



GNO Gardening Magazine



April 2022

In This Issue:

Super Plant Spotlight Salvias

By: Dr. Joe Willis

Look at Me Encore Azaleas

By: Anna Timmerman

Powdery Mildew on Roses

By: Dr. Joe Willis

Lawn Sod Installation

By: Chris Dunaway

April Planting Guide

In the Kitchen with Austin

Local Garden Centers

April Garden Checklist

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Cover photo:

Vibrant azalea flowers

Photo by Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard

Louisiana Super Plant Spotlight – Salvias

The 2022 Louisiana Super Plants were announced a few weeks ago and making the list this year are summer salvias. Five particular varieties were highlighted – Roman Red, Skyscraper Orange, White Flame, Mystic Spires Blue Improved, and Blue Suede Shoes.

Growing and Care

Members of the mint family (Lamiaceae), salvias produce a colorful spike of densely packed flowers with tubular blossoms atop square stems with velvety leaves. All salvias thrive in full sun and well-drained soil. Many varieties (typically those with light-colored flowers) will also do well in part-shade, but flowering will be reduced. A south-facing location is ideal.

After planting, add a 2-3 inch layer of mulch around the plant to retain moisture and control weeds. Most varieties of salvia are drought tolerant once established, but they'll look better with occasional watering, especially during drought periods.

Most salvias are light feeders and only occasionally need fertilizer. A light application of a balanced fertilizer or compost in early spring should be sufficient.

Salvias have few problems when grown in optimal conditions. Deadheading will keep salvia plants looking neat and encourages continued flowering of many varieties.

Varieties Highlighted



Roman Red Salvia



Skyscraper Orange Salvia



White Flame Salvia

Roman Red (*Salvia* 'Roman Red' PP #31,931) - Strong red blooms will bring vibrant season-long color to a sun-soaked waterwise garden. More compact than other red sages, Roman Red works well massed as a low, informal hedge, as a border accent, or as a container specimen. May behave as a perennial in warm winter regions. Fast growing; reaches 28 to 34 in. tall, 28 to 36 in. wide.

Skyscraper Orange (*Salvia* x 'HYBSV18020') - A true breakthrough in breeding, with beautiful coral-colored blooms on tall, sturdy stems that will enliven any patio or garden bed. This prolific bloomer has flower power from late spring until fall. Easy care, durable, waterwise, and tolerates summer heat. Grows as a perennial in mild winter regions; treat as an annual elsewhere. Moderate growing; reaches 14 to 28 in. tall, 10 to 16 in. wide.

White Flame (*Salvia longispicata* x *farinacea* 'White Flame' PP32429) - The pure white 1" long tubular flowers emerge from mealy-white calyxes along dense 18-24" high spikes from spring to fall attracting bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. White Flame Salvia is a vigorous and mannerly intermediate height salvia that revels in the heat and sun of summer when many other plants are seeking shade. Provide a full to mostly sunny site with average or better drainage in containers as well as in the garden and landscape. Moderate growing; reaches 14 to 28 in. tall, 12 to 18 in. wide.

Mystic Spires Blue (*Salvia longispicata* x *farinacea* 'Mystic Spires Blue') - A naturally compact and well-branched salvia with dark green leaves covered by masses of true blue flowers. A sturdy, vibrant, heat-loving plant that is excellent for use in a container or as a bedding plant. An herbaceous perennial in mild winter regions. Moderate growing; reaches 18 to 24 in. tall, 12 to 18 in. wide. It is sterile so it will not set seed.

Blue Suede Shoes (*Salvia* hybrid 'BBSAL01301') - Light blue flowers each with a black calyx on tough plants. Hummingbirds, butterflies and bees all love it, which makes it a great plant for pollinator gardens. Moderate growing; reaches 30 to 40 in. tall, 24 to 30 in. wide. It is sterile so it will not set seed and that means it will just bloom, and bloom and bloom all season without stopping.

Salvias are a diverse group of tough plants that are easy to grow and care for. Salvias (also known as sages) flower for an extended period and do well in hot, dry conditions. They provide an incredible variety of fragrance, bloom, plant habit, and color. Salvias have brilliantly colored flowers, square stems, and attractive, often scented foliage. As some of the best summer-blooming annuals and perennials, salvias can be used for mass plantings, borders, containers, accents, and cut flowers. Salvias are great pollinator plants with a strong appeal to hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators. Find a place for these Louisiana Super Plants in your garden and you won't be disappointed.

~Dr. Joe Willis



Blue Suede Shoes Salvia



Photo from Mississippi State University

Mystic Spires Blue Salvia

April Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Snap Beans (bush or pole)	Bush-Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Derby, Lynx, Strike Pole-Blue Lake, Kentucky Blue, McCaslin
Sweet Corn	Merit, Silver Queen, Honey 'n Pearl, Ambrosia
Summer Squash	Gold Rush, Justice III, Multipik, Patriot II
Hot Peppers (transplant)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla,
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Tomato (transplant)	Better Boy, Big Beef, Cupid, Pink Girl, Juliet, Sweet Milton, Bella Rosa, Carolina Gold
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia, Top Bunch, Vates
Cucumbers	Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Indy, Olympian, Sweet Success, Sweet Slice
Cucuzza	None Given
Lima Beans (bush or pole)	Dixie Butterpea, Jackson Wonder, Thorogreen Florida Speckled, King of Garden
Bell Peppers (transplants)	Aristotle X3R, Jupiter, Lilac, Plato, Tequila
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross
Swiss Chard	None Given
Winter Squash	Honey Bear, Sweet Mama, Table Queen, Tivoli
Eggplant	Dusky, Night Shadow, Epic, Santana, Calliope

Look at Me: Encore Azaleas

All over our area there are beautiful displays of azaleas blooming profusely. Azaleas speak to southern gardening at it's finest.

Traditionally, the taller Southern Indica/Formosan azalea cultivars were planted in our area, which reach heights of up to ten feet if left unpruned. These are the "antique" azaleas that have now been largely replaced by smaller, more compact azaleas that fit into smaller residential and commercial landscape spaces. Not everyone has acres of land these days, but there are plenty of options when it comes to azaleas. Among the best are the Encore azaleas (*Rhododendron sp.*). Encore azaleas were developed by Louisiana plant breeder Buddy Lee and can bloom three out of four seasons of the year. They come in a rainbow of colors and several different heights, so there is likely an Encore azalea for every space and even container.

When compared to the older cultivars of ornamental azaleas, the Encore cultivars have been bred to be more compact and require less pruning to maintain. After the initial spring flush of blooms, the shrubs can be lightly shaped to keep their form. No drastic pruning is needed. They also tolerate more sunlight than the Indicas, and can handle more freezing weather before damage occurs. The Encore azalea

series can be planted anytime, but the dormant season and early spring is best. This gives the roots a chance to establish before the summer heat. Soil with good drainage is a must. They also prefer a low soil

pH in 5.5-6.5 range, which means that an addition of elemental sulfur will be needed each year. Raised beds work well to keep the roots from oversaturating in wet conditions, as well as protects against the threat of root rot pathogens. Build up the planting beds with our native soil, some compost, and topsoil and mix in the sulfur before planting.

While Encores handle more sunlight than the older azalea types, they do appreciate afternoon shade with full or dappled morning sun. This helps to protect them from drying out in the summer months and from sunburn. Too much deep shade can result in reduced numbers of blooms. Getting the light right can also help with



Encore Azalea Autumn Chiffon

azalea lace bug (*Stephanitis pyrioides*) problems. When azaleas are in too much sunlight they tend to stress out and the lace bugs take advantage of the situation, feeding on the leaves and creating an unattractive stippling. With adequate shade, the lace bugs find less of an opportunity to feed and create damage. Generally, no spraying is needed as Encore azaleas are bred to be resistant to most azalea pests.

(See the article in the April 2012/29 edition of GNO Gardening for more information on azalea lace bugs. [Click here or go to https://lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/e/0/d/3/e0d3a05991c7737bd5565697274a51e2/april%202019%20adapdf.pdf](https://lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/e/0/d/3/e0d3a05991c7737bd5565697274a51e2/april%202019%20adapdf.pdf))

Azaleas do not like to completely dry out, so supplemental irrigation will be needed after planting and during dry periods. A thick 3-4" layer of pine straw can help to regulate the soil moisture as well as keep weeds down in the bed. Replenish this mulch each spring and fall by adding more pine straw to the top of the old pine straw. As it breaks down, the old pine straw adds soil organic matter to the bed. Encore azaleas benefit from a light application of an all-purpose fertilizer right after the spring bloom time. Don't fertilize them after August however, this can create a flush of tender growth late in the season that will be more susceptible to cold damage in the event of an early freeze. Granular fertilizer can be shaken throughout the bed on top of the mulch, it will sift down over time and with the rain.

Encores have been bred to display a fascinating rainbow of colors. They come in white, cream, pink, fuchsia, purple and red, and bicolor combinations of these. They also have different heights to choose



Encore Azalea Red Autumn Fire

from, with the most compact dwarf cultivars maturing at three feet in height, with the intermediate semi-dwarf ones measuring four to four and a half feet at maturity. The official Encore azalea website has a handy tool that helps guide you to select the best varieties for your space based on growing zone, color, and desired mature height. Varieties that are more suitable for container plantings or hedges are also indicated at

encoreazalea.com.

Over the years, Encore azaleas have become a staple of the local garden centers, so they should be very easy to find. If you'd like to enjoy three months of spectacular color, Encore azaleas may be the right shrub to add to the garden or landscape. For information on growing azaleas and other acid-loving shrubs, as well as tons of gardening topics, check out the LSU AgCenter website at www.lsuagcenter.com.

~Anna Timmerman



Encore Azalea Autumn Lily

Powdery Mildew of Roses

Powdery mildew is one of the most common foliar diseases of roses. The white, powdery fungal growth can be very disfiguring, with repeated heavy infection reducing plant vigor.

Symptoms

Powdery mildew on roses is caused by the fungus *Sphaerotheca pannosa* var. *rosae*, also known as *Podosphaera pannosa*. Early symptoms include raised blister-like areas on the upper leaf surface. Patches of white fungal growth appear on the surface of young leaves, which become twisted and distorted. White fungal growth may be found on older leaves in circular to irregular patterns. Infected leaves often fall off over time. The conspicuous white growth can affect all aerial parts of the plant. The mildew growth on all parts may turn brown as it ages. Severe mildew infection reduces leaf growth, the aesthetic value of the plant, and the ability of the plant to photosynthesize. The number of flowers may also be reduced, especially when young tender buds are infected. There are differences in susceptibility of rose cultivars to the powdery mildew fungus. In general, hybrid teas, ramblers and climbers are more

susceptible. The fungus favors young, succulent plant tissue.

Disease Development

Environmental conditions strongly influence the growth of the fungus and disease development. High humidity and poor air circulation favors disease development. The most favorable conditions for powdery mildew are nighttime temperatures of 60°F and relative humidity of 90% - 99%. Daytime conditions of 80°F and relative humidity of 40% - 70% favor spore



Clemson.edu

The powdery mildew pathogen can infect any green tissue including flower buds. Severe infections of flower buds cause poor quality flower formation

production and dispersal. Some resistance to powdery mildew exists, but at low to moderate levels.

Management

Pruning infected shoots and raking and destroying fallen leaves from around the bushes at the end of the season may inhibit overwintering of the fungus. Plant roses in sites with full sun and excellent drainage. Mulch roses regularly keeping a 2-3 inch layer at all times. Fertilize roses in early Spring and in late summer with a balanced fertilizer but avoid excessive nitrogen which encourages succulent tissue growth.

Don't plant too densely, allow space between plants for an open environment to increase air circulation and reduce microclimate humidity. Prune shrubs to give an open structure which will improve air circulation and reduce microclimate humidity. Avoid overhead watering. *Podosphaera pannosa* doesn't like direct contact with water but overhead watering can lead to high microclimate humidity and increase the incidence of other rose diseases.

Fungicides containing tebuconazole, myclobutanil, propiconazole, thiophanate-methyl, chlorothalonil, copper, and sulfur are labelled for the control of rose powdery mildew. Formulations containing *Bacillus subtilis* labelled for use on roses is a biocontrol alternative. Neem oil and horticultural oil are also labelled for powdery mildew control on roses. Fungicides are likely to need several applications during the growing season, particularly in still, humid weather.

~Dr. Joe Willis

Selected References

Brake, A. and K. Ong.
2016. Powdery
Mildew of Roses.
Texas A&M
University EPLP-021.
Burgess, Chuck.
Williamson, Joey.
2021. Powdery
Mildew. Clemson
Factsheet HGIC
2049.
Ferrin, Donald, et. al.
2007. Rose Diseases.
LSU AgCenter
Publication 2613.
Horst, R.K. and R.A.
Cloyd. 2007.
Compendium of Rose
Diseases and Pests, 2nd Edition. APS Press.



Powdery mildew symptoms typically begin as discrete circular, powdery white spots that often join to produce a large matt of powdery mildew.



As symptoms continue to develop, much of the leaf surface becomes covered by the grayish-white mildew and the leaves may become twisted or distorted.

Lawn Sod Installation

Where grows? Where grows it not? Vain our toil, we ought to blame the culture, not the soil. In this line from the poem An Essay on man, Alexander Pope is speaking about happiness but the same thought applies to gardening.

You see, something will grow in just about any soil condition. The simplest form of gardening is to choose plants that will thrive in the soil and environmental conditions at the site. Problems arise when we choose plants that need different conditions to those in situ. To

be successful, we need to cultivate the soil to meet the needs of the desired plants. This is even true of lowly turfgrass that we tread under our feet. It is therefore very important to prepare the soil properly before planting because it is very difficult to make changes after the grass has been planted.

Ideal Turfgrass Growing Conditions:

The best type soil for growing our warm-season turfgrass varieties have a medium to coarse texture with enough organic material to allow for good drainage. The soil should also have sufficient pore space to allow for root growth and gas exchange. Heavy clay soils with poor drainage, like those found in South Louisiana, are some of the worst growing conditions for growing turfgrass. The pH of the soil should also be in the mid range between 5-7.5 depending on the variety. Lime may be added to raise the pH or Sulfur may be added to lower it.

And finally, all of our turfgrass varieties need full sun to grow well. Shade from trees and buildings will cause a lawn to suffer. If you have a shady area, please find alternative ground covers.



The soil at this site has been properly cultivated and the installer is laying the sod in a brick pattern.

When to Lay Sod

The LSU AgCenter recommends that sod be installed during the warm season (April-September) while the grass is actively growing. While it is possible to establish a lawn year-round in Louisiana, sod is more susceptible to desiccation and winter injury if established during dormancy (October to March).

Site Preparation

Step 1: Evaluate the soil characteristics, drainage pattern, and any other existing conditions (e.g., shade) that will affect turfgrass establishment and growth. This evaluation will help you determine the proper turfgrass species for the site and identify other issues that may need to be corrected before establishment.

Step 2: Take a soil test for pH. It is unnecessary to test for available nutrients. Compare the results with the recommended pH level for your selected turf variety.

The ranges are: Hybrid Bermuda=5.8-7.2, Centipede=5.0-6.0, St. Augustine=6.0-7.5, Zoysia=5.8-7.2.

Step3: Destroy any existing vegetation. Destroying vegetation can be accomplished through mechanical methods, solarization or nonselective herbicide application.

Step 4: Till the soil to a depth of between 4-6 inches and remove dead vegetation and debris. Tilling aerates the soil and can allow slight contouring of the area for better surface drainage.

Step 5: Add about 1 cubic foot of compost per 100 square feet of planting area. Now add 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of area. The amount of fertilizer needed depends on the percentage of nitrogen in the chosen product. For example, most "lawn fertilizers" contain 24% nitrogen so you will need just over 1 pound of the fertilizer to get 1/2 pound of actual nitrogen. Now add lime or sulfur as necessary and cultivate all of these materials into the soil.

Step 6: Rake the area to remove any remaining debris and shape the area to allow for drainage. In-ground drainage and/or an irrigation system can be installed at this time.

Step 7: Establish the final grade and lightly compact the soil surface with a roller so that it will hold the desired contour.

How to Lay Sod

Sod should be installed as soon as possible after purchase or delivery. Delaying the establishment process will result in poor establishment or greater incidence of sod death.

Sod slabs should be installed in an offset "brick"

pattern so that seams are staggered. Where the sod slabs meet, each piece should be snugly adjacent to one another without overlapping. This will prevent gaps between the sod slabs for an even appearance and will reduce weed encroachment.

In irregular areas, trim any excess or overhanging pieces of sod with a shovel or sod knife to match the

shape of the area. It is important to note that small sod pieces are more susceptible to desiccation, so trim and irrigate accordingly. Directly following installation, irrigate until the sod and soil underneath are both moist. Do not irrigate to the point of surface runoff.

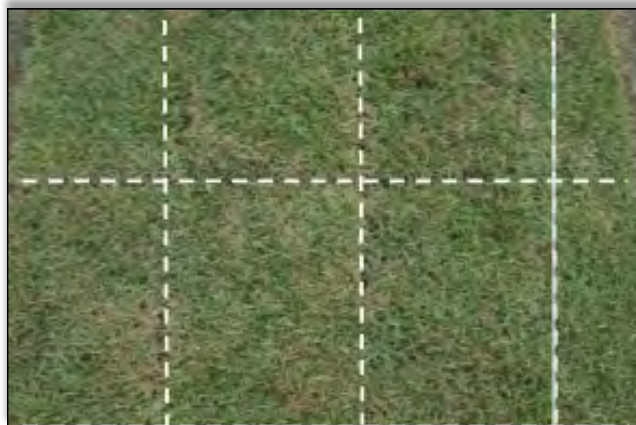
Post-installation maintenance

Irrigation: Irrigation frequency will depend on environmental conditions and time of year. During active turfgrass growth, sod needs to be irrigated one to two times per day for the first 10 to 14 days. Irrigate so that the sod and soil underneath are both moist. After 14 days irrigation should be applied less frequently with longer durations between

irrigations to encourage deeper rooting by the turfgrass. Be sure not to irrigate to a point of surface runoff. Although sod that is installed when dormant can be irrigated less frequently, dormant sod should be irrigated periodically to prevent winter desiccation.

Once the lawn has been established it is important to maintain it using proper cultural practices. [To see my presentation on Lawn Maintenance click here or go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-teswsCe-c&list=PL2hr6qmeDGT5zaBnUbeeJ-tA3-nlbYPg&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-teswsCe-c&list=PL2hr6qmeDGT5zaBnUbeeJ-tA3-nlbYPg&index=1)

~Chris Dunaway



Sod laid in a grid pattern - not recommended



Sod laid in a brick pattern -recommended

In the Kitchen with Austin

Chia Agua Fresca

Spring is here! While you're working in the garden, nothing is more refreshing than a tall glass of agua fresca. This recipe is both refreshing and energizing. Chia, seeds from *salvia hispanica*, add a concentrated source of protein and fiber to this simple beverage.



A glass and pitcher full of chia agua Fresca

Ingredients:

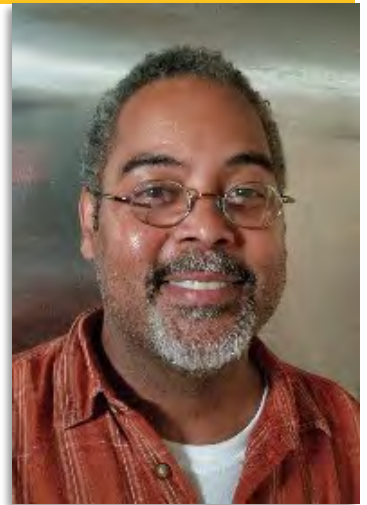
6 cups water
1 heaping Tbs. chia seeds
2 limes
½ cup sugar

Directions:

Wash limes and cut into quarters. Remove seeds.

Blend limes, water, and sugar for 1 minute, until everything is well incorporated. Strain liquid into a pitcher.

Add chia seeds and allow to rest for 15 minutes. Serve at room temperature or over ice.



Bon Manger!

Coming Events



LSU AgCenter Westbank Wednesdays Garden School

Chris Dunaway, LSU AgCenter Horticulture Extension Agent hosts an in-person lecture series.

Location: Jefferson Parish Westbank Regional Library

2751 Manhattan Blvd, Harvey, LA 70058

Times: 7:00 PM

Dates & Topics

Wednesday April 13

Terrible Termites

Termites feeding on our homes and trees are as bad as ever. Learn how to inspect your property for the presence of termites and how to protect yourself against them.

Wednesday May 25

Lawn care Basics

Learn everything you need to know about how to maintain your home lawn. Includes topics from aeration to weed control.

Send your lawn guy!

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 ReFresh Market-Truck Farm Table

200 N. Broad (In Whole Foods lobby or in parking lot, weather permitting)
Walk up

SPROUT NOLA ReFresh Market-Lafitte Greenway

2606 St. Louis
Mondays from 3-6PM
Walk up and pre-orders at <https://app.sourcewhatsgood.com/markets/refresh-farmers-market/products>

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

New Orleans French Market

Lower Decatur Street
Daily, 9AM-6PM

Know Dat Grow Dat Microgreens & Produce

Online Sales
<https://www.knowdatgrowdat.com/shop>

Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market

Comiskey Park, New Orleans
Market dates vary and are on hold due to Covid-19, 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/events>

Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9th Ward

2301 Gallier Street
Saturdays from 10AM-1PM

Bywater Market at Trap Kitchen-Bywater

1043 Poland Ave
Sundays from 10AM-3PM

Paradigm Farmer's Market-Central City

1131 S. Rampart
Sundays 9AM-Noon

Lot 1701 Small Business and Farmer's Market-Central City

1701 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
Every 1st and 3rd Saturday from 11AM to 3PM

BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point

149 Delaronde St.
First and Third Sundays of the month, from 11AM-3PM

Edgewood Park Market-Edgewood

3317 Franklin Ave.
First market Sunday, May 2nd from 11AM-3PM

New Orleans East Hospital Farmer's Market- New Orleans East

5620 Read Blvd.
First Tuesday of the Month- 3PM-Dusk
Third Thursday of the Month- Noon-3PM

Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods- Tremé-Lafitte

585 N. Claiborne at Lafitte Greenway (under overpass)
Wednesdays from 2-5PM
Saturdays from 10AM-2PM
Check for current dates/times at www.sheauxfresh.org

Holy Cross Farmer's Market- Holy Cross/Lower 9th Ward

533 St. Maurice
First & Third Saturday of the month, 10:00AM-2PM

St. Charles Parish

German Coast Farmer's Market at Westbank Bridge Park

13825 River Road, Luling, LA
Wednesdays, from 1-5PM

German Coast Farmer's Market at St. Charles Parish Eastbank Regional Library

160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon

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

Nawlins Outdoor Market

1048 Scotsdale Dr., Harvey
Every Saturday & Sunday, 9AM-5PM

Old Metairie Farmer's Market

Bayou Metairie Park, Between Metairie Lawn Dr. and Labarre
3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:30PM-7:30PM

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

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie

3000 Downs Blvd.
Wednesdays, from 3-7PM

Laughing Buddha Farm Hub-Clearview

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

Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte

920 Jean Lafitte Blvd.
Last Saturday of the month, 9AM-1PM

Harahan Farmer's Market

6437 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA
Sundays, Noon-4PM

Good Time Guild Farmer's Market at St. Martin's Episcopal Church- Metairie

2216 Metairie Rd.
1st Thursdays monthly, 2PM-7PM
3rd Saturday monthly, 10AM-3PM

St. Tammany Parish

Covington Farmers' Market

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

Mandeville Trailhead Community Market

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

Madisonville Market

Riverside Park South
Water St., Madisonville, LA 70447
Sunday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
www.wa

Folsom Village Market

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

Abita Springs Art and Farmers' Market

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

Camellia City Farmer's Market

Old Towne Slidell
333 Erlanger St. (Corner of Third St.)
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/>
985.640.7112



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
Delta Floral Native Plants	2710 Touro St., New Orleans LA 70117	(504) 577-4290
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
Nice Plants Good Pots	Pop Up and Online Sales	Etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots
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

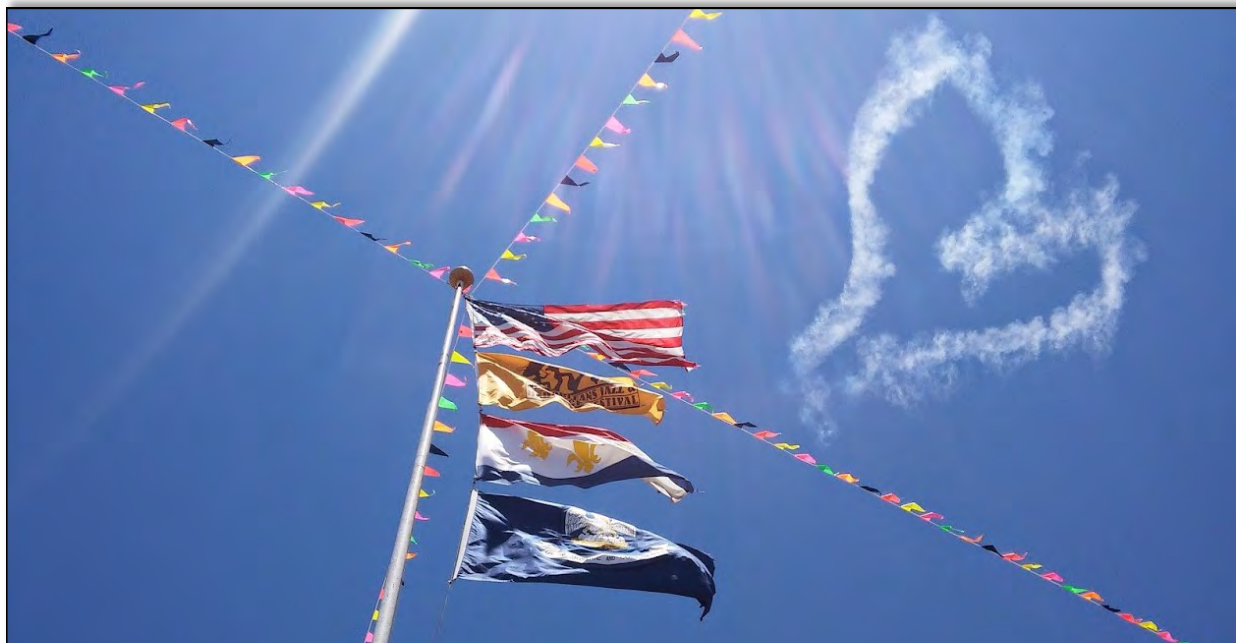
Southern Gateway Garden Center	107 Timber Ridge St., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 393-9300
Belle Danse Orchids	14079 Belle Chasse Hwy., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 419-5416

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

Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	https://plantpricks.com/



A view from under the flagpole at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in 2015

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 Center	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
Charvet's Garden Center	4511 Clearview Parkway, Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 888-7700
Barber Laboratories Native Plants	6444 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 739-5715
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

April Checklist/Garden Tips

1. Constant watering rapidly leaches nutrient elements from the soils of container grown plants. To replace them it is best to use either soluble fertilizers or slow release fertilizers. Soluble fertilizers are easy to apply especially when you use a hose end applicator, but they must be applied every two weeks to maintain a constant supply of nutrients. Slow release fertilizers provide nutrients over several months from one application and so cut down on labor.
2. If crape myrtle aphids have been a problem on your trees in the past, treat this month with Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control with Merit. This is applied as a drench to the base of the trees and is absorbed by the roots. The insecticide travels through the tree's circulatory system up into the foliage making it toxic to the aphids. One treatment protects the tree all summer, preventing aphids and the unsightly black sooty mold they cause
3. Spray crape myrtles with mancozeb , chlorothalonil or other labeled fungicides to control serious infections of powdery mildew. Powdery mildew appears as a white, powdery material on the leaves. Unlike many fungus diseases that are worse when weather is rainy, this disease is favored by humid, warm weather without rain. It is also occurs on a variety of other landscape plants such as dogwood, euonymus, gerbera daisy, rose and hydrangea, to name a few.
4. Oak trees infested with buck moth caterpillars should be sprayed before the caterpillars begin to migrate down the trunk. Contact local tree care companies to get your trees sprayed.

April Checklist/Garden Tips

5. Aphids are a real problem on roses and many other plants in spring. Control with insecticidal soap, oil spray, Malathion or Acephate.
6. As much as is practical, continue to deadhead or remove faded, dead flowers from cool season bedding plants such as pansy, snapdragon and dianthus to promote extended flowering.
7. Keep your Louisiana irises well watered now while they flower and through mid summer. Remove any developing seed pods after flowering is finished.
8. Small birds called sapsuckers peck holes in neat rows. The holes just penetrate the bark and cause sap to bleed from them. Later, the sapsuckers return to feed on the sugary sap and any insects that may have been attracted to it. The damage is usually minor, and control is generally not necessary or practical.
9. Do not delay planting many of the warm season vegetables beyond the middle part of this month. Tomatoes, snap beans, lima beans and bell peppers all set fruit poorly when temperatures are hot. Squashes and corn are both far more likely to have major insect and disease problems when planted later.
10. Cool season herbs and those that thrive during mild weather, such as parsley, dill, tarragon, thyme, sage, cilantro, borage, lavender, chamomile, chervil and arugula, are at their peak this month. They will begin to decline toward late May and finish in early June, so harvest them generously over the next six to eight weeks. Extra harvest can be dried or frozen for use during the summer.
11. If you need to prune spring flowering shrubs such as spirea, viburnum, quince, azalea, camellia, jasmine and mock orange, you may do so as soon as they finish flowering. Remember to prune with a specific purpose in mind, and, unless you are trying to create a clipped formal hedge, try to preserve the natural shape of the shrub.
12. Watch for spider mite damage on many vegetables and ornamentals during dry weather. Very tiny, spider mites are not readily visible to the naked eye. Use a magnifying glass to inspect the plant and look for the tiny red or green eight legged mites. Infested plants get a dull, dusty, unhealthy look to the foliage which eventually turns brown. The spider mites are primarily under the leaves. Spray with a horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, Malathion or Kelthane.
13. It is very important to pull up and dispose of cool season annual weeds such as henbit, bedstraw and chickweed now. These weeds are currently setting thousands of seeds that will plague you next winter if not removed now.
14. Save some of your own seed from your cool season annuals to plant again in your garden this fall. This time of year collect seeds from sweet peas, violas, nicotiana, poppies, calendulas and cosmos. Make sure the seed pods are mature before harvesting.
15. Tomatoes are staked to keep the plants from sprawling on the ground where the fruit would be more likely to rot. Wait for the first cluster of flowers to appear, and place the stake on the opposite side of the plant's stem. All of the flower clusters will grow from the same side of the stem, and this will keep developing fruit from getting caught between the stake and the stem.
16. Azaleas with leaves that have tiny light spots all over them have been attacked by azalea lacebugs. Treat with Malathion or Acephate as needed through the summer and fall. Any damage that has already occurred will not go away, but treatment will prevent any more damage.
17. Pay careful attention to thoroughly watering newly planted trees, shrubs, bedding plants, ground covers and lawns during dry spring weather. Continue watering about twice a week until there is significant rainfall.
18. After planting bedding plants, water them in with a half- strength solution of your favorite water soluble fertilizer. This gets them off to a good start.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do:

1. This is the prime planting season for warm season grasses such as St. Augustine, centipede, Bermuda and zoysia.
2. Take a soil test.
3. Apply sulfur or lime to adjust the pH if necessary according to soil lab recommendations.
4. Make the first application of the recommended rate of nitrogen fertilizer for your turf variety if you have not done so. See the fertilizer recommendations on page 5 of the Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices Guide. [Go to https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/7/c/8/e/7c8e4b17a12a51839443d9296bd03edc/pub2940louisianalawnsmarch2008.pdf to see the guide.](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/7/c/8/e/7c8e4b17a12a51839443d9296bd03edc/pub2940louisianalawnsmarch2008.pdf) Do not apply phosphorous or potassium fertilizer unless recommended by a soil test.
5. Apply selective herbicides and sedge killers to kill off 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.
6. One of the biggest hurdles to growing a good lawn is soil compaction. Continuous foot traffic, rainfall and the depletion of soil organic material has compressed the soil particles eliminating pore space. This pore space allows water and air to enter the soil and is critical to growing plants.
Use a core aerator to open up channels in the soil. Spread a mix of fine compost and sand over the lawn in a 1/4 inch layer.
7. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
8. Set your mower to the correct height for your turfgrass type. This is one of the most important things that you can do. See Table 1 on page 5 of the Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices guide. The link may be found above at point #4.
9. Continue to scout for disease and insect pests and apply treatment if necessary.
10. Find a list of informative videos on lawn care from the experts at the LSU AgCenter by going to <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2hr6qmeDGT5zaBnUbeeJ-tA3-nlbYPg>

Do Not:

1. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the height at a single time.
2. Do not let winter weeds go to seed in the lawn. Use the bagging mower to collect clippings and dispose of them if seed heads are present.

Your Local Extension Office is Here to Help

E-mail us at: GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu



Follow us on Facebook at GNOGardening

For more information visit LSUAgCenter.com

Dr. Joe Willis
Orleans Parish
Horticulture Agent
JWillis@agcenter.lsu.edu

Anna Timmerman
Plaquemines & St. Bernard
Parish Horticulture Agent
Timmerman@agcenter.lsu.edu

Chris Dunaway
Jefferson Parish
Horticulture Agent
CDunaway@agcenter.lsu.edu

William Afton
St. Tammany Parish
Horticulture Agent
WAfton@agcenter.lsu.edu

To subscribe to this newsletter please send a request to GNOGardening@agcenter.lsu.edu.

The LSU AgCenter is a statewide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.