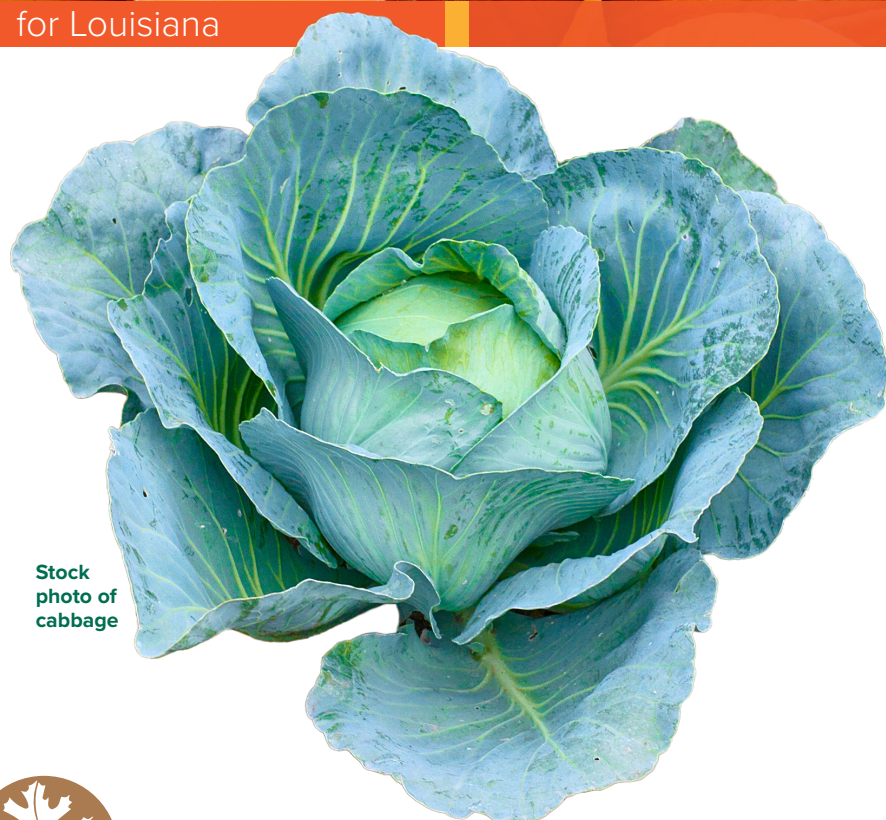




Stock
photo of
cabbage



Vegetable Gardening in the Fall

Even though the temperatures aren't falling yet, it is time to start preparing for the fall vegetable garden. Many vegetables can be planted in August directly into the garden by seed or transplant. Sometimes I start my seed and wait to plant until September. Why? Stink bugs, high heat and lots of warm-season diseases are really active in August. Waiting until mid-September to start planting vegetables into the garden lessens some of these problems and makes gardening easier especially if you are just embarking on gardening.

Prior to Planting Your Vegetable Garden:

- Remove all existing weeds, even the roots. This can be tough especially if you neglected your spring garden once the heat set in. However, weed removal is essential, especially perennial grasses from the garden. If you simply till the grasses in and then irrigate you will end up with a relatively nice lawn!
- Till or work the top 6-8 inches of soil.
- Plan for irrigation or make sure a hose will reach the garden. Irrigation is necessary especially in September when it is extremely hot!

continued on Page 2

Manglier: From Medicinal Roots to Garden Beauty

Last year was hot and dry. This year has been hot and wet. We observe the impact of these conditions on our landscapes. Interspersed among the less palatable observations, however, are those plants showing few signs of stress. Louisiana native plants have adapted to Louisiana environmental conditions. Manglier is a native that may well be shining near you this fall!

If the shine is not yet viewable, it will soon be. The white flower clusters form a feathery appearance from a moderate distance. A closer inspection of these fine inflorescences reveals strands with the look of fiberglass.

continued on Page 2

The female flowers of manglier have a feathery appearance. Photo by Bob Peterson/North Carolina State University



continued from Page 1

- Don't forget to fertilize. Add aged manure, compost or conventional or organic fertilizer. If you are not sure how much to add, run a soil test. If you don't have time to get results and you are planting just for a fun hobby, apply 1/2 to 1 pound of 13-13-13 for every 10 linear feet of row space you have. This is the equivalent of 1 1/2 to 3 cups. This is a nice medium rate of fertilizer sure to jump start your veggies.

If you see transplants next to a vegetable crop, those seeds were started in August.

Vegetables to Plant

September

1. **Plant transplants or start seed:** Beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, collards, Lettuce, kohlrabi, kale and Swiss chard.
2. **Direct seed into the garden:** Beets, endive, carrots, English peas, snow peas, mustard, onions (seeds, mid-to-late September), parsley, snap beans (early September), radishes, rutabaga, spinach and turnips.
3. **Also:** Garlic toes are planted mid to late September. Shallot sets can be planted all month long.



Carrots.

October

1. **Plant transplants:** Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and Chinese cabbage.
2. **Direct seed or plant transplants:** Kale, parsley, spinach leaf lettuce, celery, Swiss chard and endive.
3. **Direct seed:** Mustard, turnips, radishes, beets, onions (early-to-mid October to create sets for later) and carrots.



Mature Redbor kale.

November

1. **Plant transplants in south Louisiana:** Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, kale and Swiss chard.
2. **Direct seed:** Beets, Swiss chard, spinach, kale, radishes, mustard, carrots and turnips.
3. **Plant:** Shallots and garlic in the first part of the month.



Garlic toes. LSU AgCenter file photos

Kathryn Fontenot, Ph.D.
Extension Vegetable Specialist

continued from Page 1

These are the female flowers. The male flowers are not as showy, producing yellow orbs earlier than the females. Being that manglier is dioecious – a plant producing separate male and female individuals – both will be required for reproduction. The show will be through fall.

Delightful blooms aside, *Baccharis halimifolia* is revered by many in south Louisiana for its folk medicinal virtues. Regardless of the cultural flag you wave, if you are from the area, you may already know of manglier's uses well beyond its potential as a landscape shrub. Perhaps you had its roots boiled for fever and aches. Maybe the leaves were stewed for a sore throat and congestion, followed by a spirit of choice added with honey and lemon to attempt to neutralize the bitter flavor. If inflammation was present, manglier may have been brewed. Belief in this plant's effectiveness is not relegated to your grandmother's kitchen, as modern medical research confirms. LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center and Rutgers University collaborated in recent years to fund a project that concluded that manglier, also known as groundsel bush, effectively combats insulin sensitivity and inflammation from obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

It is doubtful pollinators like the monarch butterfly view the manglier nectar as medicinal, however, they are drawn to it, nonetheless. If you are drawn to it for the blooms, medicinal value or pollinator potential, add this native shrub to your landscape. Manglier grows to a height of 6-12 feet with a comparable width, providing hedge possibilities. For a more informal aesthetic, plant 3 feet apart, or 6-8 feet apart for specimens. Soil type and soil moisture are of little concern, as this plant thrives in wet, disturbed locations, including salt marshes, lending itself to another name, saltbush. Once established, it should tolerate all of the varied conditions we have endured since 2023.

Baccharis halimifolia does not need to boast of its Asteraceae family ties to the daisy and sunflower. The semi-evergreen shrub grows quickly, is hardy and has appealing leaves that are deeply toothed. Manglier is of this land, and not only gives remedies, but also a show. Enjoy the shine!

Paul Bongarzone
Assistant Extension Agent

Beehive Buzz: Bee or Wasp Problem?

If you have a potential infestation of bees or wasps, an important step is insect identification. One homeowner in Baton Rouge shared a concern about flying insects.

"I may have a bee or wasp problem at my house and am not sure how to determine it. Let me give you some background and perhaps you can point me in the right direction," she said.

She shared that there was a hole in her chimney and added, "There is a grid wire over that hole now that needs to be fixed, and I think bee(s) or wasp(s) may be getting into the chimney, or the wall between the chimney and outside. When I am working at home, sometimes I can hear a buzzing reverberating off the metal chimney, but my husband does not see anything when he looks up into the chimney. We do not hear the buzzing 24/7 but do hear it often. We noticed it a few weeks ago. We have not seen swarms, or even several bees/wasps go into the hole. However, we have seen a bee go in and out. Never more than one. Although we have not monitored the hole long enough to know if there is bee/wasp traffic.

"We need to have the hole in the chimney fixed but do not want to block up a hive or something if it has been built in the wall. My question is, do I need to contact a bee specialist to see if we do have a bee/wasp problem in the wall or should an exterminator be able to tell us that?"

My suggestion would be to start with the exterminator because he can treat wasps. If it is honeybees, the exterminator will not treat them because of the liability of honey leaking and causing stains in your home. The honey will also ferment and attract roaches and ants.

If he says there are honeybees instead of wasps, then a local beekeeping club would be able to help with removal. The AgCenter also has resource to help locate bee removal services at this link: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/environment/insects/bees_wasps/honeybee-removal-and-swarm-collection

Many times, the removal entails opening a wall and removing the queen, brood comb and honeycomb. The beekeepers will use a gentle "bee vac" to gather up the worker bees.

Some bee removal people will use an infrared device used in the HVAC trade to identify the bees' location by their heat signature. This device helps reduce the damage to walls.

Closure of the opening is usually the responsibility of the homeowner. Consider contacting your insurance company to discuss the possibility of making a damage.

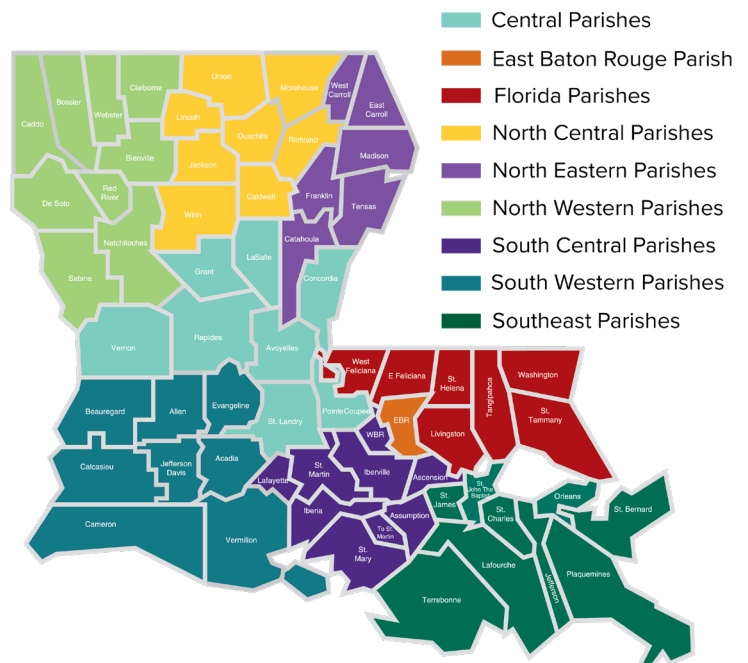
If you want to contact Beehive Buzz, please email your questions and pictures to khawkins@agcenter.lsu.edu or call 337-463-7006. Also, you can join the "beemail" email list by sending your request to the email address above.

*Keith Hawkins
Area Horticulture Agent*

This work has been supported, in part, by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Renewable Resources Extension Act Award, Accession Number 1011417.



Dark honey stains, shown here on an exterior wall, can be difficult to remove. The drywall ceiling had to be replaced. Photo by Southeast Bee Removal



Different regions for locating bee removal services. Image by LSU AgCenter

*Never miss an issue
of Horticulture Hints
from the LSU AgCenter!
Visit the Horticulture Hints
website at*

www.LSUAgCenter.com/HortHints

Controlling Clover ... Or Not?

This past year has been a year of firsts for me in Louisiana. Specifically, it is my first time experiencing each season in full and observing how turfgrasses and weed populations are affected by the changing of each season. One observation I made this spring was just how well we can grow white clover (*Trifolium repens*) in Louisiana, which I will refer to as clover for this article.

A few things must be discussed before we dive into controlling clover in your lawn. White clover can be a very polarizing topic in the green industry. It's one of those plants that, like bermudagrass, can be either desirable or a nuisance, depending on the specific situation. Bermudagrass is desirable in Tiger Stadium on a Saturday night in the fall but not so much in our gardens and flower beds. A similar contrast exists with clover; clumps of clover can be undesirable, disrupting the uniform appearance of a well-manicured lawn. Additionally, too much clover can make a property look unkempt or unsightly. On the other hand, the abundantly produced small, white flowers provide nectar and pollen, essential food sources for various pollinators. We've all seen honeybees on clover, traveling from flower to flower on spring days. White clover also has a long blooming period, which makes it an important food source during the months when many other pollinator forage plants aren't blooming. I'm not here to tell you to stop controlling the clover in your lawn. Instead, it's my duty to provide you with the information necessary to make that decision for yourself. With that out of the way, let's discuss control options.

Control Clover with Healthy Grass

Some things in the turfgrass/lawn industry will continue to be emphasized until the end of time or until we stop growing turfgrass altogether. One example of this is that the absolute best defense against weeds is a healthy, dense stand of turfgrass. Weeds don't cause weak grass; weak grass is the cause of weed infestations. So how do we achieve a resilient, thick stand of grass? Focus on what you can control: grass species, mowing height and frequency, blade sharpness, fertility and water (somewhat controllable). These can be summed up quickly:

Plant proper species. Consider soil pH, shade and your ability to irrigate.

Mow at the recommended height. Grasses do best when not mowed too low or too high.

Adopt a growth-based mowing schedule vs. a calendar-based schedule. Just mowing once per week may not be frequent enough to avoid scalping turfgrasses that grow quickly during the warm season. You'd be surprised how much focusing on frequent mowing will improve the quality of your lawn. From observation and anecdotal evidence, the lawns I see with the most weeds are also the lawns I see getting mowed about once a month, with the mower set as low as it will go. This sort of mowing practice is not conducive to healthy turf.

Keep mower blades sharp. Wounds from sharp blades heal faster than those created with dull mower blades. Even just buying a new blade once a year won't break the bank.

Provide proper fertility, specifically nitrogen fertilization.

Clover can utilize atmospheric nitrogen that your lawn does not have access to and will out-compete your turf in infertile soil. Take care not to be heavy-handed with the nitrogen if you have centipedegrass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*); it prefers much less fertility than other turfgrasses.

Provide about 1 inch of water per week (including rainfall).

Overwatering leads to disease and poorly oxygenated soil, and droughty turf will be at a disadvantage.

Clover Identification and Timing

Next, we need to consider the lifecycle of clover. Clover is a perennial weed that can return year after year from the same plant. This is different from annual weeds, like crabgrass, that are established from newly germinated seeds every year. When controlling annual weeds, preemergence herbicides can be particularly effective. The weed seed germinates, immediately brings in herbicide, and control hopefully occurs without even noticing the weed was there. Some of these herbicides may work for controlling clover that is trying to establish from seed

continued on Page 5



Dull mower blades result in frayed grass blades that take longer to heal. Photo by Bob Mugas, University of Minnesota

White clover is an important food source for honeybees. Photo by Adobe Stock

continued from Page 4

for the first time. However, previously established clover will not be affected by these products, meaning we must investigate postemergence herbicides for proper white clover control. But we don't just want to pick a postemergence herbicide labeled for clover control and call it a day. We want to maximize the efficacy and efficiency of our herbicide application. This results in better long-term control and fewer trips to the store to spend our hard-earned money on weed killer.

Again, when it comes to maximizing clover control, we need to consider what we have control over and exercise that control to the best of our ability. This means properly identifying white clover, applying the product when clover is most easily controlled and choosing an efficacious product when control is deemed necessary.



Yellow woodsorrel, left, and white clover look similar, but yellow woodsorrel has lobed or heart-shaped leaves and yellow flowers. Photos by Eric DeBoer

I won't discuss the morphological characteristics of white clover. Remember that there are look-alikes, such as yellow woodsorrel (*Oxalis stricta*) and black medic (*Medicago lupulina*). If the plant you're spraying isn't white clover, you may not get the results you were hoping for. Proper weed identification is paramount.

Another critical aspect of postemergence weed control is to remember that, within weed species, a younger, less developed weed is an easier weed to control than a well-established, mature weed. The earlier you can control the weed, the more success you will find. White clover is a cool-season perennial. Clover will wait out the sweltering Louisiana summers in a dormant state until soil temperatures cool in the fall and proper conditions for growth begin again. This means as soon as you see clover in the fall, it's time to spray.

The idea is to hit the clover at its weakest time, either right after exiting dormancy or right as it begins entering dormancy in the late spring. Plants exiting dormancy are often less vigorous and hardy and are more easily compromised. Another good time to apply herbicide could potentially be in the spring as clover is entering its dormant state. However, this could coincide with the green-up of your lawn as it begins exiting dormancy. Herbicide injury is often observed when herbicides are applied during the lawn's spring green-up period. This makes fall, or as soon as you see clover again once the weather cools, the safest time for control. If you do find clover has persisted throughout the winter and into the late spring, and you're confident your lawn has had time to exit dormancy and resume growth, a springtime application can be safely made.

We know what class of products to buy and when to spray them; now, we need to examine specific active ingredients. Luckily, plenty of herbicide-active ingredients effectively control white clover when appropriately applied following the label directions (Table 1).

Table 1. Herbicide active ingredients used for control of white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and their safety on various commonly-planted lawn grasses in Louisiana.

Postemergence Herbicide Active Ingredients	St. Augustinegrass	Centipedegrass	Zoysia	Bermudagrass
atrazine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dormant
simazine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2,4-D + dicamba + mecoprop	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2,4-D + dicamba + mecoprop + carfentrazone	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
thiencarbazone + iodusulfuron = dicamba	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
penoxsulam + sulfentrazone + dicamba + 2,4-D	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
metsulfuron	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
metsulfuron + dicamba	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
metsulfuron + sulfentrazone	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
trifloxysulfuron	No	No	Yes	Yes
quinclorac	No	No	Yes	Yes

Be careful spraying atrazine near bodies of water or on sandy soils that are easily leached. Stay away from the bases of your trees with atrazine and metsulfuron. You'll find a few different products at the home improvement store containing various mixtures of 2,4-D, mecoprop (mcpp) and dicamba. **Use caution and reduced rates when spraying 2,4-D on centipedegrass and St. Augustinegrass.** However, if the label states it is safe, applying 2,4-D-containing products to either grass shouldn't be an issue. Quinclorac is an active ingredient typically used for crabgrass control, but this also has activity on clover. If you're not purchasing

a ready-to-use product and mixing the herbicide yourself, check the label for instructions regarding the use of nonionic surfactants or methylated seed oil. These can greatly increase herbicide efficacy.

Following all the previous steps will help you in your battle against clover infestation. Don't forget that clover can be an important food source for pollinators during the late winter and early spring. Hey, maybe a little bit of clover isn't so bad after all.

Eric DeBoer, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Finding the Good in Goldenrod

For years goldenrod has been blamed for causing allergies and hay fever. However, it simply isn't true. Goldenrod relies entirely on animal pollination. Its sticky pollen is too heavy to be carried by wind. The mostly likely culprits of these seasonal allergies are ragweed and other grasses. With inconspicuous blooms, the flowers of these plants often go unnoticed while goldenrod takes the heat.

The bright yellow flowers of goldenrod are hard to miss in the late summer and early fall. They are attractive to many insects and pollinators like butterflies, bees, beetles, flies and wasps. While milkweed is the primary host of monarch caterpillars, adult monarch butterflies source nectar from a variety of flowers, including goldenrod. Goldenrod serves as an important food source for monarch butterflies as they migrate south for the winter. After the golden blooms have faded, birds and other wildlife will feed on the seed heads throughout the winter months.

Goldenrod belongs to the Asteraceae family, which also includes sunflowers, chrysanthemums and zinnias. This is one of the largest plant families, containing thousands of plants. There are a number of different species of goldenrods, and each have several common names as well. Goldenrods prefer full sun and can tolerate a range of soil types. They usually have a central stem with simple, linear shaped leaves and grow 2-6 feet tall. Flowers are branching or panicle-like. Blooms can last up to three weeks.

Goldenrods are perennial, meaning they will come back year after year. They propagate by seeds and rhizomes. Sometimes large dense clusters of goldenrod plants will form. If you are adding native goldenrod to your landscape, consider an area with plenty of space that can accommodate the spread. Several ornamental varieties of goldenrods can be purchased and tend to remain more compact. These make a great addition if you are looking to attract more pollinators or simply add fall color to your landscape.

*Mariah Simoneaux
Horticulture Extension Agent, Ascension Parish*



The bright yellow flowers of goldenrod are easy to spot and are branching or panicle-like. Photos by Mariah Simoneaux





The Cole Hard Truth: Growing Brassicas Made Easy

Cole crops like broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and Brussels sprouts are fantastic cool-season veggies that thrive in Louisiana's unique climate. Not only are they nutritious, but they're also super versatile in the kitchen.

The term "cole" comes from the Latin word *caulis*, meaning stem or cabbage. These veggies belong to the Brassicaceae family and have been cultivated for thousands of years. Cabbage, for instance, is one of the oldest known vegetables, cherished by ancient Egyptians and Greeks for its medicinal properties. Broccoli and cauliflower evolved from wild cabbage in Italy and became favorites in Roman diets by the 6th century. Brussels sprouts were first grown in Belgium in the 13th century and were later brought to the Americas by European settlers.

In Louisiana, the best times to plant cole crops are in early spring and fall. For a fall harvest, plant from mid-August to mid-September. For a spring harvest, plant from late January to early February. This timing ensures the plants mature in cooler weather, which helps reduce stress and pests.

When planting, make sure to give your plants enough space to thrive. Transplants should be planted deep enough to cover the root ball, with the first set of leaves just above the soil surface. Broccoli and cauliflower need 18-24 inches between plants, while cabbage needs 12-18 inches between plants and Brussels sprouts should be spaced 18-24 inches apart.

Cole crops love well-drained, fertile soils with a pH between 6.0 and 7.5. It's a good idea to test your soil to check its nutrient levels and pH. Adding compost can improve soil structure and fertility. Use a balanced fertilizer like 10-10-10 at a rate of 2-3 pounds per 100 square feet. Apply half at planting and the rest when the plants are halfway to maturity.

Pests like aphids and cabbage loopers and diseases like black rot can affect cole crops. To keep your plants healthy, use integrated pest management strategies: regularly check your plants, use resistant varieties, and reduce disease and insect pressures from in and around the garden. Rotating crops and providing proper spacing can also reduce disease risk. Use fungicides and insecticides only when necessary, following product labels and recommendations.

Timely harvesting ensures the best quality produce. Harvest broccoli and cauliflower when heads are firm and tight, before the flowers open. Cabbage should be harvested when heads are compact and firm. Brussels sprouts are ready when the sprouts are 1-2 inches in diameter. After harvesting, cool your veggies quickly and store them at or near 32 F with high humidity to extend their shelf life and maintain quality.

Cole crops are a great addition to any Louisiana garden, offering nutritious and tasty vegetables. By following best practices in soil preparation, planting, spacing, pest management, and harvesting, you can enjoy a bountiful harvest. For more detailed guidelines or more information, contact your local parish office or view the LSU AgCenter publications: Cole Crops Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage and Cauliflower (Pub. 2310) or Louisiana Vegetable Planting Guide (Pub. 1980).

Mark A. Wilson
Regional Horticulture Specialist, Northwest Region

Become a Louisiana Master Gardener



Master
Gardener™

Contact your parish LSU AgCenter
extension agent for more
information or visit our website.



LSUAgCenter.com/MasterGardener
LMGCoordinator@agcenter.lsu.edu

Upcoming Events:

- **Aug. 2 – Preservation Garden Field Day, Northeast Research Station.** Contact Marcie Wilson at mmwilson@agcenter.lsu.edu.
- **Sept. 14 – Homesteader Series: Backyard Fruit and Nut Production, Red River Research Station.** Contact Donna Haynes at dhaynes@agcenter.lsu.edu or 318-408-0971.
- **Oct. 5 – 2024 Plant Sale and Fall Garden Day, Hammond Research Station.** Contact Mary Helen Ferguson at mhferguson@agcenter.lsu.edu.
- **Oct. 11-12 – 2nd Annual Louisiana Homesteader Conference, Red River Research Station.** Contact Donna Haynes at dhaynes@agcenter.lsu.edu or 318-408-0971.
- **Oct. 19 – Harvest Time at the Farm with corn maze, hayride and agriculture education, Red River Research Station.** Contact Donna Haynes at dhaynes@agcenter.lsu.edu or 318-408-0971.
- **Oct. 26 – Harvest Time at the Farm with corn maze, hayride, agriculture education and movie night, Red River Research Station.** Contact Donna Haynes at dhaynes@agcenter.lsu.edu or 318-408-0971.
- **Nov. 2 – Seed Savers Conference, State Evacuation Shelter in Alexandria.** Contact Kerry Heafner at kheafner@agcenter.lsu.edu or 318-323-2251.
- **Dec. 14 – Christmas at the Farm, family movie and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.** Contact Donna Haynes at dhaynes@agcenter.lsu.edu or 318-408-0971.

Visit our LSU AgCenter Store
www.LSUAgCenter.com/OnlineStore

School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences
155 J. C. Miller Hall - LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803
225-578-4070; Fax: 225-578-1068

Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com

P3655-24-F (online) 8/24
The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.