



GNO Gardening Magazine

May 2021



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Evening Primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*)
growing in a New Orleans garden

Photo by Chris Dunaway

Look At Me – Pink Evening Primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*)

Though this month's eye-catching plant could be listed as a weed, there is no denying the dazzling display being put on in open fields, pastures, empty lots and roadsides by Pink Evening Primrose. This year they are especially prolific, maybe due to the late cold weather we experienced that synchronized the flowering.

Oenothera speciosa is a species of evening primrose known by several common names, including pinkladies, pink evening primrose, showy evening primrose, Mexican primrose and pink buttercups.

Though originally native to the southwestern U.S. (Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas) and into Mexico, it has naturalized over a large portion of the U.S. (AL, AR, AZ, CA, CT, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, NE, NM, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WV). *Oenothera speciosa* is an upright to sprawling, 1 ½ ft. perennial, which spreads to form extensive colonies. The plant can be found in sunny locations in Zones 4-9. It can also survive quite well in shady to semi-shady locations but flowering is greatly reduced. Its large, four-petaled flowers range in color from dark pink to white. Cylindrical buds,

open into large (2-3" diameter) pink or white flowers with yellow anthers, in the upper leaf axils on slender, pubescent stems. The fragrant cup-shaped blossoms have delicate petals that are lined with pink or red

veins. Alternate, narrow, lanceolate to oblanceolate, medium green leaves (1-3" long) sometimes have small lobes near the leaf bases. *Oenothera speciosa* is a hardy and drought resistant perennial that can form huge swaths. The flowers may be as small as 1" diameter under drought conditions. Fruit is an oval, ridged, seed capsule (ca. ½" long) containing numerous tiny seeds.

Oenothera speciosa leaves are edible and can be cooked like greens or used raw in salads. The flavor is best when harvested before flowering begins.

The common name derived because most

evening primrose species open their flowers in the evening, closing them again early each morning. However, pink evening primrose populations in the southern part of its natural range, which includes Louisiana, open their flowers in the morning and close them each evening. Don't you love nature's adaptability.

~Dr. Joe Willis



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Pale pink evening primrose flowers. Note the slightly different shading of the flowers with their dark veins and yellow anthers. You may also see the lanceolate shaped leaves.

May Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Amaranth	None Given
Cantaloupe	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna
Cucuzza	None Given
Cushaw	None Given
Eggplant	Dusky, Night Shadow, Epic, Santana, Calliope
Hot Peppers (transplant)	Grande, Tula, Mariachi, Mitla,
Lima Beans (bush or pole)	Dixie Butterpea, Jackson Wonder, Thorogreen Florida Speckled, King of Garden
Luffa Gourd	None Given
Malbar Spinace	None Given
Mirlitons	None Given
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless
Peanuts	None Given
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Prankster, Sorcerer
Southern Peas	Queen Anne, California #5, Quickpick, Colussus
Soybeans	None Given
Sweet Potato	Beauregard, Evangeline, Hernandez, Jewel
Watermelon	Seedless: Cooperstown, Gypsy, Matrix, Millennium Seeded: Mickey Lee, Sugar Baby, Amarillo
Yardlong Beans	None Given

HUMMINGBIRDS

I've never been to an airshow but lately I have been lucky enough to see some incredible aeronautic stunts in my own back yard. There are at least a few species of hummingbird present in Louisiana year-round, either staying or passing through. This includes the fairly common ruby-throated (*Archilochus colubris*) and rufous (*Selasphorus rufus*) species. According to the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), the ruby-throated is the only hummingbird to breed in Louisiana. Interestingly, though, they overwinter in the tropics. Others arrive in early spring, and warm weather is when transients and natives alike are most active.

Hummingbirds are a "New World" species, and are only found in North and South America. They are found as far north as Alaska and Canada and as far south as Tierra Del Fuego, Argentina. At least 340 species exist, covering all sorts of habitats in between. Their habitats include deserts, rain forests, and snowy mountain peaks. We have about 17 species in the United States, with the majority of them found in the southern-most regions. Their flight capabilities are truly amazing. Thanks to ball-and-socket wing joints, they have a wide range of wing motion. They are the

only birds that can fly forward, backward, straight up or down. They can even fly upside-down and are the only birds that can hover. They have more power per unit mass than any other known vertebrate. In fact, the

electromuscular impulses that fire their muscles are more like insects than birds.

Their metabolism is incredible as well. Their wings move at 80 beats per second, which gives them their namesake humming sound when flying. Their tiny little hearts give 200 beats per second... at rest! Yet they are surprisingly long-lived. One in captivity was recorded as living 17 years. Birds of extremes, they can enter into a "torpor" at night when needed. It's a sort of deep sleep that sees their heartbeats slow and body temperatures drop immensely. It's like a mini-hibernation that lasts overnight.

Though they weigh only a couple of grams, they migrate 500 miles each way around the edge of the Gulf of Mexico in a 20-hour non-stop annual flight. To fuel this trip and their fast-living lifestyle, they need lots of energy. They get much of this from flowers' nectar, but high sugar demand also gives us a viewing opportunity.

Lots of hummingbird feeders are for sale in local stores, or you can make



Photo by Seth Nehrbass

A male ruby-throated hummingbird perched in a tree. This bird was banded in 2016 and has returned to New Orleans every year since.



Photo by Seth Nehrbass

A male rufous hummingbird perched in a tree.

HUMMINGBIRDS

your own. Generally they're made of glass or plastic and the bottom is red. Even a little red paint on a homemade feeder is enough to get their attention. You can buy feeder mixes or simply add $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of white sugar to a cup of water. There's no need to dye it red as some people do; the red on the feeder will catch the birds' eyes.

It's best to bring the solution to a boil when preparing it. This makes the sugar dissolve more easily. It also kills some of the bacteria, molds, and yeasts that can spoil the sugar water. You can put it into the feeder while still hot if it's glass or heat-resistant plastic. This will kill some microbes on the feeder as well but let it cool before putting it out. (We'd hate for the birds to burn their little tongues.) Even with boiling, it's best to replace the solution every week or so to be sure it's fresh. I only partially fill my feeders and keep the extra sugar solution in the refrigerator.

While you've got the feeder down for its weekly refill, give it a little cleaning. Warm water and a brush do well. Try to avoid soap, as it can be toxic to our feathered friends. If it's gotten really nasty, soak it in a diluted solution of 1:10 bleach and water.

I'm sometimes asked when it's time to put feeders out and when to put them away for the season. Since there are birds present year-round, you can keep your feeder up year-round as well. In general you'll see more hummingbirds starting around February when their migratory routes take many of them north to us from Mexico. You'll see a drop off in activity when some species go south for winter, around October or so for us. I've heard people express concern that keeping a feeder out too late in the season can interfere with the birds' migration pattern or timing. Perhaps that abundance of feed will keep them from leaving on time? There's no need to worry. Hummingbirds know when it's time to leave not only from diminishing flowers, but from daylength and other cues. Besides, some local species will enjoy your feeders in winter too.

For best viewing, set up a few feeders in fairly close proximity to each other and where you can see them.

Some feeders are even made to hang on windows for our viewing pleasure. Males especially will try and monopolize a given feeder. It's fun to watch them chase each other but it's also good to have more feeders than one hummingbird can defend. This will ensure several birds can drink at a time.



Photo by Seth Nehrbass

A female ruby-throated hummingbird nectaring from pineapple sage.

Flowers can be even better than feeders, as they also attract insects and such for the birds to eat. They're mostly attracted to red, tubular flowers. Some good suggestions include coral honeysuckle, trumpet vine, salvia, cypress vine, or any of the cupheas. They also like shrimp plant, passion vine, plumbago, zinnia, bottlebrush, and morning glory. Fill those feeders and get planting!

Next month see GNO Gardening again for a more detailed description of plants we can grow for hummingbirds and other pollinators. Also, I'll be giving a hummingbird talk at the 2021 Northshore Garden and Plant Sale May 28th in Covington.

For more information check out the book [Louisiana Hummingbirds](#) by Nancy L. Newfield. The publication was sponsored by The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. [You may view the book for free by clicking on this link or going to: https://btnep.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Louisiana_Hummingbirds.pdf](https://btnep.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Louisiana_Hummingbirds.pdf)

~Andre' Brock

What's Bugging You?

Oleander Aphids (*Aphis nerii*)

A lot of gardeners in the GNO area grow milkweed (*Asclepias* spp) to support the monarch butterflies. Oleander (*Nerium*

oleander) is also a popular landscape plant locally. Both attract the attention of the oleander aphid (*Aphis nerii*), a bright yellow aphid sporting black legs and antennae. They are often found congregating in large numbers on our milkweed and oleanders, at times seeming to appear in a population explosion almost overnight. In addition to milkweed and oleanders, these aphids also like to host on vincas (*Vinca* spp) and wax plant (*Hoya carnos*a). They have also been reported on members of the Euphorbiaceae (spurge), Asteraceae (aster), and

Convolvulaceae (morning glory) families of plants. Oleander aphids are now found in tropical and subtropical areas around the globe but originated in the Mediterranean along with native oleander plants.

Oleander aphids have piercing/sucking mouthparts and feed on sap sucked from the phloem. Often, they are found congregating and feeding on the tips or softer areas of the host plant. Oleander aphids accumulate glycosides, which is a known poison, from

their host plants. This protects them from being eaten by birds and spiders. Their bright yellow-orange coloration is meant to be a warning that eating them

will be both bitter, and poisonous. They secrete waste from this feeding process as honeydew, which is a sticky sweet liquid. At times, this honeydew is collected by ants as a food source, who in turn protect the aphids and effectively “farm” them. Sooty mold can also take advantage of the honeydew deposited by oleander aphids, creating a dark residue on the plants and any other surface covered in the sticky substance. Many times, this sooty mold takes the blame as a plant disease, however if the aphids are controlled, the sooty mold also can



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Oleander aphids feeding on an oleander stem and bud. The white specs are cast exoskeletons from previous molts. The dark colored round aphids visible in the photo have been killed by parasitic wasps.

be controlled or simply washed off.

Oleander aphids can reproduce very quickly. This is due to the ability of the winged adults to fly to new locations, as well as their ability to reproduce parthenogenetically, a type of asexual reproduction. All oleander aphids are female, there are no males or even eggs produced. Females produce clones, known as nymphs, which molt five times as they mature. The resulting adults are then all females. These nymphs

What's Bugging You?

Oleander Aphids (*Aphis nerii*)

develop from unfertilized embryos within the mother aphid, which then gives live birth. The nymphs are also “born pregnant”, containing the next generation of embryos. Because of this, their population can grow very, very quickly with an almost assembly line efficiency.

Beneficial insects such as ladybeetles, parasitic wasps, syrphid flies, lacewings, and even late instar monarch caterpillars all feed on oleander aphids and are not impacted by the toxins found within the aphids. Often an infestation of oleander aphids will attract the attention of these insect predators, which can depopulate them quickly. This natural, biological control works to keep oleander aphid populations in check and balanced within the environment. Looking closely, you may notice some of the oleander aphids on a plant may appear to be brown or dark in color instead of bright yellow-orange. These are “mummies” that had been parasitized by wasp larvae, usually *Lysiphlebus testaceipes*. If you see this, it is a



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A winged adult oleander aphid.

good sign that the aphids in the area are being controlled and killed naturally by these helpful, tiny braconid wasps.

Chemical control should be used as a last resort. In general, large populations of oleander aphids are not of concern to overall plant health because beneficial

insect species manage them very effectively. When purchasing milkweed for use as monarch butterfly food, the presence of oleander aphids on the plants is a very good indication that the milkweed has not been treated with any insecticides, which can harm monarch caterpillars. Oleander aphids do not compete with or harm monarch larvae, and older caterpillars have been observed eating the aphids as a high protein food. Insecticidal soap or all-season horticultural oil can be used if necessary to control the oleander aphids; however, care should be taken when treating milkweed to not harm any monarch larvae present. Aphids can also be washed off of plants with a strong stream of water or a wet rag.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

A ladybird beetle feeding on a group of oleander aphids.

~Anna Timmerman

Weed of the Month

Cat's Claw Vine (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)

At this time of year with its large vibrant yellow flowers, it is easy to understand why

this month's weed of the month was actually introduced to the United States on purpose for use in ornamental landscaping.

Unfortunately, here in the New Orleans area cat's claw vine (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) can be seen

engulfing trees, fences and even whole homes with its clinging woody vines and thick foliage. In the spring the profusion of flowers can make for an impressive show.

Unfortunately, the aggressive nature of the vine can damage structures and kill trees and shrubs through shading and through physical damage from the weight of the vines.

According to the USDA, cat's claw vine is a native plant of Mexico and Central America. In addition to the United States, cat's claw vine has spread to numerous other countries including Australia, Bermuda, Cape Verde, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Micronesia, New Caledonia, New

Zealand, Niue, Portugal, Réunion, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Vanuatu.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Cat's claw vine covering a New Orleans building in bloom.

Cat's claw is a climbing woody vine that can grow up to 50 feet long. It clings to surfaces using its namesake recurved hooks and adventitious roots. Vines growing along the ground will produce additional roots at each node. Roots of the plant will form large energy storing tubers. The compound leaves that appear above ground level on the vines are opposite and generally consist of two leaflets with a sharply clawed tendril between them. The "claws" are most

likely to be seen on the newer, actively growing tips of the vine, where they are helping it climb. Once the

vine has progressed further up a tree and no longer needs to cling to a lower spot, the older leaves commonly lose the tendril and consist only of the two leaflets. The vine produces large, solitary, yellow, 5 petaled, funnel shaped flowers. Each flower can measure 3 inches long and 4 inches across. The fruit are bean-like, growing to lengths of



Credit: Niels Proctor, UF/IFAS

Close-up showing the sharp, hooked tips of the 3-pronged "claw."

Weed of the Month

Cat's Claw Vine (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)

20 inches. When ready, they will split to release numerous seeds with membranous wings which allow them to disperse with the wind.

Control

Due to the fact that the plant can reproduce from both stem pieces and underground roots combined with its aggressive nature and energy reserves stored in large tubers, cat's claw vine can be difficult to eliminate from an area.

Physical control measures can be used to remove the vines and dig up the roots and tubers. Regularly cutting the vine at the ground level can also eventually eliminate cat's claw but this could take a very long time depending on the amount of energy reserves the plant has stored.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

Adventitious roots help cat's claw vine cling to this fence.



Photo by Chris Dunaway

One control option is to apply an herbicide containing triclopyr to the cut end of the vine.

Foliar applications of products with glyphosate can be effective. I personally have had good success using products containing triclopyr applied to freshly cut stems emerging from the soil. Cutting the vine will kill the above ground portions of the tree while the triclopyr will move down into the roots through the vascular tissue. Multiple treatments using either method may still be necessary. Be sure to read and follow the label directions when using any herbicide.

Be sure to inform your neighbors about the risks of cat's claw and work with them to eliminate it from your neighborhood.

~Chris Dunaway

Louisiana Super Plants Spotlight – New for 2021

This month, we'd like to highlight the two new additions to our Louisiana Super Plant lineup. For Spring 2021 we have two warm season annuals - Beacon Impatiens and Suncredible Yellow Sunflower.

The first selection is Beacon Impatiens, a series of impatiens from PanAmerican Seed with high resistance to Impatiens downy mildew. There are currently seven colors available – bright red, violet, salmon, coral, orange, white and rose. These have the traditional impatiens look and growth requirements, so they are great for shady areas of the landscape. Beacons get about 14-18" tall and 12-14" wide.

"Impatiens have long been a staple crop for shady Louisiana landscapes; however, with our high heat and humidity that extends throughout the night, some impatiens can develop mildew issues," Dr. Jeb Fields said. "Not the Beacons. We have mounds of color and pop in the shade without the negative disease issues."

For 2021, PanAmerican Seed is donating a percentage of the Beacon Impatiens sales to two foundations fighting against a rare lung disease – Pulmonary Fibrosis.

The second spring 2021 Super Plant is the Suncredible Yellow sunflower from Proven Winners, an

indeterminate variety that offers mounds of flowers. Unlike the shade-loving Beacon Impatiens, Suncredible Yellow Sunflower thrives in full sun and is great for attracting pollinators.



Photo courtesy of PanAmerican Seed.

Violet beacon impatiens growing in a container.



Photo by Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard

Suncredible sunflowers are attractive to local pollinators.

"Unlike other sunflowers, Suncredible keeps blooming and branching, allowing the flower power to last through the summer and into the fall," Dr. Fields said. "These will not only make a statement in the landscape, but they will make your neighbors jealous as well."

Unlike most other sunflowers, Suncredible keeps blooming and branching, providing color into Fall. The blooms are about 4" across and do not need to be deadheaded to continue blooming, but can be groomed for tidiness. They also make great cutflowers. The plants get 2-3' tall with a similar spread.

Look for these new Louisiana Super Plants and all the previous Louisiana Super Plants at your local garden center today. For more information on the Louisiana Super Plants Program, please visit www.LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants.

~Dr. Joe Willis

Party with the Penstemons

W

hen I first became a native plant enthusiast, I was searching for native plants that would

look at home in any urban garden, be it large or small, container or bed. Natives that could blend in with my already-established bright-shade garden...tidy, compact, evergreen and colorful, the penstemons checked every box.

While Penstemon are native to the entire United States, at least 6 species are native to Louisiana, and in particular, the *P. tenuis* and the *P. digitalis* are indigenous to Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. They make a great garden plant for all of us.

Penstemon tenuis, Gulf Coast Penstemon, has fuchsia to light purple bell-shaped flowers atop 12-15 inches of green leaved mound and reddish stems. They readily reseed and are easily propagated from the thousands of tiny seeds they produce each year. They are comfy in part sun, lovely on the edge of any perennial border, and can handle a lot of adversity and moisture. They were the first plants in my garden to perk up and bloom after our recent mild freezes. They live in my small backyard in pots, and also in the ground where the sun dapples through the edges of the branches of my

Live Oak tree.

Penstemon digitalis, Mississippi foxglove or



Gulf Coast Penstemon (*Penstemon tenuis*)



Mississippi foxglove (*Penstemon digitalis*)

beardtongue, has white flowers atop a slightly taller plant than the Gulf Coast penstemon, reaching 2 -5 feet. It is semi-evergreen in the deep south. It blooms in late spring through mid-summer. Purple lines etch the throat of the snow white flowers, making them irresistible for bees and hummingbirds. They can be planted in full sun or part shade where water is plentiful or even sometimes standing, and can take even deeper A lot of breeding work has been done with *P. digitalis* to produce red-leaved plants like 'Husker Red'. 'Husker Red' also sprouts white flowers on drought tolerant sturdy 24-inch stems. It gets part of its name from the leaves that start out a dark red, then mature into green. The new leaves are a maroon color, the same color as the University of Nebraska (the Cornhuskers), where this cultivar was developed - hence Husker Red. These beauties are right at home in my garden, next to my white Mrs. GG Gerbing azaleas. I like layering in natives amongst my established 'others', instead of removing and disturbing all the healthy soil that any plant's root structures produce over time.

~Nell Howard

In the Kitchen with Austin

Pasta with Fava Beans

I love fava beans! This recipe lets their natural flavor sing spring's exuberant song. Try it and you won't be disappointed.

Ingredients:

2 lbs. fresh fava bean pods, shucked	¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese
½ lb. spaghetti	Salt
2 Tbs. unsalted butter	Olive oil, for serving
½ Tbs. coarsely ground black pepper	

Directions:

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Fill a large bowl with ice water and set aside.

Boil shucked fava beans for 1 to 2 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove favas from

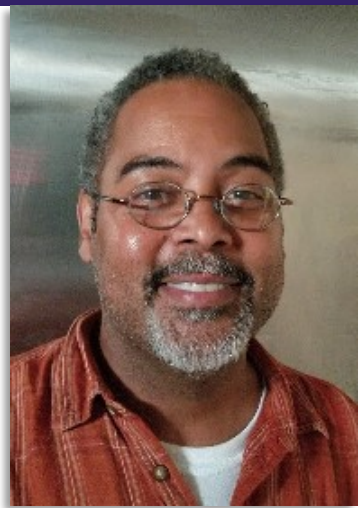
boiling water and place them in ice water to cool. Slip off outer skin and set beans aside.

Cook pasta in boiling salted water until al dente. Drain, reserving ½ cup of pasta water.

In a large skillet, melt butter over medium fire. Add pepper stirring until fragrant. Add half of pasta water, stirring until sauce begins to thicken, about 1 minute.

Add cooked pasta, cheese, and fava beans. Toss well to coat with sauce, adding more pasta water if skillet seems dry. Season with salt to taste and drizzle with olive oil.

Bon Manger!



Fava Beans

Coming Events

Pelican Greenhouse Plant Sales

Visit the Pelican Greenhouse for a large selection of plants for sale. Many of plants are propagated from cuttings, seeds, and divisions from plants already growing in the Botanical Garden

Open weekends. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 8am to NOON

Location: Pelican Greenhouse (not inside the Botanical Garden): 2 Celebration Drive.



Visit NewOrleansCityPark.com for park map

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
Crazy Plant Bae	800 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans LA 70119	(504) 327-7008

Jefferson

Perino's Garden Center	3100 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 834-7888
Rose Garden Center	4005 Westbank Expressway, Marerro, 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 Center4	516 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

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
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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) 887-4336
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

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Farmers Markets in the Greater New Orleans 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, & 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

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 Gromley 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

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Know Dat Grow Dat Microgreens & Produce

Online Sales

<https://www.knowdatgrowdat.com/shop> or <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 Saturday of the month, 9:30-Noon beginning May 1st

FAIT Merchant House, 1150 Magazine St, New Orleans, LA 70130

(504) 579-4351

St. Charles Parish

German Coast Farmer's Market at Westbank Bridge Park-Luling

13825 River Road

Wednesdays, from 1-6PM

German Coast Farmer's Market at Ormond Plantation-Destrehan

13786 River Road

Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon

May Checklist/Garden Tips

Great warm-season bedding plants for sun include abelmoschus, ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, begonia, blue daze, celosia, cleome, coleus (sun-tolerant types), coreopsis, cosmos, Dahlberg daisy, dusty miller, gaillardia, gomphrena, lantana, marigold, melampodium, narrow-leaf zinnia, ornamental pepper, periwinkle, pentas, portulaca, purslane, rudbeckia, salvia, scaevola, sunflower, tithonia, torenia, verbena (perennial), zinnia.

During dry weather don't forget to keep your compost pile evenly moist. Dry organic matter will not decompose. Do, however, avoid keeping the pile saturated as this will create bad odors.

Powdery mildew on many ornamentals (crape myrtles, roses, euonymous) and vegetables (squash, cucumbers) continues to be a problem due to dry weather. Treat with chlorothalonil or other labeled fungicides.

Birds will peck holes in tomatoes just before you decide they are ripe enough to harvest. If birds are a problem, cover your plants with bird netting or harvest the fruit in the pink stage and ripen them inside. Bird netting also works well to protect fruit crops, such as blackberries, blueberries and figs, from bird damage, and is available from local nurseries or feed stores.

Grow cucumbers on trellises to save space, increase production and improve the quality of the cucumbers produced.

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.

Cannas that have brown, deformed leaves with holes in them have been attacked by canna leaf-rollers, a caterpillar that is devastating to cannas in our area. Control is difficult and requires regular spraying all summer. If you decide to treat, use a systemic insecticide such as acephate and make weekly applications.

Plant basil plants now and enjoy a wonderful fresh seasoning for summer cooking. Many herbs already in your garden, such as thyme, sage, oregano, lavender, dill, cilantro and parsley, are at their most productive now and will play out as the weather gets hotter. Harvest freely and dry or freeze the extras.

Remove the developing seed pods from such plants as Louisiana irises and amaryllis when they finish blooming. This keeps the plants more attractive and prevents them from wasting effort on seeds that are not needed. It would be better for the plants to put that energy into growing leaves and roots.

Watch azaleas for azalea lace bug damage. Small white spots on the upper surface and small dark brown spots on the back of leaves indicates they are present. Spray with a broad spectrum insecticide getting under the leaves thoroughly.

Caterpillars will feed on the foliage and flowers of ornamentals and the foliage and fruit of vegetables. The tomato fruit worm eats holes in tomatoes. Sevin, spinosad and BT regularly applied will keep them in check.

Termite mating season is upon us and millions of sexually mature Formosan termite alates will be seen flying around light poles at night for the next several weeks. Although termites are active year round, the heightened activity makes it more easy to find the harborages in which they live. Check for the soil and debris that the termites use to hide themselves on local structures and trees. [Click here for more information on termites in trees.](#)

May is one of the busiest months in the flower garden. As cool season annuals become unattractive, the beds need to be cleaned out and replanted with warm season annuals. Don't forget that summer heat makes the care of flower bed uncomfortable to say the least.


Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

Do's:

1. This is the prime planting season for warm season grasses such as St. Augustine, centipede, bermuda and zoysia.
2. This month is the last chance to apply broad leaf weed killers before the weather gets too hot. Button weed is particularly troublesome around the state. This low, mat-forming weed has one inch pointed leaves and small, four petaled white flowers. Most people don't notice it until July, but it is beginning to grow now. LSU AgCenter trials show Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone to work best, especially when applied to young plants in early summer.
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.
5. Aerate the soil if necessary to alleviate compaction.
6. Dethatch the lawn if necessary.
7. Keep an eye open for insect pests and treat if necessary.
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 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.

<p>TOTAL LAWN CARE</p> <hr/> <p>FOR THE DEEP SOUTH</p> <p>Chris Dunaway LSU AgCenter</p> 	<p>Watch Chris Dunaway's lawn care presentation for much more information on all of the steps involved in proper lawn maintenance.</p> <p>Click here or go to https://youtu.be/R-teswsCe-c to view.</p>
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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

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