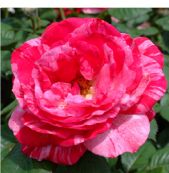
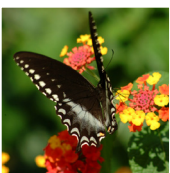


Horticulture Hints



Summer
2015

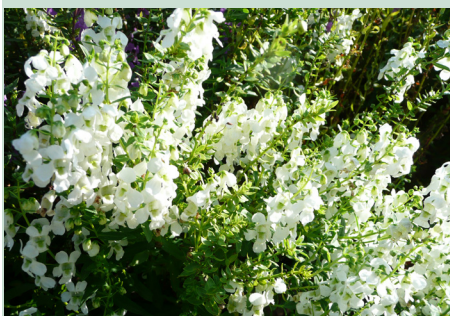
Landscape Gardening and Ornamentals

Summer Bedding Plants

There are a wide variety of heat-tolerant bedding plants that will provide color to our landscapes through the summer.

Among the best are the LSU AgCenter's Louisiana Super Plants selections. These plants have proven track records of performance in Louisiana growing conditions and they make outstanding choices for summer flower gardens and containers.

Look for these Louisiana Super Plant selections at your local nurseries: Henna coleus, Fireworks purple fountain grass, Serena angelonia, BabyWing begonia, Senorita Rosalita cleome, Butterfly pentas, Little Ruby alternanthera, Bandana lantana, Flutterby Petite Tutti Fruitti Pink, Kauai torenia and Messa gaillardia.



Guidelines on Using Color

Creating an attractive, colorful look with bedding plants is easier than ever, but it's a good idea to do a little thinking and planning before you go to the nursery. You generally will be more pleased with the results.

Here are some basic guidelines for using color in the landscape:

- Combine cool colors (reds with a blue tint, burgundy, rose, pink, magenta, purple, violet, lavender, blue, navy and any variations of those colors) OR warm colors (reds with an orange tint, orange, gold, yellow, rust, peach and any variations on those colors) for reliably harmonious results.
- Use color where you want to focus attention, such as at your front door. Never use color to "beautify" an unattractive feature in your landscape such as a trash can area. You simply will make sure everyone notices it.
- Generally, for best results, reduce the number of colors you use. In other words, use the colors you like in combinations that you like, but don't use every color you like at the same time in the same bed.
- It also is important to plant individual colors in masses or groups, especially if the bed will be viewed from a distance (as with a front bed being viewed from the street).
- Use pastel colors in areas that will be viewed primarily in the evening since they show up better in low light. Pastel colors make a space look larger and more open and tend to create a serene, restful mood. Vibrant, rich colors, on the other hand, energize the landscape and can help make a larger area seem smaller and more intimate.





Prepare Trees For Storms

Hurricanes and violent summer storms occur across Louisiana during summer and fall, and trees may be vulnerable to blowing over or dropping large branches during high winds. Now is a good time to evaluate shade trees to make sure they are in good shape.

Trees that have large dead branches or trees that are completely dead should be dealt with as soon as possible. Dead branches should be pruned off, and dead trees removed entirely.

Look at the overall condition of your trees. A tree that is sickly, low in vigor and shows significant signs of rotten or decayed areas in the trunk may need to be removed if it poses a threat to buildings. Trees with trunks that have large cavities with extensive decay should be considered for removal because rot weakens the trunk.

Trees that are one sided or lean significantly may need attention. Selective pruning can relieve the weight on the heavier side, balancing out the weight distribution of the canopy. After the prolonged rain associated with hurricanes, the soil may be so soft that trees topple over if the weight is not proportioned properly.

Selective thinning of the canopy can reduce the wind resistance of the tree. The idea is to preserve the natural shape of the tree but to thin out branches to reduce the weight and allow for better wind movement through the tree. This should be done by a licensed arborist.

Also, look for branches that hang over the house near the roof. Although the branches may not touch the roof under normal conditions, the high winds of hurricanes can cause trees to bend and branches to flail around considerably. These branches can cause extensive damage to the roof and generally should be removed.

Reducing Summer Pest Problems

It is important to remember the use of pesticides, such as insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, is only one method for controlling pests. There are other techniques gardeners should use to help prevent severe infestations that could make the use of pesticides necessary.

Minimizing the use of pesticides, whether chemical or organic, always is a good idea. Make it a point to inspect your landscape frequently for developing problems. Weed control is a primary example where early intervention is far easier and more effective than letting a situation get really bad before taking action.

One of the best defenses against pest problems is to keep your plants in tiptop condition through good culture. Good culture includes giving your plants proper spacing, soil, mulch, drainage, water, light and nutrients.

An excellent way to avoid insect and disease problems is through plant selection. Put simply, do not plant those plants known to be prone to insect or disease problems. Instead, choose plants well adapted to our climate and those that generally are not prone to major problems. If you have a plant (or a group of plants) that constantly seems to have something attacking it despite your best efforts, consider removing it and replacing it with plants that are more carefree.

Planting the same type of plants in the same bed year after year in flower or vegetable gardens can cause a buildup of disease organisms in the soil that use the

particular plant as a host. Try to plant different things in your garden in different places every year, whenever possible.

Proper sanitation is another important factor in controlling insect and disease problems. Fruit and fallen leaves infected with diseases should be raked up, bagged and thrown away. Never leave rotten vegetables and leaves on the ground in your vegetable garden.

The application of mulch to soil under plants can reduce the occurrences of some diseases. This is especially helpful when growing fruit and vegetable crops like tomatoes, squash and strawberries. Mulches are the best way to save work and reduce the use of herbicides to control weeds in beds.

Keep dead branches regularly pruned out of fruit trees, shade trees and shrubs. Dead and rotting branches can serve as points of entry and sources of infection for problems like melanose in citrus and carpenter ants and wood rot in shade trees.

When problems occur, proper diagnosis is critical to dealing with the situation. Agents at the LSU AgCenter Extension office in your parish can help you identify problems and can recommend solutions.



Give Containers a Lift

Most gardeners use containers full of plants on porches, patios and decks. When these pots are allowed to sit directly on the surface, they can cause it to become discolored or stained. In the case of a wooden deck, the moisture trapped under the pot also can lead to decay.

When pots are allowed to sit directly on gravel or soil or even brick set in sand, plants can send roots through the drainage holes and down into the soil. If you don't realize this has happened, you may find a large root system has grown down into the ground when you try to move the plant. This is a bad situation because the roots in the ground have to be cut off to pick up the pot, and the plant will not like that one bit.

To eliminate both of these problems, boost your pots up off the surface they are sitting on. This can be accomplished with pieces of brick or stone. You also can purchase "pot feet" at your local nursery. These can be utilitarian, elegant or even fanciful, and you can pick out what suits your taste and situation.



A Matter of Control

Mid- to late summer is a good time to look over your landscape and evaluate how things are growing. It is highly likely that beds of annuals, perennials and tropicals may benefit from the controlling hand of the gardener.

A gardener often has to play the role of the referee. Plants grow larger than expected and start crowding other plants. Tall plants shade out or fall over onto smaller plants. Plants spread into areas where they were not intended to grow. Vines develop a mind of their own and take off in totally unexpected directions. Without the guiding hand of the gardener, the resulting chaos can lead to disaster.

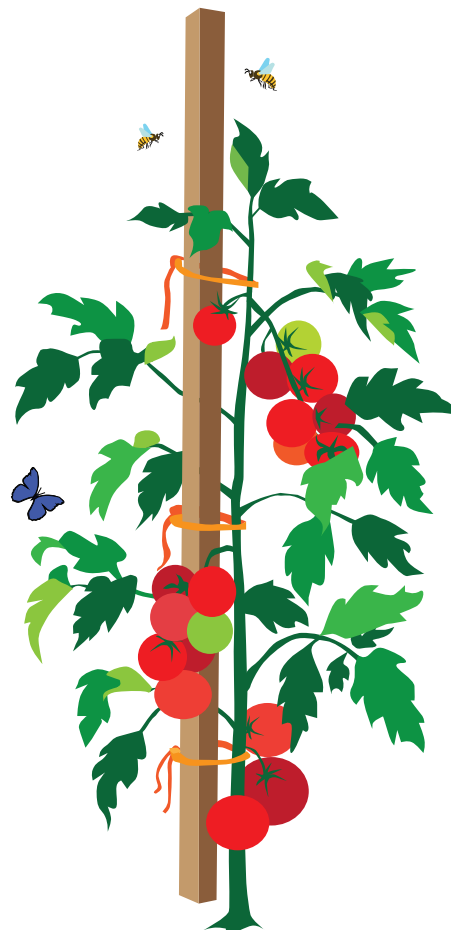
When needed, the most useful methods for dealing with especially enthusiastic plants are pruning, supporting and digging out – or barriers to prevent unwanted spreading.

Pruning can be used to control the size or shape of a plant or influence how it grows. It's better to occasionally prune lightly, as needed, than to allow a plant to get way overgrown and then have to cut it back severely. A few timely and judicious snips here and there help keep more vigorous plants from overwhelming their less vigorous neighbors. Done properly and regularly, this type of pruning is not even noticeable.

Staking or otherwise supporting plants is done to keep plants from leaning or falling over onto nearby plants. Stakes may be placed in such

a way that the plant is supported by leaning up against the stake, or it may be necessary to tie the plant to the stake. The stake should be tall enough to do the job but not too obvious. You should be careful when bending over in beds where plants have been staked to avoid eye injury.

A less noticeable way to support plants involves the use of a brick or stone. Straighten the plant into the



desired position and then wedge a brick or stone at the base. You will find that the support at the base usually will hold the plant more upright without being visible. If this doesn't work, a stake might be necessary.

Many perennials and tropicals spread by rhizomes underground, some quickly and some slowly. If growth shows up outside the area you have allotted for that plant, promptly dig out the unwanted growth and replant it somewhere else, pot it up to give it to a friend or throw it away.

Barriers extending at least 1 foot down in the ground around aggressive spreaders can help keep them under control. Digging, dividing and replanting clumps of aggressive spreaders annually is another good way to make sure they stay put.

The important thing is to deal with these situations promptly and regularly where control is necessary. Gardeners often think of ourselves as designers and cultivators, but at times we also must play the role of mediators and referees.

Divide Louisiana Irises

Unlike many plants, Louisiana irises are at their most dormant state during the late summer – making August through the end of September the ideal time to divide them.

Dividing clumps of irises is a way to control the size of the clump, invigorate clumps that have become overcrowded and propagate irises to plant in other areas or share with friends.

To divide your irises, dig up a clump using a shovel or garden fork. Be careful not to damage the rhizomes. Locate the young rhizomes that have green foliage at their tips. These will bloom for you next year. Cut or break those rhizomes (generally about 6 inches long or less) from the old rhizomes. Discard the old rhizomes. Then replant the new ones you divided off back into the bed or into containers.

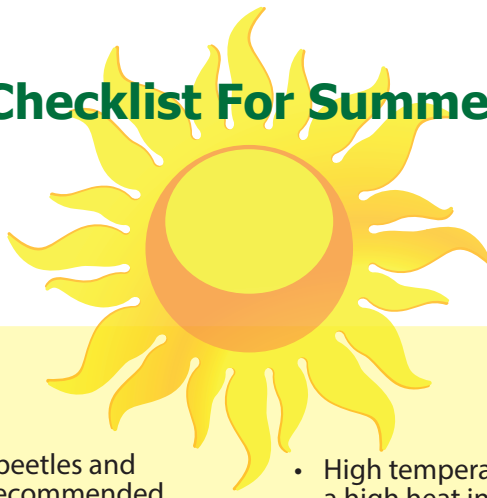
Before replanting, take the opportunity to improve the bed. Remove any weeds remaining in the bed, making sure to remove their roots. Spread a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost or other organic matter and sprinkle a general-purpose fertilizer, following package directions, over the area. Work these into the upper 6 to 8 inches of soil. Do not let the exposed roots of the irises dry out while you do this.

When the bed has been reworked, plant the rhizomes horizontally, with the fan of foliage facing the direction you want the plant to grow, and carefully cover all of the roots. The top of the rhizome should be about one-half inch below the soil surface. Mulch the bed about 2 inches deep and water thoroughly.

Your overcrowded irises will thank you by blooming more prolifically in the spring. And if you share some of the divisions with your friends, wonderful new plants are likely to come your way when your friends have plants to share.



Checklist For Summer

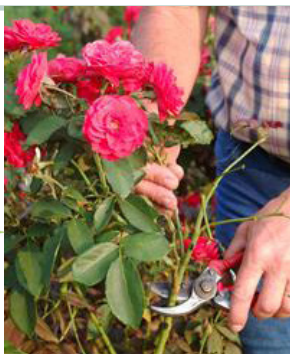


- Control thrips, aphids, cucumber beetles and spider mites on roses by using a recommended insecticide or miticide. Also continue blackspot control by using a recommended fungicide at seven- to 10-day intervals.
- When irrigating, be sure to water deeply and thoroughly. Apply water slowly over time with sprinklers, soaker hoses or drip irrigation. Try to irrigate less often, but irrigate well each time.
- Continue to plant warm-season bedding plants such as Mexican heather, ornamental pepper, ornamental sweet potato, angelonia, coleus, impatiens, periwinkle, cosmos, begonia, pentas, globe amaranth, ageratum, marigold, portulaca, blue daze, perennial verbena, purslane, rudbeckia, narrow-leaf zinnia, Profusion and Zahara zinnias, wishbone flower, caladium, balsam, gaillardia, celosia, lantana, scaevola, melampodium, butterfly weed, shrimp plant, cleome, hardy hibiscus (mallow), sunflower, salvias and cigar flower.
- Plant sunflowers in late summer for fall flower arrangements. Flower colors include yellow, orange, red, bronze, white and combinations of these. It usually requires about 60-80 days from sowing seed until first flower color.
- Prune most azaleas no later than mid-July. Pruning azaleas after early to midsummer may remove next season's developing flower buds. This applies to most spring-flowering shrubs, including hydrangeas and gardenias, too.
- In summer, gardenias may have whiteflies and the associated black sooty mold. For optimum plant performance, control the insects with two applications of a horticultural oil spray, such as Year Round Spray Oil or All Seasons Oil. Spray thoroughly under the leaves.
- Louisiana irises are semidormant in the late summer. Prune off seedpods and yellow or brown foliage to help keep the plants more attractive. You may transplant or divide Louisiana irises beginning in August.
- Cut faded flowers from flowering annuals and perennials to encourage new growth and flowers. Old blooms and seed heads left on the plants can retard continued flower production.
- High temperatures and high humidity create a high heat index in Louisiana during the summer. Adjust your gardening schedule to take advantage of cooler times of the day. To prevent sun-related skin cancer, wear a wide brim hat and sunscreen when gardening in the sun. Insect repellents can help keep bothersome mosquitoes and other bugs away. Remember to drink plenty of water before, during and after you work in the garden.
- Don't neglect 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.
- Fine, silvery webbing appearing on the bark of trees during summer and fall is completely harmless. The webbing is produced by tiny scavenging insects called bark lice. There is no need to spray with insecticides.
- Prune everblooming roses back about one-third their height and fertilize them in late August or early September. Also remove any dead canes and weak spindly growth. This pruning prepares the roses for the outstanding blooming season in October and November. Do not cut back once-blooming roses, which only bloom in spring and early summer and stop, because pruning now will reduce flowering next year.
- Small yellow aphids on your butterfly weed or milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) will not damage the plants or affect the feeding of adult and larval monarch butterflies. Do not attempt to control them since that may adversely affect the caterpillars.
- Summer rains will encourage the growth of weeds right along with the ornamentals in your garden beds. Do not let weeds get out of hand before dealing with them.
- 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.

Dan Gill
Consumer Horticulturist



LouEASyana GARDENING



This time of year our flower gardens are producing an abundance of flowers for our enjoyment. One of the great pleasures of flower gardening is bringing the beauty indoors in arrangements of cut flowers. It's easy to do and so rewarding.

I think it is a shame we tend to be reluctant to cut flowers from our gardens. We generally just catch glimpses of our colorful flowers when looking out windows or coming and going from our homes. You definitely can enjoy those flowers more with them in a vase inside your house than in a bed in the front yard.

These tips will help your cut flowers last as long as possible:

1. Select flowers that are not fully open so they will last longer.
2. Cut flowers using a sharp knife or scissors.
3. Strip away the foliage from the lower one-third to one-half of the stem and immediately place in a deep container of warm water.
4. Before going inside, wash off the flowers and foliage with a gentle spray of water to remove dust, insects, etc.
5. Store freshly cut flowers in a cool location with their stems in a container of warm water for several hours prior to arranging them, if possible, to allow them to take up plenty of water.
6. As you arrange flowers, cut the stems again, making the new cut while holding the stem under water.
7. Keep the water in your vase or other container fresh and clean by changing it every couple of days if the design of the arrangement permits.
8. Do not place fresh flower arrangements where they will receive direct sun or heat.

Dan Gill
Consumer Horticulturist

Vegetable Gardening



Summer Vegetables

Spring-planted vegetables are loving this summer heat! And there are still more to plant!

The following monthly tips will help you choose the best vegetable crops to plant this summer.

In addition to planting, also remember to watch for insects each week. Insect pressure builds during the summer, so regular scouting and treatment (insecticides, management strategies and use of beneficial insects) are necessary to produce quality crops during this season.

Don't forget to take care of yourself while planting and scouting, too. Drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration – and wear sunscreen.



June

In mid-June, plant a summer crop of heat-set tomatoes. Planting heat-set tomatoes is very important. These cultivars have been bred to set fruit during high nighttime temperatures whereas other cultivars will not. If managed correctly, heat-set tomatoes will produce fruit through October. Preferred varieties include Florida 91, Solar Set, Sun Master, Phoenix and others. Heat-set tomatoes can be planted again in late July for fall tomato production.

Collard greens, cucumbers, watermelons, cantaloupes, okra, southern peas, pumpkins and summer squash all can be seeded directly into the garden during June.

Start transplants of eggplants, peppers and sweet potato slips during June, as well.

July

Transplant a fall crop of heat-set tomatoes. Bell pepper transplants also may be planted now. Okra, southern peas, cucumbers, squash, cantaloupes, pumpkins and watermelons all can be seeded in July. Early to mid-July is the optimum time to plant pumpkins for harvest close to Halloween!

Late July and early August are good times to start thinking about your fall garden. Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, cabbage and collard greens should be seeded into trays for later plantings. A greenhouse is not necessary to grow these crops this time of year. Be prepared to plant them in the ground in five to six weeks.

August

Plant bush snap and bush lima beans into the garden. You also can plant seed trays of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, collard greens, cucumbers, squash, southern peas, mustard greens and shallot sets.

You can transplant broccoli and Brussels sprouts as early as mid-August.

In north Louisiana, start your lettuce seed and plant beet and Irish potato seed in the garden.

In late August, south Louisiana gardeners can start their lettuce seeds and plant beet and Irish potato seeds into the garden.



Crop Highlights

Broccoli and cauliflower. Both can be direct-seeded from mid-July through September or transplanted from early August through early September. It takes four to six weeks to produce transplants from seeds. In general, broccoli and cauliflower will require 5 to 6 pounds (or pints) of a complete fertilizer such as 8-24-24 or 13-13-13 per 100 feet of row. These crops, especially cauliflower, require fast, continuous growth for proper head development. Keep them well watered and fertilized. Side-dress plants with $\frac{3}{4}$ pound (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups) of ammonium nitrate per 100 feet of row three weeks after transplanting and again two weeks after that. Varieties that will produce in about 60 days from transplanting reduce the chance of cold-weather damage. Recommended varieties are:

Broccoli

Gypsy
Diplomat
Packman

Cauliflower

Majestic
Candid Charm
Cumberland
Snow Crown
Freedom



Snap beans. Late August through early September is the best time to plant snap beans. Normally 50 to 55 days are required from planting until harvest. Don't let beans suffer from drought. Good varieties are Provider, Roma II, Derby, Bronco, Royal Burgundy, Green Crop, Strike and Caprice. For a yellow wax bean, choose Golden Rod Wax. Bush beans usually produce more successfully than pole beans during the fall because of their earlier maturity.



Lima beans. This crop is harder to produce than snap beans during the fall. Plant early enough to produce before frost and late enough so they're not blooming while temperatures are too high for fruit set. Plant from early August through about mid-August. Plant bush beans for fall production (Henderson, Thorogreen, Jackson Wonder or Dixie Butterpea).

Irish potatoes. Plant small whole potatoes saved from the spring crop from mid-August to early September. Good soil moisture is essential. The seed potatoes may not sprout readily after planting because of a physiological rest period of about 90 days they have to go through after harvesting during the spring. After this rest period is satisfied, the tubers should sprout. Fall yields are lower than spring yields. Use the smaller potatoes (that you harvested) for seed pieces.

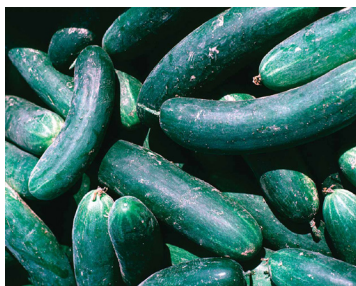


Cabbage. Plant seeds in mid-July and continue to seed through September. You also may transplant beginning in early August through mid-October. Fertilize the same as broccoli and cauliflower. Space cabbage, cauliflower and Chinese cabbage about 12 to 14 inches apart and broccoli 12 inches apart. Double drilling (two drills of plants spaced 10-12 inches apart on a single row) will help maximize yield. Try Rio Verde for late plantings. Recommended early maturity varieties include Platinum, Dynasty, Gold Dynasty and Stonehead (AAS). Maturing a little later



are Rio Verde, Solid Blue 780, Red Dynasty, Emblem, Blue Dynasty, Thunderhead Royal Vantage, Silver Dynasty, Blue Thunder, Cheers, Vantage Point, Savoy Ace (AAS) and Savoy King (AAS).

Squash and cucumbers. These two crops can be planted in June, July and August. Summer plantings normally will be ready to begin harvesting after about six weeks. Yields usually are lower than spring plantings. A fall crop of yellow summer squash, zucchini and cucumbers can be grown by planting seeds during August. Squash vine borers may be a more severe problem during fall than the spring, so be prepared to control them with an insecticide. Viruses are a problem during the fall. The best cucumber to plant is Dasher II.



Pumpkins. Pumpkins for Halloween should be planted in early to mid-July. Apply 3-5 pounds of a complete fertilizer (13-13-13) for every 100 feet of row before planting. Plant five to six seeds in each hill and space hills about 4 to 5 feet apart on rows 6 to 8 feet apart. Thin to one or two plants per hill. Apply a side-dressing of 2 pounds of calcium or potassium nitrate per 100 feet of row when vines begin to run. Keep soil moist for best production. Autumn Harvest, Orange Smoothie, Cinderella, Silver Moon and Conestoga are excellent varieties to grow for Halloween. Recommended varieties of giant pumpkins are Atlantic Giant and Prize Winner. Remember that Louisiana is hot and humid, which makes growing pumpkins difficult. Don't fret if you do not reach award-winning sizes. Watch for worms and spray routinely once they appear!



Greens. Begin planting greens – mustard, turnip and collard greens – during August. Keep the soil moist to ensure a good stand. Try some of the white turnips like White Lady and Tokyo Cross for roots and Seven Top, Topper and Southern Green for greens. Also good are Just Right, Royal Crown, Purple Top WG and Red Giant.



Shallots. Dry sets of shallots can be planted from August to April. About 50 to 60 days after planting, tops will be ready to harvest.

Fall bell peppers. If plants from the spring are still in good condition, they can be nursed (sprayed or dusted and watered) throughout summer. They will set fruit again when the temperatures become more favorable. If seeds of bell peppers haven't been planted by early June, buy transplants.

Fall tomatoes. Transplant fall tomatoes during July. Be prepared to spray with insecticides and fungicides. Insect and disease pressure usually is worse during the fall than the spring. The heat-set varieties that have produced well in trials are Sun Leaper, Florida 91, Sun Master, Solar Fire, Sun Chaser, Phoenix, Solar Set and Heat Wave II. These varieties have the ability to set some fruit during times of high temperatures, allowing the fruit to mature before cool weather. Row covers, which protect the plants from the first frost, have prolonged the harvest period and



enhanced fruit maturity. Also worth trying during fall is BHN 216. Since fall tomatoes are a crop you can't really be sure of, it's interesting to try several early varieties. Certain varieties may produce better in some parts of the state than others because of the variation in climate and soils. Start early, and get a strong bush.



Lettuce. Head lettuce can be grown in Louisiana during late August. A common mistake is planting the seeds too deep. Lettuce seeds require light for germination, so scatter the seeds on the row and lightly rake it into the soil. Plant leaf lettuce during September. Keep the soil moist until the seeds have germinated and are well established. Head types are tougher to grow. Keep lettuce growing actively to keep it from becoming bitter. Recommended varieties of head lettuce are Ithaca and Maverick. For leaf lettuce, try Slobolt, Red Salad Bowl, Grand Rapids, Red Fire, Tango, Red Sails, Salad Bowl, Sunset, Simpson or Elite. The recommended romaine lettuce varieties are Parris Island, Ideal, Green Forest and Green Towers. For butterhead or bibb lettuce, try Buttercrunch, Esmerelda or Oak Leaf. And for batavia types (leaf lettuce with a unique flavor), try Nevada or Sierra.

*Kathryn Fontenot, Ph.D.
Vegetable Specialist*

Turfgrasses and Lawns

Tips for Summer Care of Turfgrass



Summer is the major growing season for lawns in Louisiana.

If you did not fertilize your lawn during the spring, you still have time to fertilize and get your lawn in good shape prior to fall. Keep up a good fertility program through early to late August.

Remember to apply all granular materials on a dry lawn. Then water soon after application.

St. Augustine and zoysia grasses both respond well to fertilizer applications. Fertilize zoysia twice per growing season – in April and again around June or July. St. Augustine grass may be fertilized three times during the growing season – April, June and mid-August.

Bermuda grass is an even bigger fertilizer user and can be fertilized from three to eight times during the growing season, especially if you like to mow grass. Carpet grass and centipede grass are not big fertilizer users. Usually, two applications (April and July) will take care of centipede grass, and one application will be sufficient for carpet grass (April).

Centipede grass should receive its second and final fertilizer application in July. For centipede grass, apply only 1/2 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet as a complete turf fertilizer. For example, apply 3 pounds of 17-0-17 per 1,000 square feet or 5 pounds of 10-0-10 per 1,000 square feet. St. Augustine grass needs twice that rate.

Fertilize St. Augustine grass, Bermuda grass and zoysia grass in June and again in early to mid-August with at least 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. For example, apply 7 pounds of 13-13-13 per 1,000 square feet or 5 pounds of 19-19-19 per 1,000 square feet.

Make sure lawns are getting adequate amounts of moisture during the summer months, but don't overwater. Water deeply only once or twice per week – or as needed, based on the amount of rainfall. Centipede grass is the least tolerant lawn to drought, so take care to provide adequate amounts of moisture for this grass, especially during dry periods.

Watch for chinch bugs in St. Augustine grass and Bermuda grass lawns and treat with an LSU Ag-Center recommended insecticide. Chinch bug problems show up as yellowish brown areas of the lawn during hot, dry weather. These insects extract plant juices from turfgrass stems and crowns while pumping toxic salivary fluids into the plants. The fluids disrupt the plant's vascular system.

Check for chinch bugs in the lawn by saturating suspected areas with a gallon of water mixed with a few squirts of lemon dishwashing soap. This soapy solution irritates chinch bugs and brings them up near the grass surface so you can see them and determine if the bugs are causing the lawn damage.

Additional insect problems that appear during the summer include armyworms and tropical sod webworms. These moth larvae or "worms" can cause severe lawn damage very quickly and will need to be killed with insecticides to prevent further damage.

Be mindful of these pests as you walk through your lawns. Investigate damaged areas and treat accordingly.

Also this time of year, pull up small populations of Virginia buttonweed or carefully spot treat with herbicides like metsulfuron (TopShot, Mansion, MSM Turf) or Celsius. These herbicides work well with repeated application spaced four to six weeks apart. Metsulfuron and Celsius can be safely applied on St. Augustine, centipede, Bermuda and zoysia grasses during warm weather.



Ron Strahan, Ph.D.
Weed Scientist/Turfgrass Specialist



Accomplishments of the National Strawberry Sustainability Initiative

It could be called “Everything You Wanted to Know About Sustainable Strawberries But Were Afraid to Ask,” and this e-book’s secrets now can be revealed through a single download.

The e-book was grown from the minds behind the National Strawberry Sustainability Initiative, also known as NSSI. Its 60 digital pages are overflowing with content and links to more than 70 videos, tools and publications created to improve the sustainability of U.S. strawberry production.

The initiative was created in 2013 by a \$3 million donation by the Walmart Foundation to the University of Arkansas System’s Division of Agriculture. The foundation donated another \$1.05 million in 2014 to move research from concept to reality. The e-book is a summary of the project’s accomplishments so far.

“Moving the Needle: Accomplishments of the National Strawberry Sustainability Initiative 2013-2014” can be downloaded at <http://strawberry.uark.edu/nssiweb.pdf>.

This book distills the creativity and hard work that were part of 20 sustainability research projects by universities in 13 states. With strawberries being one of America’s most sought-after fresh fruits, this research will help expand where and when the fruit can be grown.

This resource really will help people and does indeed move the needle on strawberry sustainability. In addition to the reports in this publication, it also is the best reference site out there with links to numerous practical publications. I will mention a few of my favorites below. These include production resources such as publications and tools, websites and videos.



Among the book’s features are links to:

- An online diagnostic tool for growers developed by specialists at North Carolina State University.
- A video series led by the University of Arkansas to show how to grow strawberries hydroponically.
- Production Guide for Texas-Grown Strawberries.
- Organic Strawberry Cropping Systems for the Southeast.
- Cover Crops for Organic Strawberry Production.
- Pest Management for Sustainable Strawberries.
- Cultivar Assessment for Organic Strawberry Production.
- Strawberry Extended Enterprise Budget Tool.
- Sustainable Strawberry Production for Mississippi and Surrounding Markets.
- Revitalizing Strawberry Production in Arkansas and the Surrounding Region via Extended Season Production Systems.

*David G. Himmelrick, Ph.D.
Fruit Crops Specialist*



Become A Louisiana Master Gardener

Whether you are a seasoned gardener or just beginning to sprout your gardening skills, you can become a Master Gardener. The Louisiana Master Gardener program, implemented by the LSU AgCenter, is a statewide educational and service program for gardening enthusiasts. Contact your LSU AgCenter extension agent for more information or visit our website.



LSUAgCenter.com/MasterGardener

Garden Fest

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

Celebrating the flavors of fresh local food

Sat., June 20

7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

LSU AgCenter
Botanic Gardens



Bring the family and enjoy a day
in the gardens

7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Sample Delicious Omelets

Prepared by Louisiana Culinary Institute and Louisiana Egg Commission

8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Taste New Louisiana Food Products

LSU AgCenter Food Incubator features Louisiana food companies offering a taste of new local food and beverage products

8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Hayrides to Fresh Vegetable Taste Test

Outstanding Tomato Contest

(Based on weight)

9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Fresh Bloody Mary Samples

Must be 21 years old to sample bloody marys

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Children's Activities and Water Slide

10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Sample Local Gourmet Dishes

Prepared by Louisiana Culinary Institute and LSU AgCenter nutritionists

Also enjoy:

Hayrides to Fruit and Vegetable Plots, All-America Selections and Children's Gardens, LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Clinic, Horticulture Organization Booths, Antique Tractor Display and Plant and Produce Sale

Adults: \$10 · Children/Youth (4-20): \$5
Children 3 and younger: Free



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

Burden Museum & Gardens · 4560 Essen Lane · DiscoverBurden.com · 225-763-3990

School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences

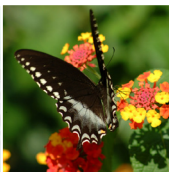
Horticulture Division

155 J. C. Miller Hall - LSU

110 LSU Union Square

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Horticulture Hints



**Spring
2015**

Visit our LSU AgCenter Store

www.LSUAgCenter.com/OnlineStore

Prepared quarterly by:

Kathryn Fontenot, Ph.D., Community/School Vegetable Gardens

Dan Gill, Consumer Horticulture

David Himelrick, Ph.D., Fruits

Ron Strahan, Ph.D., Lawns

**Parish agents, please adapt these suggestions to your area
before disseminating.**

School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences
155 J. C. Miller Hall - LSU, 110 LSU Union Square, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803
(225)578-2222; Fax: (225)578-1068

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