



GN Gardening Magazine

September 2024

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Cover photo: Bird of Paradise flowers
from the garden of Troy Gaubert in
Bayou Gauche, LA
Photo by Troy Gaubert

Hey, Look at Me!

Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*)

I bet some of y'all have gone on vacation to a tropical destination and upon return, wanted to recreate some of that tropical feel in the home landscape. The coarse texture of large leafy plants, bright colored flowers, and a blooming season that goes on forever are some of the major characteristics that a lot of these tropical plants bring to the table. As long as protection from cold weather is a priority in the planning process, you can add a couple of tropical plants to the landscape to enjoy some of that tropical island appeal.

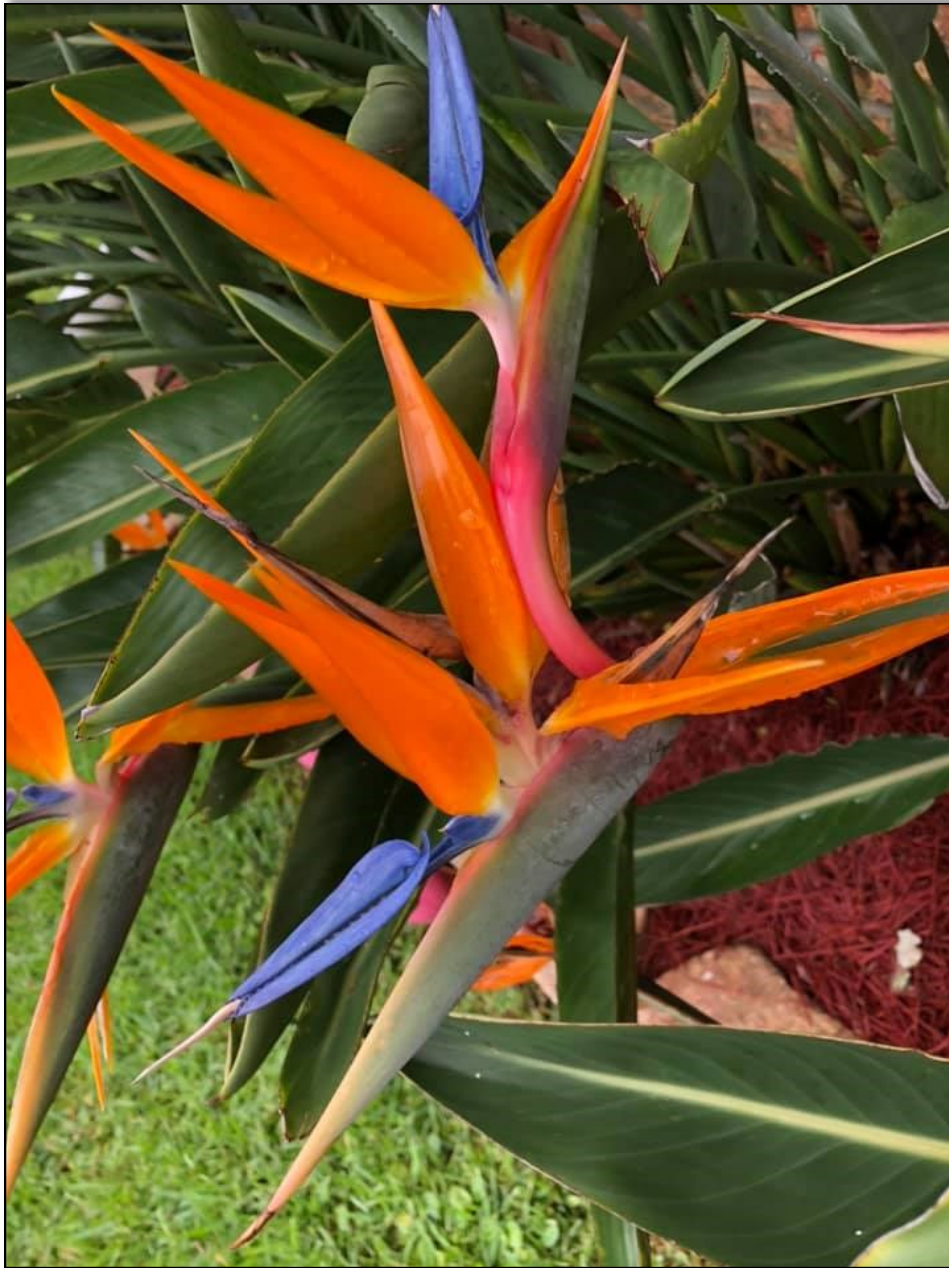
There are many tropical plants worth mentioning but in this article, I would like to focus your attention on one of my favorites, the bird of paradise, known to

horticulturists as *Strelitzia reginae*. A few other names for this same plant include crane flower, bird's tongue flower, and isigude, which is the term used by locals in Southern Africa. In fact, the bird of paradise plant

originated in Southern Africa in a climate that is slightly warmer than the Gulf Coast region of the United States. Temperatures in South Africa rarely get below freezing unless you increase elevation and

spend time in the mountains. Bird of paradise is an evergreen perennial in its native location, but in our climate freezing weather will cause issues.

The plant itself produces premium-quality foliage. The leaves are bluish-green in color, vary between 12 and 18 inches in length, and are paddle-shaped. The leaves emerge from stems that get 2 to 3 feet long. A mature plant can be nearly 5 feet tall and 4 feet wide. The flowers are what make this plant stand out amongst its peers. They resemble a tropical bird peeking out from behind the leaves



Bird of Paradise flowers from Troy Gaubert in Bayou Gauche, Louisiana.

when in bloom. Five bright orange sepals about 4.5 inches long protect two cobalt blue petals to form a bird of paradise flower. Five of those flowers emerge from an orange and green boat-shaped spathe. The

blooms occur intermittently throughout the warm season in the Gulf Coast region of the U.S.

Plant bird of paradise early in the growing season after the fear of frost. Choose a sunny location on the southern side of a larger structure to protect from cold north winds in winter. Add finished compost to the area and work into the soil so that your new plant can establish a root system quickly. For those in areas with cooler winter temps consider planting in a container that can be moved under protection during cold weather events.

Bird of paradise plants bloom more consistently when they get overcrowded. This means that in the ground plants may take a couple of years before they put out a significant number of flowers. Container-grown plants shouldn't be repotted often. Rather, treat them like bougainvillea and allow them to get root-bound.

Every plant has common pests that show up from time to time. Scale and mealy bugs are the two most common insect pests seen on bird of paradise plants. Both pests can be managed using horticultural oil or neem oil. For serious infestations think about applying a systemic insecticide like imidacloprid in combination with the previous mentioned oils.

Look for bird of paradise plants at your local plant nursery or garden center. A lot of businesses will

bring in these plants early in the growing season along with hibiscus, bougainvillea, tibouchina, and



A thick installation of bird of paradise plants growing in Bayou Gauche, LA. Photo by Troy Gaubert

other common tropical plants grown in Southern Florida. However, you may also find plants in the house plant or foliage plant section of the greenhouse. The only way to find one is to get out and start looking!

~William Afton

September Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Beets	Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen
Broccoli	Arcadia, Diplomat, Gypsy, Packman, Premium Crop, Windsor, Greenbelt
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved, Royal Marvel
Cabbage	Blue Vantage, Platinum Dynasty, Stonehead, Cheers, Blue Dynasty, Emblem, Rio Verde
Chinese Cabbage	None Given
Carrots	Danvers 128, Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Enterprise, Maverick, Sugar Snax 54
Cauliflower	Candid Charm, Cumberland, Freedom, Incline, Majestic, Show Crown, Wentworth
Collards	Champions, Flash, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates
Kale	None Given
English Peas	Mr. Big, Novella II, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sugar Ann, Super Sugar Snap
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner
Lettuce	Esmeralda, New Red Fire F1, Nevada, Tall Guzman Elite
Mustard Greens	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Tender-green
Potatoes, Irish	Dark Red Norland, Red LaSoda, Red Pontiac, Kennebec, Yukon Gold
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Gooligan, Sorcerer, Sprint, Silver Moon
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross
Shallots	None Given
Swiss Chard	None Given
Turnip Greens	Alamo, All Top, Purple, Top White Globe, Seven Top, Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo Cross

Weed of the Month

Golden Rain Trees (*Koelreuteria* sp.)

Due to the heat of the summer, I was not able to work in my garden as much as I would have liked. When it finally did cool down, I was surprised to find specimens of this month's selection growing in numerous locations.

There were even some growing in containers along side of my fruit trees. Some of the plants had grown quite large and were already 6 feet tall after just a few months. It turns out that the weeds that were taking over my garden would eventually grow into large trees.

One of the common names for this plant is Golden Rain Tree but it is actually one of three species in the *Koelreuteria* genus that are frequently confused for each other. *K. paniculata* (the original Golden Rain Tree), *K.*

bipinnata and *K. elegans*. All three varieties are medium-sized deciduous trees in the *Sapindaceae* (soapberry) family. In our area, *K. paniculata* or *K. bipinnata* can be a great urban flowering trees that

tolerates drought, heat, wind, and air pollution. They can grow 30 to 40 feet tall and equally as wide. They have spreading branches but a rounded crown. They all have a medium to fast growth rate and transplants and self-seeds easily. *K. paniculata* has single

pinnately compound leaves while *K. bipinnata* and *K. elegans* both have twice or bipinnately compound leaves. *K. elegans* is the least cold tolerant so it is less common in the United States.

All three varieties begin flowering at an early age. Each tree can create thousands of bright yellow flowers that produce a fireworks show of brilliant color each spring. When the blooms are finished the petals drop to the ground resembling a "Golden Rain" blanket, hence the common name.



A fast growing *Koelreuteria bipinnata* growing in a local garden. Each large frond that you see is a single leaf.

(This is my favorite part.) The fruit will develop over the summer forming three-part inflated bladderlike pods, 3–6 cm long and 2–4 cm broad. They start green but turn a vivid deep red-orange color as they

begin to dry in autumn. Each pod will contain several seeds.

K. elegans is an evergreen but both *K. paniculata* and *K. bipinnata* are deciduous trees and lose their leaves in the winter. Before dropping the leaves, the trees will give a final show as they turn a delicate yellow.

Golden Rain Trees are suitable for sandy, loamy and clay soils and can grow in nutritionally poor soil. They can withstand acid, neutral and basic soils as well. It cannot grow in the shade. It prefers dry or moist soil. The plant can tolerate strong winds but not maritime exposure. It can tolerate atmospheric pollution.

Trees need to be trained when young to develop a strong branch structure. Spacing main branches apart along a central trunk is crucial to developing a durable tree. As soon as you see them, remove any double or multiple trunks which develop, especially if they have embedded or pinched bark in the branch crotch. Be sure to locate the first major branch high enough off the ground so that drooping leaves and

branchlets will not get in the way of traffic below. Train major branches so they grow up and out, spreading from the trunk to create the clearance needed for street tree or parking lot planting.

The wood is fairly weak and branches can break in strong wind storms, but the tree definitely has a place in many landscapes. Planted in a full sun location, golden rain trees make moderately dense shade trees, but there is considerable variation among individuals of the species. Properly pruned and trained trees can be planted as street or parking lot trees, but do not commit large areas to this tree due to the possibility of them breaking up as they reach about 30 years old. Dead wood periodically forms and must be removed to maintain a neat appearance.

While there are many golden rain trees to see in the Greater New Orleans area, I doubt that many of them were planted intentionally.

~Chris Dunaway



The colorful fruit of a golden rain tree.

Peppers – From Sweet to Scorching – Part 3B

Pepper Diseases

The American Phytopathological Society lists over 35 different diseases that have been found in the U.S. However, there are about 16 that have been reported in Louisiana. Most of these you will not encounter in your home garden but knowing what's possible and recognizing early symptoms may help to prevent total crop loss. Following is the description and recommendations for management of the most common pepper diseases in Louisiana.

Cercospora leaf spot (Frogeye leaf spot) *Cercospora capsici*. The disease is favored by hot days (95°F) and warm nights (70°F). Lesions ¼" to ½" form on all parts of the plant but are most noticeable on the leaves. Lesions have a light brown to white interior and a brown to purple border. As the lesions grow, concentric rings may appear and the center becomes brittle and cracks. The pathogen can overwinter in plant debris.

Control: The disease is usually minor and may not warrant control. Resistance has been noted in some varieties. Fungicides containing copper or chlorothalonil have been shown to be effective.



Frogeye leaf spot. APS photo.



Pepper fruit with Anthracnose. APS photo.

Anthracnose *Colletotrichum* spp. Fruit lesions usually develop during ripening but may form on fruit at any stage and later on leaves and stems. Lesions are circular with a concentric ring appearance and may become as large as 1" or more. As lesions mature, dark dots of sporangia may become noticeable. The fungus may overwinter in plant debris.

Control: Use certified disease-free seed. Avoid overhead irrigation. Copper-based fungicides and those containing chlorothalonil are recommended for management in the home garden.

Bacterial spot *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria*. Symptoms develop on leaves, stems and fruit of sweet pepper and are less severe in hot pepper. Symptoms first appear on leaf undersurfaces as small, irregular, watersoaked areas. Later, lesions enlarge, turn dark-brown to black with a pale tan center and may develop a thin, yellow halo. Generally, lesions on upper leaf surfaces are slightly sunken, and those on lower leaf surfaces are slightly raised. Leaves that are severely infected often turn chlorotic and appear ragged. Defoliation occurs under heavy disease pressure. Stem lesions appear as narrow, light-brown, longitudinally raised cankers. Fruit spots begin as water-soaked areas that later turn necrotic. These

spots are rough in appearance and crack as they develop.

Xanthomonas is seed-borne on the seed surface and within the seed. Infected seed and transplants moved over long distances can be the initial source of inoculum for epidemics. The bacterium also survives in crop debris, volunteer plants and in solanaceous weeds. High relative humidity and heavy dew formation on leaves, together with warm weather, favor infection and development of Bacterial Spot. The bacterium is readily water-splashed from infected transplants or debris to healthy plants. Fruit are infected through growth cracks, abrasions, insect punctures and other wounds.

Control: Using disease-free seed, disease-free transplants, crop rotation and resistant varieties are effective cultural practices. Use of copper-based pesticides may be used as prophylactics.

Damping-off *Pythium* spp.; *Rhizoctonia* spp.; *Phytophthora* spp.; *Fusarium* spp. This disease affects seeds, seedlings, and young transplants. Symptoms



Seedlings with damping off lesions. APS Photo.



Bacterial spot lesions on pepper leaf. APS photo.

appear as brown, soft, water-soaked lesions around the soil line. Infected stems appear constricted. Infected seedlings fall over and die.

Control: Use of certified disease-free seed and sterile germinating mix are cultural control measures. Captan and Ridomil can be used as a soil treatments.

Powdery mildew *Oidiopsis sicula*. The most



Powdery mildew on pepper leaves. Cornell University Photo.

noticeable symptom is a white, powdery growth on the leaf underside. The upper leaf surface may show light green to pale yellow lesions. The entire leaf eventually turns yellow or brown. Infected leaves may drop which can lead to sunburn on the fruit.

Control: Sanitation and removal of plant debris are good cultural practices. Many sweet peppers show a high degree of tolerance to powdery mildew, whereas hot pepper varieties have very little resistance. Fungicides containing copper, chlorothalonil, or myclobutanil have been shown to help manage powdery mildew.

Southern blight *Sclerotium rolfsii*. Southern blight is a common and destructive disease with a host range of over 500 plant species. The pathogen attacks the pepper stem near the soil line causing the plant to become chlorotic and die. Brown lesions appear on the stem both above and below the soil line. Often, a white mycelial mat is evident on the stem and soil. The pathogen forms sclerotia which are dense hyphal structures about the size of a broccoli seed and are light tan to brown. These are survival structures that can survive in soil for years.



Pepper stems demonstrating Southern Blight infection. University of Georgia Photo

Control: Growing in soil that is free of the disease, removing and destroying infected plants, crop rotation, avoiding wet soils, and soil solarization are cultural practices that will help to reduce disease incidence. Biological control pesticides containing *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* have been shown to exhibit some control.

Phytophthora blight *Phytophthora capsici*. The pathogen has a wide host range and causes root and crown rot of peppers, causes black stem lesions, and can cause greyish-brown circular leaf lesions. The pathogen can also infect fruit leading to lesions typically covered with white sporangia. Infected plants soon wilt and die.



Phytophthora infections on stem, roots, and leaves. APS Photo

Control: Field sanitation, crop rotation, and soil moisture management are recommended cultural practices. The pathogen persists in soil for years. Infection is favored by high soil moisture. Monterey Garden-Phos systemic fungicide is labelled for use to control *Phytophthora* in peppers.

Viruses: Alfalfa mosaic virus (AMV); Cucumber mosaic virus (CMV); Pepper mild mottle virus (PMMoV); Pepper mottle virus (PeMoV); Potato virus Y (PVY); Tobacco etch virus (TEV); Tobacco mosaic virus (TMV); Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV).

Transmission: AMV, CMV, PeMoV, PVY, TEV are aphid transmitted. PMMoV, TMV are seed and mechanical transmitted. TSWV is thrips transmitted. AMV causes bright yellow or white mosaic blotches. There are few resistant varieties and controlling vectors is not effective. Using disease free seed and transplants is the best control. Aphid insecticides are not effective.

CMV symptoms vary by virus strain and pepper variety. Stunting and distortion, necrotic specks and

spots, and necrotic lines are just some of the symptoms. Some resistant varieties have been developed. Aphid insecticides are not effective. Reflective mulches to repel aphids and weed elimination have shown some effect.

PMMoV causes mild symptoms on leaves but severe fruit symptoms. Fruit may be small, deformed, mottled, or have sunken or raised off-color lesions and necrotic lesions. Use of resistant varieties and certified disease-free seed are the most effective controls.

PeMoV may cause small, mottled leaves on infected plants. Some strains cause systemic necrosis and apical death. Use of resistant varieties and disease-free transplants along with eliminating alternate weed hosts is the recommended management. Aphid insecticides are not effective for virus control.

PVY most common symptoms are systemic vein clearing developing into dark green veinbanding or mosaic. Prevention of infection through resistant cultivars and sanitation are the main control measures. Roguing infected plants is recommended. Aphid insecticides are not effective for virus control.

TEV symptoms include mosaic patterns (leaves and fruit), leaf distortion, and stunting. Use of resistant cultivars is the most effective control approach. Aphid insecticides are not effective for virus control.

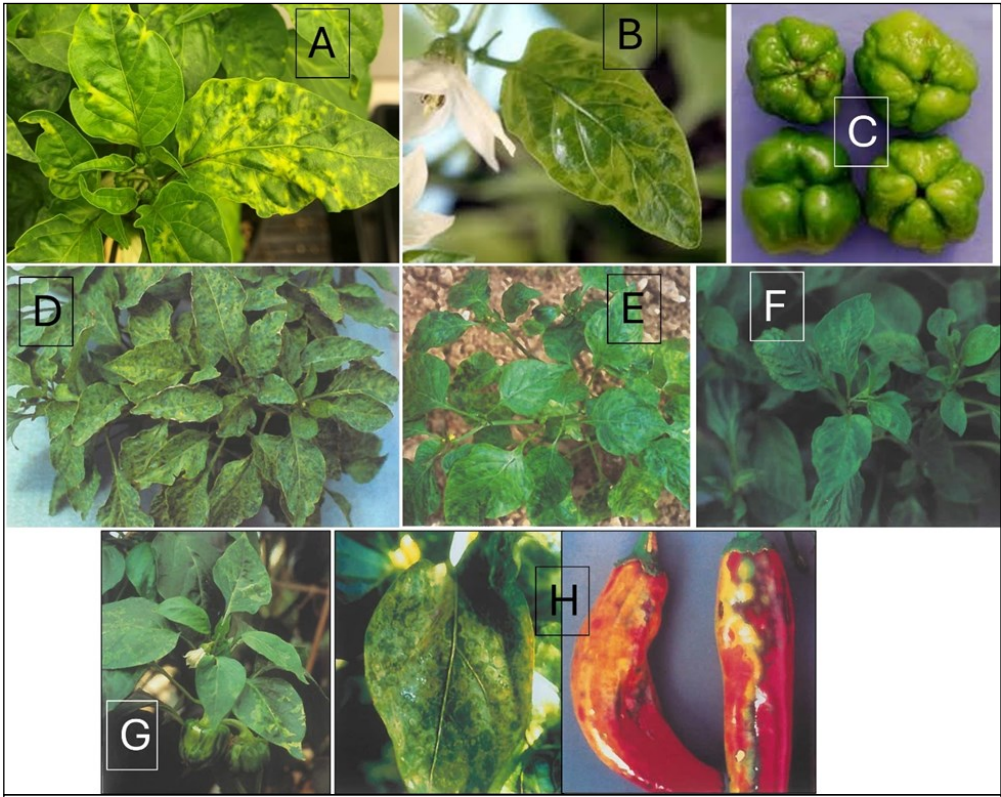
TMV chlorotic mosaic patterns and leaf distortion are the most common symptoms. Sanitation practices, disease-free seed, and resistant varieties are the most common control measures.

TSWV symptoms may vary depending on plant variety and growth stage at time of infection. Plant stunting; chlorotic/necrotic flecking, necrotic rings on leaves, stems, and fruit; and flower and leaf drop

are some of the more common symptoms. Use of resistant varieties and virus-free plants are the most effective current control measures. Controlling thrips to prevent infection is not very effective.

Pepper disease incidence and severity are affected by pepper species, pepper variety, weather conditions, field conditions, and sanitation and cultural practices. These are some of the diseases you may encounter when growing peppers but using disease free seeds and transplants and following good cultural practices will generally lead to a successful pepper harvest.

~ Dr. Joe Willis



Virus diseases of pepper – A: Alfalfa Mosaic; B: Cucumber Mosaic; C: Pepper Mild Mottle Virus; D: Pepper Mottle Virus; E: Potato Virus Y; F: Tobacco Etch Virus; G: Tobacco Mosaic Virus; H: Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus. APS Photos

Resources:

Pernezny, K, P.D. Roberts, J.F. Murphy, N.P. Goldberg. 2003. Compendium of Pepper Diseases. American Phytopathological Society.

Vallad, G. and P.D. Roberts. 2024. Some Common Diseases of Pepper in Florida. UF-IFAS. [CIR946/VH054: Some Common Diseases of Pepper in Florida](#)

What's Bugging You?

Cottony Cushion Scale (*Icerya purchasi*)

Cottony cushion scale (*Icerya purchasi*) is found in subtropical and tropical regions worldwide. In the United States, it is found throughout the Gulf Coast states, Florida, California, Arizona, Georgia, and the Carolinas, and was introduced from its native range in Australia. Cottony cushion scale is limited in range outdoors by temperatures that fall below 10°F in the winter months, but it can survive in homes and greenhouses as an overwintering refuge. Hosts include pittosporum, nandina, citrus, and many woody ornamental plants. It can be a major pest in citrus orchards.

Cottony cushion scale are rusty red with black legs and antenna, and measure roughly 4.5 mm in length at maturity. They get their name from the waxy trailing coat that they develop as armor. This wax resists water and pesticides, protecting the scale below. Like other scale insects, cottony cushion scale has piercing sucking mouthparts and feeds on plant sap. Females develop a dense, waxy egg sack that resembles a cushion. Three to eight weeks after being laid, the eggs hatch into nymphs (crawlers) which walk around searching for an ideal host site. These nymphs can crawl one yard in ten minutes, seeking twigs and other elevated plant canopy areas to attach to and feed upon. Males are rare to nonexistent, and females can reproduce asexually. Adult females do not feed any longer after creating an egg sack. There can be 3-5 generations in the warm season in south Louisiana. Each female produces roughly 1000 eggs. Immature nymphs can suck so much sap from the

host plant that the plant becomes stressed and begins to defoliate. Sooty mold often forms on the honeydew that these insects secrete. Heavily infested plants



Photo by Anna Timmerman

Cottony Cushion Scale feeding on satsuma leaves. Notice the stippling on the surface of the leaves.

begin to look chlorotic and darken from the sooty mold. Because the scale is an invasive species, it has few native predators in the United States. A small reddish-orange spotted ladybeetle called a vedalia

(*Novius cardinalis*) has been introduced from Australia to combat cushiony scale in Florida and California. A small parasitic fly (*Cryptochaetum iceyae*) has also been introduced as a natural biocontrol. Both insects are highly sensitive to pesticides so they must be used without the use of chemical insecticides.

Safari (Dinotefuran) is a systemic insecticide labeled for use in combatting cottony cushion scale and works well in greenhouses. Products containing Imidacloprid often yield disappointing results and fail to fully control this insect pest. Oil products such as dormant oil, neem oil, and all-season horticultural oils work to smother these insects, but can only be applied in cooler temperatures as they can cause leaves to burn and plants to defoliate if applied in the summer months. Malathion applied at a rate of 2 lbs. per 100 gallons has shown good control of cottony cushion scale when applied with a spreader-sticker product which helps to deliver the product past the waxy cover. An insect growth regulator (Pyriproxyfen) also works by sterilizing adults and kills nymphs when applied at a rate of 17 lbs. per acre, with another application 21 days later. Be sure to follow all label directions and rates when selecting an insecticide product.

~Anna Timmerman



Photo by Anna Timmerman

A foul host of cottony cushion scale clinging to the side of a plant container.

Resources:

[Cottony Cushion Scale Management Guidelines--UC IPM \(ucanr.edu\)](https://ucanr.edu/cottony-cushion-scale-management-guidelines)

[Cottony Cushion Scale | NC State Extension Publications \(ncsu.edu\)](https://ncsu.edu/cottony-cushion-scale)

[cottony cushion scale - Icerya purchasi Maskell \(ufl.edu\)](https://ufl.edu/cottony-cushion-scale)

[Cottony Cushion Scale / Citrus / Agriculture: Pest Management Guidelines / UC Statewide IPM Program \(UC IPM\) \(ucanr.edu\)](https://ucanr.edu/cottony-cushion-scale-citrus-agriculture-pest-management-guidelines)

[cottonycushion.doc \(arizona.edu\)](https://arizona.edu/cottonycushion.doc)

Bananarama

If you are not a fan of the heat, then Louisiana's *Cruel Summer* can certainly take a toll on weary gardeners. As the hot summer streets and pavements are burning, it may be hard to smile. It's too close for comfort, this heat has got right out of hand.... But one plant that thrives in the summer sun is our flowering bananas. These showcase specimens are sure to draw the attention of your neighbors, perhaps causing you to hear strange voices (what did they say?) lurking around your landscape to get a better look.

Flowering bananas add a tropical taste to the landscape, with the bright pink flowers and small fruits set against a background of fan-like foliage. Bananas belong to the *Musa* genus, where if you are looking for flowers, fruit, and foliage that stands out in the heat of summer, this selection will say "I'm your genus, I'm your fire... at your desire." Some popular selections include *Musa ornata*, which boasts pink/purple, showy blooms, *Musa coccinea*, with fiery-red flowers, and *Musa sumatrana* 'Zebrina', renowned for its blood red

stems. While predominantly propagated in the landscape for ornamental features, selecting certain cultivars (such as *Musa* 'Dwarf Cavendish') and being below I-10 may afford better opportunities for edible

fruit. Considering that many *Musa* cultivars for the Louisiana landscape are meticulously selected for ornamental appeal and cold hardiness, taste is often an afterthought. Some varieties have a more starchy than sweet taste – similar to plantains or cooking varieties of bananas. For edible bananas, harvesting should take place towards the end of the growing season to allow time for the green bananas to ripen on the plant. Certainly, make sure to harvest the fruit before the first freeze or else the crop is compromised.

When it comes to pruning your banana plants, "It Ain't What You Do... (it's the way that you do it)". Frost damage, especially in the city, can be minor (slight damage to leaves); however, particularly cold weather can cause damage to the trunks of your banana plant. Cutting back the trunk of the banana plant should only be performed



The attractive flower of the *Musa ornata* plant.

in the case of extreme winter injury, as trunks that survive the winter provide protection to the flowering stalks that grow inside of the trunk. Unnecessarily cutting back the trunk may cost you future flowers, so make sure to only prune with purpose. To provide an added layer of protection during winter, make sure that the banana plant rhizomes have a healthy layer of mulch to help insulate. Site-selection is critical too – we often see banana plants located near buildings,

as the warmth of the structure (and protection from the elements) are advantages during colder weather. Whether to add ornamental interest or to offset produce bills, these heat-loving tropical plants add intrigue to the landscape. While it may not be an iconic 80's band, you too can feel the excitement of *Bananarama* in your landscape.

~Dr. Damon Abdi and Dr. Jeb Fields



A dense clump of ornamental *Musa ornata* banana plants.

Disease of the Month

Fig Rust (*Cerotelium fici*)

Fig trees are a beloved tree in the Louisiana home garden. Originally from a dry and warm climate, fig trees are prone to fungal infections when grown in humid climates like ours.

One of the most common diseases of fig trees along the Gulf Coast is fig rust. Fig rust generally develops late in the summer. If the disease is severe, it can cause the trees to defoliate in a few weeks.

Fig rust is a fungal disease that primarily affects the leaves of fig trees, causing them to turn yellow-brown and drop prematurely in the summer or early fall. This disease does not impact the fruit directly, but it

can lead to premature ripening. The fungus responsible for fig rust, *Cerotelium fici*, thrives in the warm, humid conditions typical of the summers in south Louisiana. The fungus usually attacks the young leaves first. It spreads by airborne spores from infected leaves, which can be carried by wind or by

water splashed on the tree. Temperatures ranging from 78 to 87° F with relative humidity of 86-92% favors high incidence of fig rust.

Initial symptoms of fig rust are small, yellowish spots

on the upper surface of the leaves. As these spots (or lesions) grow, they turn a reddish-brown (rust) color and have an angular appearance but remain relatively smooth. On the underside of the leaf, the lesions are a reddish-brown color and have a slightly raised, blister-like appearance. These lesions are rust sporangia or rust pustules from which spores are released that can infect other plants or

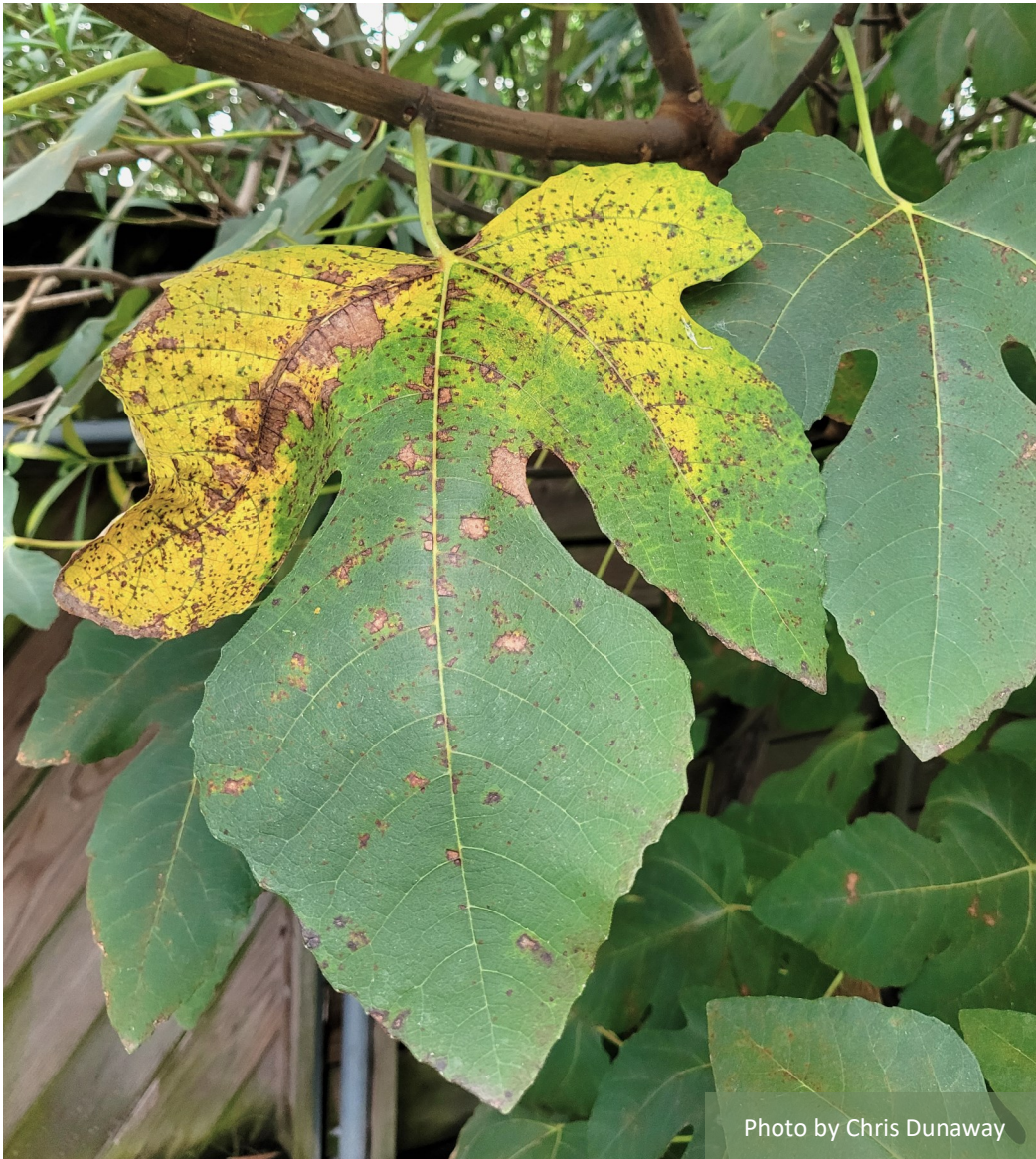


Photo by Chris Dunaway

Fig leaves infected with fig rust.

reinfect their current host. Severely infected leaves will yellow before falling off the tree, leading to significant leaf drop.

To manage fig rust, gardeners can adopt several cultural practices. Water fig trees at the base rather than overhead to keep the leaves dry. Additionally,

water in the morning so the sun can dry the leaves, rust fungus looks for moisture on them. Prune trees to improve air circulation around the foliage, which helps reduce humidity around the leaves. Remove and destroy any infected leaves when you start to notice spots. It is also important to remove and destroy fallen leaves and debris around fig trees, as the fungal spores can overwinter and return in the next growing season.

There are no fungicides registered to control fig rust on edible fig trees in Louisiana once the disease is discovered. Preventative treatment on bare trees during the dormant season followed by repeated treatments every 2-3 weeks can prevent occurrence during the growing season. Fig trees respond best to fungicides containing copper sulfate and lime.

Gardeners can protect their fig trees from this fig rust by recognizing the symptoms and implementing effective management strategies. Regular monitoring and proactive care are ways to maintain healthy and productive fig trees in your garden. Although fig rust is not fatal, it can make trees more susceptible to other diseases

and reduce fruit yield if it occurs over multiple growing seasons. Fortunately, fig trees can tolerate the damage and recover, so treatment is not always necessary.

~ Liz Langlois and Dr. Joe Willis



Clean up the dead leaves under infected trees to reduce the source of infectious fungal spores.

Resources:

Butler, EJ. Fig Rust, LSU Plant Pathology Disease Identification and Management Series. <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/DCB303B2-B460-45E3-AD0E-6D5E43B45D36/71575/pub3159FigRustHIGHRES1.pdf>

Fig Diseases. 2020. Vikaspedia. [Fig Diseases — Vikaspedia](#)

Preventing Fig Rust: Stopping Rust on Fig Leaves and Fruit. <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/fruits/figs/figs-disease-rust.htm>

Viznyy, Igor. 2024. 9 Common Fig Tree Diseases. <https://worldofgardenplants.com/fig-tree-diseases/>

In the Kitchen with Austin

Cucumber Salad

This chilled salad is delicious with grilled meat or seafood. It is also great for picnics or potlucks, and the crème fraiche makes preparation a snap!

Ingredients:

1 English cucumber	1 Tbs. chopped dill
1 tsp. salt	½ tsp. black pepper
1 Tbs. white wine vinegar	¼ cup crème fraiche
1 tsp. sugar	½ tsp. sea salt
1 small shallot, peeled & diced	



Directions:

Cut cucumber in half lengthwise and then slice into thin half-moons. Place slices in a colander and sprinkle with 1 tsp. salt. Toss, cover, and drain for 30 minutes.

Rinse cucumber slices under cold water. Pat dry and place in a large bowl.

In a small bowl, whisk vinegar and sugar until sugar has dissolved. Add shallots, dill, and black pepper. Pour mixture over cucumber slices and toss to coat.

Cover and chill until ready to serve. Just before serving, fold crème fraiche into salad. Sprinkle with sea salt and serve.



A bowl of fresh cucumber salad

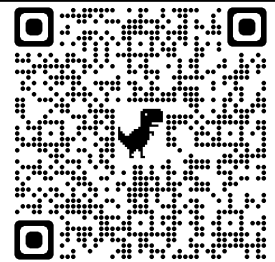
Bien Manger

Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

Funding helps the LSU AgCenter agents provide help for:

- School and Community Gardens
- Seed Libraries
- Demonstration Gardens
- Educational Scholarships
- Local Research
- and Much More

**We Need
Your Help**



Scan the QR code above to go to the LSU Foundation donation webpage.

Click here or go to: <https://bit.ly/3UQRS7H>

Search for Greater New Orleans Horticulture Support Fund

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Orleans Parish

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Mid-City

500 N. Norman C. Francis
Thursdays from 3-7PM
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders at
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- City Park

Tad Gormley Stadium parking lot at
Marconi and Navarre
Sundays from 8AM-Noon
Preorder contact-free drive through only,
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

SPROUT NOLA Truck Farm Table

200 N. Broad (In Whole Foods lobby or in
parking lot, weather permitting)
Walk up <https://www.sproutnolaform.org/>

Vietnamese Farmer's Market

14401 Alcee Fortier Blvd., New Orleans East
Saturdays, 5:30AM-8:30AM

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 Hubs

Pick up points vary, pre-orders available
Bywater, Broadmoor, Lakeview, Irish
Channel, Mid-City, Algiers Point, Uptown
Locations
[https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/](https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/events)
events

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,
weekly bulk produce sale.
<https://www.facebook.com/BarceloGardens/>

Bywater Market at Trap Kitchen-Bywater

1043 Poland Ave
Sundays from 10AM-3PM

BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point

4123 Woodland Dr. Algiers
First and Third Sundays of the month, from
10AM-1PM
<https://www.bounyfulgreenmarket.com/>

Sankofa Fresh Stop Market

Coming soon!
<https://sankofanola.org/rfqs/>

Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods- Treme-Laffite

585 N. Claiborne at Lafitte Greenway
(under overpass)
Check for current dates/times at
www.sheauxfresh.org

FUBU Market

3101 Erato Street New Orleans, location
changes, check website/social media
<https://www.facebook.com/TheFUBUMarket>
www.fubumarket.com/

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/](https://www.facebook.com/TheMandevilleTrailhead)
TheMandevilleTrailhead
985.624.3147

Madisonville Market

Riverside Park South
Water St., Madisonville, LA 70447
Sunday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
www.madisonvillemarket.org

Folsom Village Market

Hwy 40, one block east of Hwy 25
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (weather per-
mitting)
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/](https://www.townofabitasprings.com/farmers-market)
farmers-market
985.892.0711

Camellia City Farmer's Market

Old Towne Slidell
333 Erlanger St. (Corner of Third St.)
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/)
CamelliaCityMarket/
985.640.7112

St. Charles Parish

Luling Farmer's Market at Westbank Bridge Park-Luling

13825 River Road, Luling, LA
Wednesdays, from 1-5PM
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

German Coast Farmer's Market

160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Jefferson Parish

Gretna Farmer's Market

739 Third Street, Gretna
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
Every Saturday & Sunday, 9AM-5PM
<https://www.facebook.com/NawlinsMarket/>

Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte

920 Jean Lafitte Blvd.
Last Saturday of the month, 9AM-1PM
<https://www.facebook.com/JeanLafitteLa/>

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie

3000 Downs Blvd.
Wednesdays, from 2-7PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064920097975>

Westwego Farmer's Market

484 Sala Ave., Westwego
3rd Tuesday of the month, 10AM-2PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075979938725>

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>

Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview

4516 Clearview
Store Pickups, preorder online at <https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/buy-groceries-1>

Harahan Farmer's Market

501 Oak Ave., Zeringue Park, Harahan
Sundays, 9AM-1PM
<https://www.facebook.com/HarahanMarket>

Rivertown Farmer's Market

400 Block of Williams Blvd., Kenner
Thursdays Noon-6PM (Off for August)
<https://www.facebook.com/RivertownFarmersMarket>

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.oldmetairegardenclub.com/tag/farmers-art-metairie-market/>

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	

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

Urban Roots	2375 Tchoupitoulas St., New Orleans, LA 70130	(504) 522-4949
The Plant Gallery	9401 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 488-8887
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.planterynola.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
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Pelican Greenhouse Plant Sales



Visit the Pelican Greenhouse for a large selection of plants for sale. Many of plants are propagated from cuttings, seeds, and divisions from plants already growing in the Botanical Garden.

September 7 & 8, 2024

9AM-NOON

Pelican Greenhouse
2 Celebration Drive.

September Checklist/Garden Tips

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. Finish laying sod by the middle of the month to give it time to establish before winter.
2. Apply pre-emergent herbicide to prevent winter weed seeds from germinating in the lawn.
3. As the weather gets cooler, you may apply selective herbicides to eliminate broad leaf weeds in the lawn.
4. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
5. Dethatch the lawn if necessary. This is the last month before winter to dethatch.
6. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass. [Click here to find information about large patch disease from the LSU AgCenter.](#)
7. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. The best time to water is in the morning.
8. Keep an eye open for insect pests. Chinch bugs and tropical sod webworms have been reported lately.
9. Spread a mixture of fine compost and coarse builders sand over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
10. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.
11. Take a soil test. Test kits are available in our offices as well as local garden centers.

Don't's

1. Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn again until April of next year.
2. Do not apply phosphorous winterizer to the lawn without taking a soil sample first. We have ample amounts of phosphorous in our soil already.
3. Do not attempt to install a new lawn with sprigs or seeds.
4. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height of lawn grass at a single time.
5. Do not try to grow grass in deep shade.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help



Follow us on Facebook at GNOGardening

For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

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GNO Gardening Magazine published by Chris Dunaway

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