

Veggie Bytes

Fall Edition

Aug 2018–Oct 2018

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Monarch Madness

Students at Northwestern Elementary Lab School in Natchitoches, LA learned about monarch butterfly migration and how important it is to incorporate butterfly waystations in the garden. A waystation is a place where butterflies can safely rest and refuel before continuing their migration. Did you know that monarchs travel over 2,000 miles on their migration routes? On May 11th, students at Northwestern Elementary Lab School celebrated the monarch butterfly by composing and performing songs and giving guided tours around the garden. The students had an existing garden and choose to expand by building a waystation to encourage butterflies and other



pollinators to visit. Students also learned how essential milkweed (*Asclepias* spp) is to a monarch's life. Milkweed is the only plant that monarch caterpillars eat and the adults lay eggs in milkweed alone.



What's Growing!

August

Directly Place Seed into the Garden

Snap, lima, and butter beans, beets, collard greens, cucumbers, lettuce, mustard greens, okra, shallots, and turnips

Start Seeds in Classroom

Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and Chinese cabbage

Transplant into the Garden

Cauliflower and tomatoes

September

Directly Place Seed into the Garden

Beets, broccoli, cauliflower (early in the month), carrots, collards, English and snow peas, kale, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mustard, onion, radish, snap beans, Swiss chard, and turnips

Start Seeds in Classroom

Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and Chinese cabbage

Transplant into the Garden

Broccoli, cauliflower, and shallots (bulbs)

October

Directly Place Seed into the Garden

Beets, carrots, celery, collards, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, leeks, mustards, onions, parsnips, radishes, Swiss chard

Start Seeds in Classroom

Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage

Transplant into the Garden

Broccoli, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, garlic (toes), shallots (bulbs)

How to Grow Brussels Sprouts

Start Brussels from seed at the end of August. Fill trays with a germinating mix then plant seeds. Remember to only plant seeds 2-3 times as deep as the seeds are wide. Keep the media evenly wet and place trays in full sunlight. Once the Brussels have reached transplant size (about 3 inches tall), transplant them into the garden in a full sun location. Space each plant 18 inches apart.

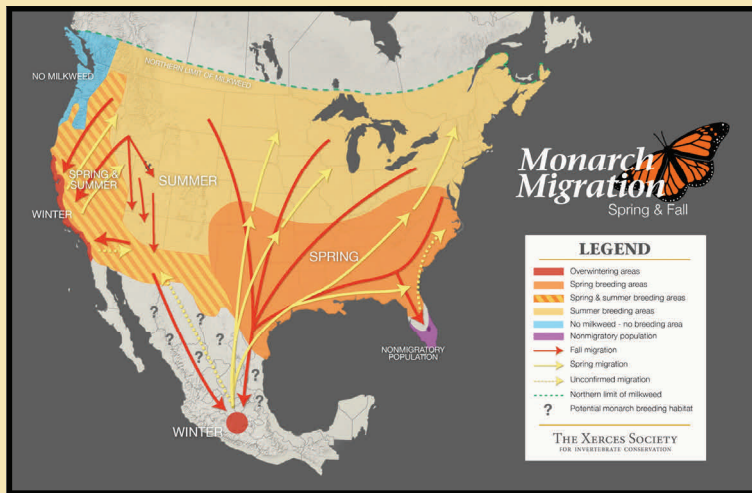
Watch out for worms on your Brussels. They love to eat the tender new foliage emerging from the top of the plant. Hand pick the worms off, or if there is a severe infestation, dust the plants with Dipel dust or spray with an insecticide containing Bt.

As the sprouts grow, continue to keep them evenly moist and apply a water soluble fertilizer once a week.

Brussels will continue to grow all fall and will be ready for harvest in January or February. Most mature Brussels sprouts will be about the size your thumb end. Look for varieties Jade Cross, Hestia, Dagan, Franklin, or Cobus.



Make a Waystation in your Garden



Monarchs don't like cold weather, so every fall they migrate south to Mexico to over winter and then fly back in spring. Monarch butterflies need rest stops along their migration routes, that's why its important to have a waystation in your garden. Milkweed is the backbone of a monarch waystation because it's a host plant for monarch eggs and caterpillars

(pictured below). Listed below are other nectar plants useful to all adult butterflies.

Nectar plants:

Milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*)

Zinnia (*Zinnia spp.*)

Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)

**Purple Coneflower
(*Echinacea purpurea*)**

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)

Bottlebrush (*Callistemon spp.*)

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Penta (*Pentas lanceolate*)



LSU AgCenter Summer Nature Camp



Summer Nature Camp hosted June 25-29, 2018 was a success! This was the first summer camp held at LSU AgCenter Botanic Garden at Burden at 4560 Essen Ln Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Approximately 40 students attended this half day camp. The main goal was to introduce campers to nature through a series of hands on activities. Campers learned how to climb trees from an arborist, build blue bird houses, make fishing poles and fish with live worms, dissect fish, distinguish venomous from non-venomous snakes, fly like a bird on a zip line and so much more.

The summer camp was organized by Kiki Fontenot and there were 4 camp counselors: Conan Escajeda, Jesse Pierce, Rodney Purdey, and Kaylie Strahan. Camp was limited to students entering second to fifth grades and cost \$60 for the week, snack included. The LSU AgCenter hopes to host this camp again in the 2019 summer. Announcements will be made in Veggie Bytes about dates, locations and costs closer to next summer.

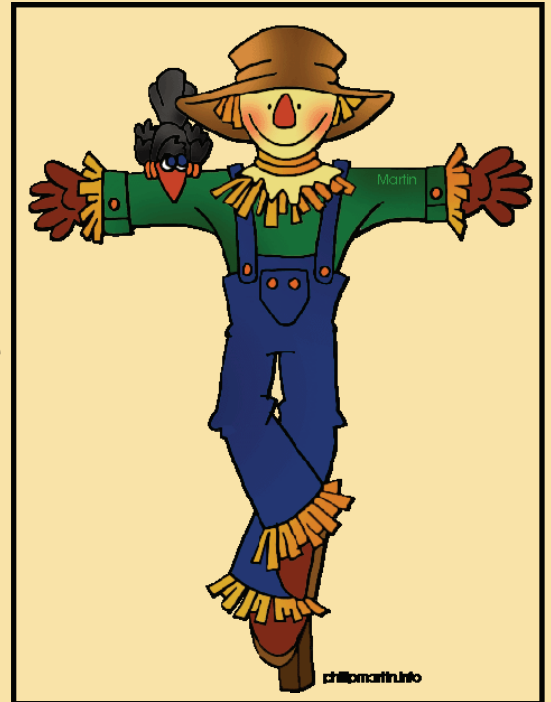


Back to School Scarecrow Contest!

Fall is right around the corner and that means cooler weather, autumn foliage, football games and scarecrows. Scarecrows are a fun way to add interest and creativity to your school garden.

Veggie Bytes is sponsoring a scarecrow building contest. Get creative with your students and don't be afraid to use non-traditional decorations. Points will be given for:

1. A themed scarecrow matching the season or your school mascot / colors
2. Linking the scarecrow decorations with the subject, grade level or concept you teach
3. Using recycled products for construction or decoration
4. Student created and constructed scarecrows (projects that students did not work on will not be accepted)



**1st, 2nd, and 3rd winners & prizes will be announced in the
November - January issue of Veggie Bytes.**

To enter the contest,

Email Mary Sexton msexton@agcenter.lsu.edu

1. Your name, school name and grade level(s) of participating students
2. A picture of your students building and decorating the scarecrow
3. A picture of the complete scarecrow

Deadline is October 19

LSU AgCenter

Growing Gardens!

Kathryn “Kiki” Fontenot, PhD
163 JC Miller Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Mary Sexton, MS
161 JC Miller Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

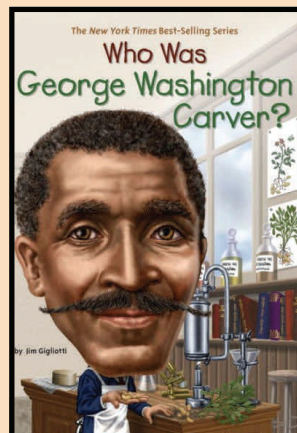
William B. Richardson,
LSU Vice President for
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Book Review!



Born in 1860s Missouri, nobody expected George Washington Carver to succeed. Slaves were not allowed to be educated. After the Civil War, Carver enrolled in classes and proved to be a star student. He became the first black student at Iowa State Agricultural

College and later its first black professor. He went on to the Tuskegee Institute where he specialized in botany (the study of plants) and developed techniques to grow crops better. His work with vegetables, especially peanuts, made him famous and changed agriculture forever. He went on to develop nearly 100 household products and over 100 recipes using peanuts. This is an excellent resource to introduce students to famous horticulturalists. ISBN:

9780448483122 Barnesandnoble.com

Student Bee Keeping Club

If you or a friend are between the ages of 9 and 19 years old and live or are affiliated with a school in East Baton Rouge Parish, you are eligible to join the youth beekeeping club! Members meet once a month. Meetings focus on beekeeping safety, bee biology, history of bee keeping and the importance of beekeeping. There is \$5-\$10 annual fee, not bad to gain hands on experience in this very popular and important activity!



Interested in joining?

Contact Jessie Hayden (EBR county agent) jhayden@agcenter.lsu.edu for more information!