



GN Gardening Magazine

February 2025

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Cover photo: Io moth caterpillar eating a hibiscus plant.
Photo by: Chris Dunaway



What's Bugging You?

Io Moth Caterpillars (*Automeris io*)

There is a common saying, “Do as I say, not as I do.” A recent experience has proven me guilty of this failure. Before the snow began to fall, I brought many of my cold sensitive plants inside to protect them from the freezing temperatures. Understand that I always recommend that you check your plants for unwanted occupants before bringing them inside. This is where I failed to follow my own advice.

The first sign of trouble was what looked like dirt scattered on the floor under one of my hibiscus plants. At first I blamed the cats thinking that they had found a new place to dig. On closer inspection I saw that they were all little round balls. Realization dawned and my attention turned to the plant. Closer inspection revealed that Io moth caterpillars (*Automeris io*) were busily feeding on the leaves. Using a pair of tongs from the kitchen I began removing the uninvited guests. It is a little embarrassing to admit but I found 16 of them hiding in plain site.

Io moth caterpillars are one of only 4 species in Louisiana that can inflict painful stings (thus the tongs). Those found on my plant were in the final instar and had undergone at least 4 previous instars before reaching the final stage. When they first hatch, the larvae are reddish brown in color with visible, and functional, spine bearing scoli. Once the caterpillars

have reached the appropriate size and have enough stored energy they will create a cocoon in which to undergo the final transformation into an adult moth.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Io moth caterpillar feeding on hibiscus leaves.

Adult Io moths are quite beautiful and feature distinctive large eyespots on their hind wings. Active at night, the female Io moths release a pheromone to attract males to the location. The female will then lay eggs over the next few days after copulation. Adult Io moths do not eat and are short lived.

The caterpillars can feed on a wide host of plant species but rarely cause enough damage to warrant treatment. Applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* can be effective control is desired. Whatever you do, you may want to check your plants before you bring them inside...

~Chris Dunaway

February Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Beets	Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen
Carrots	Danvers 128, Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Enterprise, Maverick, Sugar Snax 54
Collards	Champions, Flash, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates
Eggplants (seeds)	Dusky, Epic, Night Shadow, Black Beauty
Irish Potatoes	Dark Red Norland, Red LaSoda, Kennebec, Yukon Gold,
Kale	Siberian, Vates
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
Pepper, Bell (Seeds)	Aristotle XR3, Jupiter, King Arthur, Paladin, Golden Summer, Purple Beauty, Tequila
Pepper, Hot (Seeds)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla, El Rey FI, Tobasco, Jalapeño M, Super Cayenne II
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross
Shallots	Matador, Prism
Snap Beans, Bush	Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Contender, Festina, Lynx, Provider, Roma II
Snap Beans, Pole	Derby, Blue Lake, Kentucky Blue, McCaslin, Rattlesnake, Kentucky Wonder 191
Spinach	Bloomsdale Long Standing, Melody, Tyee, Unipak 151
Sweet Corn	Merit, Silver Queen, Honey ‘n Pearl, Ambrosia
Swiss Chard	None Given
Tomatoes (seeds)	Bella Rosa, Fletcher, Tribute, BHN 1021, Amelia, Dixie Red
Turnip Greens	Alamo, All Top, Purple, Top White Globe, Seven Top, Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo Cross

Misunderstood Plant of the Month

Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Common chickweed (*Stellaria media*).

With the once-in-a-lifetime winter storm we just went through, you probably aren't thinking about weeds or having much of a weed problem. If you've strolled around the yard or an open field somewhere, you realize winter weeds are winter weeds for a reason. They survived the snow and cold quite well and are lush green and growing. One of those we see here prolifically is chickweed (*Stellaria media*).

Stellaria media, chickweed, is an annual flowering plant in the family Caryophyllaceae. It is native to Eurasia but has naturalized throughout the world. Chickweed is a hardy winter annual which flowers throughout the year in mild climates like Louisiana, but it typically grows and flowers from late fall throughout the spring (November through May). The round stems have a sprawling growth habit, up to 16 inches long and $\frac{1}{16}$ " diameter, with a line (very occasionally 2 lines) of hairs running straight down its length. The leaves are green, smooth, oval and opposite, $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1" long and $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide.

The star-shaped flowers are small, less than $\frac{4}{10}$ " diameter, with 5 deeply bisected white petals, $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ " long. One petal is often mistaken for two. The $\frac{1}{10}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ " sepals have long, wavy hairs on their outer sides and are oval in shape, and usually 5 in number. There are usually 3 stamens but sometimes as many as 8 and 3 styles.

Pollinated/fertilized flowers quickly form egg-shaped capsules. Each capsule contains 6-10 distinctive seeds on average and a single plant may produce 2200-2700 seeds on average. Seeds can germinate immediately and are transported by wind, water, and animals. The optimal germination temperature is 54° F–68°F and seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 60 years.

Stellaria media is edible and nutritious, and is used as a leaf vegetable, often raw in salads. Modern herbalists prescribe it for iron-deficiency anemia (for its high iron content), as well as for skin diseases, bronchitis, rheumatic pains, and arthritis though not all of these uses are supported by scientific research.

Most gardeners just consider chickweed to be a pernicious weed nuisance. There are multiple herbicide products available for chickweed control in home gardens, turf, and landscapes. For pre-emergent control, products containing atrazine, simazine, isoxaben, dithiopyr, oryzalin, pendimethalin, prodiamine, or trifluralin are recommended. Effective post-emergent herbicides may contain atrazine, triclopyr, glyphosate, dicamba, diquat, glufosinate, or metsulfuron. Always read and follow pesticide labels precisely.

~ Dr. Joe Willis

Resources:

Beasley, J., R. Strahan, K. Sanders. 2019. Common Chickweed. Louisiana Home Lawn Series. [Louisiana Home Lawn Series: A guide to maintaining a healthy Louisiana lawn: Shade and Warm-Season Turfgrasses](#)

Common Chickweed. 2011. [agric.gov.ab.ca/appl07/printerfriendly?id=117](#)

Khamare, Yuvraj, Chris Marble, Nathan Boyd, and Shawn Steed. 2022. Biology and Management of Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) in Ornamental Crop Production. [ENH1313/EP577: Biology and Management of Common Chickweed \(Stellaria media\) in Ornamental Crop Production](#)

Stellaria media. 2024. [Stellaria media - Wikipedia](#)

Wilén, C.A. 2019. Chickweeds. UC-IPM. [Chickweeds Management Guidelines--UC IPM](#)

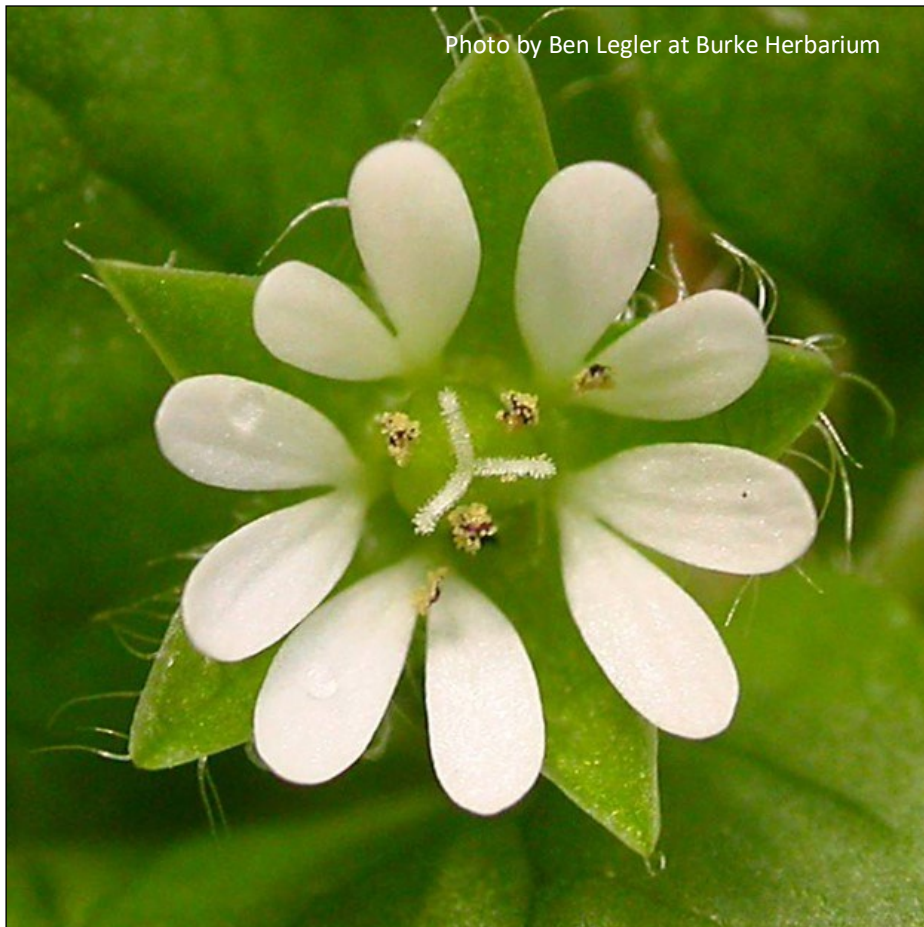


Photo by Ben Legler at Burke Herbarium

Close-up of chickweed flower. Notice the deeply lobed petals.



Photo credit: Michigan State University

Chickweed seeds being squeezed from a pod.

Disease of the Month

Pestalotia Leaf Spot in Strawberry

In 2023, 61 commercial strawberry producers harvested 198 acres for a total farm value of \$11.6M. Most of those producers are primarily located in Livingston and Tangipahoa parishes (roughly 39%). I'm sure some readers have started seeing a small selection of Louisiana-grown strawberries in the local supermarket. As the season progresses, we should start seeing more.

As with all agricultural products, plant pests can cause issues during all stages of plant development which ultimately lead to reduced quality and yields. Plant pests can be anything from weeds, insects, or plant pathogens. In Southeast Louisiana where the average rainfall

is around 60 inches per year, plant disease can be a major limiting factor in agricultural production. Growers are constantly battling botrytis gray mold, powdery mildew, anthracnose, and phytophthora crown rot. A new situation is developing as scientists have learned more about a disease called pestalotia leaf spot and that it can be fairly aggressive if left to

fester.

Pestalotia leaf spot is not a "new disease" per se but the knowledge about the fungal pathogen, *Pestilolia longisetula* has expanded in the last few years. As

more occurrences of pestalotia leaf spot were identified in commercial strawberry fields, researchers at the University of Florida – Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Israel started using DNA characterization to learn more about the pathogen causing the recent uptick of this disease. Originally, scientists classified the pathogen as *P. longisetula*, but now they say it should be classified as *Neopestalotiopsis rosae*.

Neopestalotiopsis species are more

aggressive, so this is quite a news release.

The LSU AgCenter is aware of the new classification as this disease was identified in Louisiana back in February of 2022. Dr. Mary Helen Ferguson sent plant samples to University of Florida and received a positive confirmation for *N. rosae*. Growers have been informed, and disease management practices are



Photos by Dr. Mary Helen Ferguson

Commercial strawberry plants showing symptoms of neopestalotiopsis.

currently being discussed through growers' meetings, demonstrations, and workshops. Gardeners who grow strawberries at home should also be aware of this disease because they too play an important role in managing this new disease.

Symptomology, or the set of symptoms associated with plant disease, of this disease isn't easy because it was formerly thought to be more of a weak secondary pest. However, it is associated with other root/crown rot

pathogens, so general symptoms can be observed. If spores infect foliage tissue, then leaf symptoms will appear within a few days following warm, wet periods in late winter and spring. These lesions appear as necrotic areas on leaf tips and margins. If symptomatic tissue is placed in a plastic bag with sufficient moisture, you may be able to see several small spore-releasing structures, or pycnidia, form in these lesions using a hand lens. If left in high humidity, the pycnidia will start producing "tendrils" of black spores. Think of black snake firecrackers, but not so vigorous.

The pathogen can infect developing fruit as well. The

fruit lesions appear sunken and are tan in color. Under high humidity, the black pycnidia will form on fruit lesions just like described above.

If the disease progresses into the crown or infects the crown of the plant, then severe plant decline and death will occur. Once the crown is infected, plants display wilting, stunting, and eventual death. Sacrifice an infected plant by pulling it out of the ground and dissecting the entire crown on the y-axis so that the

interior of the crown with a sharp knife so that it can be examined. Plants infected with *N. rosae* will have

obvious deterioration in crown tissue, appearing as off-white, cream-colored, or brown. The LSU AgCenter Disease Diagnostic Lab can help both commercial and home growers in laboratory identification if needed.

Management of this disease starts in the field with good sanitation because the pathogen lives on previously infected plant material from a previous crop. Cull

and destroy infected plants along with all plant parts. Homeowners can pull infected plants, gather them in



Neoestalotiopsis can also infect the fruit of strawberry plants. Notice the tan colored sunken areas on the fruit."



Photos by Dr. Mary Helen Ferguson

Leaf spots and lesions on strawberry leaf

a grocery sack, and throw them out with the trash. Those with access to a burn pile can burn infected plant material. It is also important to think about garden tools as well, especially if shared between two people who both grow strawberries. Clean shovels, rakes, and other garden tools by submerging in a 10% bleach solution

Most home gardeners get started in growing strawberries by purchasing bare-root plants from garden centers in October. Inspect new plants before bringing them into the garden. Be wary of lesions on the leaves. It is completely okay to pot up bare-root plants in recycled nursery containers and quarantine them in a separate area in the home landscape.

Most folks start thinking of fungicide sprays when learning of a new plant disease. There are options for commercial growers such as Thiram SC (active ingredient = thiram), Inspire (difenoconazole and cyprodinil), Rhyme (flutriafol), and Switch (cyprodinil and fludioxonil). The downside is that these products are costly and not readily available at big box stores and local garden centers. The primary focus of a

neopestalotiopsis management plan should be prevention. Focus on acquiring disease-free plant material, destroying symptomatic plant material, and limiting fieldwork during wet conditions. Stay in touch with your local parish extension office to learn of any new updates.

~Will Afton

Resources:

2021. J.S. Baggio and N.A. Peres. Neopestalotiopsis disease in strawberry: what do we know now? Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium. Smallfruits.org, <https://smallfruits.org/2021/10/neopestalotiopsis-disease-in-strawberry-what-do-we-know/>

2022. M.H. Ferguson. New plant disease detected in Louisiana strawberries. LSU AgCenter. <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/jmorgan/articles/page1646760424366>

2024. Cline, B. Best management practices for neopestalotiopsis. NC State Extension, strawberries.ces.ncsu.edu/2024/08/best-management-practices-for-neopestalotiopsis.



A single spore of the *Neopestalotiopsis* species at 1,000X magnification.

Look At Me:

Firespike (*Odontonema cuspidatum*)

This showy tender perennial in the New Orleans area provides lots of bright purple to crimson red spikes of tubular flowers

beginning in fall and carrying through to the spring months. The deep glossy green foliage also makes an attractive backdrop for shorter perennials in the garden when the firespike is not in bloom.

Native to central America and parts of Mexico, firespike is frost sensitive, with foliage dying back to the ground when temperatures hit freezing. It has naturalized in Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast region through USDA Zone 8a. Firespike tends to recover fairly quickly from frost in the milder, coastal areas, reaching

heights of 4-6 feet when established. Firespike is a great perennial flower to add to the landscape, especially if you are interested in attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinator species to your garden.

Firespike can be planted year-round and tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Plant in a location

receiving full sun with good drainage to avoid root rot problems. Firespike will grow in partial shade or even dappled shade areas, but bloom quantity and quality

will be diminished.

Firespike can be propagated via seed or stem cuttings.

Cuttings can be taken and rooted year-round in

Louisiana. Plant firespikes 24-36"

apart from one another. Many area independent garden

centers carry firespike in the spring months.

There is both a red crimson flowering type and a less common purple-red blooming cultivar.

Firespike has no known insect pests and few disease

issues of note. It is considered to be a very low

maintenance

perennial that is well suited for our area. If



Firespike growing in a home garden in New Orleans.

the stems become too leggy or floppy, they can be trimmed back to 18-24" above the soil line to encourage the plant to bush out and bloom more.

This can be done 2-3 times each year with no ill effects. Deadheading spent flower spikes also encourages more blooms in the fall and winter.

Firespike offers any lingering winter hummingbirds a

wonderful nectar source when few other species are flowering in the deep part of winter.

Protect firespike plants from freezing temperatures by covering them with some plastic sheeting or a tarp for the overnight hours. Cover the entire plant in a way that creates a tent and traps a pocket of air inside.

Anchor down the covering with bricks or stakes so that it does not blow around or let cold air in overnight. Remove this cover in the morning when

the sun comes out to avoid leaf scorch and stress. If the plant does freeze back, wait several days before cutting any damaged slimy tissue off. Often the branches will be fine and the leaves will have the most damage. Surviving branches will leaf back out quickly at each node if the frozen leaves are gently trimmed off or removed by hand.

~Anna Timmerman



Firespike growing in a home garden in New Orleans.



Careless Clipper

You might feel so unsure, as you take a glance outside of your front door. As the frosts do no trimming.

subside, your plants come alive. Calls to mind the need to do some spring maintenance, starting with removing all dead, damaged, diseased, or dying branches (and all its sad goodbyes). In your eagerness to break out the bypass pruners and unsheathe your shears, take time to plan. Avoid careless mistakes such as trimming a plant at the wrong time or using poor pruning practices. Valentine's day is a good target date to prune many types of roses by cutting canes out with bypass pruners. Japanese Yews can be sheared to support a desired form before spring growth gets underway. Muhly grass? Cut it down to the clump at the end of the month. But should you have the misfortune of carelessly clipping your spring flowering plants before they bloom, you will sing a different tune – particularly if it's your prized Azaleas. You may think to yourself:

I'm never pruning plants again, clumsy hands can't

Though it's meant with well intent,

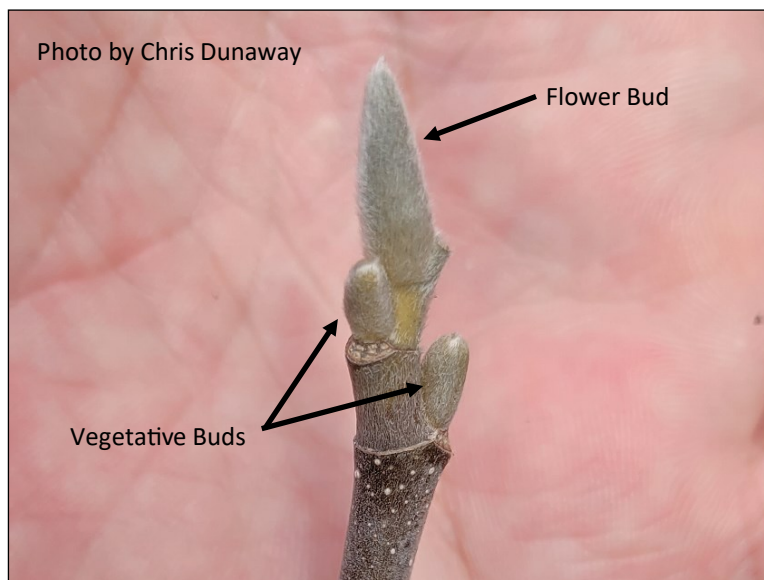
I won't need this tool.
Should've known better than to mistreat the stem,
and waste the plants that I'd been given.
So I'm never trimming plants again,
the way I pruned that yew.

Spring flowering plants bloom from buds developed the prior fall. Premature pruning removes these future flowers and can greatly diminish your showcase specimens from reaching peak potential in the landscape. Redbuds, *Chionanthus*, 'Jane' *Magnolias*, and of course, Azaleas, should be pruned after flowers fade, providing ample time for flower formation the following year. So, as you prepare to prune, make sure you choose the right tool and time for pruning each plant... and don't be a careless clipper.

~Dr. Damon Abdi



Azalea flower buds.



Saucer magnolia flower and vegetative buds.



St. Tammany Master Gardener Association's 2025 Spring Seminar: Spring Sip, Sow, and Mow

Don't miss this spring gardening event!

Three excellent speakers and great array of table talks!

Thursday, March 13, 2025

8:00 AM –12:30 PM

Castine Center at Pelican Park

63350 Pelican Drive, Mandeville LA 70448

Presentations

“Louisiana Lawns and Blooms”

Mr. Will Afton, LSU AgCenter County Agent, St. Tammany Parish

“Little Known Resources for Fruit & Vegetable Gardeners”

Dr. Christine Coker, MSU Extension Specialist, Mississippi

“Home Canning Basics and Demonstration”

Ms. Rinalda Rocquin, LSU AgCenter Nutrition & Community Health Agent, St. Charles Parish
Ms. Layne Langly, LSU AgCenter Area Nutrition & Community Health Agent, Southeast

Registration is required. Space is limited.

[To Register, Click Here or go to:](https://www.stmastergardener.org/events/2025-spring-seminar-spring-sip-sow-mow?utm_campaign=93013215-e094-4302-b366-93fac88d1fb9&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=84300e7e-071a-4d34-8497-14684cdf56d7)

https://www.stmastergardener.org/events/2025-spring-seminar-spring-sip-sow-mow?utm_campaign=93013215-e094-4302-b366-93fac88d1fb9&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=84300e7e-071a-4d34-8497-14684cdf56d7



NEW IN 2025 FOR LANDSCAPERS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS!

NATIVE PLANT TRAINING

Louisiana Native Professional Certification Program

Meet the Growing Demand

More consumers than ever are seeking professionals who specialize in native plants

Stand Out

Leverage your certification to compete for business

Gain Expertise

Grow your knowledge on plants that thrive in our local ecosystems



Identify native plants



Design and maintain sustainable landscapes



Learn the Ecology, Geography, & Hydrology of Louisiana

LOUISIANA
NATIVE
PLANT
SOCIETY



btnep
Barataria-Terrebonne
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM



**SCAN OR VISIT LNPS.ORG FOR
MORE INFORMATION**

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/rfqs/>

Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods- Treme-Lafitte

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.oldmetairiegardenclub.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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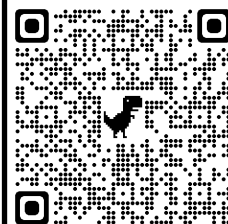
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4-H agents and volunteers work with local children.



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

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In the Kitchen with Austin

Beet Dip

The next time you have friends over, serve this beet dip with warm bread or crackers. It's seasonal, simple, and delicious!

Ingredients:

4 medium beets, tops removed	1 c Greek yoghurt
6 garlic cloves, in their skins	¼ c lemon juice
2 Tbs. olive oil, plus more for drizzling	1 tsp. paprika
	Salt and pepper, to taste



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°.

Wash beets to remove any dirt. Dry beets thoroughly and place them on a sheet of aluminum foil. Drizzle with oil and wrap tightly. Place garlic on separate sheet of foil. Drizzling with a bit more oil and wrap tightly as well.



A bowl of beet dip.

Place beets packet on a sheet pan and bake for 1 hour. Put garlic packet in oven 20 minutes after placing beets to bake. Remove both packets from oven and allow to cool. Peel beets and remove garlic from their skins. Place all ingredients in a food processor. Buzz until smooth. Adjust seasoning to suit your taste.

Chill dip and garnish with chopped parsley or nuts (optional) when ready to serve.

Bien Manger



February Checklist/Garden Tips

February is the month to fertilize hardy fruit trees such as apple, peach, nectarine, fig and fruit bushes such as blackberry and blueberry. Citrus are fertilized in late January or early February. Wait until March to fertilize tender fruit trees like banana, guava and avocado. For information on growing fruit trees in our area click on the link for the LSU AgCenter publication [Louisiana Home Orchard](#).

Plant gladiolus corms this month through mid March. Plant groups of corms every two weeks during the planting season to extend the display of flowers.

Pick snow peas in the vegetable garden frequently. Ideally the pods should be harvested when flat before the seeds begin to enlarge.

You may clip ground covers back now before new growth appears to remove unattractive foliage, rejuvenate the plants and control growth. Liriope, monkey grass, ferns (if browned back by freezes), wedelia, Japanese ardisia and Asiatic jasmine among others can be cut back with a lawn mower adjusted to its highest setting (make sure the blade is sharp), a string trimmer or even hedge clippers on small plantings. Selectively remove unattractive leaves on aspidistra (cast iron plant) and holly ferns by hand.

Keep beds mulched to a depth of two to three inches to control weeds in beds. Use leaves, pine straw or other available materials. Use your bagging lawn mower or shredder to chop up the leaves prior to putting down. This reduces the volume of the leaves, increases surface area to help the leaves break down and release nutrients, reduces matting and fungal growth, reduces movement by wind and makes for a cleaner look. Mulch helps prevent weed seeds from germinating and helps to retain moisture in the soil.

If you are growing caladiums from tubers, plant them indoors this month to get a head start. Plant the tubers in trays or pots of potting soil, placing them in a warm area of the house. Water them when the soil is dry to the touch. As the leaves appear, move them to a sunny windowsill or a shady area outdoors (if day temps are 70ish and evenings in the 60s). Plant pre-sprouted tubers into the garden in early April.

Finish harvesting any citrus fruit remaining on the trees. Quality will begin to decline as the trees get ready to flower.

Onions, shallots, garlic and leeks are susceptible to an insect called thrips which causes small white marks on the foliage called stippling. Heavy infestations can damage foliage to the point that the harvest is reduced. Control thrips with Malathion.

Clean out your pond garden or aquatic garden this month, if you need to. It is advisable to do this if there is a thick layer of gunk on the bottom. It is best to get this done while the weather is cool, the plants are dormant and the fish are less active. Pond cleaning is the best time to divide and repot water and bog plants that are dormant or semi-dormant. Do not divide those in active growth such as Louisiana irises and calla lilies.

Plant rose bushes in well prepared beds with good drainage and plenty of sun. It is important for the graft union to be 2 inches above the soil of the bed. If you plant roses purchased in containers, this was taken care of by the nursery. Just plant the bush so the top of the root ball is level with the soil of the bed. In the case of bare root roses, you must see to this yourself during planting. Finish planting bare root roses by the end of February.

Plant hardy bedding plants now for a spring burst of color. Foxglove, delphiniums, and hollyhocks need to be planted now so that they will bloom before the summer. Plant snapdragons, dianthus, petunia, stock, phlox, and lobelia as spring annuals in sunny areas. Need cool season color in a partial shade area? The best choices are cyclamen, primroses, pansy, viola, nicotiana, foxglove, alyssum and forget-me-not.

Sow some herbs to enjoy this spring into your garden beds or in containers. Chervil, dill, fennel, cilantro, stevia, oregano, parsley, and rosemary can be planted now. Basil needs warmer temperatures, so hold off until the end of the month.

In the vegetable garden, it's time to get spring crops started! Do a soil test to determine what amendments need to be added.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do:

1. If you have a history of problems with crabgrass or goosegrass, apply a pre-emergent herbicide now. [Click here to see more information on Crabgrass from the LSU AgCenter.](#)
2. Apply selective herbicides and sedge killers to kill off winter weeds growing in the lawn. You may also scout the lawn and remove weeds by hand. Make a game out of it with kids and grandkids.
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. Take a soil test.
5. Apply sulfur or lime to adjust the pH if necessary according to soil lab recommendations.
6. Use a mulching mower to shred fallen leaves without removing them or use a bagging mower to collect them and put them in your compost pile or use them as mulch in your gardens.
7. Late winter to early spring is a good time to address drainage issues in your lawn. Consider installing a rain garden. Dedicating a small portion of your property to water management can improve the health of your lawn.



Crabgrass in a lawn.

Do Not:

1. Do not apply fertilizer until mid-March as the weather warms up.
2. Do not lay down fill over the lawn grass.
3. Do not lay sod or spread warm-season turfgrass seed.
4. Do not dethatch or aerate the lawn.
5. Do not aerate the lawn.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help



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For more information visit **LSUAgCenter.com**

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GNO Gardening Magazine published by Chris Dunaway

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