



March 2018

Passionate About Plants & Community Service? The Master Gardener Program Wants You!

Gardeners with green thumbs are no stranger to answering questions from friends, family, and neighbors about what to do with ailing shrubs, wilted flowers, or under producing veggies. Maybe you save and share seeds?

Have a large community garden? Constantly give plants away to everyone who visits? If you are passionate about all things plants, becoming a Louisiana Master Gardener may be the next step towards furthering your horticultural skills and sharing that enthusiasm and knowledge with the larger community.



Louisiana Master Gardeners help LSU AgCenter agent Anna Timmerman in the demonstration garden at LaSalle Park located in Jefferson Parish. The garden is open on Wednesdays from 8 am to 10 am. Groups may schedule visits outside of normal hours by contacting us at gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu.

The Louisiana Master Gardener program began in 1997 and is available statewide through the parish LSU AgCenter offices. Through the program, students of all ages and backgrounds complete twelve weeks of classes that cover everything from botany to soil science, plant propagation, safe pesticide use, fruit and vegetable production, entomology, and organic gardening. Students work from a printed manual while also listening to lectures by LSU specialists in their respective

fields, as well as take part in hands-on training activities. A final exam and project complete the class work. The New Orleans based Louisiana Master Gardener training takes place in the summer at the Gar-

den Study Center in the New Orleans Botanical Garden. Using the gardens as a teaching space, students become intimately familiar with the gardens and their inhabitants.

Once trained, students must complete an additional eight hours of garden related education, which can include workshops, lectures, garden tours, or classes offered through the

many garden clubs and organizations in the area. In addition, candidates must finish forty hours of horticultural community service, which can take many forms. Current Master Gardeners work across the city on educational garden projects, events, and school gardens. Some favorite volunteer opportunities include many community garden projects, public butterfly and pollinator gardens, events like the Spring Garden Show and AgMagic on the River (Continued)

March Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety	Planting Depth	Spacing Inches	Days Until Harvest * from transplant date
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna	¼ inch	18-24	80-85
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Vates	⅝ inch	6-12	75
Cucumbers	Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Indy, Olympian, Sweet Success, Sweet Slice	¼ inch	12-18	50-65
Cucuzzi	None Given	½ inch	24	65
Eggplant	Dusky, Night Shadow, Epic, Santana, Calliope	⅝ inch	18-24	80-85
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner	⅝ inch	6	55-75
Lima Beans (bush or pole)	Dixie Butterpea, Jackson Wonder, Thorogreen Florida Speckled, King of Garden	½ inch	3-4 (bush) 12 (pole)	60-67 (bush) 77-90 (pole)
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless	½ inch	12	60
Peppers, Bell (transplants)	Aristotle X3R, Jupiter, Lilac, Plato, Tequila	-	15-18	70-80
Peppers, Hot (transplant)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla,	-	--	140
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer	½ inch	36-60	90-120
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross	⅝ inch	1	22-28
Snap Beans (bush or pole)	Bush-Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Derby, Lynx, Strike Pole-Blue Lake, Kentucky Blue, McCaslin	½ inch	2-3 (bush) 12 (pole)	48-55 (bush) 60-66 (pole)
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus	½ inch	4-6	70-80
Summer Squash	Gold Rush, Justice III, Multipik, Patriot II	⅝ inch	36	50-90
Sweet Corn	Merit, Silver Queen, Honey 'n Pearl, Ambrosia	½ inch	10-12	69-92
Swiss Chard	None Given	¼ inch	6-8	45-55
Tomato (transplant)	Better Boy, Big Beef, Cupid, Pink Girl, Juliet, Sweet Milton, Bella Rosa, Carolina Gold	-	--	100-115
Winter Squash	Honey Bear, Sweet Mama, Table Queen, Tivoli	½ inch	18-24	100

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(Continued)

school field trips, and several demonstration and research gardens in New Orleans City Park.

Through taking the class and volunteering, many Master Gardeners develop friendships from a shared love of gardening. Once becoming a certified Louisiana Master Gardener, twenty hours of yearly service as well as six hours of continuing education are needed to remain in the program. Through additional training and outreach, Louisiana Master Gardeners become more professional and confident in their gardening abilities, serving as an extension of the LSU AgCenter's mission to serve the public and provide research-based educational information about all things plants.

Applications for the 2018 Master Gardener training course will be going out in early March. We encourage everyone from all backgrounds with a passion for plants to apply. To receive an application, please email GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu. If chosen, students will need to pay a class fee as well as have access to an internet-capable device such as a laptop, tablet, or smart phone.

For more information on the Master Gardener program as well as gardening information, please visit www.lsuagcenter.com. You can have all of your garden questions answered by emailing them to GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu. Please include a description of the issue along with good quality in focus photo help identify the problem.

~Anna Timmerman

What the Flip is Going On?

The 2018 Greater New Orleans Master Gardener course will be the first of it's kind in Louisiana. We will be piloting the "flipped classroom" instructional strategy. The flipped classroom is an educational approach that reverses the traditional classroom model. The instructional (lecture) part of the course that is traditionally done in the classroom will be delivered outside the classroom online. Activities that might normally be considered homework are moved into the classroom.

Each week students will be given online access to two 3-hour lectures by LSU specialists on chapters from the master gardener manual. Students have the freedom to view the lectures at their own pace at their own time of choosing. There will also be online quizzes for each lecture. Students will be allowed one week to view the lectures and take the quizzes. A weekly classroom time will follow during which any questions about the material will be discussed and any concepts that aren't fully understood will be clarified. But the major portion of the classroom time will be hands-on activities or labs that make the material covered in the lectures practical. For example, in the lab following the lecture on "Plant Propagation" students will perform the various methods of plant propagation – and of course get to keep their work. The weekly labs will also be a time when students get to meet each other and form those class bonds that are such a treasured element to the Master Gardeners.

The hope is that this approach will open the Master Gardener program to people who do not have the freedom to meet for three hours twice a week during the day for seven weeks because of job or family commitments. The weekly labs are mandatory and students can only miss one lab during the program and successfully complete the course. The final lab meeting will consist of the student oral presentations and class celebration.

2018 promises to be an exciting time for the Louisiana Master Gardener program as we "boldly go where no one has gone before".

~Dr. Joe Willis

Let it Rot! Composting Manure and Other Stuff Correctly Takes Time

Composting using kitchen scraps and manure can be a great way to build your own garden soil and return nutrients to the earth. Building a composting system can be as easy as piling material in an unused corner of the yard to buying a fancy plastic compost tumbler from a garden center. Regardless of what form your composter takes, it is going to need to be flipped, agitated, or shifted around to keep the compost process going.



This compost bin was made from recovered used fence boards. Use treated wood otherwise your bin will turn to compost along with the added ingredients.

Compost is formed when microorganisms consume organic material and convert it to usable nutrients. The key components are air, water, and the little critters themselves. These can include earthworms, insects, bacteria, fungi, and tiny crustaceans like pill bugs (which are not actually insects at all!). Nutrients are also necessary but they should be available in the plant material being composted. Compost piles should include more carbon sources than nitrogen sources, in a ratio of roughly 30:1. Carbon sources can include leaves, dry grass clippings, hay, twigs, cardboard, shredded wood, and other “brown” material. Nitrogen sources are the “green” material, and need to be added at a much lower rate. This includes kitchen scraps, green garden trimmings, fresh grass clippings, and manures. Layer the two types of materials so that they can eventually be thoroughly and evenly incorporated together within the pile.

Flipping or turning the compost pile should be done weekly, this adds in fresh air and gives the bacteria and other creatures access to fresh materials. Compost piles sometimes need to be watered or the creatures will dry out and cease working, piles should be moist but not wet. If you can squeeze out liquid from a handful of your pile, it is too wet. If everything seems brittle or dry, sprinkle it down. Stinky piles need more carbon added, keep some leaves or other brown material on hand to balance things out if needed. If everything is cooking along correctly, the pile will smell earthy.

Knowing when the compost pile is ready to harvest can be tricky. A good guideline is that if you can still tell what the material was in its former life, it needs more time. Food scraps, twigs, manure and any other materials should no longer look (or smell) like those things. Dark crumbly, cake crumb like textures are desirable. Big chunks, not so much. Sifting the pile through a screen made from simple hardware cloth can help to speed things up, any materials that are not completely broken down can be sifted out and used to build the new pile. The finished compost can be sifted into a wheelbarrow or other container and used. In general, a well maintained and flipped pile works quickly, and you can harvest finished compost in a matter of months.

Manure-based piles can be a bit more work and time. A lot of the local horse and mule stables in the area offer free manure and bedding to gardeners. Other manures may be available, but these are the most common in the New Orleans area. Fresh horse and mule manure contains 0.38 pounds of nitrogen (N), 0.05 pounds of phosphorus (P), and 0.19 pounds of Potassium (K) per pound of manure. A 1,000 pound horse will create fifty

Flipping or turning the compost pile should be done weekly, this adds in fresh air and gives the bacteria and other creatures access to fresh materials. Compost piles some-



Aeration tools can help introduce oxygen into the compost without having to turn the whole pile.

Upcoming Events

2018 Spring Garden Show



Saturday, April 7, 9am to 5pm

Sunday, April 8, 10am to 4pm



Now accepting vendor registrations.

**To register for a sales or educational booth at the show send us an e-mail to
GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu**

PLANT SALES



**NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

March 10

Rose Sale–Pelican Greenhouse

9am - Noon

Spring Garden Show

April 7, 9am – 5pm

April 8, 10am - 4pm

May 12

Pelican Greenhouse

9am – Noon

June 9

Pelican Greenhouse

9am - Noon

July 14

Pelican Greenhouse

9am - Noon

August 11

Pelican Greenhouse

9am - Noon

September 8

Pelican Greenhouse

9am – Noon

Fall Garden Festival

October 6, 10am – 5pm

October 7, 10am - 4pm

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

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

Let it Rot! Composting Manure and Other Stuff Correctly Takes Time

pounds of manure every day, adding up to nine tons per year! This is a nutritional gold mine for gardeners looking to add to their soil's fertility.

Horse and mule manure often comes with bedding mixed in, usually shavings or straw. You'll need to add 15 inches of leaves or other brown materials to every inch of horse manure if you are to compost it properly. By doing this, you'll make usable compost in a few months. Adding just manure to gardens is a bit trickier, fresh manure can burn plants and throw soil nutrition out of whack. Age the manure by piling it up for a year. From time to time, flip it. Aging manure is still composting, just much slower. By adding other brown materials and flipping the pile, you can reduce this time to three months or less. If you can still see "road apples" in your manure pile, it's not done yet. Use the finished, aged manure as a mulch around your plants or incorporate it into the soil.



Just in case you didn't know what "road apples" are.

Herbicide carryover is a risk when using manures, since pastures and hay fields may be treated for weeds. Residual herbicides can cause seeds to not germinate, kill young plants, and twist or elongate the leaves of older plants. Fruits can be misshapen and yields of edible plants reduced. Before picking up manure to compost, ask the horse or mule owners about their hay and pasture situations and if any herbicides were used. These chemicals can persist for long periods of time. Eventually, these compounds break down, but it takes time and can do a lot of damage to existing crops.

Give your compost pile the time and materials that it needs to finish correctly. Check the moisture, check the carbon to nitrogen ratio, flip it weekly, and let things break down into good, earthy crumbles before adding it to your soil. Good compost takes time, but the rewards are too good to pass up!

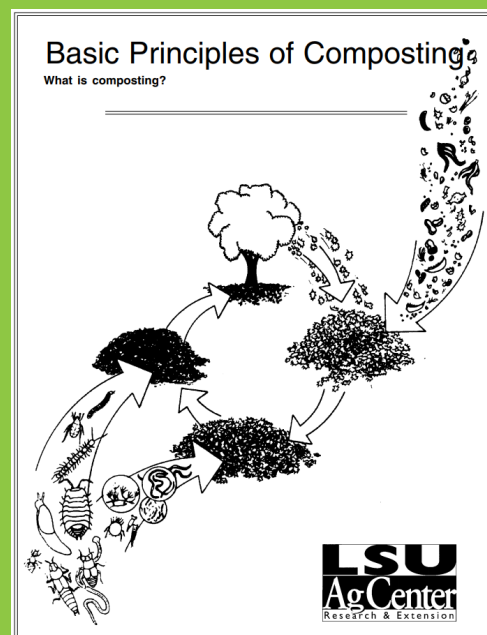
~Anna Timmerman

For more information on composting from the LSU AgCenter consult these publications.



- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>Troubleshooting Your Compost Pile</u> | <u>Composting Mulch</u> |
| <u>Cinder Block Bin</u> | <u>Wire Mesh Bin</u> |
| <u>Cinder Block Multiple Bin</u> | <u>Wooden Box Bin</u> |
| <u>Compost Mound</u> | <u>Worm Composting Bin</u> |
| <u>Wood and Wire Three-Bin Turning Unit</u> | <u>Garbage Can Composter</u> |

Click on the links to open the publications



Upcoming Events

LSU AgCenter Extension Agent Anna Timmerman will be presenting an educational program on

The Benefits of Composting

Location: Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Library - 4747 West Napoleon Avenue, Metairie

Date: March 6, 2018

Time: 3 PM to 5 PM

Click on the following link for more information:

[Event Information](#)



Birdhouse Exhibit and Fundraiser

The New Orleans Botanical Garden would like to invite you to participate in our birdhouse exhibit, **Home Tweet Home**.

We are looking for creative, whimsical, and architectural birdhouses to display in the Garden. The exhibit will run April 4th through April 30th and will include a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the New Orleans Botanical Garden future exhibits.

Birds Need Homes Too!



Entry forms are available online at

<http://neworleanscitypark.com/botanical-garden/home-tweet-home>

For Further information call 504.483.9473 or email scapley@nocp.org



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NEW ORLEANS
BOTANICAL GARDEN
FOUNDATION



Upcoming Events

MARGIE JENKINS AZALEA GARDEN

LECTURE SERIES

&

INDUSTRY OPEN HOUSE

Thursday April 5, 2018

9 am until 2 pm

LSU AgCenter

Hammond Research Station

21549 Old Covington Hwy

Hammond, LA



Speakers

Mrs. Margie will welcome everyone in a video interview

Dr. Neil Odenwald – Professor Emeritus and
Landscape Architect, LSU Robert Reich
School of Landscape Architecture

Mrs. Dana Brown – Landscape Architect and
Principle, Dana Brown & Associates

Sun Garden Tour

Cool-season Annuals and Perennials

Optional Tour (After Lunch)

Olive Trees/Tea Bushes

Complimentary Lunch Served

No Registration Fee/RSVP Preferred at the link below

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/margie-jenkins-azalea-garden-lecture-series-and-industry-open-housetickets-43576892659>

For additional information or questions, contact:

Yan Chen yachen@agcenter.lsu.edu or 985-543-4125)



Upcoming Events

A poster for the 2018 Annual Tree & Plant Sale. The title is in a teal oval at the top. Below it, the date and time are listed. Logos for Parkway Partners and the City of New Orleans are on the left. The location is in the center. A note about bringing your own wagons is on the right. A bottom orange box contains a reminder about caterpillar spraying.

**2018 ANNUAL
TREE & PLANT SALE**


PARKWAY PARTNERS


CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10
8 AM - NOON**

WHERE:
NEW ORLEANS DEPT.
OF PARKS AND PARKWAYS
2829 GENTILLY BLVD.
Behind Dillard University,
down Warrington Drive

B.Y.O.W.
(Bring Your Own
Wagons!)

Psst...
Signed Up For Buckmoth Caterpillar Spraying Yet?
DEADLINE: MARCH 31
Visit parkwaypartnersnola.org or call 620.2224.

A collaboration between **Parkway Partners** and the **City of New Orleans Department of Parks and Parkways**, the Annual Tree and Plant Sale is also a special educational effort for home gardeners.

Department of Parks and Parkways staff — urban foresters, landscape architects and horticulturists — will be on hand to guide you through your tree and plant selections. Bring your questions and photos of your gardening challenges.

Louisiana Iris Day

The Greater New Orleans Iris Society is hosting the Louisiana Iris Day in the Wild Garden at

Longue Vue House and Gardens

April 5th, 4 PM until 7 PM

7 Bamboo Rd, New Orleans, Louisiana

The garden is one of the few places in the New Orleans area where you can see an extensive collection of Louisiana iris cultivars in bloom. The Wild Garden will be open and free to the public for the event, thanks to the sponsorship of the GNOIS.



Upcoming Events

Date/Time	Event	Cost	For More Info
March 1st 3-7 pm	Farmer's Market, Plants, Food and Fun @ Delgado GrowthWorks	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/414240902352218/
March 3rd 9:30 am	Seedlings! Class for kids aged 6-10 @ Longue Vue House and Gardens	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/141062493222863/
March 3rd 9:00 am	Rose Tour @ Armstrong Park	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/928195574003632/
March 3rd 9:30 am	Community Tree Planting in Algiers @ SOUL NOLA	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/164405594170693/
March 6th 3-4 pm	The Benefits of Composting @ Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Library	Free	http://la.evanced.info/jefferson/lib/eventcalendar.asp
March 7th 7-8:30 pm	Louisiana Irises @ Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Library	Free	http://la.evanced.info/jefferson/lib/eventcalendar.asp
March 10th 12-1:30 pm	Veggie Growing Basics @ Southbound Gardens	\$15	https://www.facebook.com/events/193094914783641/
March 10th 9-11 am	Spring Gardening Workshop @ 5326 N Galvez St., New Orleans LA	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/1790429857682724/
March 10th 9 am—12 pm	Pelican Greenhouse Rose and Plant Sale @ New Orleans City Park	Free	http://neworleanscitypark.com/events/pelican-greenhouse-plant-sales
March 10th 1 pm	Butterfly Garden Spruce Up @ LaSalle Landing in Kenner	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/1755558077800218/
March 10th 8 am—12 pm	Annual Tree and Plant Sale @ Parkway Partners / New Orleans Department of Parks and Parkways	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/1774660225932844/
March 10th 9 am-12 pm	Cleanup and Planting Day @ Lafayette Square Conservancy	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/2002997800025107/
March 10th 12:30-2 pm	Grafting Vegetables @ The New Orleans Botanical Garden	\$15	https://www.facebook.com/events/1414820035313759/
March 24th 10 am— 1 pm	Spring Plant Sale @ Press Street Gardens	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/1957010934626050/
March 24th 2-3:30 pm	Trees of the Greenway Walking Tour @ SOUL NOLA	Free	https://www.facebook.com/events/163063104459907/
March 24th 12-2 pm	Mushroom Growing with Shiitake @ Southbound Gardens (Location TBD)	\$60	https://www.facebook.com/events/2006356692951556/
March 31st 12– 1:30 pm	Raising Urban Chickens @ Southbound Gardens (Location TBD)	\$15	https://www.facebook.com/events/350277412128573/

To have your garden-related event added to future calendars, please email atimmerman@agcenter.lsu.edu.

March Checklist/Garden Tips

Established perennials should be fertilized this month. This is most efficiently and economically done by using a granular fertilizer with about a 3:1:2 ratio (such as 15-5-10) scattered evenly through the bed following package directions. After the fertilizer is applied, water the bed by hand to wash any fertilizer granules off the foliage and down to the soil.

Now is a good time to sharpen your mower blades.

Thoroughly water new plantings once or twice a week as needed, especially those in full sun.

Thrips are a common problem on roses in spring and early summer. Thrips are tiny insects that infest the flowers buds, and are always worst on the spring and early summer flowers. Symptoms include buds that do not open properly, and when the flowers do open the petals have brown, scorched edges. Thrips do not damage the bush, but it is heartbreaking to see the flowers ruined. Spray once or twice a week with Acephate or Mavrik for control during the early summer blooming season.

Powdery mildew, a fungus disease that attacks a wide variety of plants, can begin to show up this month. The disease appears as a white, powdery spot or area on foliage or flower buds. This disease can damage the foliage and cause flower buds to abort. Control with chlorothalonil or other labeled fungicides.

Finish up planting trees and shrubs into the landscape by the end of this month.

Treat tulips as annuals and remove the whole plant when they finish flowering since they will not bloom again next year. Chop up the foliage and bulbs and add them to your compost pile.

Continue to plant roses purchased in containers. Bare root roses available at various places, like hardware stores, garden departments of chain stores and supermarkets, should have been planted last month. If you see the bare root bushes have begun to sprout, they are not your best choice for a quality plant.

Plant summer flowering bulbs into the garden beginning in late March. Don't be alarmed if they don't take off and grow rapidly right away. Most of these bulbs are tropical and will wait until April or even early May to make vigorous growth. Wait until April to plant caladiums.

Check your oak trees regularly (use binoculars) for masses of young, black buckmoth caterpillars, and consider having your tree sprayed if you see large numbers. You will likely need to have your tree sprayed if you saw large numbers of these stinging caterpillars last year.

It should be safe to plant tender bedding plants such as: Marigolds, zinnias, blue daze, pentas, celosia, salvia, portulaca, purslane, melampodium and others in South Louisiana.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

E-mail us at: GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu



Follow us on Facebook at [GNOGardening](https://www.facebook.com/GNOGardening)

For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

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To subscribe to this newsletter please send a request to GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

GNO Gardening newsletter is designed and edited by Chris Dunaway.