



GNO Gardening Magazine

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In This Issue:

Look at Me:
Daylily (*Hemerocallis*
hybrida)

By: Will Afton

Know Your Natives:
Liatris pycnostachya
(Prairie Blazing Star)

By: Dr. Joe Willis

Misunderstood Plant of
the Month

Virginia Buttonweed
(*Diodia virginiana*)

By: Chris Dunaway

Smooth CRINUMal

By: Dr. Damon Abdi

Mistaken Identity
Crinum vs.

Hymenocallis

By: Chris Dunaway

What's Bugging You:
Asian Needle Ant
(*Brachyponera*
chinensis)

By: Dr. Joe Willis

Disease of the Month:
Fig Leaf Rust
(*Cerotelium fici*)

By: Alyssa Tarrant

Cover photo: An assortment of daylily varieties

By Louisiana Master Gardener Ron Calk

Look at Me:

Daylily (*Hemerocallis hybrida*)

If you are looking for a tough, reliable, and easy to grow perennial flower for your garden, then try experimenting with daylilies. These herbaceous perennial plants have been popular with home gardeners for years and for good reasons. They thrive in full sun locations, tolerate moist soil, grow quickly, bloom in summer, and are very easy to propagate.

The original daylily species grown in the United States was *Hemerocallis fulva*, also known as the orange daylily, tawny daylily or ditch lily. Its native range occurs from the Caucasus Mountains in Eastern Europe through the Himalayas and into China, Japan, and North Korea. Some states list it as an invasive plant in certain settings because it can slowly spread into large colonies and possibly displace native plant species. However, the daylilies we know today are clump forming hybrids and can be grown without fear of escaping the landscape.

Dr. Arlow Stout (1876-1957) was the pioneer breeder of the modern hybrid daylily. His contributions while working at the New York Botanical Garden paved the way for this plant to become a common staple in gardens across the country. His work included over 50,000 crosses, producing over 100 different viable *Hemerocallis* hybrids. The American Daylily Society honors Dr. Stout's contributions by recognizing outstanding daylily cultivars with the Stout Silver

Medal Award. You might see this recognition on plant tags when shopping around.

The modern hybridized daylilies that are grown today share some characteristics with the original tawny daylily but don't spread as easily, offer more flower



Hemerocallis DayScape™ Scarlet Burst in one of the trial beds at the Hammond Research Station.

colors, longer blooming period, and some even remain evergreen throughout the year. The foliage of these hybridized daylily varieties grows in a clump-like habit with bright green strap-like leaves anywhere from 12 to 20 inches long and 2 inches wide. The flowers are tubular to bell-shaped, expanding upward with a wide flare near the end. The flowering stalks emerge from the base of the plant and extend 12 to 36 inches above the foliage. The color options are endless and come in both single and double forms. Some even have ruffled edges to provide even more aesthetic interest.

Daylilies have few pests to worry about. Thrips and

aphid issues can arise and cause issues at times.

Organic gardeners can use Spinosad for thrip control and insecticidal soaps, horticultural and neem oils for aphid control. For those looking for a more conventional option, systemic insecticides like imidacloprid can help with both pests.

Daylily rust disease became a major fungal issue in the early 2000s and still wreaks havoc in the landscape to this day. The characteristic symptoms of daylily rust appear as yellow to orange "powder" on

the leaves. The surrounding tissue eventually turns yellow and becomes necrotic. Choosing resistant cultivars and good sanitation practices are always good cultural strategies to follow that will help reduce disease occurrence. For severely infected plants, remove all foliage a few inches from the base and dispose with the trash. Allow the plant to regrow and apply a fungicide like propiconazole and chlorothalonil to protect the new foliage as it emerges.

Growing daylilies is just like they are advertised if you start with right place. Find a sunny location with decent drainage. Six hours of direct sunlight will yield good flower production. Daylilies can handle moist soil, but areas that hold excess water should be raised to ease root stress. Dan Gill recommends adding composted organic material and turning the soil to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. Not only does this allow for faster root system establishment but it also helps with internal soil drainage. Depending on the cultivar, daylilies can get anywhere between 12 to 36 inches wide so choose an area where they have enough room to fill out. Once planted, apply a general-purpose plant fertilizer, maintain a 2 to 4 inch layer of mulch above the disturbed soil, and provide supplemental irrigation when it's not raining.

Prior to the year 2000 there were hundreds of different varieties to choose, but once daylily rust disease became an issue, the availability was greatly reduced. However, you will still find many different daylily varieties today and luckily most have decent

disease resistance. One of the most popular, and winner of the 1985 Stout Silver Medal Award, 'Stella

de Oro', sometimes listed as 'Stella d'Oro', is a dwarf option that stays 10-12 inches wide and 12 inches tall. The flowers are 2.75 inch diameter yellow with ruffles edges. It's generally described as a semi-evergreen type but stays evergreen in the Southeast Louisiana climate. 'Happy Returns' is another dwarf variety that shares parentage with 'Stella de Oro'. Its flower scapes reach 18 inches tall and it produces 3 inch yellow blooms.

Darwin Perennials, a large plant breeder and producer of perennial plants for the industry, has a daylily series out called Hemerocallis DayScape™ with several options in an array of colors. The LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403 is currently conducting field trials on some of these varieties which anyone can view during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

Lastly, there are daylily varieties that have been bred in Louisiana. Mr. Dale Westmoreland of WestFarms Nursery in Washington Parish has been breeding new daylily varieties for quite some time and has released quite a few over the years. You

can find his plants for sale at local garden shows like the Northshore Garden and Plant Sale in Covington, LA and events like the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station Spring Plant Sale in Hammond, LA.

~William Afton



Hemerocallis DayScape™ Golden Blaze



Hemerocallis DayScape™ Berries and Cream

July Planting Guide

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

For more recommended varieties and supplier information click here to visit the
Recommended Varieties Database on the LSUAgCenter website.

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

Know Your Natives: *Liatris pycnostachya* (Prairie Blazing Star)

Liatris pycnostachya, commonly known as prairie blazing star or thickspike gayfeather, is a perennial wildflower native to Louisiana and much of the central and southeastern United States. It is valued for its striking vertical flower spikes and adaptability to prairie and meadow landscapes. The flowers are attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators, and the small seeds are attractive to songbirds.

Native Range

Liatris pycnostachya is native from the Midwest southward into Louisiana and eastern Texas and is widely distributed across the central and southeastern United States. In Louisiana, it is most commonly associated with prairie regions and open landscapes.

Botanical Description

Liatris pycnostachya is an upright, clump-forming herbaceous perennial arising from an underground



Field of *Liatris pycnostachya*. "Courtesy Sally and Andy Wasowski, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center."

corm. Plants typically reach 2 to 5 feet tall. Stems are unbranched with narrow, linear leaves that decrease in size upward. The inflorescence is a dense terminal spike up to 20–24 inches long, composed of numerous rose-purple to magenta flower heads. Each head contains only disc florets, giving a feathery

appearance due to exerted stamens. Flowering progresses from the top of the spike downward.

In Louisiana and the Gulf South, prairie blazing star typically flowers from mid-summer through late summer, most commonly July through August, with blooms lasting several weeks.

Natural Habitat

Liatris pycnostachya occurs in tallgrass prairies, meadows, open woods, and rights-of-way. It prefers moist to moderately dry prairie soils and is often found in lower landscape positions or near boggy margins. In Louisiana, it occupies prairie remnants, savannas, and open sandy or loamy soils. *Liatris pycnostachya* has been documented in many Louisiana parishes but, according to the



Closeup of the flowers. "Courtesy Julie Makin, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center."

Guide to the Plants of Louisiana website, of the 10 parishes that comprise the GNO region, it is only found in St. Tammany, Washington, and Tangipahoa parishes. That begs the question – If you grow a Louisiana native plant in your native garden but it is not native to your parish can it legitimately be part of your native garden?

Growing Requirements

- Full sun for best growth and flowering
- Adaptable to clay, loam, or sandy soils with good drainage
- Prefers moist to medium moisture but tolerates drought once established
- Hardy in USDA Zones 3–9 and well adapted to Louisiana
- Low maintenance; may require staking in rich soils
- Propagated by seed (cold stratification recommended) or corm division

~ Dr. Joe W Willis

Selected References

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plant Database. *Liatris pycnostachya*. *Liatris pycnostachya* (Prairie blazing star) | Native Plants of North America

Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder. *Liatris pycnostachya*. *Liatris pycnostachya* - Plant Finder

NC State Extension Plant Toolbox. *Liatris pycnostachya*. *Liatris pycnostachya* (Cattail Blazing Star, Prairie Blazing Star) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox

USDA NRCS. Thickspike Gayfeather *Liatris pycnostachya* Plant Guide. Thickspike Gayfeather (*Liatris pycnostachya*) Plant Guide

USDA PLANTS Database. *Liatris pycnostachya* – Prairie Blazing Star. USDA Plants Database Plant Profile Images



Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly collecting nectar from *Liatris*. "Courtesy Johnny L. Johnson, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center."

Misunderstood Plant of the Month

Virginia Buttonweed (*Diodia virginiana*)

Virginia buttonweed (*Diodia virginiana*) is a warm-season perennial weed common throughout

Louisiana. It spreads primarily by seed, but it can also spread vegetatively through stem fragments.

Although this weed is adapted to a wide range of soil states, it favors moist conditions. Virginia buttonweed is considered the most troublesome lawn weed in Louisiana for several reasons: Its low growth allows it to tolerate mowing; its seeds can persist in the soil for long periods of time; and it is easily

propagated through stem fragments, which are frequently spread via mowing.

Virginia buttonweed is also resistant to most selective broadleaf herbicides. The good news is that the plants and seeds can provide food for wildlife and the flowers attract pollinating insects.

The plants grow long, low growing, spreading, fleshy stems with shiny, dark green, lance-shaped leaves oppositely arranged along regularly spaced nodes. The leaves have no petioles (stalks that attach leaves to stems). The flowers are tubular and white with four

petals, which are arranged in a four-pointed star and covered with fine hairs.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

The star shaped flowers of Virginia buttonweed.

Control

Virginia buttonweed is not readily controlled by most lawn weed killers. It is one of the most difficult to control broadleaf weeds in lawns. Multiple herbicide applications over 2 summers are generally needed for heavy infestations.

Lawn weed killers that contain 2,4-D, mecoprop, dicamba and carfentrazone, such as Weed B Gone Max for Southern Lawns, Weed Free Zone and Speed Zone, are effective in suppressing and somewhat effective in killing buttonweed

with multiple applications.

Make an application of one of these products over the entire lawn in early April and again in early May. Herbicide applications during the spring will kill germinating seedling plants and injure perennial plants. Once temperatures exceed 85° F, herbicides containing 2,4-D cause too much injury to St. Augustine grass and centipedegrass. During the summer, metsulfuron or products such as Celsius, which contains thienicarbazone, dicamba and

iodosulfuron, should be applied. Always repeat metsulfuron or Celsius applications four to six weeks after the initial application. Single herbicide applications, especially late in the season, have not been effective on mature Virginia buttonweed. When using any herbicide, always follow the manufacturer's labeled directions.

Persistent and regular spot treating with glyphosate over time is another way to help deal with this weed. Glyphosate (Roundup, Killzall and other brands) does a good job of killing this weed, but it kills the lawn grass as well – which is an issue. Be very careful to just spray the weeds when using this nonselective herbicide.

Scouting your lawn for weeds, pests and disease are important in maintaining a healthy lawn. Weeds tend to invade a lawn slowly with just a few plants. Removing them can prevent the weeds from spreading. If ignored, those plants can propagate quickly through seed production and out compete the grass for water, nutrients and sunlight.

~Chris Dunaway



The lance shaped leaves, stems, flowers and seeds of Virginia buttonweed are visible in this photo.

Smooth CRINUMal

Rain gardens are a great way to address excess water in the landscape. Selecting plants that thrive in wet/moist soil conditions and situating them in low spots of the yard is an easy way to implement these features at home... so easy it almost feels illegal. Rather than force turfgrass or a type of plant not suited for perpetually or periodically saturated soils, pick plants that offer aesthetics and functional value for these sites. It is wise to have a wide variety of plants, particularly species that can offer interest at different times of the year. One such rain garden plant that looks great in mid-summer is American Crinum (*Crinum americanum*). As you look out of the window, the spider-like white flowers of crinum offer low-lying interest as they emerge, manifesting in a crescendo of blooms that peak during the summer months. The blooms are noted for the 3-4" white, lily-like flowers that have a slight touch of pink/red. This native plant typically tops out around 3-4' and can be found throughout Louisiana in and around swamps and shorelines, so it is certainly well suited for rain gardens. Now, too much (or too little) water can be a concern for many plants; however, crinum won't fuss if the site is flooded.

In the event of excess water, you will not have to ask, "Plantings, are they okay? So, plantings, are they okay? Are they okay, plantings?"

Well, if you have been struck by a *smooth CRINUMal*, no need to worry. The pounding heartbeat and intimidation that often occurs with the idea of putting plants in (what's generally considered) inhospitable conditions is the only thing stolen from you.

Crinum doesn't need much attention, but protecting this perennial from winter's chill can be accomplished with a healthy layer of mulch to insulate the bulb during colder



Crinum lilies growing at the New Orleans Botanical Gardens.

months. While the spear-like foliage may die back in cold weather, a protected crinum bulb will provide a platform for new growth in spring. Otherwise, less is more when it comes to crinum maintenance. Avoid disturbing the bulb of this plant too much, save for delicately performed divisions when necessary (i.e. when the plant overgrows its area, or propagation is desired – in which case, do so in springtime, once the worst of winter has passed). Crinum does not mind being in close quarters, so overcrowding isn't a concern. Maintenance (or

the lack thereof) with crinum is nothing to fear, but exercise caution when working in a muddy rain garden. Enjoying taking care of rain gardens is not a crime, but be mindful to avoid allegations such as, "He came into the apartment, and left mud stains on the carpet". So, if you need a rain garden plant for summer interest, get struck by a smooth *CRINUMal*.

~Dr. Damon Abdi

Selected References:

https://www.nola.com/entertainment_life/home_garden/when-is-the-best-time-to-plant-divide-and-transplant-crinums/article_3aef2d4e-a525-5e84-a68e-33c15355da18.html

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/c/9/6/2/c96217aee0ddlabcc112993balef34fl/august%202021pdf.pdf>

<https://www.lnps.org/seven-sisters-crinum-lilly/>

Mistaken Identity

Crinum vs. Hymenocallis

NO! I will never be able to show my face at the garden again.

This was my thought when I read the email from one of our subscribers. At first they were very complimentary about the magazine and were particularly pleased with the article on one of their favorite plants, Crinums. Then they told me, in a very nice way, that I had mistakenly included photographs of *Hymenocallis littoralis*, aka. Spider Lilies.

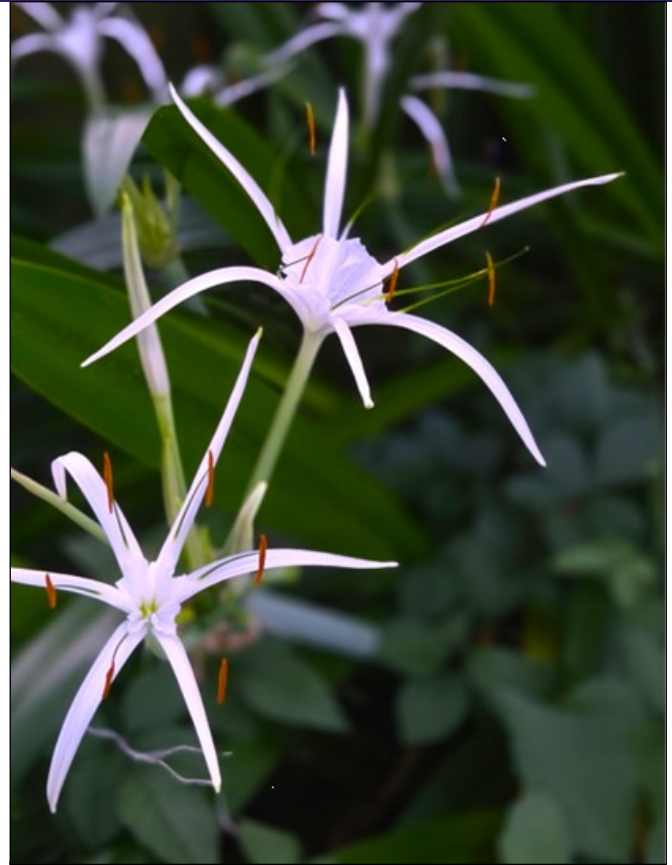
D'oh!

He was correct. While both plants are in the Amaryllidaceae family and both are commonly referred to as spider lilies, they are separate species with unique features.

Hymenocallis are easily identified by the distinct cup-shaped membrane that stretches between the long slender petals near the base of the flowers. Another differentiating feature is the arrangement of the leaves.



Flowering crinum lilies growing in New Orleans, LA



The spider-like flowers of *Hymenocallis* lilies from a garden in New Orleans, LA.

Both have similar strap-like leaves but the *Hymenocallis* leaves emerge in a flat, symmetrical, two-ranked fan-like pattern. *Crinum* leaves, on the other hand, radiate outward in a circular or spiral pattern. Finally, the edges of the *Hymenocallis* leaves are finely toothed while those of the *Crinum* are smooth.

One feature that I did see in other publications was that *Crinums* tend to grow taller to heights of 3-6' while *Hymenocallis* only grew to a max of 3'. Don't believe it. I have *Hymenocallis* growing at my house that reach the top of a 6' fence.

Both plants are native to wetlands and floodplains, and can thrive in moist, poorly drained soils or shallow standing water. They typically require partial shade to full sun and are adaptable to many different soil conditions.

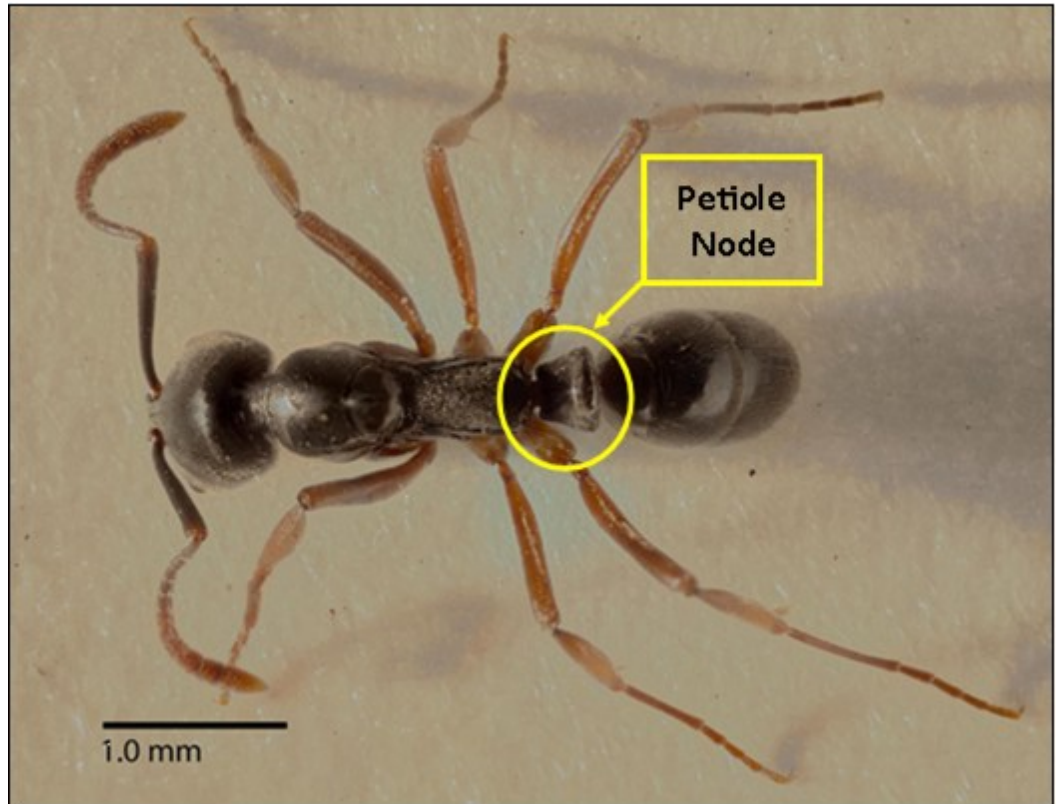
~Chris Dunaway

What's Bugging You: Asian Needle Ant (*Brachyponera chinensis*)

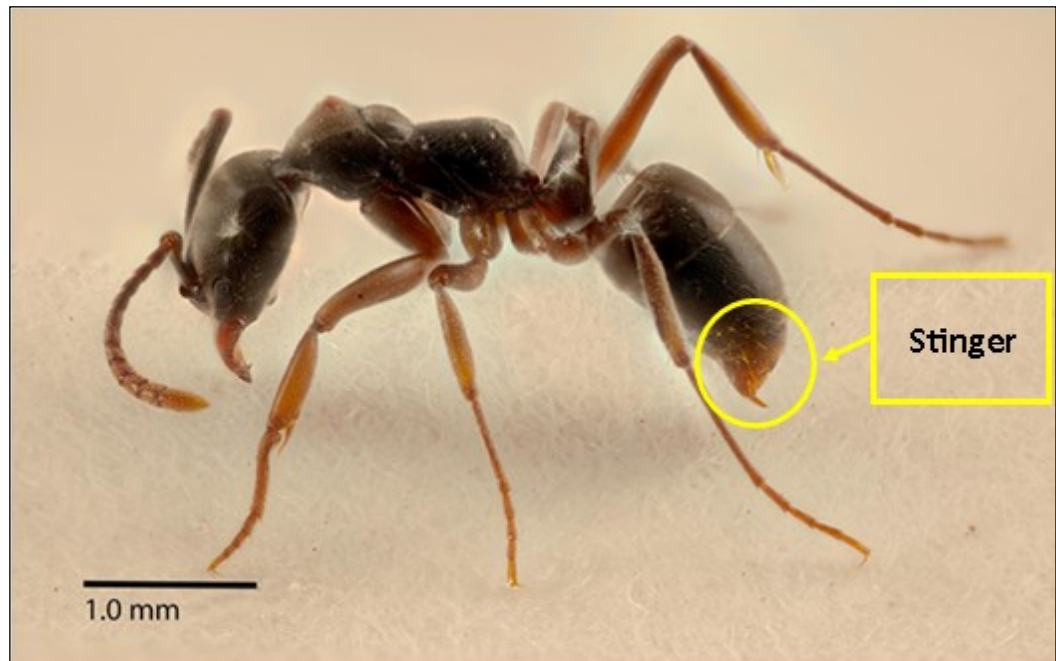
The Asian needle ant (*Brachyponera chinensis*) is an invasive, stinging ant increasingly recognized as a public health concern across the southeastern United States. Recently confirmed in Louisiana by LSU AgCenter entomologists, this species adds to the list of medically significant ants in the state. Other stinging ants that are found in Louisiana include Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*), Southern Fire Ant (*Solenopsis xyloni*), Thief Ant (*Solenopsis molesta*), Comanche Harvester Ant (*Pogonomyrmex comanche*), Elongate Twig Ant (*Pseudomyrmex gracilis*), and Ponerine Ant species in the subfamily Ponerinae.

Identification and Description

Accurate identification is critical, as this species can be easily confused with other dark-colored ants. Workers are medium-sized (4–6 mm long) with a slender, elongated body and smooth, shiny appearance. The body is dark brown to black, while the legs, mandibles, and antennae are lighter brown to orange in color. A key distinguishing feature is a single, prominent petiole node between the thorax and abdomen. The species also has a well-developed stinger at the tip of the abdomen. Colonies are typically small, ranging from a



Side view of an Asian needle ant worker. Note the single petiole node.
Photos by LASM (Louisiana Art & Science Museum)



Side view of an Asian needle ant worker. Note the prominent stinger.
Photos by LASM (Louisiana Art & Science Museum)

few hundred to several thousand individuals, and may contain multiple queens (polygyne).

Asian needle ants prefer moist, shaded environments and are commonly found in leaf litter, under logs, inside rotting wood, beneath stones, and in mulch or landscape debris. Because they do not build visible mounds and are often solitary foragers, they can be difficult to detect.

Asian needle ants can also be distinguished from other ants because they don't have the ability to cling to smooth surfaces like glass. If you capture an Asian needle ant in a glass jar, it will make a few attempts to climb the sides and then be content to stay at the bottom of the jar.

Distribution in Louisiana

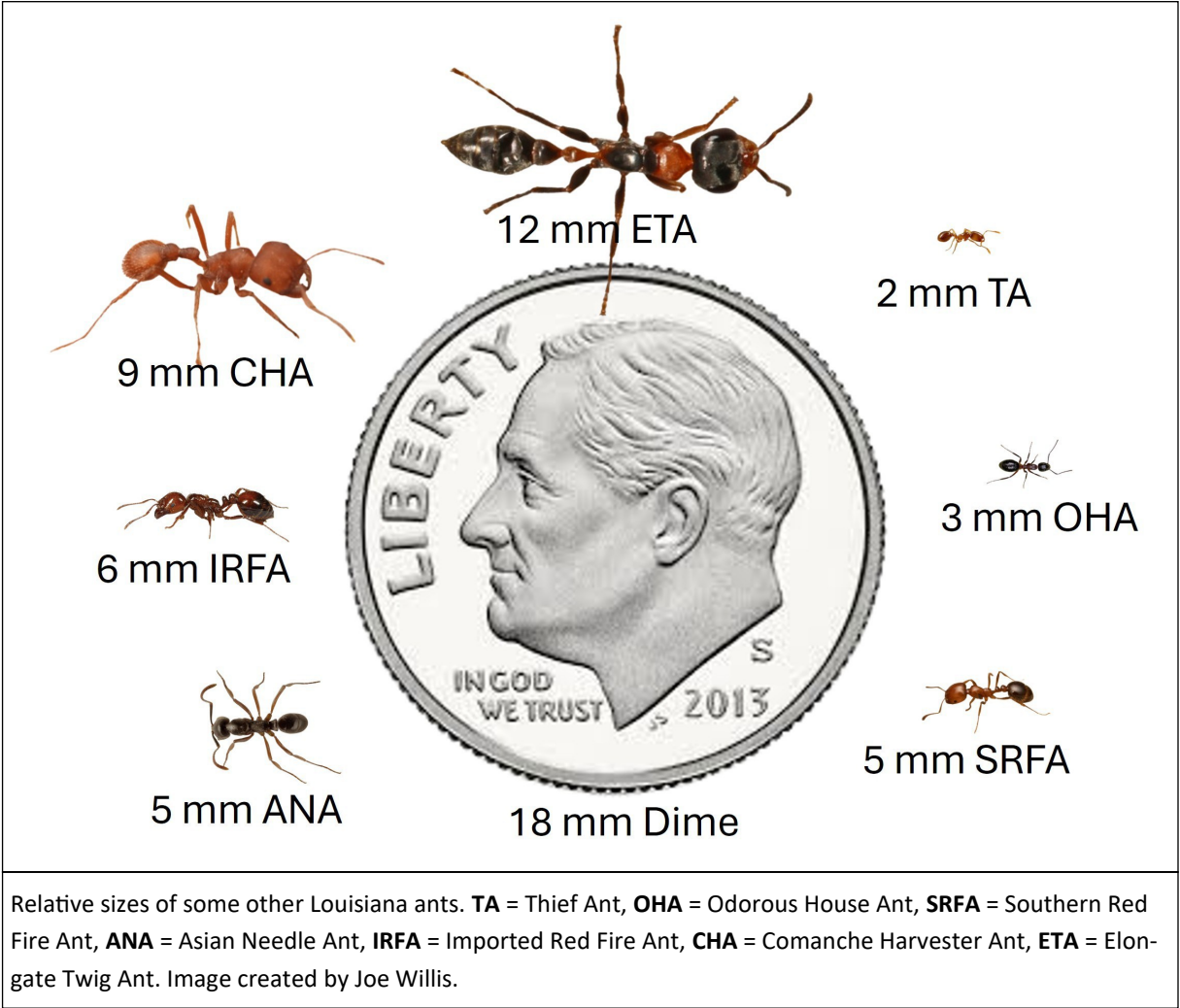
The Asian needle ant has been confirmed in Louisiana through collections in East Baton Rouge Parish and Livingston Parish. Additional observations from parks in southern Louisiana suggest the species is more widespread than currently documented. Because of Louisiana's favorable climate and abundance of suitable habitat, this ant is expected to continue expanding its range across the state, particularly in wooded and residential landscapes.

Biology and Behavior

Native to East Asia, the Asian needle ant has been present in the United States since the 1930s. It thrives in both natural and disturbed environments but is

particularly well adapted to forested habitats. It is a predatory species that feeds on termites and other small arthropods, often nesting near termite colonies in damp wood or soil.

Unlike highly aggressive ants such as the red imported fire ant, Asian needle ants are relatively non-aggressive and tend to avoid confrontation. However, they will sting when disturbed, particularly when encountered during gardening or when handling wood, mulch, or soil.



Sting and Medical Importance

The sting of the Asian needle ant is a significant concern. It is often described as a sharp, needle-like pain similar to or more intense than a honeybee sting. Local reactions commonly include redness, swelling, and hives.

More importantly, this species is associated with severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. Symptoms of anaphylaxis may include difficulty

breathing, swelling of the throat or tongue, dizziness, nausea, and rapid pulse. These reactions can be life-threatening and require immediate medical attention. Individuals with known allergies to insect stings should exercise particular caution, although severe reactions have also occurred in people without prior history.

Comparison to Other Louisiana Ants

The Asian needle ant can be confused with several other ants found in Louisiana, but key differences help distinguish it. Unlike red imported fire ants, Asian needle ants do not construct large soil mounds and are far less aggressive. Fire ants attack in large numbers and sting repeatedly, producing a characteristic burning sensation. In contrast, Asian needle ants typically sting only when directly disturbed.

Odorous house ants and other common household ants lack a stinger and are primarily nuisance pests. Carpenter ants are larger and often polymorphic, with workers of different sizes, while Asian needle ants are more uniform in size. The Asian needle ant's slender body, single-node waist, and preference for moist, wooded habitats are important distinguishing traits

Recommended Control Measures

Management of Asian needle ants should focus on integrated pest management (IPM) practices. Cultural control is critical and includes removing leaf litter, rotting logs, and excess mulch from around structures. Reducing moisture through improved drainage and avoiding over-irrigation can also limit suitable habitat.

When chemical control is necessary, it typically involves the use of granular or scatter baits applied in areas where ants are actively foraging. Worker ants carry the bait back to the colony, where it is shared, resulting in colony suppression. They have been noted to be attracted to protein-based ant baits. Products labeled for use on fire ants should work for Asian needle ants. Some available protein-based baits are: Amdro Ant Block, Rescue!, Combat Max 2-in1, and Advance 375A Select. Because nests are often hidden and difficult to access, baiting is generally

more effective than contact insecticides.

When working in areas where Asian needle ants may be present, individuals should wear gloves and exercise caution when moving wood or debris, especially following rainfall when ants are more active.

~Dr. Joe W Willis & Dr. Aaron Ashbrook

Selected References

LSU AgCenter. Moving Lines on the Map: The Asian Needle Ant Found in Southern Louisiana. [Moving Lines on the Map: The Asian Needle Ant \(*Brachyponera chinensis*\) Found in Southern Louisiana](#)

Ashbrook et al. 2025. Midsouth Entomologist: Confirmation of Asian needle ants in Louisiana. "[Ground Truthing of iNaturalist Submissions Confirms the Presence of Asian Needle Ants, *Brachyponera chinensis* \(Emery\) \(Hymenoptera: Formicidae\), in Louisiana, A New State Record](#)" by Aaron R. Ashbrook, Victoria Bayless et al.

Asian Needle Ant – An Invasive Stinging Ant. 2021. USDA Forest Service. [Asian Needle Ant | An Invasive Stinging Ant](#)

Asian Needle Ant. 2020. NCSU Extension. [Asian Needle Ant - Entomology](#) | NC State Extension



Disease of the Month: Fig Leaf Rust (*Cerotelium fici*)

While harvesting figs in July, you may notice the leaves are looking a little worse for the wear. With the hot and

humid summer conditions, brown spots on the leaves are likely a fungal infection. The most common culprit is fig leaf rust (*Cerotelium fici*).

Disease Development

Fig leaf rust is a fungal disease affecting just the leaves. It typically starts as yellow spots on the top of the leaves, turning a reddish brown as they expand (Ferrin and Overstreet, 2010). On the underside of the leaf, the infection also appears reddish brown, but the lesions are slightly raised. This is where spores are produced (Ferguson, 2024). Eventually infected leaves will shed from the tree.

In most cases fig leaf rust will have a limited impact on overall tree health. Even if leaves drop prematurely in the summer, you can expect the tree to perform just fine next year (Ferguson, 2024). However, if the leaves fall so early that it encourages new growth, this new foliage will be susceptible to cold injury in the case of an early frost. Defoliation later in the summer or early fall will likely just encourage early dormancy (Ferrin and Overstreet, 2010).

Management

Preventative copper fungicide sprays in the spring

before the tree makes fruit can help minimize disease in the summer (Kirk-Ballard, 2020). However, there are no chemical options available to treat fig leaf rust

once fruit is present. After fruit set management relies on cultural practices. Fallen infected leaves should be collected and destroyed (Ferrin and Overstreet, 2010). Do not put these leaves in your compost. Avoid overhead watering, especially in the afternoon or evening, and plan to prune in late winter to improve airflow (Ferguson, 2024). Even when these cultural practices are followed, however, disease is common (Ferrin and Overstreet, 2010). If you notice heavy pressure



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A fig tree in New Orleans with fig rust disease

affecting tree health this year, be sure to plan a preventative fungicide program for next spring.

~Alyssa Tarrant

Resources and additional reading

Ferguson, M.H. (2024). [When Fig Leaves Look Under the Weather](#). LSU AgCenter.

Kirk-Ballard, H. [LSU AgCenter]. (2020, July 20). *Get it Growing: How to treat fig leaf rust*. [Video].

YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hz9BffV4KKg>.

Ferrin, D., and Overstreet, C. (2010). Fig Rust. LSU AgCenter, [Pub 3159](#).

In the Kitchen with Dr. Austin

Vegetable Stuffed Peppers

I know this is a departure from the traditional stuffed peppers we all know and love, but these are perfect for a light summer meal.

Ingredients:

5 medium bell peppers
1 ½ cups cooked rice
1 Tbs. olive oil
1 small onion, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
3 cups of any fresh vegetables
you have on hand, diced

1 can of mild Rotel tomatoes
1 tsp. smoked paprika
Salt and pepper to taste
¼ cup parsley, chopped
1 ½ cup Monterey Jack cheese,
shredded



Directions:

Preheat your oven to 350° and fill a large pot with water and bring to a boil.

Cut peppers in half, removing ribs and seeds. Blanch peppers in boiling water for a few minutes to soften slightly. Drain upside down on a baking pan while preparing the filling.

Heat oil in a skillet over medium fire. Sauté the onion and garlic until translucent. Add fresh vegetables, Rotels, and seasonings. Cook for about 5 minutes stirring until everything is well combined.

Add parsley and stir one last time.

Stuff peppers with rice mixture and top with shredded cheese. Place in pan and bake for 15 – 20 minutes, until cheese is melted.

Enjoy!



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Orleans Parish

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Mid-City

500 N. Norman C. Francis at the Bayou
Thursdays from 3-6PM
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders at
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- City Park

City Putt Parking Lot
Dreyfous Dr. @ Anseman Ave.
Sundays from 8AM-Noon
Info at www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Uptown

200 Broadway
Tuesdays from 8AM-Noon
Walk-up and curbside pre-orders, info at
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Vietnamese Farmer's Market

4861 Alcee Fortier Blvd., New Orleans East
Saturdays, 5:30AM-9:00AM

Marketplace at Armstrong Park

901 N. Rampart
Thursdays from 3-7PM
<https://www.facebook.com/MarketplaceArmstrongPark/>

New Orleans French Market

Lower Decatur Street
Daily, 9AM-6PM

Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market

Comiskey Park, New Orleans
Market dates vary.
Check <http://midcityaf.org>

Laughing Buddha Farm

4516 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, LA
Or online at:
<https://laughing-buddha-nursery.localline.ca/online-store>

Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9th Ward

2301 Gallier Street at the garden, Saturdays from 10AM-1PM
3440 Piety Street Fresh Market open daily, 10-4.
Check here the link below for other times and locations.
<https://www.facebook.com/BarceloGardens/>

BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point

530 Powder St, New Orleans, LA
First and Third Sundays of the month, from 10AM-1PM
See more times and events at the link below.
<https://www.bounyfulgreenmarket.com/>

Sankofa Fresh Stop Market

5200 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA
<https://sankofanola.org/rfq/>

Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods

2500 Bayou Road
Order online at:
sheauxfresh.food

FUBU Market NOLA

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

St. Tammany Parish

Covington Farmers' Market

Covington Police Department
609 North Columbia St., Covington, LA 70433
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
Covington Trailhead
419 N. New Hampshire
Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (rain or shine)
www.covingtonfarmersmarket.org
General information: 985.966.1786

Mandeville Trailhead Community Market

Mandeville Trailhead
675 Lafitte St, Mandeville, LA 70448
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMandevilleTrailhead>
985.624.3147

Folsom Village Market

Hwy 40, one block east of Hwy 25
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (weather permitting)
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday
985.507.6496 (daytime only)

Abita Springs Art and Farmers' Market

22049 Main St., Abita Springs, LA 70420
Sunday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.townofabitasprings.com/farmers-market>
985.892.0711

Camellia City Farmer's Market

2055 2nd Street, Old Towne Slidell
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/>
985.640.7112

St. Charles Parish

German Coast Farmer's Market-East Bank

St. Charles Parish East Regional Library
160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

German Coast Farmer's Market-West Bank

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

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Jefferson Parish

Gretna Farmer's Market

Between 3rd & 4th St. along Huey P. Long
Every Saturday, except the Saturday of
Gretna Fest, 8:30AM-12:30PM
<https://www.gretnala.com/visitors/farmers-market/>

Nawlins Outdoor Market

1048 Scotsdale Dr., Harvey
Saturdays 9AM-5PM & Sundays 9AM-4PM
Fridays 11AM-3PM
<https://www.facebook.com/NawlinsMarket/>

Old Metairie Farmer's Market

Bayou Metairie Park, Between Metairie Lawn
Dr. and Labarre
1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:30PM-
7:30PM** Check for seasonal dates!
<https://www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/tag/farmers-art-metairie-market/>

Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte

920 Jean Lafitte Blvd.
Last Saturday of the month, 9AM-2PM
<https://www.facebook.com/JeanLafitteLa/>

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie

3000 Downs Blvd.
Wednesdays, from 1-6PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064920097975>

Westwego Farmer's Market

484 Sala Ave., Westwego
3rd Tuesday of the month, 11AM-3PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075979938725>

Laughing Buddha Farm

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

Westwego Shrimp Lot

100 Westbank Expressway at Louisiana St.,
Westwego
Daily Mon-Thurs 8AM-6PM, Fri 8AM-7PM,
Sat 7AM-7PM, and Sun 7AM-6PM
<https://www.facebook.com/officialwestwegoshrimplot>

Harahan Farmer's Market

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

The Market at Kenner City Park

3800 Loyola Drive, Kenner, LA
Thursdays 1PM-6PM
2nd & 4th Saturdays 10AM-2PM
<https://www.facebook.com/RivertownFarmersMarket>

Local Independent Garden Centers

Jefferson

Perino's Garden Center	3100 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 834-7888
Rose Garden Center	4005 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 341-5664
Rose Garden & Pet Store	5420 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 347-8777
Banting's Nursery	3425 River Rd., Bridge City, LA 70094	(504) 436-4343
Jefferson Feed	4421 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson, LA 70121	(504) 733-8572
Nine Mile Point Plant Nursery	2141 River Rd., Westwego, LA 70094	(504) 436-4915
Palm Garden Depot	351 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 305-6170
Double M Feed Harahan	8400 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 738-5007
Double M Feed Metairie	3212 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 835-9800
Double M Feed Terrytown	543 Holmes Blvd., Terrytown, LA 70056	(504) 361-4405
Sunrise Trading Co. Inc.	42 3 rd St., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 469-0077
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 887-4336
Creative Gardens & Landscape	2309 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058	(504) 367-9099
Plumeria Insanity Nursery	https://www.facebook.com/Plumeria-Insanity-Nursery-102123651930419	
Garden Specialties, Inc.	3601 Florida Ave., Kenner, LA 70065	(504) 468-2300
Clearview Plant and Garden	4511 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 888-7700

Soil Vendors

Schmelly's Dirt Farm	8301 Olive St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 535-GROW
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 887-433
Reliable Soil	725 Reverand Richard Wilson Dr., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 467-1078
Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
Rock n' Soil NOLA	9119 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 488-0908
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713

If you would like your licensed retail nursery listed, please email gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

Local Independent Garden Centers

Orleans

Harold's Plants	1135 Press St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 947-7554
We Bite Rare and Unusual Plants	1225 Mandeville St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 380-4628
Hot Plants	1715 Feliciana St., New Orleans, LA 70117	www.hotplantsnursery.com
Pelican Greenhouse Sales	2 Celebration Dr., New Orleans, LA 70124	(504) 483-9437
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713
Jefferson Feed Mid-City	309 N. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119	(504) 488-8118
Jefferson Feed Uptown	6047 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 218-4220
Ninth Ward Nursery	2641 Deslonde St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 296-8398
Crazy Plant Bae	800 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans LA 70119	(504) 327-7008
Canopy Plant Company	6030 St. Claude, New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 381-4033
Too Tall Nursery	2817 N. Roman, New Orleans, LA 70117	tootallfarm@gmail.com
Plantery NOLA	Pop Up Locations	www.planteryola.com
Canopy Plant Co.	Pop Up and Online Sales	www.canopyplantco.com
New Orleans Succulent Boutique	Online Sales	https://sites.google.com/view/nolasucculentshop/home
Root Life Mobile Plant Nursery	Pop Up Locations	https://rootlifeplantnursery.com/
New Orleans Green LLC	Online Sales	www.neworleans-green.com

Plaquemines

Southern Gateway Garden Center	107 Timber Ridge St., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 393-9300
Belle Danse Orchids	14079 Belle Chasse Hwy., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 419-5416

St. Charles

Plant & Palm Tropical Outlet	10018 River Rd., St. Rose, LA 70087	(504) 468-7256
Martin's Nursery & Landscape	320 3 rd St., Luling, LA 70070	(985) 785-6165

St. Bernard

Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	https://plantpricks.com/
Nice Plants, Good Pots	6720 St. Claude Ave., Arabie, LA	Etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots

St. Tammany

The Boho Being	1184 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458	(985) 707-1623
Banting's Nursery-Northshore	26300 Hwy 190, Lacombe, LA 70445	(985) 882-5550

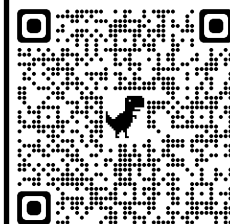
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- and Much More



Dr. Singh teaches local arborists on collecting samples for lab analysis



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July Checklist/Garden Tips

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. This is the last month to lay sod for Centipede, Zoyia, or St. Augustine grasses. Bermudagrass may be installed through August. Seeding of Centipede may be done this month but is not recommended.
2. You may fertilize at this time if you have not already done so. Look on page 5 of the [Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices Guide](#) for information on the correct timing and application rates.
3. Chinch bugs are historically active this month so keep scouting for damage and apply treatment if chinch bugs are detected.
4. Irrigate as necessary to moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. The best time to water is in the morning. It is safest, from a disease standpoint, not to keep a grass wet all night long. Watering established sod during midday is discouraged because of extra loss from evaporation
5. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Spread fill soil and compost over the lawn to add organic material and smooth out the lawn. Do not add more than 2 inches over actively growing grass.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.

Don't's

1. Do not apply selective herbicides with heat restrictions to the lawn.
2. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time.
3. Do not try to grow grass in deep shade.

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

Southern chinch bug

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

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

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

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

■ Injury common ■ Injury occasional ■ Injury rare

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

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For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

Have Questions? Contact the LSU AgCenter Extension Agent in your Parish.

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