optimal time of year to transplant.

~Anna Timmerman

References:

[Spiranthes - Wikipedia](#)

[Spiranthes vernalis \(Spring Ladies' Tresses\): Go Orchids](#)



Photo by Anna Timmerman

Spiranthes vernalis growing in a horse pasture in Meraux, Louisiana

Misunderstood Plant of the Month:

Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum* Flueggé)

Bahiagrass is an aggressive perennial, warm-season grass originating from South America. Since its introduction to Florida as a pasture grass for forage and erosion control in the early 1900s, bahiagrass has become naturalized in the gulf states (Chintala et al., 2023). Bahiagrass is easily identified by its distinct V-shaped seed heads, often dotted with tiny dark brown to black flowers (photo 1; Beasley and Sander, 2018). It tolerates drought and a wide range of soil types, and spreads relatively quickly by both seeds and rhizomes. These characteristics make bahiagrass both a difficult weed to control and a low-maintenance option for home lawns.

As a weed

Bahiagrass is a competitive weed, readily adapting to diverse soil types and conditions, and spreading by seeds and rhizomes. Managing a healthy lawn is the best defense against bahiagrass and other pests. A dense, vigorous lawn is better able to compete with aggressive weeds and tolerate damage from insects and disease. A healthy lawn requires maintaining the soil pH within an ideal range, mowing at the right time to an appropriate height, reducing compaction by dethatching and aerating, and fertilizing, irrigating, and applying pesticides at proper rates and times. Recommended practices vary depending on the turf. Table 1

summarizes recommendations and relevant management characteristics of common turfgrasses in Louisiana. Detailed turfgrass management information can be found on the LSU AgCenter's website.



Photo by Alyssa Tarrant

Photo 1: Bahiagrass is easily identified by its distinct V-shaped seed heads, often dotted with tiny dark brown to black flowers.

Even when appropriate cultural practices are employed, post-emergent herbicide applications may still be needed to effectively control bahiagrass in turf. In these cases, a metsulfuron methyl herbicide (i.e. MSM Turf, Manor) can be used in St. Augustine grass, centipedegrass, zoysia, and bermudagrass. Sethoxydim herbicides (i.e. Hi-Yield Grass Killer, Bonide GrassBeater II) can also be used in centipedegrass. To ensure herbicide efficacy, consult the product label and the LSU AgCenter website before applying.

As a low-maintenance home lawn

The relatively low water and nutrient requirements of

bahiagrass, supported by an extensive root system, makes it a popular choice along roadsides. Bahiagrass roots additionally provide excellent erosion control making it a suitable candidate for pond banks and other erosion-prone areas (Chintala et al., 2023). When used in the home setting, however, bahiagrass benefits should be placed within the context of potential tradeoffs (Table 2).

~Alyssa Tarrant

Table 1. Recommendations and relevant management characteristics of common turfgrasses in Louisiana. Reported values are summarized from LSU AgCenter (Beasley and Sanders), Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (Chalmers and McAfee, 2010), and Mississippi State University Extension (2022).

	Bahiagrass	Bermudagrass	Carpetgrass	Centipedegrass	St. Augustine	Zoysiagrass
Soil pH range	5.5 - 7	6 - 7	4 - 7	5 - 6	6.5 - 7	6 - 7
Mowing height	2.5 - 4	1 - 2	1-2	1-2.5	2.5 - 3	1 - 2.5
Fertilizer N rate (lbs N per 1000 ft ² per year)	0-1	2-3	0-1	0.5-2	1-3	0.5-2
Water requirements	low	low - moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate
Disease susceptibility	low	low - moderate	low	low - moderate	high	low - moderate
Thatching tendency	low	medium - high	low	low - medium	medium - high	high
Shade tolerance	medium	poor	medium	medium	medium - excellent	medium - excellent

Table 1: Recommendations and relevant management characteristics of common turfgrasses in Louisiana. Reported values are summarized from LSU AgCenter (Beasley and Sanders), Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (Chalmers and McAfee, 2010), and Mississippi State University Extension (2022).

Resources and additional reading

Detailed turfgrass management information can be found on the LSU AgCenter’s website in the Louisiana Home Lawn Series: A guide to maintaining a healthy Louisiana lawn. https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/commercial_horticulture/turfgrass

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Table 2. Benefits and tradeoffs of using bahiagrass as a low-maintenance home lawn.	
Benefits	Tradeoffs
Drought tolerant	Non-uniform ground coverage
Low water and nutrient requirements	Fast growing, tough seed heads require mowing and sharpening the mower blade frequently
Seed heads provide forage for wildlife	Seed heads are not attractive to some
Table 2. Benefits and tradeoffs of using bahiagrass as a low-maintenance home lawn.	

Disease of the Month

Lethal Bronzing Disease of Palms

Lethal Bronzing Disease (LBD) is a devastating infection affecting palm trees caused by a phytoplasma, a type of unculturable bacteria that lacks a cell wall. The LBD phytoplasma is an obligate parasite that colonizes the plant phloem. It is primarily transmitted by the American palm cixiid (*Haplaxius crudus*) (Figure 1) and cannot survive outside of the palm phloem or its insect vector (obligate parasite). It isn't transmitted by pruning equipment. Originally identified in Florida, LBD has now spread to Louisiana, where it is killing thousands of palm trees across the state. With no known cure, early detection and proactive management are crucial to mitigating its impact.

Symptoms of Lethal Bronzing

The first signs of LBD vary, but one of the earliest indicators is premature fruit drop. If flowers or fruit are not present, the disease may go unnoticed until leaf discoloration begins. The foliage turns a bronze-like brown, starting from the oldest leaves and progressing upward. This disease progression will cause a characteristic separation or drooping of the old leaves away from the crown of younger leaves (Figure 2). Eventually, the spear leaf—the newest leaf at the top—turns brown, signaling the death of the palm's apical meristem, or "heart".

Spread and Impact in Louisiana

LBD was first detected in City Park in New Orleans in 2013. LBD has now been detected in multiple parishes across Louisiana, including Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, and Iberia Parishes. The rapid spread of this terminal disease threatens to wipe out popular landscape palms in Louisiana. As mentioned earlier, the disease is transmitted by piercing-sucking insects, particularly

the American palm cixiid, which feed on the sap of palm trees and spread the pathogen from infected trees to healthy ones. Systemic insecticides have proven ineffective in controlling the spread of the disease. Since there is no known cure for LBD, prevention is the best approach. Infected palms should be removed immediately to prevent further spread. Antibiotic



Figure 1: American palm cixiid (*Haplaxius crudus*) vectors Lethal Bronzing Disease. Photo by N.A. Harrison.

trunk injections with oxytetracycline (OTC) every 3 months can protect healthy palms and may suppress disease if administered in the very early stages and continued for the life of the tree. However, these treatments can be costly, ranging from \$50 to \$100 per treatment.

The following palms are considered susceptible to LBD.

- Coyal Palm (*Acrocomia aculeata*)
- Christmas Palm (*Adonidia merrillii*)
- Dwarf Sugar Palm (*Arenga engleri*)
- Yagua Palm (*Attalea butyracea*)
- Bismarck Palm (*Bismarckia nobilis*)
- Blue Hesper Palm (*Brahea armata*)
- San Jose Hesper Palm (*Brahea brandegeei*)
- Pindo Palm (*Butia odorata*)
- Carpentaria Palm (*Carpentaria acuminata*)
- Coconut Palm (*Cocos nucifera*)

- Chinese Fan Palm (*Livistona chinensis*)
- Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*)
- Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*)
- Pygmy Date Palm (*Phoenix robellinii*)
- Wild Date Palm (*Phoenix sylvestris*)
- Fiji Fan Palm (*Pritchardia pacifica*)
- Buccaneer Palm (*Pseudophoenix sargentii*)
- Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*)
- Mexican Palmetto (*Sabal Mexicana*)
- Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)
- Queen Palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*)
- Chinese Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*)

Lethal Bronzing Disease poses a significant threat to Louisiana's palm trees, particularly in urban landscapes and natural ecosystems. While there is no cure, early detection and proactive management can help protect palm populations from widespread devastation. Continued research and awareness are essential in combating this deadly disease.

A couple of palms that can grow in Louisiana and are currently considered resistant to LBD are:

- European Fan Palm (*Chamaerops humilis*)
- California Fan Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*)
- Mexican Fan Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*)

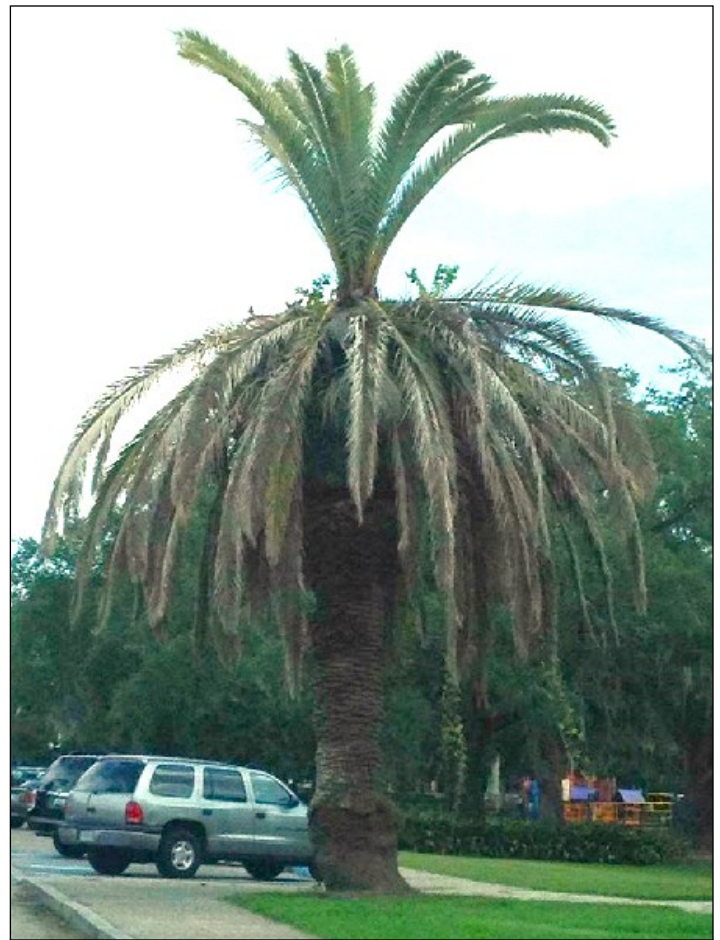


Figure 2: Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) showing classic frond symptoms of Lethal Bronzing Disease. Older lower leaves are drooping and separated from upper younger leaf crown. Photo by Dr. Raj Singh.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis



Chamaerops humilis



Washingtonia filifera



Washingtonia robusta

Figure 3: Three palm species that are currently considered resistant to LBD. Photos by David Gress; Nature Nursery; Acacia Garden Center.

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Pruning - Part 4: Pruning Palms

Palm trees are iconic in tropical and subtropical landscapes and have been a huge part of the Greater New Orleans landscape since the 1950s, but maintaining their health and appearance requires proper pruning. While palms are generally low-maintenance, incorrect pruning can harm the tree and increase risks during storms, especially in hurricane-prone regions like the Gulf Coast and Louisiana. Doing nothing is better than doing something wrong.

Why Prune Palm Trees?

Pruning palm trees serves several purposes:

- Remove dead or dying fronds that can become unsightly or hazardous.
- Remove fruit or flower stalks to reduce litter and pests.
- Improve visibility and aesthetics in landscaped areas.
- Reduce fire hazards in dry climates.

However, palms are not like other trees. Over-pruning can weaken them and make them more vulnerable to disease and storm damage.

How to Prune Properly

1. Use the Right Tools: Sharp pruning shears or a pole saw for small palms; a pruning saw for larger fronds.
2. Remove Only Dead or Dying Fronds: These are typically brown or yellow and hang downward.
3. Do not remove all but a few upright fronds. This weakens the tree and reduces its ability to photosynthesize.
4. Leave Green Fronds Intact: Even if slightly damaged, green fronds still provide energy for the tree.
5. Cut Close to the Trunk: But avoid damaging the trunk. Never pull fronds off by hand.
6. A common guideline is the "9 to 3 o'clock rule," which means only pruning fronds that hang below the horizontal line of the palm's crown.



A Stand of palm trees in New Orleans City Park with healthy crowns. Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

Pruning and Hurricanes

In hurricane-prone areas, it's tempting to over-prune palms to reduce wind resistance. However, research shows that over-pruned palms are more likely to suffer damage during storms.

- Fronds act like sails. A full canopy helps distribute wind forces more evenly. Palm trees are naturally designed to withstand wind and sway in gusts.
- Younger fronds aren't as strong as mature fronds. The delicate crown, or apical meristem, should be protected by mature fronds.
- Over-pruned palms may lose their crownshaft or even snap at the trunk due to unbalanced wind pressure.

- Green fronds are essential for the palm's food supply and overall health.
- Proper pruning - removing only dead or loose fronds, reduces the risk of flying debris without compromising the tree's structure.

Negative Results of Overpruning Palms

- Reduction in the amount of food produced by the leaves, causing the trunk to get skinnier and skinnier as it grows.
- Reduced winter



Chinese fan palm with full crown and green leaves still correctly attached even though some have brown segments. Photo by Joe Willis.



Chinese fan palm with leaf petioles improperly left attached to the tree. Photo by Joe Willis.

hardiness.

- Enhanced nutrient deficiencies.
- Reduced disease resistance.

When to Prune

- Annually or as needed, depending on the species and growth rate.
- Late Spring or early Summer is ideal, just before hurricane season begins.
- Avoid pruning during cold snaps or droughts, as this can stress the tree.
- Remove dead or severely damaged fronds throughout the year.

What to Avoid

- Never "top" a palm, removing the crown kills the tree. Palms

are monocots. Palms have one apical meristem per trunk. When it is gone, so is the palm.

- Don't use climbing spikes; they damage the trunk. Palms are monocots, they have no vascular cambium. Injuries to the trunk never heal and may lead to insect and disease issues.

- Avoid pruning healthy green fronds unless absolutely necessary. Green fronds are the food-producing factories for the tree. Without them, their food source is reduced and they are weakened.

Fruit

Over the summer months, many of our local palm trees will produce fruit. While the fruit are technically dates, they are not edible and can make a mess on the ground and can attract unwanted pests like rats. To avoid this, you can cut the florescence at the top near the crown.

With the recent arrival of palm diseases like Lethal Bronzing and Lethal Yellowing, palms have a hard time flourishing in our area. Don't make it harder by doing a bad job of pruning them.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis

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Severely overpruned Phoenix palm following winter freeze.
Photo by Joe Willis.



A bunch of green queen palm "dates". There can be hundreds of fruit attached to each inflorescence.

Photo by Chris Dunaway



Ripe queen palm "dates" rotting on the ground. Notice the fibrous layer visible in some of the fruit.

Photo by Chris Dunaway

Know Your Natives:

Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*)

A Native Groundcover Gem for Louisiana Landscapes

Phyla nodiflora, commonly known as frogfruit, turkey tangle, or creeping lippia, is a low-growing, mat-forming perennial herb in the verbena family (Verbenaceae). Native to Louisiana and much of the southern United States, it thrives in a wide range of habitats—from roadsides and ditches to beaches and lawns.

- Height: Typically grows to about 4–6 inches tall.
- Leaves: Opposite, oblong to lance-shaped, with slightly toothed margins.
- Flowers: Tiny, tubular, and clustered in dense, cone-like heads. Colors range from white to pink or



Frogfruit growing in a wild mixed population in an abandoned field. Photo by Joe Willis.



Closeup of the beautiful, and easily overlooked, frogfruit flower. Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

lavender, blooming from March to November in Louisiana.

- Growth Habit: Spreads by creeping stems that root at the nodes, forming a dense, weed-suppressing groundcover.

Growing Conditions

Frogfruit is incredibly adaptable and resilient:

- Sunlight: Prefers full sun but tolerates partial shade.
- Soil: Grows in a variety of soil types, including poor, compacted, or sandy soils.
- Moisture: Tolerates both drought and periodic flooding, making it ideal for rain gardens or low-lying areas.
- Hardiness: Semi-evergreen in mild winters and hardy in USDA zones 8–11.

Landscape Uses

Frogfruit is a versatile and eco-friendly choice for sustainable landscaping:

- Groundcover: Excellent alternative to turfgrass in low-traffic areas. It forms a dense mat that helps control erosion and suppress weeds.
- Pollinator Plant: A magnet for bees and butterflies. It serves as a nectar source and a host plant for butterfly species like the Common Buckeye, Phaon Crescent, and White Peacock.
- Erosion Control: Its spreading roots stabilize soil on slopes and in drainage areas.
- Low Maintenance: Requires little mowing or irrigation once established.

Why Choose Frogfruit?

As a native plant, frogfruit supports local ecosystems and biodiversity. It’s a smart choice for gardeners and landscapers looking to reduce water use, attract pollinators, and create a more naturalistic, resilient landscape.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis

Selected References

Phyla nodiflora. 2023. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower



Frogfruit establishing and thriving after transplanting into the lawn. Photo by Joe Willis.



Frogfruit harvested from the wild and establishing in 6” pots. Photo by Dr. Joe Willis

Center [Phyla nodiflora \(Texas frogfruit\) | Native Plants of North America](#)

Phyla nodiflora. USDA NRCS Plant Guide [USDA Plants Database Plant Profile General](#)

Turkey Tangle Frogfruit. 2025. Louisiana Native Plant Society [Turkey Tangle Frogfruit - Louisiana Native Plant Society](#)

Willis, JW. 2022. Weed of the Month: Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*). GNO Gardening October 2022.



[Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans](#)

Look At Me:

Thryallis (*Galphimia gracilis*)

If you're looking for a cheerful, low-maintenance plant that blooms nearly all year, *Galphimia gracilis*—also known as Golden Thryallis or Gold Shower—might be your new garden favorite. Native to Mexico and Central America, this sunny shrub brings a tropical flair to any landscape.

Galphimia gracilis is a medium-sized, evergreen shrub that typically grows 6 to 10 feet tall and wide. It has bright yellow star-shaped flowers that bloom in clusters. These flowers are small (about ½ inch wide) and appear in loose sprays throughout much of the year.

Pollinated flowers produce a small three angled persistent fruit, a schizocarp, containing three seeds.

Its soft green leaves are oval shaped with opposite arrangement, often with tiny glands at the base.

The plant forms a graceful, arching shape that gives it a light, airy feel in the garden.

How to Grow It

This plant is a dream for gardeners who want beauty without the fuss. Here's how to keep it happy:

- **Sunlight:** Loves full sun but can handle some light shade.
- **Soil:** Prefers well-drained, fertile soil. It tolerates a range of pH levels from slightly acidic to neutral (5.6–7.3).
- **Water:** Water regularly at first, then only during dry spells once it's established. It's drought-tolerant once mature.
- **Climate:** Best in USDA zones 9–11.
- **Propagation:** You can grow it from seeds or stem cuttings.
- **Maintenance:** Just a little pruning to shape it and remove old flowers. Watch for spider mites in dry conditions.

Where to Use It in the Garden

Galphimia gracilis is incredibly versatile. Here are



Hedge of thryallis in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens. Photo by Joe Willis.

some great ways to use it:

- Hedges and borders: Its dense foliage makes it perfect for informal hedges.
- Containers: Looks great in pots on patios or balconies.
- Pollinator gardens: Bees and butterflies love it!
- Tropical accents: Adds a splash of color to tropical-themed gardens.

Galphimia gracilis (Thryallis) is generally a hardy and low-maintenance plant, but it can occasionally face issues with pests and diseases. The most common ones to watch for are spider mites, whiteflies, and aphids.

Poor drainage can lead to root rot and long humid periods are favorable for leafspot or powdery mildew.

While Thryallis is not particularly prone to serious infestations or diseases, keeping an eye on plant health and maintaining good garden hygiene will help prevent most problems.

Galphimia gracilis vs. *Galphimia glauca*

Both *Galphimia gracilis* and *Galphimia glauca* are members of the Malpighiaceae family and are commonly referred to



Closeup of the lovely yellow star-shaped flowers of thryallis.
Photo by Dr. Joe Willis.



Galphimia gracilis flowers. Note how the petals de-hisce as the fruit matures (circles). Photo by Dr. Joe Willis.

as Thryallis or Shower-of-Gold. While they share many similarities, they are distinct species with notable differences. The primary difference is that *Galphimia gracilis* has dense clusters of flowers with many open at once and the flower petals fall off as the fruit matures. While in *Galphimia glauca*, the inflorescence has fewer flowers open at one time and the flower petals persist as the fruit matures. In the nursery trade, *Galphimia gracilis* is often mislabeled as *Galphimia glauca*, leading to confusion among gardeners and landscapers.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis

Selected References

Dave's Garden PlantFiles. 2021. *Galphimia gracilis*. PlantFiles: The Largest Plant Identification Reference Guide - Dave's Garden

Missouri Botanical Garden. *Galphimia gracilis* *Galphimia gracilis* - Plant Finder

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Thryallis. Golden Thryallis

University of Florida IFAS Extension. 2024. *Galphimia gracilis*. Thryallis – Gardening Solutions

Lichen

Here is a topic that we get plenty of calls about. Frequently the calls are regarding a declining tree that is covered with green-grey material clinging to the branches. They want to know what this is that is killing their tree and how to kill it. Often times they have already tried various “treatments” on their own. The strange growth that they are describing is called lichen.

Lichens are fascinating organisms. They are composed of two different organisms – a fungal partner and a photosynthetic partner living in a symbiotic relationship. The photosynthetic partner is either a green alga or a cyanobacterium

(bluegreen bacterium). Lichens do not have roots and are not “feeding” on the plant or other surface to which they are attached. Instead, they are epiphytes and get their nutrients and moisture from the air. The algae partner uses the nutrients to produce the food for the organism through photosynthesis while the fungal partner provides the body and shape. Lichens grow successfully in different environments and geographical areas ranging from arctic to desert. They can grow on almost any surface, including roofs and walls of buildings, rocks, trees and even on iron fence

posts as epiphytes. Just take a look around and you will begin to see lichen growing all around you.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Lichen growing on a metal gate in the New Orleans Botanical Gardens

It is easy to see why people would assume that lichen are causing their trees and shrubs to decline. Lichen growth on trees in poor health is dramatically greater than that growing on healthy trees. But instead of the enhanced growth of the lichen causing the plants to decline, it is actually the decline of the tree that is allowing for the enhanced growth. This is because the lichen thrive on the additional sunlight that they receive of trees and shrubs with fewer leaves.

Fertilizing the plants and correcting other

cultural issues, like soil compaction and soil pH, can improve the health of the plants concerned. Healthy crapemyrtle trees have additional tool to remove lichen. As they grow, crapemyrtles will shed the outer layer of bark along with any attached lichen.

Take care of your plants and they will take care of you. Good cultural practices that promote vigorously growing, healthy trees with dense canopies may reduce lichen growth.

~Chris Dunaway

Look at me!

Society garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*)

If you're looking for a plant that thrives in the Louisiana heat, provides seasonal long interest, and can be used in kitchen to flavor foods then you might be interested in growing society garlic in the

home garden. These tough plants are drought-tolerant, edible, and easy to grow, making them an excellent choice for Louisiana gardeners.

Native to South Africa, society garlic, *Tulbaghia violacea*, is a member of the amaryllis family, Amaryllidaceae. Most are familiar with amaryllis bulbs, but this family also contains common garden plants like agapanthus, daffodils, and allium plants like onions, garlic, and chives. They can generally be described as herbaceous

perennials with succulent foliage and flowers typically arranged in umbels at the apex of flowering stems. South Africa is considered a subtropical climate, but due to elevation, they experience a variety of microclimates. This gives society garlic some cold-tolerant traits, and why some consider it "tender perennial" in Louisiana growing conditions.

Society garlic is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 7-10, which encompasses the entire Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area, both north and south shores. It is best grown in areas with good-drainage, high organic matter content, and full all-day sunlight. Established

plants are very drought tolerant but appreciate consistent irrigation. The plants themselves grow 1-2 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide in a clump of green grass-like foliage. Felder Rushing describes the plant's

appearance as a "skinny liriopé" with blue/purplish flowers all summer long. Blue/purple-colored flowers are common but there are selections that display pink flowers as well.

The low growing, clump like growing habit allows many uses of society garlic in the landscape. It provides a low to medium height for tiered gardens. The clean individual clumps allow for their use as a border plant. The garlic fragrance may not be ideal for every gardener, but it should keep the deer away as society garlic is listed



Society garlic makes for an excellent plant choice for containers in sunny areas

as a deer resistant plant.

I think the best use of society garlic is in full sun containers. Anyone walking down Columbia St in Covington, LA during one of the city's block party events have seen society garlic growing in street planters placed throughout the downtown area. I can recall several occasions sitting at a red light, hearing my truck's air conditioner struggle, only to look over at the society garlic plants living their best life. That sold it for me!

Most of the society garlic plants that I see at local garden centers are the common type with green foliage

and blue/purple flowers. However, when you start researching, there are a few different cultivars available in the trade. 'Silver Lace' and 'Variegata' produce variegated foliage reminiscent of Aztec grass. The cultivar, 'Tricolor', produces pink/lilac flowers and blue-grey foliage with new leaves coming out with a slight pink tinge.

Lastly, society garlic is an edible plant and can be used as a substitute for garlic flavor in cooking. In fact, the name, society garlic, originated from the plant's garlic-like aroma but no lingering odor causing bad breath. Hence, it being suitable for consumption at social gatherings. The leaves do have an onion or garlic aroma and mild taste. Most people harvest fresh leaves, chop them, and use like they would chives in cooking.

Whether you are a seasoned gardener or just getting started in your gardening hobby, society garlic is an easy to grow plant that will perform all summer long. It's tough, versatile, beautiful and useful. What more could you ask for in a garden plant?

~Will Afton

References:

Cathey, H.M. and L. Bellamy. 1998. Heat-zone gardening. Time-Life books. Alexandria, Va.

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NC State. "Tulbaghia Violacea." Tulbaghia Violacea (Society Garlic). North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox. plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/tulbaghia-violacea/. Accessed 30 June 2025.

Rushing, F. 2003. Tough plants for southern gardens. Cool Springs Press. Nashville, TN.



Due to its small, compact size, society garlic can be used in tight spaces



The leaves of a variegated society garlic plant.

Summer of Sickly Pines

I saw the first few symptoms, over by the parish line. Noticed that some trees were dead, it was the summer of sickly pines.

Me and some guys on the crew had a stand and we tried real hard (to figure out what was wrong with the trees). While trimming it, we noticed the root flare was buried. Should've known that tree wouldn't last long. Root rot is a common issue in poorly drained, overwatered, or compacted soils, and can lead to yellowing needles, a thinning canopy, and ultimately, death of the tree. Installing trees too deep in the soil or piling soil/mulch against the trunk can make these issues worse.

But when I look back now, that summer seemed to last forever with how many other struggling pine trees we observed. Brown Spot Needle Blight causes brown spots and yellow halos to appear on needles before prematurely dropping. This often occurs during springtime periods of warm, humid weather. If necessary, a fungicide application during spring (with follow-up applications) may help quell concerns. Bordeaux mixture, chlorothalonil, or a maneb fungicide may work for valued landscape pines. "Those were the best sprays of my life", is what pine-loving pesticide professionals would likely suggest. Ain't no use in complaining when you got a job to do. Sometimes chemical control is not the answer, and physically removing infected saplings is the best way to proceed. Fusiform rust occurs in mixed pine/oak stands, particularly during humid weather. The enlarged galls on the branches and trunk of infected pines detract from the landscape. Remove and replacing with resistant varieties may be your best bet

to avoid future fusiform issues.

Man, it was killing pines. Some were young and wrecked, but even mature pines suffered. Diplodia Tip Blight is common in older pines, particularly



Photo by Travis Cleveland,
University of Illinois

Pine needles infected with brown spot needle blight. The spots are fruiting bodies which produce spores to infect other plants.

those that suffer from drought or storm damage. I guess nothing can last forever, but you can delay the pine's demise by pruning dead, diseased, or damaged branches when the weather is dry. Maintaining sanitized tools whenever pruning and applying fungicide (if necessary) at bud break can manage this disease.

And as the seasons keep changing, looking at all the pines that have come and gone. Sometime if you look up a pine sickness, you'll think about this article and this Bryan Adams song. So, when you're standing on your Mama's porch and the forecast calls for nasty weather, you'll think back to the "summer of sickly pines" to assess disease issues.

~Dr. Damon Abdi and Whitney Wallace

In the Kitchen with Austin

Cucumber and Tomato Salad

If there is a recipe that screams summertime, it is this one.

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cucumber, quartered and sliced | 2 Tbsp. olive oil |
| 2 tomatoes, quartered and halved | 1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar |
| ½ small red onion, sliced | Salt & Pepper, to taste |
| 1 Tbsp. fresh herb of your choice | |



Directions:

1. Place the first four ingredients in a large salad bowl.
2. In a small jar, add olive oil, vinegar, and salt & pepper. Cover and shake well to combine.
3. Pour vinaigrette over cucumber mixture and toss to combine.
4. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes before serving.



Roasted Bell Peppers

This dish is a great side for anything grilled, or it can be enjoyed on slices of toasted bread as an afternoon snack.

Ingredients:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 bell peppers (mixed colors) | ½ tsp. Dijon mustard |
| 2 green onions, trimmed and sliced | 1 clove garlic, sliced |
| 4 Tbs. olive oil (divided) | Squirt of honey |
| 2 Tbs. red wine vinegar | Salt & Pepper, to taste |



A Bowl of Roasted Red Peppers

Directions:

Cut peppers in quarters. Remove seeds and membranes. Drizzle with 1 Tbs. olive oil and roast at 350° for about 25 minutes, skin side down.

While peppers are roasting, place vinegar, mustard, garlic, and honey in a small jar. Mix with a fork to combine. Add 3 Tbs. olive oil and salt and pepper to jar. Close lid tightly and shake dressing well to combine.

Take peppers out of the oven and remove their skins. Place them in a large bowl. Add green onions and toss using dressing. Let peppers sit for 15 minutes before serving.

Bien Manger

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.planteryola.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

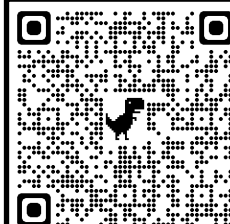
St. Tammany

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

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July Checklist/Garden Tips

Sharpen your lawn mower blades. They have generally gotten dull by this time of the year.

Fine, silvery webbing appearing on the bark of area trees is completely harmless. The webbing is produced by tiny scavenging insects called bark lice.

Cut back perennials in the garden when they finish flowering and the foliage begins to look tired.

Keep caladiums well watered during hot, dry weather to keep the foliage in good shape through the summer. You may apply a fertilizer now to encourage vigorous growth. Break off any flowers that form.

Remember to harvest herbs such as mints, basil, rosemary, lemon balm and Mexican tarragon regularly to keep the plants shapely and under control. Some herbs such as thyme, sage and lavender tolerate heat and rain poorly and may not be doing well now as a result.

Keep up with weeding. This time of year weeds can get out of hand very fast. Use mulches wherever possible. If you need help with herbicide recommendations, contact your local LSU AgCenter Extension office.

Container plants should not be placed directly onto wooden decks. The moisture underneath can damage the wood (saucers do the same thing). Boost pots off of the surface an inch or two with pieces of brick, small blocks of wood or special terra-cotta pot supports available at some local nurseries and garden shops.

Keep old flowers cut off roses. Trim back to the first five leaflet leaf. Spray weekly with a combination insecticide/fungicide product labeled for roses if the types you grow are susceptible to black spot.

Pinch out the terminal growth of chrysanthemums during July. This encourages branching and more compact plants for fall blooming.

For late summer color, continue to plant heat tolerant bedding plants. Excellent choices for sunny areas include torenia, periwinkle, melampodium, salvia, scaevola, purslane, pentas, blue daze, narrow leaf zinnia, lantana and verbena, Purple Homestead. In part shade plant caladium, impatiens, begonia, torenia and coleus.

A long growing season and rapid growth often leads to over-grown beds this time of year. Feel free to trim bedding plants and tropicals to keep them under control. Stake or otherwise support plants that need it.

Keep old flowers cut off roses. Trim back to the first five leaflet leaf. Spray weekly with a combination insecticide/fungicide product labeled for roses if the types you grow are susceptible to black spot.

Numerous bedding plants such as impatiens, begonias, salvias and geraniums may look a little stressed now. Blame the heat, both day and night. Many bedding plants (especially the tender perennials we grow as annuals) can be cut back in August. They will revive as the weather cools and provide color until November or longer.

Keep old flowers cut off roses. Trim back to the first five leaflet leaf. Spray weekly with a combination insecticide/fungicide product labeled for roses if the types you grow are susceptible to black spot.

Pinch out the terminal growth of chrysanthemums during July. This encourages branching and more compact plants for fall blooming.

If you need to cut back your hydrangeas or gardenias, do so by the end of this month. If you need to cut back your hydrangeas, do so by early July. Flower buds are set in late July and August. When pruning hydrangeas, cut off faded flower heads with stems long enough to shape and control the size of the bush. Cut back excessively tall vegetative (leafy) shoots if necessary, but generally leave the vegetative shoots alone. They will produce flowers next year.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. This is the last month to lay sod for Centipede, Zoyia, or St. Augustine grasses. Bermudagrass may be installed through August. Seeding of Centipede may be done this month but is not recommended.
2. 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.
3. Chinch bugs are historically active this month so keep scouting for damage and apply treatment if chinch bugs are detected.
4. 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.
5. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Spread fill soil and compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.

Don't's

1. Do not apply selective herbicides with heat restrictions to the lawn.
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.

LOUISIANA HOME LAWN SERIES
A guide to maintaining a healthy Louisiana lawn


Southern chinch bug

Description
The southern chinch bug, *Blissus insularis* Barber (Hemiptera: Blissidae), is a common insect pest in turfgrass throughout Louisiana. These insects favor thick thatch, full sun exposure and hot, dry weather. They are primarily a problem in St. Augustine grass but can injure other turfgrass species. Both nymph and adult chinch bugs injure turfgrass by sucking sap from grass stems and stolons, causing turfgrass to turn yellow-brown and eventually die. Turfgrass injury most commonly occurs in the summer when weather conditions are most favorable.

Identification
In Louisiana, the southern chinch bug can complete three to four generations a year. Females begin laying eggs in late winter, with new generations appearing the following summer and fall. Depending on the temperature, an egg can mature into an adult within five to 13 weeks. Chinch bug nymphs, the adolescent stage, are black to orange in color and have a white band on the back of the body. Adults are about the size of an ant, or one-half of a centimeter. They have black bodies with white wings that form an X shape across the abdomen.



Figure 1. Chinch bug nymph

Figure 2. Chinch bug adult

Figure 3. Chinch bug turfgrass injury

Indicators of Insect Presence
Nymphs and adults cause injury by sucking sap from stems and stolons.
— Injury causes grass to turn yellow, then brown and eventually die.
— Injury occurs in scattered patches that can merge together into one large dead area.
Adults can spread to new areas by crawling or flying.
Most injury occurs in hot, dry conditions in mid-to-late summer.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

■ Injury common ■ Injury occasional ■ Injury rare

The LSU AgCenter Louisiana Home Lawn Series publication on Southern Chinch bugs. The publication has information on identification and treatment options. [To see the publication click here or go to: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/3/b/0/5/3b055b020a2dea5e457ff74afe70121b/p3624r_lahomelawnsouthernchinchbugpdf.pdf](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/3/b/0/5/3b055b020a2dea5e457ff74afe70121b/p3624r_lahomelawnsouthernchinchbugpdf.pdf).

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