



GN Gardening Magazine

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Cover photo: *Packera glabella* growing along the side of River Road in St. Charles Parish, LA.

Photo by Chris Dunaway

Misunderstood Plant of the Month: Butterweed aka Cressleaf Groundsel (*Packera glabella*)

One of the most prominent wildflowers in the winter provides a pop of sunny yellow color in ditches, on roadsides, and in wooded areas. Cressleaf groundsel, locally called butterweed or in Cajun French “pissenlit”, which is the word for dandelion. *Packera glabella* can bloom year-round in south Louisiana but tends to be at peak bloom in January and February while ambient temperatures are cooler. It prefers moist soil and can thrive in sunny or shaded conditions. Butterweed is perennial and can be found statewide.

A member of the Aster family, butterweed is an erect herbaceous plant that can reach up to 36” in height. It grows readily from seed and needs cold stratification for good germination rates. The plant has a basal rosette that is visible year-round with slightly scalloped, lyrate-pinnatifid shaped leaves. The stem is hollow, and the roots are fibrous from a central taproot. The bright yellow ray petaled flowers are clustered at the top axis of the stalk with smaller clusters emerging from the leaf nodes. When frosty conditions happen, butterweed tolerates the cold and is among one the first wildflowers to rebloom. It is known to have a slightly aggressive growth habit that can overtake other native plants in the area, forming thick stands of golden blooms.

Butterweed is considered to be a nuisance weed in pastures as it is mildly



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Packera glabella growing along the side of River Road in St. Charles Parish, LA.

toxic to livestock. In meadow and garden settings, however, it can be valued as a wildflower that provides nectar and pollen for honeybees, butterflies (including migratory species), and other insects.

Packera glabella is a very important economical plant by providing a nectar source for commercial beekeepers in the winter months and the dying plant material is also a major source of food for crawfish living in local waterways.

If you do desire to eliminate *Packera glabella* from an area, control of butterweed involves digging or hand pulling, or the use of broadleaf herbicides such as 2,4-D, glyphosate, or dicamba. For small areas, hand removal is recommended.

~Anna Timmerman



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Packera glabella flowers.

January Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Some Recommended Varieties
Beets	Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen
Broccoli	Arcadia, Diplomat, Gypsy, Packman, Premium Crop, Windsor Greenbelt, Patron
Cauliflower	Candid Charm, Cumberland, Freedom, Incline, Majestic, Snow Crown, Wentworth
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
Snow peas	None Given
Collards	Champions, Flash, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates
Kale	None Given
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner
Lettuce	Esmeralda, New Red Fire F1, Nevada, Tall Guzmaine Elite
Mustard Greens	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Tendergreen
Onions	Red: Red Creole, Southern Belle; White: Candy, Savannah Sweet; Vidalia: Candy Ann, Caramelo, Century, Georgia Boy, Mata Hari
Spinach	Bloomsdale Long Standing, Melody, Tyee, Unipak 151
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross
Shallots	Matador, Prism
Swiss Chard	None Given
Turnip Greens	Alamo, All Top, Purple, Top White Globe, Seven Top, Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo Cross
Tomatoes (seeds)	Bella Rosa, Fletcher, Tribute, BHN 1021, Amelia, Dixie Red

Look at Me Bare Trees

Call me strange, if you will, but I actually like to look at trees in the fall when they are bare of leaves. I like to see the intricate structure and shape of the tree without all those pesky leaves blocking the view. The growth always reminds me of models that I have seen of the vascular system in the human brain (look it up).

Beyond aesthetics, examining your trees during dormant months has other practical reasons. While the trees are bare, it is easy to see dead branches that need to be removed.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A dormant crapemyrtle tree at Woldenberg Park on the Mississippi River in New Orleans, LA

You can also easily see other problems like rubbing branches and included bark that can be corrected. And finally you can assess the structure and make pruning cuts to achieve the desired shape.

Pruning in the winter is better for the tree since many of the nutrients in the tree have moved down into the roots. Proper cuts will also begin healing more quickly as the tree puts on its flush of growth in the Spring and creates a new growth ring. And the best part is that you don't have to clean up the leaves as you do your pruning.

~Chris Dunaway

Photo by Chris Dunaway



Left photo: Rubbing branches can cause wounds that damage the vascular tissue and allow for infection from disease.

right photo: Dead branches prevent the tree from sealing off the damage allowing for internal rot.

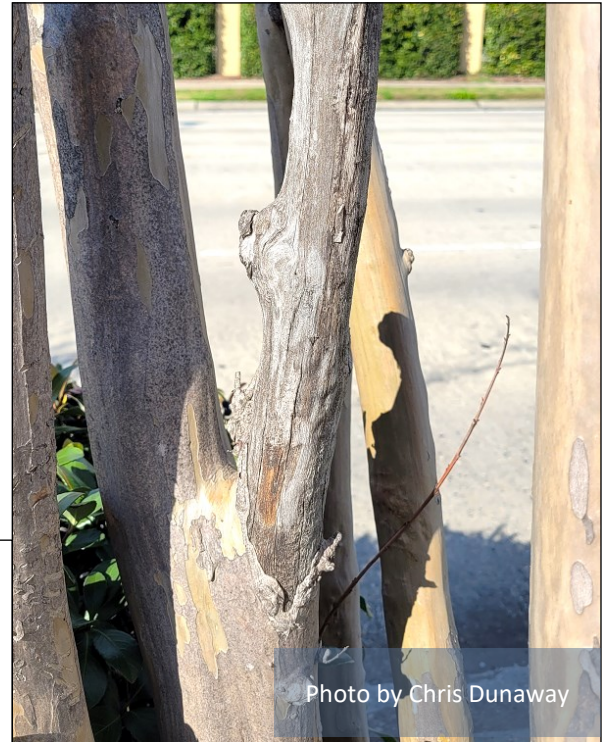


Photo by Chris Dunaway

Disease of the Month

Gray Mold (*Botrytis cinerea*)

B*otrytis cinerea*, also known as gray mold, is a fungal pathogen that causes a wide range of symptoms on plants, including soft rot, fuzzy mold, water-soaked lesions. *Botrytis cinerea* can infect over 1,400 plant species, including many important commercial and homegrown crops including many of our cool weather vegetables and ornamentals.

the infection tends to stay in small locations. However, as humidity increases, *Botrytis cinerea* can quickly spread.

Cultural control is a good means of reducing disease incidence.

- Maintain good drainage. Standing water promotes the spread of *Botrytis cinerea*.



Botrytis cinerea on cabbage. Photo from Dreamstime.

Botrytis cinerea is most destructive in cool, damp conditions. It can spread quickly and rot healthy plant tissue. The fungus typically targets fragile, wounded, aging, or dead plant parts. Except for flower petals, direct invasion of actively growing tissues is extremely rare. The gray mold pathogen is capable of surviving at temperatures just above freezing and poses a threat to crops kept in cold storage.

The infection often appears first as brownish-gray circular spots, which then turn fuzzy due to the spores produced by the fungus. Under low humidity,

- Space plants properly to allow good air circulation. This will promote rapid drying of foliage and plant tissue during wet periods. Avoid overhead irrigation.
- Good sanitation practices of removing plant debris and dead or dying plant material will help to reduce *Botrytis* infection.

Good cultural practices are usually sufficient to manage gray mold. Fungicides are available if conditions warrant their use. Make sure the fungicide is labeled for the crop to which it will be applied. The most commonly available and recommended

fungicide is chlorothalonil. Fungicide products containing chlorothalonil include Daconil, Chlorothalonil, and Fung-onil. Always read and follow label directions precisely.

Copper fungicides and Neem oil have also been shown to be effective.

~ Dr. Joe Willis

Selected References

Botrytis cinerea. 2019. [Botrytis cinerea | Agrio](#)

Botrytis cinerea (Gray Mold): Causes, Symptoms, And Treatment. 2024. [Botrytis Cinerea: How To Prevent And Control The Disease](#)

Dutertre, Christophe. Botrytis, a formidable fungal opponent. [Botrytis gray rot, a gardener's nightmare and how to beat it](#)

Williamson, Joey. 2024. Gray Mold (Botrytis Blight). Clemson Univ. Factsheet HGIC-2100. [Gray Mold \(Botrytis Blight\) | Home & Garden Information Center](#)



Botrytis cinerea on cauliflower. Reference 1.



Botrytis cinerea on strawberries.



Figure 3: *Botrytis cinerea* on flower buds. Reference 3.

What's Bugging You

Flour beetles (*Tribolium spp.*)

Pests can wreak havoc in the landscape, but they can cause problems in other areas of our home as well. In fact, pests are defined as living organisms that have a negative impact on humans. Most gardeners are familiar with common garden pests such as aphids and whiteflies because they feed on actively growing plants. However, pests can be an issue even after the plant is gone.

Flour beetles are common pests of stored grain products such as flour, cereals, meals, crackers, beans, spices, pasta, cake mix, dried pet food, chocolate, nuts, and seeds. All of which are commonly stocked in pantries no matter where you live in the country.

Flour beetle is a general term for two species of beetles that can be found in the United States. In the cooler regions the confused flour beetle, *Tribolium confusum*, is more prominent. The name is in reference to its similarity to the red flour beetle, *T. castaneum*. The red flour beetle is the common flour beetle seen in Louisiana.

Flour beetle adults are small, averaging about ¼ inch long. They are classified, along with all other beetles, into the insect order Coleoptera. Similar to butterflies, flour beetles display complete

metamorphosis with four distinct phases: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The larval and adult stages feed and both can be found in an infested product. The adults are somewhat love-lived and can live for more than three years.

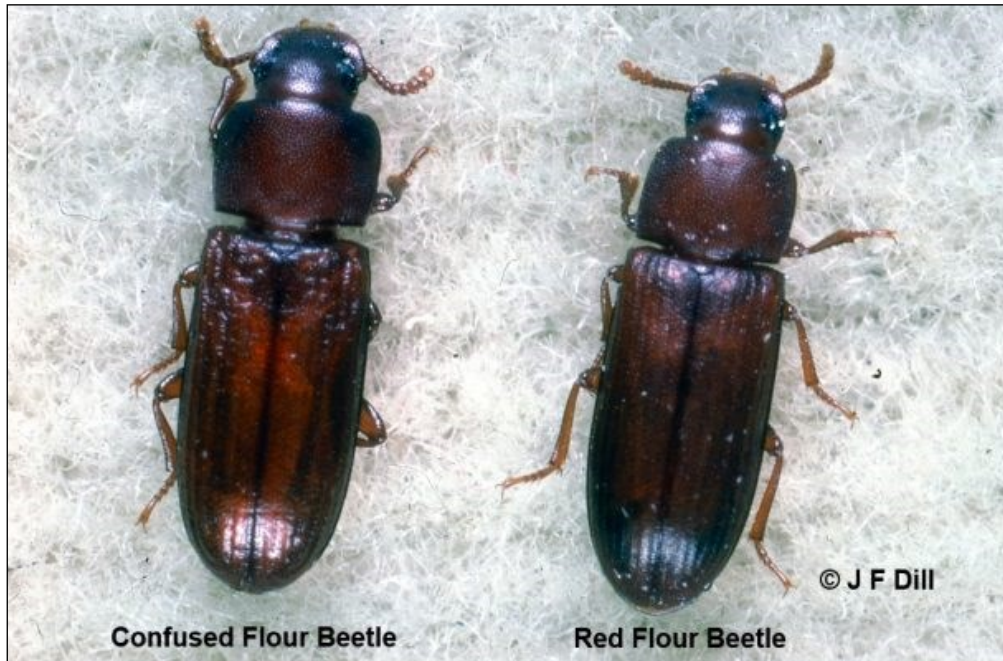
When someone finds flour beetles in their home, it is coming from an infested product that was brought inside. The egg and larval stages camouflage well. It is the adult beetles that are first observed. If beetles are seen, then work on

Dispose of

infected products by placing them in a sealed bag and throwing them out with the trash. Practice good sanitation where stored grain is used and stored. These beetles can survive on spilled food sources. Maintain a clean cooking area with respect to floors, countertops, and hard-to-reach places like cracks, crevices, and underneath large stationary appliances like dishwashers and refrigerators.

Protect susceptible products by storing them in airtight containers. Inspect new products when brought inside the home. The ultimate preventative measure would be to place newly acquired grain products in a sealed bag and put them in the freezer for five days below 32°F. This would kill any larvae or adults in the product and help to prevent further infestation.

There are no chemical management options for flour



Confused and red flour beetles U Maine.jpg "As you can see the red flour beetle and the confused flower beetle look almost identical. Entomologists look at the fine details like antennae descriptions to properly identify." (www.extension.umaine.edu)

beetles at the consumer level. Commercial facilities have a few more management options but still heavily rely on sanitation and prevention to keep their products clean. Be observant, take action when needed, and you can feel assured that you are doing the best you can at keeping these pests out of your household.

~William Afton



Red flour beetle lifecycle john Obermeyer. JPG. "Flour beetles have four distinct life stages, where the larval and adult stages do the feeding." (John Obermeyer).

Tears for Shears

(Everybody Wants to Prune the World)

O verzealous pruning is a common concern in the landscape, where welcoming improper practices to your life can be an issue where

there's no turning back. Ornamental grasses provide foliage, form, and flowers to the landscape that offer appeal throughout the season. Muhly grass, for example, provides prolific blooms in fall (typically September/October); however, the faded foliage provides value to local fauna throughout the cold winter months – serving as a habitat that offers protection from the cold. Far too often, people will trim back their Muhly grass once the blooms fade, removing this protection for wildlife and giving a cold shoulder to birds and beneficial insects seeking shelter. Cutting back Muhly grass too early may be well intentioned, where you may think you are acting on your best behavior... but in doing so, you are turning your back on Mother Nature. Everybody wants to prune the world;

however, consider delaying until late winter/early spring.

Trimming back Muhly grass right before the start of

spring supports a “New-Wave” of growth without sacrificing shelter for wildlife in winter. Waiting until approximately mid-February maintains the foliage for wildlife and insulation for the crown of the Muhly grass through late-season cold weather. Trimming right before it warms up can support vigorous new growth (and refrain from having a bare landscape in the waning weeks of winter). When making your cuts, aim to cut several inches above the crown to avoid damage to the plant.



Photo by Dr. Damon Abdi

A stand of muhly grass in full bloom.

Pruning decisions can impact the look of the landscape, and sometimes we must make challenging choices to achieve our artistic vision. After all, many gardeners will say “it’s my own design” and if they make the wrong cuts, “It’s my own remorse”. But don’t shed a tear about your shears if you have

already cut a couple of your grassy clumps. Here is some help to make the most of your artistic freedom and gardening pleasure: create unique patterns! Trimming every other plant can create unique textures that provide an alternating “clean look” juxtaposed with the faded foliage that provides habitat for wildlife. After all, leaving some leaves is better than none.

If you can’t stand the indecision and your landscape is married with a lack of vision, it may be best to wait to prune until the following year – one year off from pruning isn’t the end of the world. One thing I will say is you’ll never, never, never, never need to prune Muhly grass in summer, as this can cost you the beautiful blooms we know and love in fall. It is my hope that you consider the advice in this article – but it is one headline, why believe it? At the end of the day, I am all for artistic freedom and

gardening pleasure. Nothing ever lasts forever... and everybody wants to prune the world.

~Dr. Damon Abdi



Photo by Dr. Damon Abdi

Muhly grass clumps after pruning.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Purple muhly grass lines the edges of the newly created bioswale at the Jefferson Parish Government Office Building.

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

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 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/rfq/>

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 Noon-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	
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

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

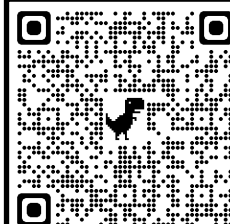
St. Tammany

The Boho Being	1184 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458	(985)707-1623
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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



Look for
Greater New
Orleans
Horticulture
Support Fund

Scan the QR code above or click the link below to go to the LSU Foundation donation webpage.

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

In the Kitchen with Austin

Orange Cake

This heirloom recipe is perfect for all those oranges you have growing on that tree in the back yard.

Ingredients:

1 c sugar	1 ½ c flour
½ orange, zest and juice	¼ tsp. salt
½ c plain 2 % yogurt	2 tsp. baking powder
3 large eggs	½ c veg oil
½ tsp. vanilla extract	¼ c honey



Directions:

Pre-heat oven to 350°. Butter a cake or loaf pan and set aside. In a mixing bowl, combine sugar and orange zest rubbing with your fingers until sugar is moist and lumpy. Whisk in yogurt, eggs, and vanilla.

In another mixing bowl, combine flour, salt, and baking powder. Add the wet ingredients whisking until just incorporated. Add oil, folding until batter is smooth.

Pour batter into prepared pan and bake for 50 minutes, until golden. Remove cake from oven to cool. Warm honey and orange juice in a small saucepan.

Remove cake from pan and brush with warm honey mixture all over.



Orange Cake

Bien Manger



Fallen ginkgo leaves in Old Metairie, LA.

January Checklist/Garden Tips

Planting cool season vegetables and bedding plants continues. Although exceptionally cold weather can cause problems, winter weather is mostly mild. Watch the weather and avoid setting out transplants when a hard freeze below the upper 20s is predicted.

During cold of winter weather the water coming out of the tap can be decidedly chilly. When filling up your watering can to water your indoor plants, don't just turn on the cold water tap. Turn on both cold and hot water and adjust the temperature of the water coming out of the faucet until it feels tepid or barely warm. This is healthier for tropical houseplants and will prevent the spotting of African violet foliage.

Resolve to pick more flowers from your garden for indoor arrangements this year. Most gardeners are too reluctant to harvest the flowers growing in their gardens, when flowers can enrich our home interiors in wonderful ways. Think how nice it would be to have a little vase of pansies, snapdragons or stock on the table beside you right now.

You must plant any spring flowering bulbs you have been refrigerating by early January, or you will be too late. You cannot keep the bulbs, such as tulips and hyacinths, and plant them next year.

Now is a good time to make hardwood cuttings of such plants as pears, figs, roses and hydrangeas. Cuttings should be taken from the ends of branches and be 6 to 8 inches long.

Bare root rose bushes are arriving at local nurseries and garden centers. If you choose to plant bare root roses, January is the month to do it, or by the end of February at the latest. Containerized roses may also be planted as soon as they become available at the nurseries, but can be planted as late as April.

Add leaves falling from deciduous trees to your compost pile as they become available. Speed decomposition by chopping the leaves and sprinkling some nitrogen fertilizer over the leaves as you build the pile. Keep the piles evenly moist but not soggy. Turning the pile occasionally will also speed decomposition.

Whenever practical, continue to deadhead cool season annuals such as pansies, snapdragons and dianthus to keep them blooming through the spring.

Pansies and other cool season bedding plants may bloom less during the mid-winter period but should pick-up again in the late winter and early spring. If the foliage color is a good deep green and the plants seem to be growing well, you shouldn't need to fertilize now. Pansies are, however, heavy feeders. If the foliage is even slightly pale and if the growth is less vigorous, fertilize every two to three weeks with a 20-20-20 soluble fertilizer according to label directions until the color and vigor improves.

Root crops, such as radish, carrot, turnip and beet, should be direct seeded right where they will grow this month. Young plants may need some protection from temperatures below the mid-twenties.

After your Holiday cactus plant stops blooming, don't forget to move it into a sunny window for the rest of the winter. Keep it evenly moist but not constantly wet as this promotes root rot. In April, you may move it to a spot outside that receives morning sun for the summer.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

January is typically the least active month for lawn care. Now is a great chance to make plans and prepare for the coming growing season.

Do's:

1. You may apply selective herbicides to eliminate broad leaf weeds in the lawn.
2. Cool damp weather is ideal for the appearance of Large Patch Disease in your lawn.
[Click here to find information about large patch disease from the LSU AgCenter.](#)
3. Keep an eye out for insect pests and treat as necessary.
4. Mulch fall leaves and let them decompose in place if possible or collect them with a bagging mower and add them to your compost pile or use them as mulch in your gardens.
5. Take a soil test. Test kits are available in our offices in the Botanical Gardens, the Yenni Building, and New Orleans City Hall as well as local garden centers. Follow this link to see Dr. Joe demonstrate how to take a soil sample: <https://www.facebook.com/1030624690304124/videos/1452161988150390/>
6. Sharpen lawn mower blades and perform general maintenance on your lawn mower.
7. Make a schedule for pesticide and fertilizer applications.
8. Be prepared to apply pre-emergent herbicides next month if you have had problems with crabgrass or goosegrass in the past.

Don't's

1. Do not spread fill over the lawn until it is actively growing again in the spring.
2. Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn again until April.
3. Do not apply phosphorous winterizer to the lawn without taking a soil sample first. We have ample amounts of phosphorous in our soil already.
4. Do not attempt to install a new lawn until spring.
5. Do not aerate the lawn.
6. Do not dethatch the lawn.

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