



GN Gardening Magazine

August 2024

In This Issue:

Look at Me!

Zinnia (*Zinnia sp.*)

By: Chris Dunaway

Peppers-From Sweet to Scorching Part 3A

Pepper Pests

By: Dr. Joe Willis

Weed of the Month

Hemp Sesbania (*Sesbania exaltata*)

By: William Afton

What's Bugging You?

Ips Beetles

By: Dr. Joe Willis

Stacey's Lawn

(Has Got it Going On)

By: Dr. Damon Abdi and Dr. Jeb Fields

What's Bugging You?

Large Milkweed Bug (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*)

By: Anna Timmerman

August Planting Guide

In the Kitchen with Austin

Local Garden Centers

August Garden Checklist

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

A gulf fritillary butterfly collects nectar from a zinnia flower at LaSalle Park.

Photo by: Chris Dunaway

Look at Me

Zinnia (*Zinnia sp.*)

I was looking for something to write about so I visited the demonstration garden at LaSalle Park. Upon arrival I found the perfect subject for this month's

article. In the front of the garden, the Master Gardener volunteers have planted a pollinator garden to help support our six legged friends. Even in the hot months of summer the garden is bursting with flowering plants. Of all the plants that were there, the zinnias planted in the back of the bed stole the show. Stretching to over 4 feet tall, the stalks of the were covered in a prolific display of bright pink and orange flowers that were alive with flitting butterflies, bees and other visitors.

Of the seventeen known

species, *Zinnia elegans* and *Z.*

angustifolia are the two best appreciated for their ornamental characteristics.

Z. elegans is the most extensively cultivated for annual garden use. Plants typically grow 1 foot to 3 feet tall on upright, hairy, branching stems with

coarse leaves and large flowers.

Z. angustifolia is a low-growing type used in hanging baskets, borders, and containers, as well as mass

plantings. Their leaves are small and narrow and size ranges from dwarf (6 inches) to tall (3 feet). The Profusion and Zahara series are popular hybrids of these two species.

Zinnias are a popular plant for annual gardens due to how easy they are to grow and how quickly they can reach maturity and begin flowering. They also come in a variety of colors and sizes to meet the needs of your design.

Although you can purchase zinnia transplants, it is easy and much less expensive to grow them directly from seeds planted in the garden. Here in Southeast



A mass of zinnia flowers growing at LaSalle Park.

Louisiana, we can sow zinnia seeds starting as early as mid-March.

Zinnia is an erect, flowering annual in the Asteraceae (aster) family with origins in North America. Zinnias are low maintenance beauties that prefer full sun (at

least six hours/day) and tolerate many soil types and conditions. Because they originated in arid regions, they love hot weather and are drought tolerant but should be watered regularly. For ideal results soil should be rich in organic matter and well-draining. Soil pH should ideally be between 5.5 and 7.5.

Plantings should be fertilized at least twice during the growing season using a balanced granular 20-20-20 or timed release fertilizer. Water soluble can be also be used more frequently through the season. Give each plant plenty of space when setting them out as the hairy stems of zinnias are susceptible to powdery mildew. The mildew will cause a dull, whitish coating on the leaves and stems. Watering in the morning and at the base of the plant will reduce the incidence of mildew. There are also mildew-resistant varieties. Deadhead (remove spent flowers) regularly to extend the bloom and encourage lateral branching.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A skipper collects nectar from a zinnia flower.



A dried zinnia flower and separated seeds.

Besides the beauty that they bring to the garden themselves, zinnias will also attract a host of pollinator insects and greatly increase the biodiversity of any garden in which they are included. At the time of my visit to the LaSalle Park garden, there were butterflies, various bees, skippers and more.

Zinnias will make plenty of viable seeds that are easy to collect and save. To save zinnia seeds for replanting, simply collect a few blossoms that are at least halfway brown and let them dry in a paper bag until the seeds shatter. Store in a paper bag in a dark, dry location until you plant again in the spring. Now is a good time to collect your seeds for next year.

Be sure to include zinnias in your future garden plans for a beautiful and easy to maintain plant that can survive the summer heat. I wish that I could say the same.

~Chris Dunaway

August Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety	Planting Depth	Spacing Inches	Days Until Harvest * from transplant date
Bell Peppers	Aristotle XR3, Blushing Beauty, King Arthur	⅝ inch	15-18	140-150
Broccoli	Green Magic, Everest, Castle Dome, Packman	⅝ inch	18-24	70-90*
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved	⅝ inch	12-15	90*
Cabbage	Bravo, Rio Verde, Caraflex, Blue Vantage	⅝ inch	12-15	65-75*
Cauliflower	Snow Crown, Cumberland, Incline, Freedom	⅝ inch	18-24	55-65*
Chinese Cabbage	None Given	¼ inch	12	60-80*
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Yates	⅝ inch	6-12	75
Cucumbers	Slicers = Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare HG, Indy Pickler = Calypso	¼ inch	12-18	50-65
Irish Potatoes	Red-Dark Red Noland, Red Lasoda White-Kennebec, Yukon Gold, Autumn Gold	4 inches	12	90-120
Kale	Siberian, Vates	½ inch	12-18	25-50
Lima Beans	Dixie Buttercup, Fordhook 242, Jackson Wonder	½ inch	2-3	48-55
Luffa Gourd	None Given	½ inch	48	90
Mustard	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Savannah	⅝ inch	1-2	35-50
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer	½ inch	36-60	90-120
Rutabagas	American Purple Top, Laurentian	⅝ inch	4-8	88
Shallots	Matador, Prisma	1 inch	4-8	50
Snap Beans	Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Contender, Derby, Lynx	½ inch	2-3	48-55
Squash	Zucchini = Declaration II, Justice III, Payroll Straight Neck = Multipik, Patriot II, Liberator III Crook Neck = Destiny III, Gentry, Medallion	⅝ inch	36	50-90
Tomatoes	Bella Rosa, Sun Chaser, Florida 91, Phoenix, Solar Fire, BHN-216, Solar Set	⅝ inch	16-24	100-115
Turnips	Royal Crown, Purple Top White Globe,	⅝ inch	2-6	40-50

Peppers - From Sweet to Scorching

Part 3A – Pepper Pests

There are over 35 insects and mites that attack peppers and more than 50 diseases. Fortunately, most of these are rare or minor problems or don't occur in our growing area. In Part 3A, we will look at some of the more common pests that you may encounter on your peppers in your vegetable garden. Next month in Part 3B we will look at pepper diseases.

Pests:

Aphids Green Peach Aphid *Myzus persicae*, Melon Aphid *Aphis gossypii* (Figure 1). The adult green peach aphid is light to dark green or pink with red eyes and three dark lines may be visible running down its back.

The adult melon aphids are 1-2 mm long and come in a range of colors that include light yellow, green, dark green, or almost black. Regardless of the body color, melon aphid cornicles will always be dark.

Aphids can be controlled with insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, malathion, bifenthrin, or imidacloprid.

Beet armyworm *Spodoptera exigua* (Figure 2). The mature larva can be variable but is generally a light green to black larva with four pairs of abdominal prolegs and a dark head. There are many fine, white wavy lines along the back and a broader stripe along each side. There is usually a distinctive dark spot on each side just above the second pair of true legs.

Beet armyworms can be controlled with BT, Spinosad, permethrin, and cyfluthrin.

Colorado potato beetle *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* (Figure 3). The adults measure about 3/8 inch long and are yellowish-orange with multiple black stripes down the back. The head has a triangular black spot and the thorax has irregular black markings. The

small, plump, reddish larvae of the Colorado potato beetle are 1/2" long when mature with two rows of black spots down their sides.

Picking the larvae and adults off of plants manually

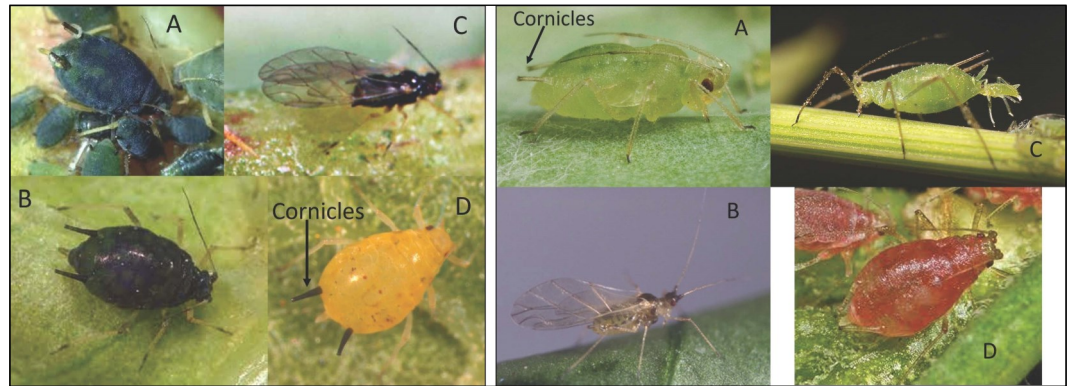


Figure 1: Left Picture – Melon Aphid *Aphis gossypii* – A: Dark blackish form; B: Alternate color form; C: Winged adult; D: Light color form showing cornicles. Note the cornicles are dark in all color forms.

Right Picture – Green Peach Aphid *Myzus persicae*. A: Wingless adult showing cornicles with dark tips; B: Winged adult; C: Adult giving birth to nymph; D: Alternate color form.

can control populations in small garden plots. Colorado potato beetle can be controlled with insecticides such as azadirachtin (neem) and

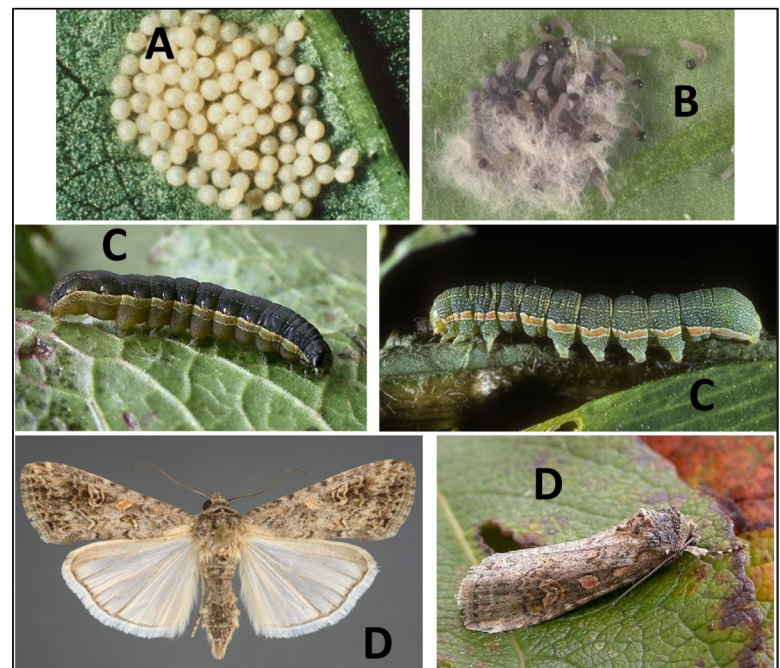


Figure 2: Beet Armyworm (*Spodoptera exigua*) lifecycle. : -Eggs; B: Young instars feeding in mass; C: Mature larva showing variation; D: Mature moth with wings open and wings folded.

Spinosad. Strains of *Bacillus thuringiensis* can be used to control larvae. Colorado potato beetle is resistant to many commonly used chemical insecticides such as carbaryl, permethrin, pyrethrin, and imidacloprid.

Vegetable Leafminers *Lyriomyza sativae* (Figure 4). The adults are principally yellow and black. Females are larger than males, and have an elongated abdomen. They have a wing length of 1.25 to 1.7 mm, with the males averaging about 1.3 mm and the females about 1.5 mm. In warm climates they may breed continuously, with many overlapping generations per year. Mature larvae are about 2.25 mm long. Initially the larvae are nearly colorless, becoming greenish and then yellowish as they mature.

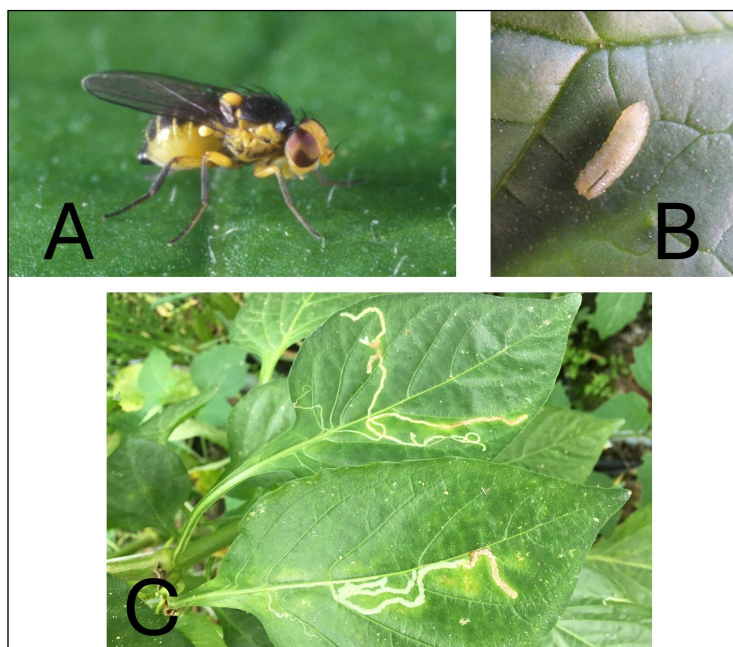


Figure 4: Vegetable Leafminer *Lyriomyza sativae*. A: Adult. B: Mature larva. C: Tunnels on pepper leaves.

Leafminers generally don't cause sufficient damage to warrant control measures. Contact insecticides aren't effective against larvae once they are inside the leaf. Systemic insecticides like imidacloprid can be effective if infestation is severe.

Tomato fruit worm (Corn earworm) *Helicoverpa zea* (Figure 5). Full-grown larvae of the corn earworm are olive-brown, tan, maroon, pink, or black with three or four dark stripes along their backs. The head is yellow and not spotted. Mature larvae may be up to 2 inches long. Adults moths are grayish-brown with a wing-span of 1 ½". The front wings are marked with

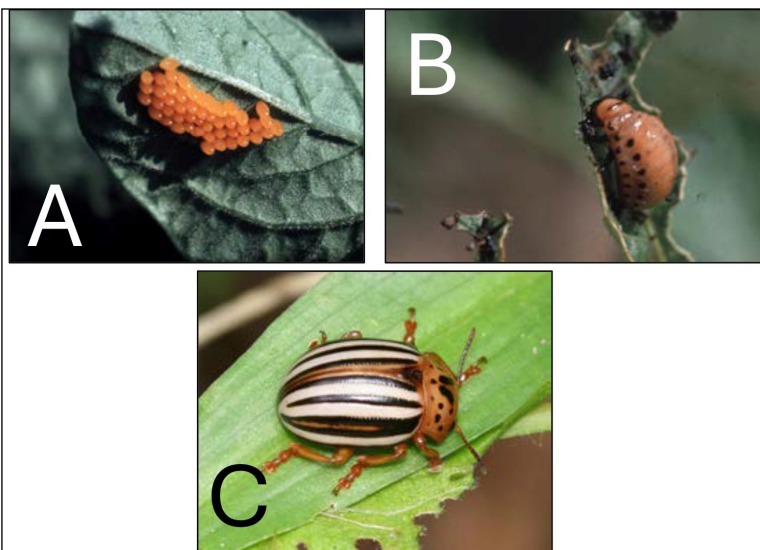


Figure 3: Colorado Potato Beetle *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*. A: Egg mass. B: Larva. C: Adult

dark gray, irregular lines with a dark area near the wing tip.

Damage is often visible as a small hole near the fruit stem. The larva can be found feeding inside the fruit. Bt, carbaryl, and permethrin can be used as a treatment before the larva enters the fruit.

Insecticides must be present on plants when eggs hatch so that newly hatched larvae are killed before entering the protection of the fruit.

Pepper weevil *Anthonomus eugenii* (Figure 6). The adult is a 1/6" long black or gray beetle with a long snout (proboscis) and L-shaped antennae. The tiny, legless larvae are found inside the pepper fruit.

Insecticides recommended for pepper weevil contain carbaryl or malathion. Chemical control is difficult because all stages except the adult are protected within the fruit. Only the adult weevil is exposed to insecticide sprays.

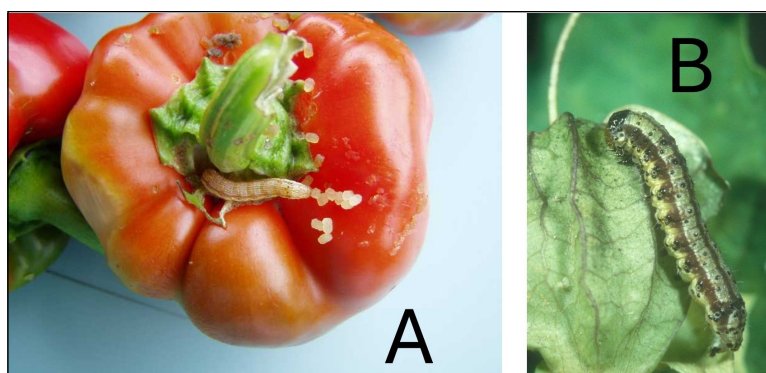


Figure 5: Tomato Fruit Worm/Corn earworm (*Helicoverpa zea*) A: Young larva feeding inside fruit. B: Mature larva feeding on leaves.

Thrips Western flower thrips *Frankliniella occidentalis*, Onion thrips *Thrips tabaci*, Chili thrips *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (Figure 7). Adult thrips are elongate, slender, and tiny (less than 1/20" long), with fringes on the margins of both pairs of their long, narrow wings. Immatures are similar in shape to the adults but lack wings. Most thrips range in color from translucent white to yellowish to brown.

Thrips damage results in feeding scars, leaf distortion, and discoloration of buds, flowers and young fruits.

Thrips control recommendations include the use of systemic insecticides containing imidacloprid.

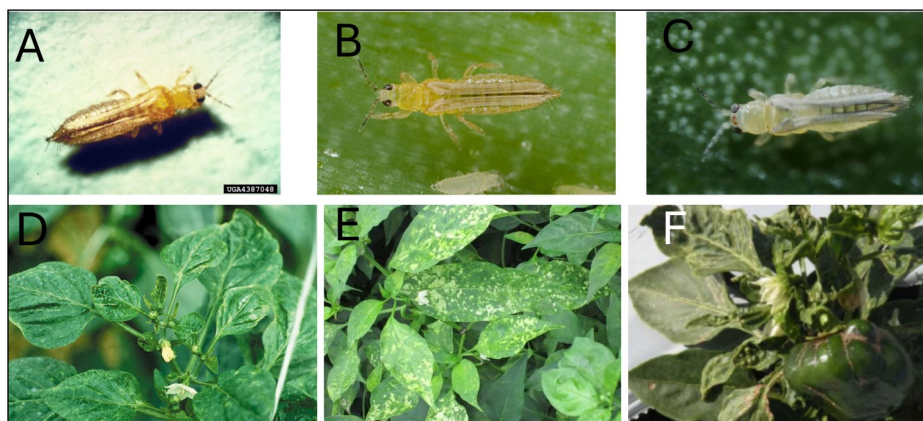


Figure 7: Thrips A: Western flower thrips *Frankliniella occidentalis* B: Onion thrips *Thrips tabaci* C: Chili thrips *Scirtothrips dorsalis* D-F: Damage caused by thrips feeding.

Contact insecticides like insecticidal soap, and horticultural oil may be effective but attaining good coverage is difficult due to the small insect size and feeding locations.

Whiteflies Solanum Whitefly *Aleurotrachelus trachoides*, Silverleaf (Sweetpotato) Whitefly *Bemisia tabaci*, Greenhouse Whitefly *Trialeurodes vaporariorum* (Figure 8). Whitefly adults are tiny (0.06 inch, 1.5 mm long), yellowish insects with white wings. Whiteflies are found mostly on the undersides of leaves. They fly readily when plants are disturbed. Whiteflies damage peppers by feeding on the sap weakening the plant and by producing honeydew that provides food for black sooty mold. Sooty mold grows on the honeydew which can cover a large proportion of the plant; thus, lowering the photosynthetic capacity of the plant and making the fruit unattractive.

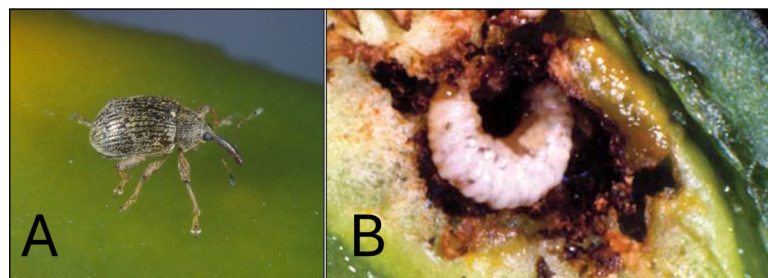


Figure 6: Pepper Weevil A: Adult weevil (note the proboscis). B: Small white larva inside fruit.

Because whiteflies are easily disturbed, control using contact insecticides is spotty. Use of systemic insecticides like imidacloprid are more effective.

Flea Beetles Potato Flea Beetle *Epitrix cucumeris*, Tobacco Flea Beetle *Epitrix hirtipennis*, Palestriped Flea Beetle *Systema blanda* (Figure 9). Flea beetle adults are small (about 0.125 inch long), shiny, hard beetles with enlarged hind legs that allow them to jump.

Adult flea beetles feed on the undersides of leaves leaving small pits or irregularly shaped holes on the leaves. Large populations can kill or stunt seedlings. Older plants rarely suffer economic damage, although their older, lower leaves

may be damaged. Adults do most of the damage. Most flea beetle larvae feed on roots, but this does not warrant concern in peppers usually.

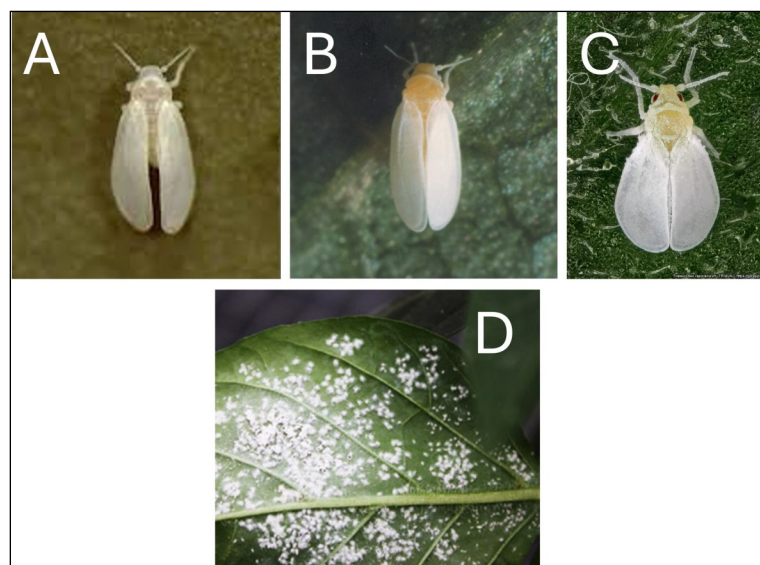


Figure 8: Whiteflies. A: Solanum Whitefly *Aleurotrachelus trachoides* B: Silverleaf (Sweetpotato) Whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* C: Greenhouse Whitefly *Trialeurodes vaporariorum* D: Mass of whiteflies on leaf underside



Figure 11: Broad Mite *Polyphagotarsonemus latus* A: Adult mites, mite eggs, and young mite. B: Damage caused by broad mite feeding on pepper.

If insect population and plant age warrant control measures, insecticides containing dinotefuran, permethrin, bifenthrin, or carbaryl have been shown to be effective.

Two spotted spider mite *Tetranychus urticae* (Figure 10). Two-spotted spider mites are 1/50 inch long, with a green-yellow translucent color. The two large spots in the body are accumulated waste, so may not be present during early stages. The two-spotted spider mite produces a web containing the eggs that hatch after 3 days.

These spider mites live mainly on the undersides of leaves and damage the plant by feeding with their

piercing-sucking mouthparts. Feeding injury often gives the top leaf surfaces a mottled or speckled appearance. Spider mite feeding causes yellowing of the leaves that eventually die and drop off the plant.

Miticides containing abamectin or bifenazate have been shown to be effective against spider mites. Contact pesticides like insecticidal soaps and neem oil have also been effective but getting adequate coverage is difficult. Insecticides containing pyrethrins should not be used because they have been shown to increase spider mite reproduction and can lead to population explosions.

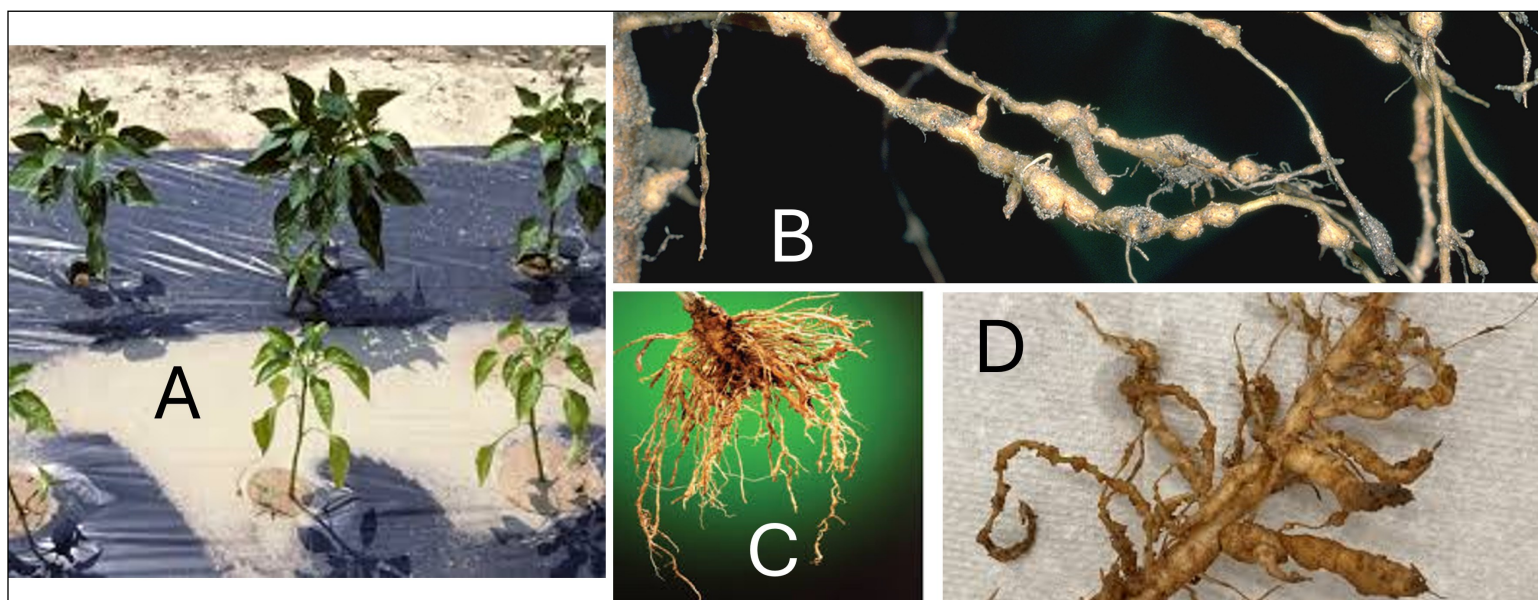


Figure 12: Nematodes. A: Typical symptoms of nematode damage to roots. Top row are healthy peppers. Bottom row are infected peppers. B-D: Nodules and root damage caused by root knot nematode.

Broad Mite *Polyphagotarsonemus latus* (Figure 11). Adults are 1/100 inch long, white, eight-legged mites found mostly on the underside of young foliage. Generation time may be as short as 5 days, depending on temperature. In peppers, broad mite feeding distorts plant tissue, causing leaves to become thickened and narrow, giving them a straplike appearance. Heavy feeding causes flower loss and dark, smooth russetting on the fruit.

Broad mite control using insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils is very effective if adequate coverage is achieved. Acaricides containing abamectin, spirotetramet, or Pylon are also effective against broad mites.

Nematodes Southern Root Knot *Meloidogyne*

incognita, Guava Root Knot *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, Reniform Nematode *Rotylenchulus reniformis* (Figure 12). The reniform nematode causes root necrosis resulting in severe root pruning and subsequent dwarfing of plants. Fibrous or feeder roots are mostly attacked which may reduce the absorption ability and other physiological functions of the plant. This may lead to stunting, yellowing and wilting.

Currently available recommended nematicides are “Restricted Use”; therefore, the most effective management practices available to home gardeners are crop rotation, soil solarization, and resistant varieties.

~ Dr. Joe W. Willis

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Weed of the Month

Hemp Sesbania *Sesbania exaltata*

I find common names of weeds (plants in general) to be very interesting because they can change depending on the region or location. The study of scientific classification, or taxonomy, provides framework for a way to show relationships between biological organisms with genus and species being the most specific in description. Common names are different because you can have several “common names” for the same plant species depending on where you are in the world.

Hemp sesbania, *Sesbania exaltata*, also known as big pod sesbania, Colorado river hemp, and coffeeweed, looks a lot like the notorious chamberbitter weed but gets much taller in size. Even though they share a few similarities in appearance they are in different plant families. Chamberbitter is classified into the family, euphorbiaceae whereas Hemp sesbania is a member of fabaceae, the legume family known for their association with nitrogen fixing fungi. It produces 3 to 6 yellow pea-like flowers on stalks that emerge from the leaf axil. The fruit and seed pods on plants in fabaceae are called legumes. Hemp sesbania produces a large seed pod at 6-8 inches in length at maturity. At maturity, the peas within the pod resemble coffee beans. The leaves are compound in nature and can reach lengths of 12 inches long. The plant itself can reach heights of 3 to 10 feet depending on the growing area. I doubt most people will find hemp sesbania growing

as a weed in the lawn because it doesn't take well to being mowed. However, those flowerbeds in the back yard that don't receive weekly attention have the ability to produce healthy hemp sesbania plants. Due



A Hemp Sesbania *Sesbania exaltata* plant.

to its quick germination rate, fast rate of growth, and overall plant height, there aren't many preemergent herbicide options for this plant. The active ingredient indaziflam will help to suppress hemp sesbania. Look for SPECT(i)CLE Herbicide at retailers like Ewing Irrigation, Keeling Company, or SiteOne Landscape Supply.

One way to approach managing this weed is by not letting it produce seeds. As an annual plant, hemp

sesbania plants germinate from seeds produced in a prior growing season. It is reported that 18% of hemp sesbania seeds can survive in the soil after 5 years. Always be on the lookout and hand-pull as soon as you notice hemp sesbania plants in the landscape. Maintaining a 3 to 4 inch layer of mulch above the soil surface can help reduce the occurrence of hemp sesbania in landscape beds. In most situations, mulching coupled with hand-pulling as needed

are all that's needed to reduce the occurrence of hemp sesbania in the landscape. Your hard work will pay off in 3-4 years as you start making a significant impact on the number of seeds in the soil seed bank.

~William Afton

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John Gwaltney, SoutheasternFlora.com

Hemp Sesbania flowers.



Photo credit: Texas A&M

Photo credit: John Gwaltney, SoutheasternFlora.com

Hemp Sesbania seed pods.

What's Bugging You?

Ips Beetles

Agents around the state and all over the South have seen an increase this year in reports of pine bark beetles and dying pines. In a lot of these cases, the beetles are identified as *Ips* beetles also known as *Ips* engraver beetles.

The situation is so drastic this year that

Representative Mike Johnson is convening a House Emergency Beetle Subcommittee that will hear from forestry, agriculture and legal experts to consider all available options to counter the bark beetle threat. The panel will also explore sources of emergency funding to assist homeowners who

can't afford to hire an arborist to remove infested trees, which can often cost more than a thousand dollars. This subcommittee is looking at damage by all pine bark borers including *Ips* engraver beetles, southern pine beetle, black turpentine beetle, and sawyer beetle.

Ips beetles, like other pine bark beetles, mostly live in the pine inner bark or phloem layer of tissue. They breed and feed on the inner bark thus cutting off the food supply of the tree. Heavy infestations will completely girdle a tree. In addition to the insect feeding, many *Ips* beetles transmit a pathogenic blue-stain fungus (*Ophiostoma ips*). The blue-stain fungi spread into the xylem and block water flow and may hasten tree death (Figure 1).

Ips beetles usually only attack trees that are already stressed due to other environmental or biotic factors. The heavy Infestations this year are being attributed to the response to last summer's drought.

If the *Ips* beetle population gets sufficiently high, they may even overcome the defenses of healthy trees by attacking them in large numbers.

There are three species of *Ips* beetles that we see in Louisiana: the six-spined *Ips*, *Ips calligraphus*; the

eastern five-spined *Ips*, *Ips grandicollis*, and the small southern pine engraver, *Ips avulsus*. Adult beetles are cylindrical, dark red-brown to black, and 1/16-1/4 inch long depending on species. They have a depression on the end of their abdomens with short spines along each side. The number of spines is a distinguishing characteristic useful in species identification.

Larvae are a typical C-



Figure 1: Blue stain in *Ips* killed loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). Ronald F. Billings, Texas A&M Forest Service, Bugwood.org

shape and indistinguishable from other bark beetle species larvae. Small southern pine engraver, *Ips avulsus*, is 1/16-1/8" long with four abdominal spines per side. Eastern five-spined *Ips*, *Ips grandicollis*, is 1/8-3/16" long with five abdominal spines per side. Six-spined *Ips*, *Ips calligraphus*, is 1/8-1/4" long with six abdominal spines per side (Figure 2) (Figure 3).

All three species will infest any pine species (*Pinus* sp.) in their range but may infest other conifer species like spruce (*Picea* sp.), fir (*Abies* sp.), and hemlock (*Tsuga* sp.). The three *Ips* species tend to attack different parts of the tree, although there is a lot of overlap of the infested areas. *Ips calligraphus* usually attacks the lower trunks and large limbs greater than 4" in diameter. *Ips grandicollis* prefers to infest recently felled trees and tree debris, but will also infest weak trees, mostly on large limbs and the middle to upper tree trunk. *Ips avulsus* prefers smaller diameter tree trunks, limbs, and tree debris.

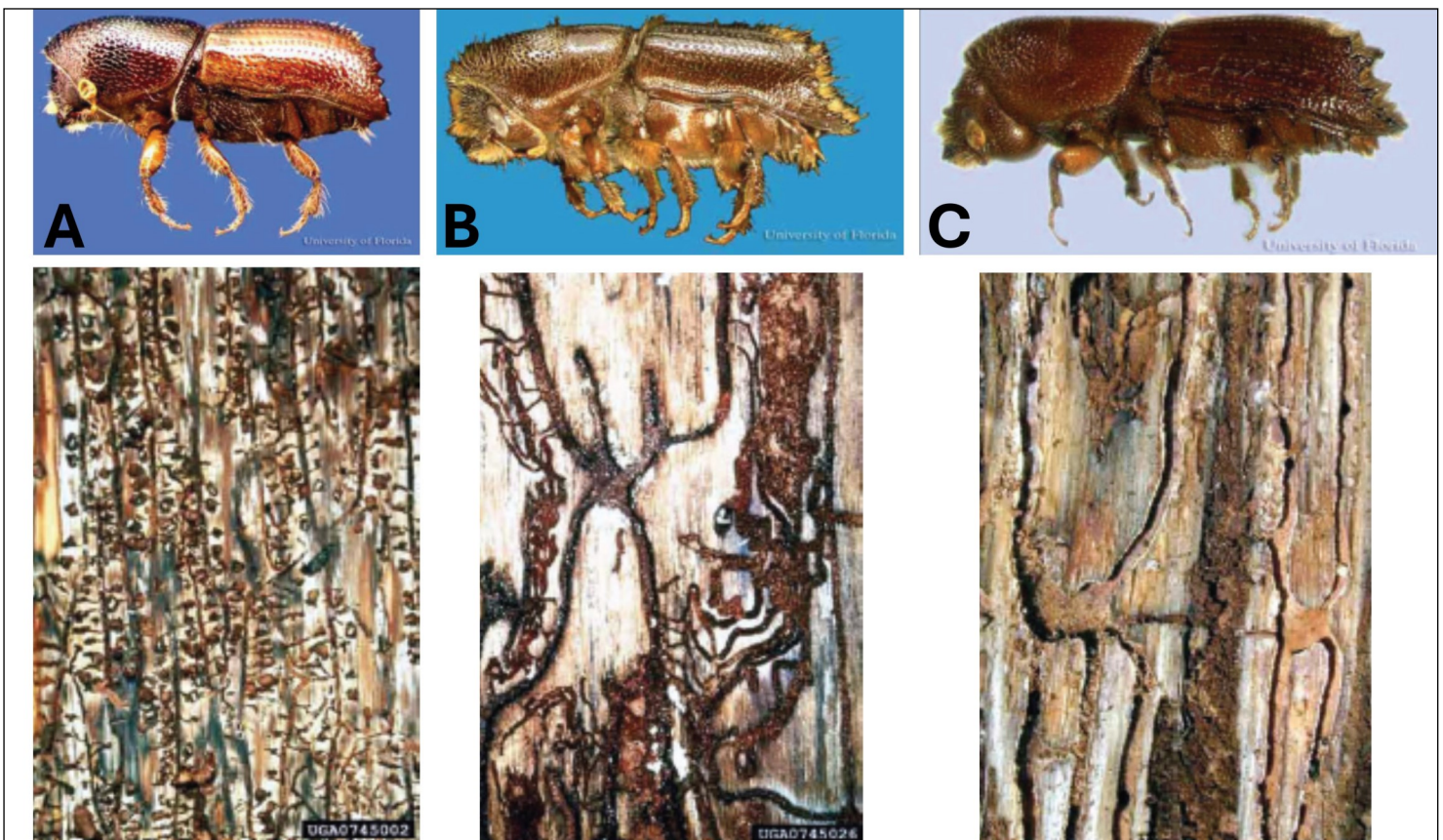


Figure 2: A – *Ips avulsus* adult (top) and gallery (bottom). B – *Ips calligraphus* adult (top) and gallery (bottom). C – *Ips grandicollis* adult (top) and gallery (bottom). Beetle photos: Ronald F. Billings, Texas Forest Service; [http://www. forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org). Galleries A&B photos: David T. Almquist, University of Florida. Gallery C photo: Wayne N. Dixon, Florida DOACS

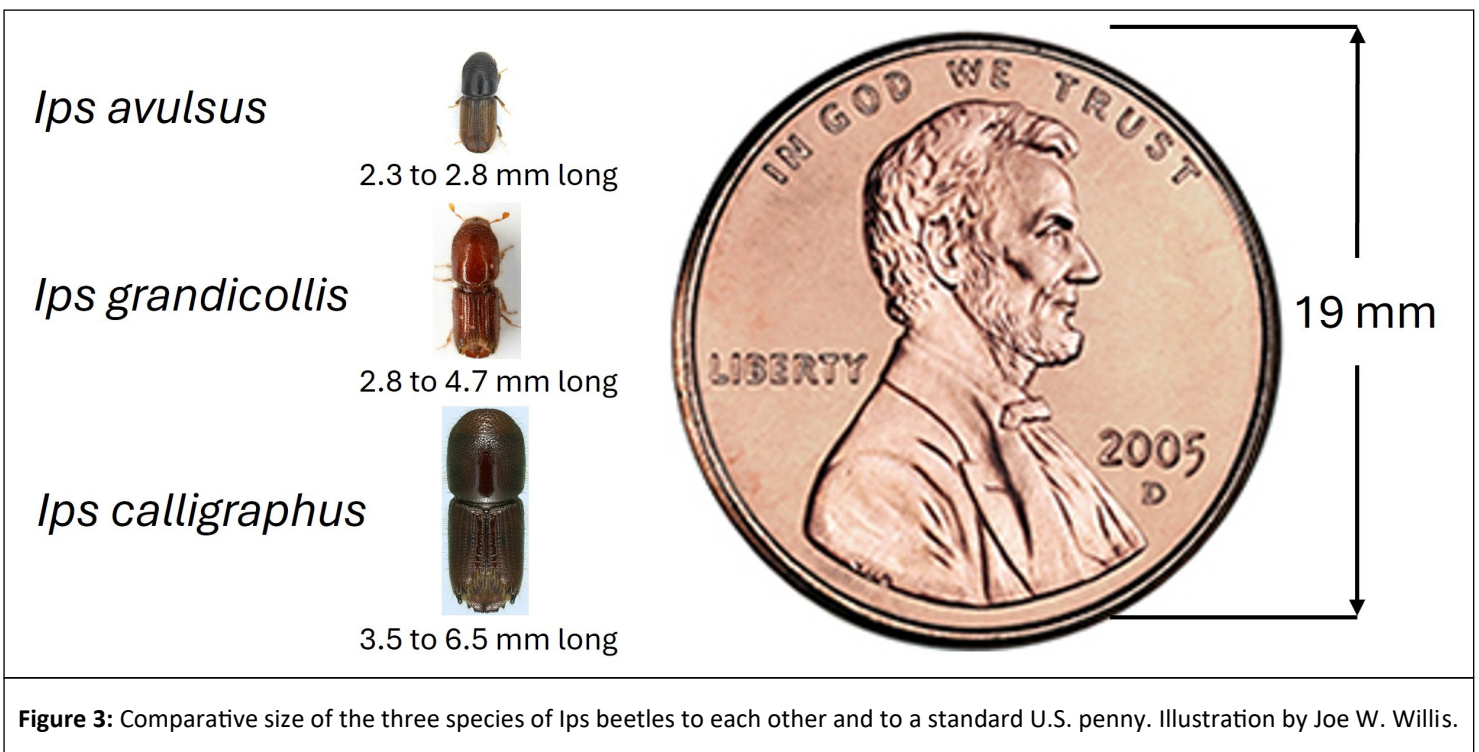


Figure 3: Comparative size of the three species of *Ips* beetles to each other and to a standard U.S. penny. Illustration by Joe W. Willis.

Adult male *Ips* beetles choose the host plant, principally attacking trees that are stressed, damaged, or recently killed. Males produce two types of pheromone signals attracting other beetles. One pheromone is produced when successfully feeding and the other when the presence of defensive tree resin is detected. These pheromones attract both females and males in large numbers. Male *Ips* beetles bore entrance tunnels through the outer bark and excavate nuptial chambers in the inner bark. Entrance holes may have pitch

tubes unless the tree is already too weak to produce resin. Multiple females (3 to 7) then enter the nuptial chamber and mate with the male. After mating, each female excavates an egg gallery 4"-7" long that extends out from the nuptial chamber and usually parallel to the wood grain, resulting in an overall "I", "H" or "Y" shaped gallery pattern (Figure 2). Eggs are laid along both sides of the gallery. After hatching, the larvae create their own galleries (perpendicular to the parent galleries) as they feed in the inner bark. Larvae pupate at the end of their feeding galleries, and when mature, bore out through the outer bark leaving perfectly round 1/16" exit holes and start the cycle again (Figure 4). *Ips calligraphus* and *Ips grandicollis* can complete their life cycles in as little as 25 days. *Ips avulsus* can complete its life cycle in as little as 18 days.

Depending on weather conditions and host availability, *Ips* beetles can produce between six and ten generations per year in warm climates.

Symptoms of an *Ips* beetle infestation include yellow and brown crowns, dying and dead branches, sloughing bark, and dead trees. Closer inspection often shows direct signs of *Ips* beetles which include pitch tubes, galleries, emergence holes, boring dust, frass, and adult beetles and larvae.

Prevention is the best strategy to limit *Ips* beetle activity. Preventative treatments may be suitable for high-value trees, but chemicals are generally not used for *Ips* bark beetles.

Systemic insecticides have shown effectiveness in controlling bark beetles, but these require direct injection into the tree trunk and can only be used as a preventive. Once bark beetles have colonized a tree it cannot be saved.

As previously stated, *Ips* bark beetles are secondary invaders. They only attack trees that have been damaged or weakened by some other stress factor. Diagnosing *Ips* beetle infestations means you need to

diagnose the larger problem. Determining what caused the damage or stress that led to the infestation is the first step. Managing or eliminating that stress factor is the ultimate long-term control method for *Ips* beetles.

~Dr. Joe W. Willis

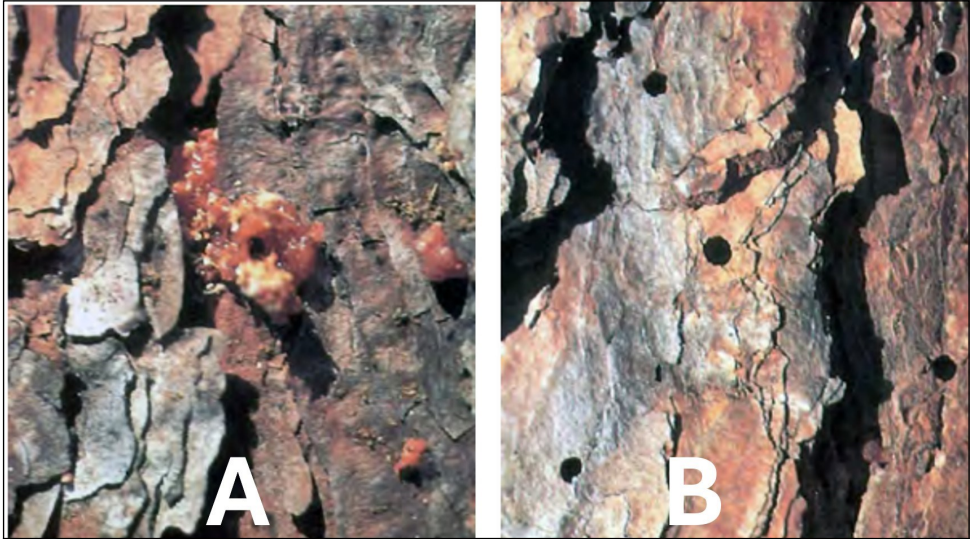


Figure 4: A – *Ips* beetle entry hole with pitch tube. B – *Ips* beetle exit holes. Photos from USDA Forest Service Leaflet 129.

Resources:

Adams, S. and J. Hulcr. 2021. Common Bark Beetle Pests of Florida. UF/IFAS Pub. #4H417. [4H417/4H417: Common Bark Beetle Pests of Florida \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ifas.ufl.edu/4H417/4H417:CommonBarkBeetlePestsOfFlorida)

Connor, M.D. and R.C. Wilkinson. 1983. *Ips* Bark Beetles in the South. USDA Forest Service. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev2_043330.pdf

Coyle, D.R., A.B. Self, J.D. Floyd, J.J. Riggins. 2016. *Ips* Bark Beetles in the Southeastern U.S. Southern Regional Extension Forestry. [Ips-in-the-Southeastern-US.pdf \(arkansas.gov\)](https://www.arkansas.gov/ips-in-the-southeastern-us.pdf)

Eickwort, J.M. and A.E. Mayfield III. 2018. *Ips* engraver beetles. UF/IFAS Pub# EENY-388. [Ips engraver beetles - Scolytinae \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ufl.edu/ips-engraver-beetles-scolytinae)

Pine *Ips* Species (Engraver Beetles). 2011. USDA Forest Service. [stelprdb5299326.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/stelprdb5299326.pdf)

Muller, Wesley. 2024. [Bark beetle attack prompts Louisiana lawmakers to convene emergency panel • Louisiana Illuminator \(lailluminator.com\)](https://www.louisianailluminator.com/bark-beetle-attack-prompts-louisiana-lawmakers-to-convene-emergency-panel)

Stacey's Lawn (Has Got it Going On)

Summertime is a busy season in the southern lawn, marked with routine mowing and maintenance. New installations are also performed at this time, as our warm-season turfgrasses are in active growth. As we scan our surroundings, there is always at least one neighbor with an exceptionally well-maintained lawn. This hypothetical homeowner - Stacey, if you will - always seems to have a lawn that has got it going on. But how does she keep that turf top-notch?

Established lawns need continual care. After all, you know this was not the new lawn that it used to be. It's all grown in now, maybe you will see (several issues of concern). Compacted soils from people walking over turf can modify pore

structure, limiting water and air exchange to the roots. Early summer is a great time to aerate lawns to remediate this issue - the turf is actively growing and there is ample time in the season for recovery. Managing water in the lawn is also critical - droughts like the one experienced in 2023 may require irrigation to maintain the health and vigor; whereas, summers with ample precipitation may necessitate the installation of drainage features. In either case,

too much or too little water poses a problem - and soil compaction certainly compounds this challenge. Turf growing in compacted areas and/or subject to poor water management stands out in a negative way - drawing the ire of onlookers - but improper

mowing practices causes issues even if the soil is aerated and properly hydrated. In fact, a keen eye for these areas will likely result in comments such as "you missed a spot over there". As a general rule, make sure to only remove 1/3 of the turfgrass height per cut. This keeps the lawn healthy without causing harm to future growth. Avoid mowing when the lawn is wet - lest your mower tires rip up the turf.

When installing new turf (especially in the heat of summer) it is important to maintain ample hydration. Sod needs to be well-irrigated to survive as it establishes into the soil, especially if the rain is not

cooperating. When Stacey installed her new sod, it was all that she wanted and she watered for so long to make sure that her investment did not dry out before rooting. She also made sure to avoid sodding directly under trees, instead making sure to leave space for mulch or groundcovers. Stacey clearly sees, turf is not necessary under trees. I know envying other lawns may be wrong, but I'm in love with Stacey's lawn.

~Dr. Damon Abdi and Dr. Jeb Fields



What's Bugging You?

Large Milkweed Bug (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*)

Lovers of monarch butterflies in the GNO area are likely to be growing aquatic milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*) in their gardens to encourage reproduction for this increasingly endangered insect. At this time of summer, milkweed plants may be making seed pods. These large, pointed, green, pendulous pods contain the developing seeds for the next generation of milkweed. Large milkweed bugs (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*) also depend on milkweed plants to complete their life cycle and utilize the green seed pods as a primary food source. Milkweed plants are a key ingredient in a whole specialized insect ecosystem that extends beyond the charismatic monarch butterfly. Here's how to both identify the large milkweed bug and to support it while still enjoying some seed production from your milkweed plants.

Large milkweed bugs are members of the Hemiptera

family, also known as the true bugs. They are orange-red and black in all life stages. Adults are ½ inch to 2/3 inch (12 – 18 mm) and have a black "X" on their backs. The body color is orange-red and they have no white on them. Small milkweed bugs (*Lygaeus kalmia*) have white on the body and are smaller in size than large milkweed bugs. Eggs are bright yellow and are laid on milkweed in clusters of 30-50 during the summer months in most of Louisiana. In coastal Louisiana, reproduction can take place year round. Nymphs are orange-red and go through five molts, with older instars looking much like the mature adults sans wings. Nymphs feed exclusively on milkweed pods and

seeds, making them specialists much like the monarch caterpillars. Adult large milkweed bugs can feed on other plant materials, including the seeds of sunflowers and watermelons. Milkweed feeding instills beneficial toxins in

the bugs, making them unpalatable to predators. Their bold, bright coloration serves as a warning sign.

The nymphs and adults tend to huddle in clusters on milkweed plants that are producing seed pods. The adults are believed to be releasing an attractive pheromone that alerts other members of their species that there is a food source, drawing them into the congregation. Large clusters of these highly visible bugs can be alarming to milkweed keepers when they appear in the garden. Have no fear, they are a natural part of the milkweed ecosystem and pose no threat to monarch caterpillars. Their feeding activity on the seed pods can be managed with



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A single adult milkweed bug can be seen among a large group of immature milkweed bugs in various stages of development.

organza net baggies or paper snack bags. Use these materials to cover 1-2 seed pods, leaving the rest available for feeding activities. Each pod that you cover will produce up to 200 seeds, which should be plenty for fall sowing! Mechanical or insecticidal controls are not recommended. Insecticides can harm other non-target insects such as monarchs and other pollinators. Small infestations of large milkweed bugs pose little threat to milkweed or monarchs and should be embraced as a part of the fascinating biodiversity that milkweed plants support.

~Anna Timmerman

In the Kitchen with Austin

Watermelon Popsicles

This seasonal treat is refreshingly delicious. The recipe calls for watermelon, but any summer fruit may be substituted.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. watermelon
- 2 Tbs. sugar
- 2 Tbs. lime juice



Frozen watermelon popsicles

Directions:

Cut watermelon into small chunks.

Place watermelon chunks, sugar, and lime juice in a blender and process until smooth. It may be necessary to add a little water so the mixture liquefies.

Pour mixture into popsicle molds and freeze.

Unmold and enjoy!

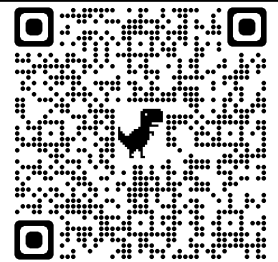
Bien Manger

Help Support Horticulture programs in the Greater New Orleans Area

Funding helps the LSU AgCenter agents provide help for:

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

**We Need
Your Help**



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

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

Search for Greater New Orleans Horticulture Support Fund

Join Us for The Gardening Event of the Year

**ST. TAMMANY
MASTER GARDENERS**
in conjunction with the LSU AgCenter present their

2024 FALL SEMINAR

**Friday, September 20
8:00 am to 2:30 pm**



Church of the King, I-12 & Hwy 59, Mandeville, LA
\$50 per person
All seats reserved. Select your seat early.

Table Talks - Lunch by Coffee Rani - Plant Boutique
featuring Banting's, Full Moon, Stelz, and Mizell's Camellia Hill Nurseries

Speakers

Frances Schultz

Renowned gardener, designer, author, artist, and preservationist,
will present "Hospitality from the Heart,
The Gifts of Hospitality and the Healing Power of Home"

Ron Turpin

Representative, South/Southeastern US,
for Hartley Botanic Glasshouses & Greenhouses,
will present "Glass Elegance: Exploring Luxury Greenhouses"

Stephen Sonnier

Premier floral designer and antiques collector, of Dunn & Sonnier
Flowers, Antiques, & Gifts, New Orleans, will demonstrate his art
using materials foraged from the garden



REGISTER at www.stmastergardener.org/event

For more information, please contact Earlyn Jaster at (985)789-8823

Online reservations are preferred. Mail-in reservations must be received by September 6. Make checks payable to STMGA.
Mail checks with registration forms to Fall Seminar, 616 Foxfield Lane, Madisonville, LA 70447. **No refunds. No walk-ins. All sales final.**

Name	PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY	Phone
Address		City
Email		Zip
Are You a St. Tammany Master Gardener?	Yes No	Circle choice: Chicken Salad Croissant OR Turkey Cranberry on 12-Grain OR Veggie Croissant
Number of Tickets	Amount Enclosed (\$50/ticket) \$	PLEASE ATTACH LIST of any additional names, emails, and food selections

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Orleans Parish

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Mid-City

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

Crescent City Farmer's Market- City Park

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

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Uptown

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

SPROUT NOLA Truck Farm Table

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

Vietnamese Farmer's Market

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

Marketplace at Armstrong Park

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

New Orleans French Market

Lower Decatur Street
Daily, 9AM-6PM

Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market

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

Laughing Buddha Farm Hubs

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

Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9th Ward

2301 Gallier Street at the garden, Saturdays
from 10AM-1PM
3440 Piety Street Fresh Market open daily,
weekly bulk produce sale.
<https://www.facebook.com/BarceloGardens/>

Bywater Market at Trap Kitchen-Bywater

1043 Poland Ave
Sundays from 10AM-3PM

BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point

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

Sankofa Fresh Stop Market

Coming soon!
<https://sankofanola.org/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 1-5PM
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

German Coast Farmer's Market

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

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Jefferson Parish

Gretna Farmer's Market

739 Third Street, Gretna
Every Saturday, except the Saturday of
Gretna Fest, 8:30AM-12:30PM
<https://www.gretnala.com/visitors/farmers-market/>

Nawlins Outdoor Market

1048 Scotsdale Dr., Harvey
Every Saturday & Sunday, 9AM-5PM
<https://www.facebook.com/NawlinsMarket/>

Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte

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

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie

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

Westwego Farmer's Market

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

Westwego Shrimp Lot

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

Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview

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

Harahan Farmer's Market

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

Rivertown Farmer's Market

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

Old Metairie Farmer's Market

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

Local Independent Garden Centers

Jefferson

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

Soil Vendors

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

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

Local Independent Garden Centers

Orleans

Urban Roots	2375 Tchoupitoulas St., New Orleans, LA 70130	(504) 522-4949
The Plant Gallery	9401 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 488-8887
Harold's Plants	1135 Press St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 947-7554
We Bite Rare and Unusual Plants	1225 Mandeville St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 380-4628
Hot Plants	1715 Feliciana St., New Orleans, LA 70117	www.hotplantsnursery.com
Pelican Greenhouse Sales	2 Celebration Dr., New Orleans, LA 70124	(504) 483-9437
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713
Jefferson Feed Mid-City	309 N. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119	(504) 488-8118
Jefferson Feed Uptown	6047 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 218-4220
Ninth Ward Nursery	2641 Deslonde St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 296-8398
Crazy Plant Bae	800 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans LA 70119	(504) 327-7008
Canopy Plant Company	6030 St. Claude, New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 381-4033
Too Tall Nursery	2817 N. Roman, New Orleans, LA 70117	tootallfarm@gmail.com
Plantery NOLA	Pop Up Locations	www.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/
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Photo by Chris Dunaway

A very large live oak tree split in half. Both halves seem to be doing fine.

August Checklist/Garden Tips

Small, yellow aphids on your butterfly weed or milkweed will not damage the plants or affect the feeding of adult and larval monarch butterflies. Do not use pesticides.

Spider mites and white flies are abundant now and many gardeners are experiencing heavy outbreaks. Make several applications of Year Round Oil or All Seasons Oil before they get too out of hand. Spray the underside of the leaves for best control, and spray in the early morning when it is cooler.

Begin to order spring flowering bulbs from catalogs for delivery in October.

Remove flowers on coleus, and pinch back vegetative growth to prolong new foliage production.

Prune ever blooming roses back about one third their height in late August or early September. Also remove any dead canes and weak spindly growth. This pruning prepares the roses for the outstanding blooming season in October and November. Do not cut back once blooming roses that only bloom in spring and early summer and stop, as you will reduce flowering next year.

After a summer of vigorous growth outside, some containerized plants may be pot bound. Check and repot into larger containers if necessary. Also, plants in pots sitting on a brick surface or soil may grow roots out of the drainage holes into the ground. Prevent this by lifting the pots occasionally or boost them up on pot feet or pieces of brick.

Fine, silvery webbing on the bark of area trees is being caused by tiny insects called psocids or bark lice. These scavengers are completely harmless to the trees and no control is needed.

If your spring planted eggplant and pepper plants are still in good condition, they can be generally be relied on to produce a fall crop. Control pests and keep the plants well watered and fertilized as needed. They will begin to set more fruit as the temperatures become cooler.

Transplant fall tomato plants into your garden by mid-August. Be prepared to spray with insecticides and fungicides since insect and disease pressure is usually greater in the fall than in the spring. The cultivars that have produced satisfactorily in the fall are Mountain Pride, Mountain Delight, Hawaiian Hybrid, Pelican, Bingo, Whirlaway, Floradel, Celebrity, Pacific and Solar Set.

If you need to, dig and divide Louisiana irises, Easter lilies and calla lilies this month.

Many bedding plants that will continue to bloom through fall were planted months ago and may be somewhat leggy and overgrown by this time. Cut them back by about 1/3 to 1/2 to produce stockier, fuller plants for the fall blooming period. Fertilize after you cut them back to stimulate new growth. This is often done to bedding plants such as impatiens, begonia, lantana, blue daze, verbena, pentas, salvia and periwinkle.

As your flowers and vegetables grow, they deplete the soil of organic material. Be sure to add plenty of compost to your garden plots before planting your Fall crop. You should also take a soil test and add fertilizer and amendments according to the test results

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. This is the last month to lay sod Bermudagrass.
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. Continue to scout for fungal damage and control with fungicides if necessary. The most prevalent is called Large Patch of Warm-Season Turfgrass. [Click here to find information about large patch disease from the LSU AgCenter.](#)
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. Keep an eye open for insect pests. Hot, dry weather is ideal for chinch bug damage to show up on area lawns, particularly St. Augustine. Look for enlarging areas of brown, straw-like grass, especially in sunny, dry areas between the sidewalk and the street and along driveways. Treat with acephate, bifenthrin, Malathion, or other insecticides labeled to control chinch bugs on lawns. Read and follow label directions carefully.
8. 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.
9. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type.

Don't's

1. Do not apply selective herbicides 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.

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GNO Gardening Magazine published by Chris Dunaway

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