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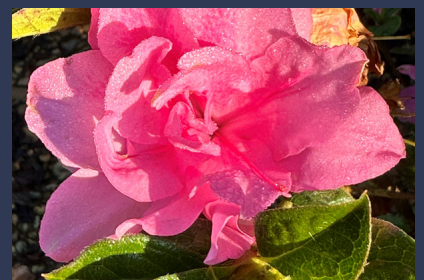
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	6
Executive Director's Message.....	7
Introducing Colton Blankenship	16
Fairy Rings Are for Real	18
Fall into Hammond: A Note from Dr. Christine Coker.....	20
Hammond Highlights: 2025 Warm Season Trial Evaluation Results.....	22
Water and Energy Nexus: Floating Solar Panel Review.....	26
Preserving Live Oaks: A Practical Collaboration with a Consulting Arborist	28
In Memoriam: Dr. Gladden W. "Buddy" Willis	31
Board Minutes	38



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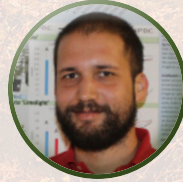
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OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life for people, conserve and protect the global environment, and promote the professionalism and profitability of the nursery and landscape industry in Louisiana.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings, LNLA members,

First and foremost, I have to say that we have been blessed by having a temperate summer. Yes, it has been hot and humid – it is Louisiana, but it has not been as brutal for the plants and people as the most recent years. We also have had a quiet hurricane season so far this year, and, knock on wood, hopefully it continues to stay that way.

June 27th was the LNLA Gala XV in New Orleans. It was a good evening that included fundraising through the silent and live auctions, and it was an opportunity to meet other LNLA members. The jazz trio and food made for a fun night. The best part for my 4-year-old son, James, was the dessert table. Cari Jane made a heartfelt speech about her time with LNLA, and at the end, as a thank-you gift to the association, her daughter wonderfully performed a ballet number. Cari Jane then graciously passed the proverbial torch to Morgan.

Earlier in the summer, Farm Bureau reached out to me about speaking at their Louisiana Farm Bureau 103rd Annual Convention in New Orleans. So, the day after the Gala, June 28th, Lisa Loup and I took the opportunity to share about who the LNLA is and what it does for the industry, as well as covering research and advocacy.

I would like to thank Dr. Damon Abdi for putting on a fantastic field day at the Hammond Research Station on July 18th and for allowing us to have our board meeting there that morning. If any of you have not been to the gardens, I would definitely suggest making a trip to visit them.

Next, I have to brag on our new executive director. Morgan has hit the ground running. If you have not met her yet, you will. She has dedicated much of her time to getting out and starting to connect both to members and to non-members in our industry. She is currently gathering information and ideas for future perks for all the members of the LNLA. So, after the new year, we look forward to some added benefits to being a member. Benefits that I hope will retain our current members and attract many new members.

Finally, I would like to thank each one of you, the members, for your dedication to the industry and to the association. Without you, Louisiana would not be as beautiful. Everyone, keep growing, and have a wonderful fall!

Brandon Adams

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello, Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association members, I'm honored and incredibly excited to step into the role of Executive Director for LNLA. I bring extensive experience in association management, serving

with organizations like the Equipment Dealers Association and the Louisiana Pest Management Association. The opportunity to leverage my skills to serve you, the green industry professionals of Louisiana, is a true career highlight. As we move into the busy and beautiful fall season, I am reminded of the incredible work you all do. This is a time of harvest, preparation, and looking ahead—a perfect metaphor for the work we'll undertake together at LNLA. It is an exciting time for the industry, and it's an honor to be working alongside you as we begin this new season for our association.

The foundation of LNLA is strong, built on decades of hard work and commitment from our founders and past leaders. I believe the future is even brighter. My vision for LNLA is centered on four key pillars:

- **Elevate Our Voice:** We will strengthen our advocacy efforts by actively engaging with state legislators on issues that directly impact your businesses, from water use regulations to invasive species control. Our collective voice is powerful, and we will use it to address critical issues and promote our interests.
- **Innovate and Educate:** We will expand our educational programming and resources by launching a new webinar series on topics like sustainable growing techniques and digital marketing for nurseries. Our goal is to equip you with the latest knowledge and tools to thrive in a changing market.
- **Cultivate Community:** LNLA is more than an organization; it's a family. We will focus on creating more opportunities for networking through regional meet-ups

and conferences. Our strength lies in our relationships, and by supporting each other, we can grow both individually and as an industry.

- **Maximize Member Benefits:** We will review and enhance our member benefits program to provide tangible value, from exclusive discounts on industry-related products to streamlined access to professional development opportunities.

My door is always open. I want to hear from you—your ideas, your challenges, and your successes. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at morgan@lnla.org. Together, we can build on LNLA's legacy and ensure the Louisiana green industry continues to flourish.

Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to working with each of you.

Sincerely,
Morgan M. Milling
Executive Director, LNLA



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LNLA Gala XV







MINI SKID STEER PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Information provided by Vermeer

Maintenance likely isn't a word that brightens your day. But, in order to keep your equipment running smoothly to maximize productivity, specifically mini skid steers, regular maintenance is key.

Keeping up with the maintenance can seem overwhelming, but knowing what upkeep to do when can help it be manageable over the long run. Whether it's daily, weekly, monthly or annually, here's a mini skid steer maintenance checklist to help keep you on track and on schedule. Refer to your machine's operators and maintenance manual for safety messages and further instructions.

DAILY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 10 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine (specifically the air intake and cooling areas)
- ☐ Check engine oil
- ☐ Check engine coolant level
- ☐ Fill fuel tanks
- ☐ Check hydraulic fluid
- ☐ Check air cleaner
- ☐ Grease machine (specifically the boom pivot and park brake)
- ☐ Check condition of tracks
- ☐ Check track tension

BI-WEEKLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 100 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
(specifically the fuel filter and the fan belt tightness)
- ☐ Maintain safety signs on the machine
- ☐ Check overall machine
- ☐ Check control joystick and levers
- ☐ Check neutral control positions
- ☐ Check neutral start interlocks
- ☐ Check operator presence system
- ☐ Check hydraulic system
(and relieve the system hydraulic pressure)
- ☐ Check the park brake
- ☐ Grease the operator platform

MAINTENANCE ITEMS EVERY 2,000 SERVICE HOURS

- ☐ Drain and clean the engine cooling system

Even though maintaining a machine can seem daunting, following this list can help extend the life of your mini skid steer and maximize your productivity. Refer to your machine's maintenance manual and the operator's manual for more details.

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 50 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine (specifically the fuel lines and clamp bands)
- ☐ Change engine oil and filter
- ☐ Check track tension
- ☐ Replace fuel filter
- ☐ Replace hydraulic filter

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 200 TO 250 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
(specifically the radiator hoses and clamp bands)
- ☐ Check the hydraulic oil cooling fan
- ☐ Replace the hydraulic filter
- ☐ Replace the fuel filter

BI-MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 500 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
- ☐ Remove fuel tank sediment
- ☐ Clean engine cooling system
- ☐ Replace fan belt
- ☐ Check fuel line
- ☐ Check air cleaner restriction indicator
- ☐ Replace hydraulic filter
- ☐ Change engine oil and filter
- ☐ Check battery electrolyte levels
- ☐ Clean battery terminals

YEARLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 1,000 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check the engine system (specifically check the fuel lines for leaks, kinked hoses and hoses that are rubbing against another part)
- ☐ Change hydraulic fluid
- ☐ Service the strainer
- ☐ Service the secondary air cleaner

ROOT OF THE ISSUE: APPLIED RESEARCH FOR BEST TREE INSTALLATION PRACTICES IN THE LOUISIANA LANDSCAPE

By: Dr. Damon Abdi, assistant professor of landscape horticulture at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station

At the LSU AgCenter, issues echoed at extension events guide research programming to meet the needs of the community. From parish agents to professional horticulturists to the general public, supporting tree establishment in the landscape is a commonly cited concern. After all, poor installation methods can lead to long-term loss of our invaluable urban canopy and the cooling effect it provides for our communities.

Planting sites throughout Louisiana pose a plethora of challenges. Compacted soils in urban environments and new construction sites can limit root growth while remote roadside plantings relegated to limited attention may languish if left unmonitored. The range of unique, site-specific challenges are only exceeded by the spectrum of solutions suggested to support tree establishment. Proper installation practices are imperative to the long-term success of a tree. While certain aspects of tree planting are widely recognized as best practices, such as digging a planting hole at least twice the width and slightly shallower than the root ball, root modifications made prior to planting are subject to far more debate.

The root system of container-grown plants is confined to a limited volume and can cause circling roots if left for too long. This garners the attention of concerned gardeners, and opinions abound as to the best way to rectify this issue before installation. While some may dismiss concerns about this potential problem, simply placing the plant into the hole without worry, many people profess that some form of preplanting root modification is necessary to support successful establishment. Modification practices include simple solutions such as scoring the root ball with a knife or severing the base of the root ball with a spade, whereas more intensive methods may include manually manipulating the roots. Conversations with stakeholders and hobby horticulturists at extension events yield no consensus on which practice is preferred; however, this inspired programming to turn anecdotal evidence into applied research to benefit our community.

At the Hammond Research Station, a variety of projects and methods surrounding sustainable tree installation practices are shedding light on ways to protect the urban canopy. The first project began with selecting a popular landscape tree, the Natchez crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), as the model plant. Plants were grown for two seasons in a too-small-for-comfort container to develop circling roots before planting. The installation site was uniformly prepared by excavating holes exactly twice the width and slightly less than the depth of the root ball, arranged in parallel rows in the Cahawba fine sandy loam soils on-site. In April 2023, crape myrtles were installed with no root modification as the control while three manipulation practices

of increasing intensity were also investigated:

- A “four-cut” method of vertically scoring the root ball, a practice most homeowners and hobbyists use
- A “chop” method where the bottom 2 inches of the root ball are sliced off with a shovel, a practice relayed by local stakeholders
- A “butterfly” practice where roots are hand-splayed, a practice performed by the most meticulous of gardeners

Adhering to best management practices, the native soil was used as a backfill. All fertilizer, pesticide and irrigation practices were uniformly administered for all treatments as the crape myrtles endured what felt like a never-ending drought that summer and several spells of bitter cold during winter months. Over the ensuing year and a half, growth index (the average of the height and perpendicular widths of the plant) and stem caliper (diameter of the largest single trunk in this often multistemmed species) were measured. Growth index was uniform across all treatments, indicating no differences in the size of the plant. Stem caliper was also the same between treatments, save for one sample date in the middle of the study.

While the sizes were visually and quantitatively the same, digging deeper was literally necessary to identify the effects of the preplant root modifications. Plants were excavated in October of 2024, preserving the exact same volume of soil for each replicate by using a hydraulic tree spade. Root masses were carefully cleaned, first with water and followed with an air compressor, before visual inspection and biomass assessments. While it was observed that unmanipulated roots exhibited continued circling, manifesting in a vortexlike appearance of the root mass, this was far less prominent in any of the preplanting modified root systems. While qualitatively noticeable, there were no quantitative differences in the dry weight of the root systems or the dry weight of the aboveground biomass (trunk and stems of the trees).

So, does this mean we should do nothing to the roots before planting? One study investigating one species over one and a half years on one site — with a relatively forgiving soil type — is certainly not enough to make grandiose claims; however, it serves to start a larger conversation. That dialogue continues with active research investigating preplant root modifications of swamp maples (*Acer rubrum* L. var. *drummondii*) grown in either larger, 30-gallon containers or balled-and-burlapped production methods. It will also include new preplanting treatments, such as shaving root systems with a reciprocating saw for container plants and removing the wire basket from balled-and-burlapped plants.

Projects investigating *Abelia* establishment through a partnered program with local high school students expand the scope



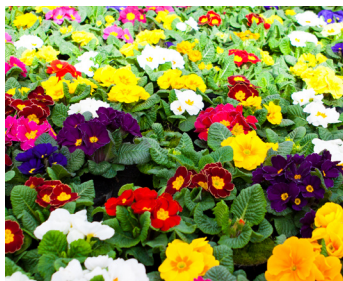
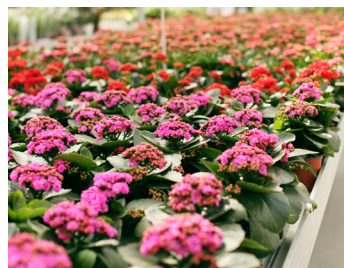
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Finally, integrating the insights of our industry members toward real-world scenarios provides new practices to implement. One such method is elevated planting in particularly compacted soils, where plants are installed almost completely above grade and soil is built up around it. Through harvesting insights from the community and developing research to put practices to the test, the LSU AgCenter harmonizes extension and research to solve the pressing problems people face.



After excavation, root balls were cleaned first by hose and second by using an air compressor to remove remaining soil particles. Roots of trees that were not manipulated exhibited a vortexlike circling at times.



Using a hydraulic tree spade, plants were removed after one and a half years in the landscape. The hydraulic tree spade allowed consistent excavation practices for each tree and treatment.



Manipulating the roots of larger nursery plants may require more advanced tools, such as a reciprocating saw, in order to quickly and efficiently shave the outer root ball.



Using a knife to score the edge of the root ball is one of the more common preplanting methods to address circling roots for smaller plants.



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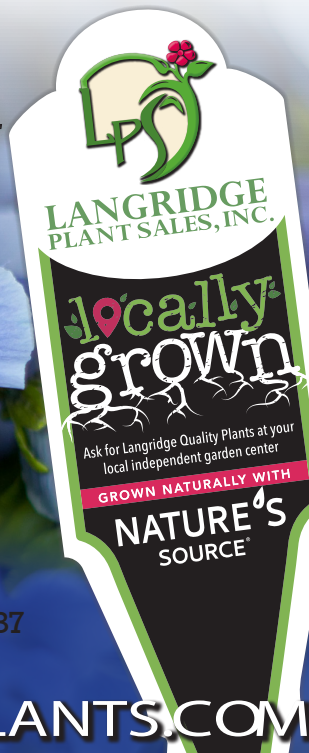
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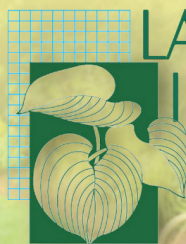
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INTRODUCING COLTON BLANKENSHIP

By: Colton Blankenship

Hello, everyone! My name is Colton Blankenship, and I have recently started as an Assistant Professor of Horticulture Weed Science at the LSU AgCenter. I am excited to be in Louisiana and look forward to meeting and visiting with each of you.

I grew up on a family farm in Preston, Georgia, about 50 miles south of Columbus. My father was an Extension agent in Randolph County, Georgia, for several years, which demonstrated the tangible impact that Extension can have! I completed my undergraduate education at the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in biology in 2020. For graduate school, I completed a master's degree and doctorate in horticulture under Dr. Katie Jennings at North Carolina State University, finishing in 2022 and 2025, respectively. My graduate work focused on weed management in commercial vegetable production, investigating cultural, mechanical, and chemical management practices to solve emerging challenges for growers. I married my wife, Jordan, in 2021. We are both extremely grateful for the warm welcome we have received here in South Louisiana!

I have a passion for weed science and Extension, and I enjoy helping stakeholders with all kinds of weed management challenges. I plan to develop a research program focused on the practical management of weed problems in turfgrass, ornamentals, and vegetable crops for Louisiana.

I plan to tailor my program and research objectives based on your needs and feedback. I want to deliver useful and easily digestible extension recommendations for professionals and homeowners alike! My goal for Extension is to be an easily accessible resource for agents and stakeholders of all backgrounds.

I look forward to working with all of you to meet your needs and solve weed management challenges across the horticulture industry in Louisiana! Please don't hesitate to reach out if there is anything I can do for you.

Sincerely,
Colton Blankenship



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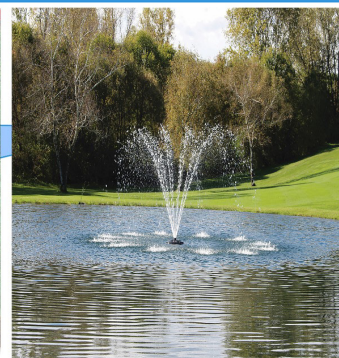
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FAIRY RINGS ARE FOR REAL

By: Dr. Raj Singh, Professor and Extension Pathologist Specialty Crops, Director of Plant Diagnostic Center, Department of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, LSU AgCenter

Fairy rings are a common turfgrass problem in Louisiana landscapes associated with several soilborne fungal species in the class Basidiomycetes. In Louisiana and other parts of the world, fairy rings are caused by species of fungi known as *Calvaria* (coral mushrooms), *Chlorophyllum* (parasol mushrooms), *Lycoperdon* (puffballs), *Marasmius* (gilled mushrooms), and others.

Symptoms of fairy rings generally are first noticeable as circular or semicircular bands or rings of stimulated, dark-green grass, necrotic (dying) grass, or combinations of both. Fairy rings become most visible when mushrooms or puffballs are produced in a ring or an arc. These symptoms may appear in all turfgrasses grown in Louisiana and can be aesthetically displeasing to homeowners.

Fairy rings are further classified into three types: Type I includes those where the grass is killed or badly damaged; Type II includes those where the grass growth is stimulated to grow, appearing dark green; and Type III includes those where there is no damage to the turf, but the fruiting bodies of the fungus (sporocarps) are found in rings, especially after a heavy rainfall.

Most fungal species responsible for fairy rings do not parasitize the turfgrass; instead, they create soil conditions that can indirectly affect turfgrass growth and appearance. Some wood-rotting fungi associated with fairy rings expand into turfgrass from nearby dead tree roots or stumps and thrive on thatch as a food source. The fungus grows outward from a central point, forming a circular ring or a partial ring or arc if the fungus hits a soil barrier, such as a sidewalk, landscape bed, or curb. A dense network of fungal mycelium expansion through the soil profile results in hydrophobic conditions, creating a kill zone where a ring or band of dead turfgrass appears, typical of a Type I fairy ring. In the case of a Type II fairy ring, fungi feed on decomposing matter in the soil and thatch and release extra nutrients that cause the turfgrass to turn dark green and to grow more rapidly compared to the surrounding turfgrass. Type III fairy ring appears as a circular band or arc of white mushrooms during periods of heavy and frequent rains.

Fairy rings can appear in a variety of climatic conditions and thrive in high thatch areas. Lawns that are lightly irrigated and under-fertilized are more vulnerable to fairy rings. Fairy rings can last several years and can disappear and then reappear over time.

One way to reduce fairy ring incidence and accelerate turfgrass recovery is by implementing good cultural practices, including maintaining a healthy lawn through balanced fertilization, irrigation, and regular mowing. Maintain adequate nitrogen fertility and always follow soil test recommendations for proper fertility. Irrigate lawns as early as possible in the morning while taking rainfall into account. Water deeply but as infrequently as possible without causing drought stress. Drought-stressed turfgrass tends to be more susceptible to fairy rings. Aerification followed by intense irrigation may help break the hydrophobic zone and let water penetrate the soil profile.

Excessive thatch can negatively affect turfgrass growth and provide a suitable environment for fairy ring fungi. Dethatching may be necessary to improve turfgrass growth. If a fairy ring is established in

the lawn, removal of turfgrass and soil may be necessary. Mushrooms present in the fairy ring can be raked and disposed of. Consumption of fairy ring mushrooms is not recommended. If chemical control is warranted on golf courses and athletic fields, preventative application of fungicides is most effective in managing fairy rings. Apply fungicides in large volume or irrigate afterwards for better penetration into the thatch and hydrophobic zone created by fairy ring fungi.

For information on sample collection and submission guidelines, please visit the Plant Diagnostic Center website: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/departments/plant-pathology-crop-physiology/plant_disease_clinic.



Figure 1: Type I fairy ring exhibiting a circular band of dead grass due to hydrophobic conditions created by dense fungal mats in the soil profile on an athletic field.



Figure 2: Type I fairy ring exhibiting a circular band of dead grass due to hydrophobic conditions created by dense fungal mats in the soil profile on a golf course.



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FAIRY RINGS ARE FOR REAL...CONTINUED



Figure 3: Darker green circular bands of turfgrass resulting from the release of extra nutrients from the decomposition of organic matter by fairy ring Type II fungi.



Figure 4: A Type III fairy ring appears as a circular band or arc of white mushrooms during periods of heavy and frequent rains.

FALL INTO HAMMOND: A NOTE FROM DR. CHRISTINE COKER

By: Dr. Christine Coker



Hi! I'm Christine Coker, the new Station Coordinator at the Hammond Research Station. Coming from Mississippi State University's Coastal Research and Extension Center, I took on the new role on July 1st. I have big plans for the station and am eager to connect with LNLA members across the state!

I'd like to thank you all for your continued support of our programs. Our Fall Plant sale was on October 4th. We earmarked proceeds from the sale for the Restoration of the Piney Woods Garden. We are in the process of re-establishing the beds and rehabilitating the garden for all to enjoy! This collection mainly houses long-term displays of superior woody ornamental plant material for the Gulf South, both native and exotic. Some new plant trials are also conducted here, where the shrubs or ornamental trees are evaluated for at least three years. Most of the plants you see today are survivors of the two historic floods that occurred in 2016

If you're interested in supporting the Piney Woods Garden restoration or would just like to chat, please reach out to me at CCoker@agcenter.lsu.edu or 985.543.4041.

Christine



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HAMMOND HIGHLIGHTS: 2025 WARM SEASON TRIAL EVALUATION RESULTS

By: Caroline Blanchard, Instructor of Ornamental Plant Materials and Trials Coordinator - Hammond Research Station

Ninety-eight ornamental species from six national plant brands were installed in the trial gardens at the Hammond Research Station in late April 2025. Put to the test, these varieties endured the Louisiana summer heat and humidity and withstood heavy rains early in the growing season. Now, after four months in the Louisiana landscape, the results are in! The following plants performed highest in their trial categories.

RATING SCALE

5 = Excellent
4 = Good
3 = Average
2 = Poor
1 = Unacceptable

1. Coleus ColorBlaze® Royale Pineapple Brandy™:

Proven Winners • Overall score 4.6 • In-ground, full sun

With bright yellow leaves in full sun shifting towards a chartreuse under shade, Royale Pineapple Brandy Coleus holds up to the summer heat all season long. This cultivar didn't put out any flower spikes throughout the evaluation period, making it an attractive option for those looking to add some foliar interest to their landscape.

2. Cleomae Señorita Rosalita®

Proven Winners • Overall Score: 4.5 • In-ground, full sun

This Louisiana Super Plant continues to impress in the landscape. Flowering started strong in June and only increased throughout the rest of the evaluation period. August flowers were still attracting pollinators from all around the garden.

3. Catharanthus Soiree Kawaii® Red Shades

Suntory Flowers • Overall Score: 4.5 • In-ground, full sun

One of many color choices in the Soiree Kawaii® series, Red Shades stands out with a profusion of vibrant red blooms combined with a compact growth habit. This annual favorite can be used as a filler or border in the landscape. This variety also performs well in containers, receiving an overall score of 4.1 in our container trial.

4. Zinnia Elegant™ Hot Mixture

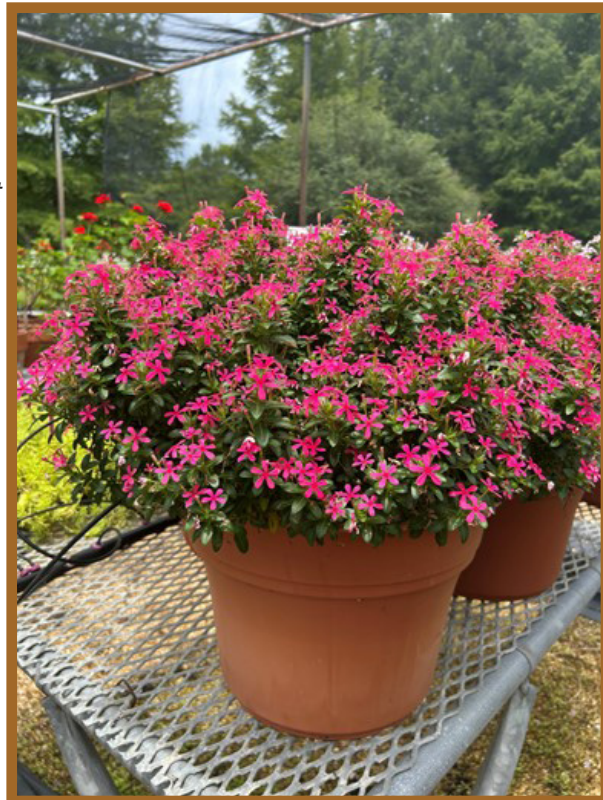
PanAmerican Seed • Overall Score: 4.1 • In-ground, full sun

An early-season favorite, bright flowers on branching stems quickly brought this Zinnia variety to the top of the HRS favorites. Although heavy rainstorms in July damaged the dazzling blooms and foliage, it is still a top performer in the landscape.

5. Agastache Maestro™ Coral

Proven Winners • Overall Score: 3.9 • In-ground, full sun

This Agastache is a new introduction from Proven Winners. Blooms appeared at the start of evaluations in June, took off in the latter half of the summer, and are still going strong. Also known as hummingbird mint, the fragrant foliage and long-lasting blooms will bring pollinators to your landscape all season long.





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6. Begonia Surefire® Series

Proven Winners • Overall Score: 3.5 • In-ground, shade

Begonias are shade garden staples, and the Surefire® Series from Proven Winners performs well in the landscape with blooms that last all season long.

7. Impatiens Beacon® Blue Pearl

Proven Winners • Overall Score: 3.4 • In-ground, shade

A new introduction to the Beacon® Series of Impatiens, Blue Pearl sports bright purple blooms on a bed of vibrant green foliage. A consistent performer in the landscape, this new addition will join the rest of the Beacon® Series Impatiens as Louisiana Super Plants.

8. Catharanthus Soiree Kawaii® Double Orchid

Suntory Flowers • Overall Score: 4.2 • Container, part-sun

With double blooms on dark green foliage, the Soiree Kawaii® Double Orchid Catharanthus filled out the planting container within a matter of weeks and continued to bloom into late August.

9. Petunia Purple Fantasy

Ball FloraPlant • Overall Score: 3.9 • Container, part-sun

A new introduction from Ball FloraPlant, this petunia has soft green foliage that spills over the edge of the container, making a great addition to a hanging basket. An abundance of purple blooms cover this plant well into the summer months.

10. Petunia Radiant Ruby

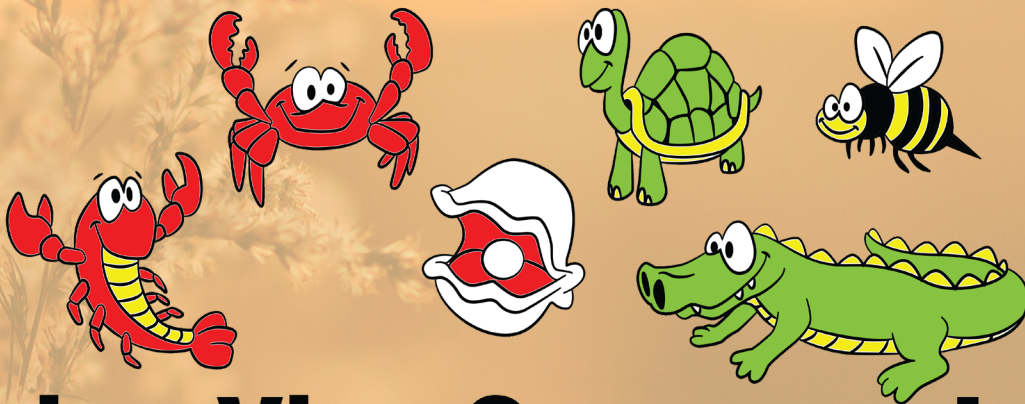
Ball FloraPlant • Overall Score: 3.8 • Container, part-sun

Another new introduction from Ball FloraPlant, striking deep purple flowers edged in white pop against the green foliage. Another great addition to a hanging basket or container planting.

As our 2025 Warm Season Bedding Trials come to a close, a big thank you goes out to our trial partners at All-American Selections, Ball FloraPlant, PanAmerican Seed, Selecta One, Proven Winners, and Suntory Flowers. Full trial results will be released later in the fall. For questions, email Caroline Blanchard at ceblanchard@agcenter.lsu.edu.



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WATER AND ENERGY NEXUS: FLOATING SOLAR PANEL REVIEW

By M.P. Hayes, PhD, Assistant Professor of Agricultural & Industrial Water Quality

Pond management is a critical aspect for many landscape professionals, homeowner associations, and agricultural stakeholders. There are many established best management practices to increase pond health, prevent aquatic weed intrusion, and create thriving fish populations, but a recent project has aimed to increase the value of ponds by focusing on the nexus of water and energy. The Hammond Research Station and the LSU Water Quality Extension Lab hosted a demonstration project to utilize available pond space for floating photovoltaics (FPV). This innovative project was developed to promote small-scale renewable energy and enhance water quality parameters for stakeholders interested in shared space opportunities.

The two research objectives of the project were to document the water benefit and quantify the energy generation of the floating solar panels. For the first objective, the FPV produced a shaded pond dynamics that can impact the water quality. Previous research has shown that shaded ecosystems have lower temperatures and increased dissolved oxygen. This could benefit ponds by lowering the potential for algae to convert nutrients. In addition, panel shading can prevent evaporation, which would maintain more stable pond levels. The site used YSI EXO2 remote water sensors to measure dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, algae, ammonium, and nitrate at two separate areas: under the panel shade and in the open water (non-shaded). The data across two selected months, March and May, showed very little variability in temperature and dissolved oxygen. Due to the small-scale array, the pond water was well mixed under the panels, which led to no major changes in these parameters. The slight variations at peak heat hours suggest that with a larger array, the hypothesis temperature cooling would be magnified. The nutrient indicators (nitrate and ammonium) showed a concentration difference based on shading. In the May dataset, both nitrate and ammonium concentrations were higher in the open water (non-shaded) area compared to the shaded water under the panels. Low nutrient concentrations in shaded water are due to either decreased photosynthetic activity or slow-release decay of plants. Because the water sensors were in a similar proximity and suspended at equal depths, this would indicate that the decreased activity of aquatic plants would support the lower nutrients. Coincidentally, the chlorophyll sensors show a higher intensity under the shaded panels. Since chlorophyll is the major pigment in algae, this would suggest high algae populations present under the panels. When algae are in high concentrations, the rate at which they process nutrients can cause poor water quality conditions. In this study, the high intensity of chlorophyll and low nutrient levels indicate a slower processing, shade-tolerant algae. Though these were



not the expected results, this shows that even under a small panel array, the shading had an immediate impact on algae, even without changing temperature or dissolved oxygen.

For the second objective, a data logger was installed to measure the energy output of the floating panels and compare it to a land-based system. Each array had ten 100-W monocrystalline solar panels that were set at optimal angles. The cooling effect from the water has been seen to increase the efficiency of panels and yield higher energy generation for commercial systems. For the months of March and May, the data showed no significant efficiency difference between the floating and land-based panels. On clear days in peak hours, both sets of panels produce the optimal wattage, while cloudy days yield variable energy. Overall, if this system were to be used in a pond setting, it would be ideal to have power directed to battery storage for continuous use in aerator processes due to panel sensitivity. Though the results did not show a gain of efficiency from the floating panels, the FPV still showed comparable energy to a land-based system in a space that would not typically be utilized.

The small-scale floating demonstration is just the first phase of a larger project. The Water Quality Extension Lab is working toward a partnership to build a commercial array to increase the resources available for stakeholders to learn about water management and energy generation in unutilized pond space. With this preliminary data, the lab is excited for the results and hopes to show the potential impact on a larger scale for stakeholders in the near future. For more information on water-energy nexus projects, email mhayes@agcenter.lsu.edu.

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PRESERVING LIVE OAKS: A PRACTICAL COLLABORATION WITH A CONSULTING ARBORIST

By: Eric R. McQuiston, PLA - Landscape Architect



I recently had the opportunity to work with Scott Courtright, a consulting arborist I've known and respected for years. He's the owner of Trinity Tree Consultants and brings both technical knowledge and practical experience to the table.

This particular project involved a church in an urban setting. The client wanted to improve their grounds with new amenities, but they also had several large, mature Live Oak trees on site. That's where Scott came in.

I called Scott because I knew the trees needed to be protected. Too often, well-meaning construction or landscape improvements lead to long-term damage, especially when heavy equipment or careless grading is involved. Scott helped me put together a clear, workable plan to preserve the trees while allowing the project to move forward. His input was well worth it. He began by walking the site and examining the condition of the trees. He then outlined a series of protective measures based on sound arboricultural practice. One of the first recommendations he made was to remove all turf grass and other vegetation within the dripline of the trees. This may seem simple, but it must be done without machines. Grass and groundcover should be removed by hand or with spot applications of herbicide to avoid damaging roots.

Once the area beneath the canopy is cleared, Scott recommended applying a two-to-four-inch layer of arborist wood chips. These should be spread evenly throughout the area beneath the canopy but kept at least six inches away from the base of the trunk. This mulch layer provides several benefits. It reduces soil compaction, helps retain moisture, moderates soil temperature, and deters foot traffic. It also eliminates the need for mowers and trimmers in sensitive areas.

Over time, the mulch will break down and enrich the soil. It should be replenished as needed. Scott also mentioned that limited planting is acceptable within this mulch zone, provided it is done carefully. Groundcovers like Liriope can be added in small groupings using sandy loam planting soil. Digging must be done by hand to avoid root damage. Interestingly, he noted that some plants, including Liriope 'Big Blue' and 'Evergreen Giant,' are considered nutrient "givers" that may benefit soil health under the canopy.

Scott also introduced me to a service called Chip Drop, a free app that connects tree service companies with people who need mulch. This can be a very cost-effective way to get arborist wood chips. The chips may contain small bits of debris, but these are easy to sort out. He suggested requesting hardwood chips when working under hardwood trees, such as *Quercus virginiana*, to maintain compatibility.

Some in the horticulture industry may express concern that using raw wood chips could tie up nitrogen in the soil. Scott addressed this directly. In his experience, the effect is negligible, especially when chips are used on the surface rather than tilled into the soil. The benefits of soil protection, reduced compaction, and organic enrichment far outweigh any downsides.

Drip irrigation or low-volume emitters may be added to support any new plantings, as long as existing roots are not disturbed. Careful planning and minimal disruption are the goals. Based on this collaboration, I've developed a general specification for Live Oak preservation that can be adapted to a variety of project types. This version is formatted for general use. A CSI-formatted version is also available if needed.

Live Oak Tree Preservation Specification

The following protective measures shall be implemented to ensure the health and longevity of existing *Quercus virginiana* (Live Oak) trees during construction:

Tree Protection Fencing

Install orange barrier fencing at the dripline of each Live Oak tree, supported by metal T-posts no more than six feet apart. Fencing must remain in place, upright, and intact for the duration of construction.

Restricted Area Within Fence

No activity is permitted inside the fenced area. This includes:

- Equipment or vehicle access
- Stockpiling of materials or debris
- Trenching, excavation, or utility installation
- Changes to grade or drainage

Any violation must be reported immediately and may result in replacement penalties.

Site Preparation and Mulching

Remove turf and invasive vegetation by hand or with targeted herbicide. Avoid disturbing roots.

Apply two to three inches of arborist wood chips across the fenced zone. Keep mulch at least six inches from the base of the trunk.

Optional Planting

If planting is approved within the root zone, only small



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PRESERVING LIVE OAKS...CONTINUED

groundcovers or shrubs may be installed.
Use hand tools and a sandy loam planting mix.

Water plants thoroughly at installation and monitor them until established.

Watering and Maintenance

Maintain new vegetation with supplemental water, either manually or with low-volume irrigation.
Inspect tree protection fencing and mulch throughout the project.
Replenish mulch as needed to maintain protection.

Feel free to adapt or modify this specification to suit your project. If you work with mature Live Oaks or other established

trees, I encourage you to consult a qualified arborist early in the process. Collaboration between professionals — designers, contractors, arborists, and owners — leads to better outcomes, fewer regrets, and stronger long-term value for the site.

If you have questions about tree health or preservation planning, reach out to Scott Courtright at Trinity Tree Consultants. He's a valuable resource and a pleasure to work with.

In Memorandum

Dr. Gladden W. "Buddy" Willis

Dr. Gladden "Buddy" Willis was a retired physician, and he spent his retirement catering to one of his greatest passions. He owned a native plant nursery, Willis Farms, located in his hometown of Doyline, Louisiana. He was an avid supporter of the gardens at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station and the American Rose Center. He served as the president of the Louisiana Native Plant Society and was active with the Caroline Dorman Foundation and Briarwood Nature Preserve.

Dr. Willis was born on March 26, 1939, in Doyline, Louisiana, and went to his heavenly home on August 26, 2025, in Doyline, Louisiana.

He is survived by his wife, Lydia Willis of Doyline, sons, Charles Austin Willis (Maralyn) of Shreveport and Loye Stillmon Willis (Mary) of Chicago, sisters, Sally Callahan of Texas and Martha Lee Johnson of Shreveport, and grandchildren, Martin, Virginia, and Wynter.





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NATIVE PLANT TRAINING CLASSES OFF TO A GREAT START!

By: Eric R. McQuiston, PLA - Landscape Architect



In June, the Louisiana Native Plant Society (LNPS) conducted its first Louisiana Professional Native Plant Certification classes in Lafayette. Thirty-one people took the class, including wholesale grower reps, horticultural staff from New Orleans City Park Conservancy, Audubon Institute, and Longvue House and Gardens, several horticulturists and landscape architects working for firms and their own private practices, environmental non-profit leaders, and educators. Class members traveled from Texas, Alabama, North and Southeast Louisiana for the 2-day native plant instruction.

In advance of the class, students were provided a 126-page manual specifically written and developed for this course, as well as several videos that introduced the fundamentals of the native plants of Louisiana, descriptions and photos of the 79 native and invasive plants to be learned, and videos that demonstrated maintenance techniques. The in-person classes, led by Program Director Dona Weifenbach and Instructors Phyllis Griffard, Lawrence Rozas, Bill Fontenot, and Tammany Baumgarten, covered landscape planning, site selection and evaluation, client interaction and expectations, planting arrangement, installation and maintenance considerations, and invasive species ID and control. Off-site field trips introduced the class to actual landscapes where they practiced plant identification and saw the plants in situ. A written test was administered at the end of the two days. The final testing component was a take-home landscape planning challenge where students were assigned a scenario and asked to draw a native landscape to match the parameters. They presented their plans online a few days later to the review committee to simulate presenting to a client.

Happily, all 31 participants passed both portions of the testing and are now certified in native plant landscape use, as well as two already practicing professionals who tested out. An online directory is maintained on the LNPS website of these newly

certified professionals: <https://www.lnps.org/certified-native-professionals-of-louisiana-directory/>.



Here is what they are saying...

"This class was FANTASTIC. I learned how much I have to learn. The course was a good balance of classroom and outside time. I LOVED seeing actual gardens and walking around for the plant IDs. There's nothing like seeing the plants growing and in place."

"I started with no background in landscaping and ended with such a solid foundation that I can actually create and execute native plant landscape plans. It was really a phenomenal class."

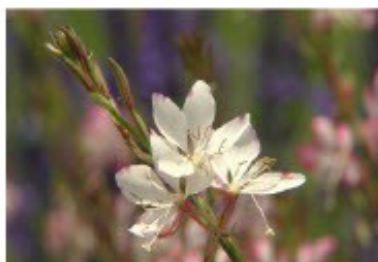
"The in-class PowerPoints were really good. So many fantastic photos!"

"Every presenter was a superb plantsperson and SO knowledgeable. Learning how the pros handled problems, in real-world examples, is really valuable."

"The discussions were frank, honest, to-the-point, and provided invaluable mentorship."



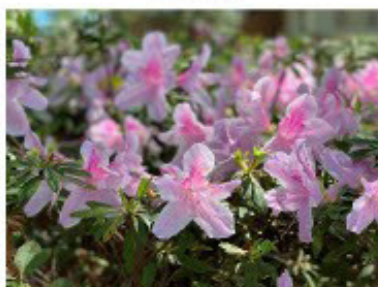
2025



Gaura



'Vermillionaire' Cuphea



Southern indica azalea
'George L. Taber' –
'Formosa' – 'G.G. Gerbing'



Dusty Miller

Previous Selections

Warm Season Bedding Plants

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Angelonia – Serena Series
Angelonia 'Serenita Raspberry'
Begonia – BabyWing series
Buddleia 'Flutterby Tutti Frutti'
Celosia 'Intenz Classic'
Cleome 'Senorita Rosalita'
Coleus 'Henna'
Coleus – Flamethrower series
Columnea 'Blue Daze,' 'Blue My Mind'
Gaillardia – Mesa series
Hibiscus – Luna series
Impatiens – Beacon Series
Lantana – Bandana series
Lemon Sedum
Louisiana Iris
Ornamental Peppers
Pennisetum 'Fireworks'
Pentas – Butterfly series
Pentas – Lucky Star series
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Verbena 'Homestead Purple'
Zinnia 'Zesty'

Cool Season Bedding Plants

Columbine – Swan series
Delphinium 'Diamonds Blue'
Dianthus – Amazon series
Dianthus – Jolt series
Foxglove – Camelot series
Kale 'Redbor'
Supertunia Mini Vista 'Indigo'
Supertunia Vista 'Bubblegum'
Viola – Sorbet series

Shrubs

Althea 'Aphrodite'
American Beautyberry
Azalea 'Conversation Piece'
Blueberries – Rabbiteye
Camellia 'Shishi Gashira'

Camellia 'Leslie Ann'
Distylium 'Cinnamon Girl'
Firebush 'Lime Sizzler'
Gardenia 'Frostproof'
Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight'
Hydrangea 'Penny Mac'
Illicium 'Florida Sunshine'
Muhly Grass
Rose 'Belinda's Dream'
Rose – Drift series
Rose 'Peggy Martin'
Viburnum 'Mrs. Schiller's Delight'
Virginia Willow 'Henry's Garnet'

Trees

Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
Chaste Tree 'Shoal Creek' (*Vitex agnus-castus*)
Evergreen Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Hybrid Magnolia 'Jane'
Southern Magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
Southern Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

For more information, visit LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants

"The instructors explained all of the steps to interact with clients, help them imagine, secure work, how not to make "happy accidents," and how to install. I appreciated the honesty and discussions on how to speak with clients regarding the process and implementation."

"I especially enjoyed the garden tours to get hands-on experience with each plant that we were talking about."

"The Plant ID walks were instrumental for understanding proper placement and how to create microclimates."

"I found the course thorough, thoughtful, helpful, useful, and totally amazing! I learned SO much!"

What's next?

There is another basic training tentatively scheduled for mid-November in the Covington area. Anyone can sign up to be notified of future details and find out more at <https://www.lnps.org> under "Programs."

The Louisiana Native Professional Certification Program was developed with grant support from the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program and the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research. LNPS is incredibly grateful for that financial support and the vast amount of volunteer work that laid the groundwork for this program and continues to propel it forward.



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LSU AGCENTER SOIL TESTING LAB UPDATES SOIL TEST REPORT TEMPLATE

By: Leandro O. Vieira, Ph.D., Assistant Professor & Soil Fertility Specialist, LSU AgCenter



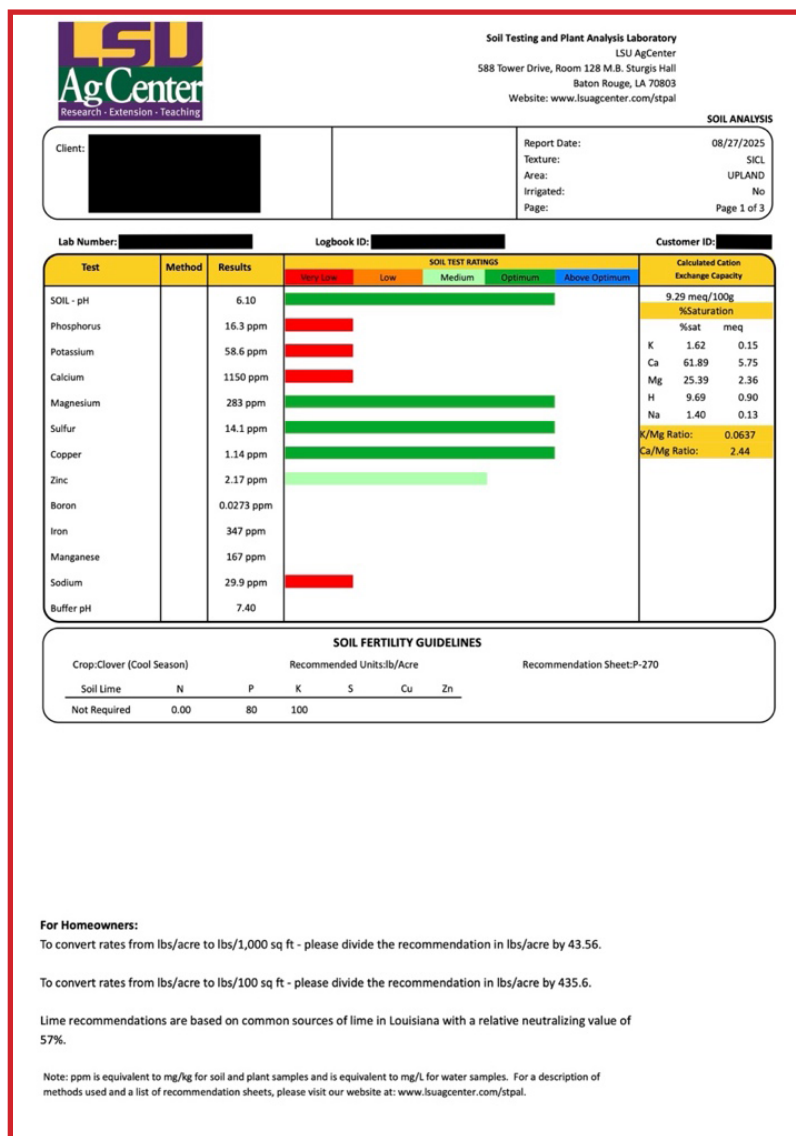
The LSU AgCenter Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Laboratory (STPAL) has recently updated its Soil Test Report Template. Under the leadership of Interim Director Dr. Ted Gauthier, a software company was contracted to develop a new system for STPAL to enhance operational efficiency and deliver a redesigned soil test report (Figure 1).

Figure 1. New soil test report template from the LSU AgCenter Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Laboratory. In addition to the improved aesthetics of the new template, several new parameters have been added. Three micronutrients are now included in the routine soil test: boron (B), iron (Fe), and manganese (Mn). Responding to stakeholder requests, the report also now features calculated cation exchange capacity (CEC), along with the percent saturation of potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), hydrogen (H), and sodium (Na). Additionally, the K/Mg and Ca/Mg ratios are now listed.

One of the most informative updates is the inclusion of bar graphs that visually represent soil pH and nutrient levels. These levels are categorized as: very low, low, medium, optimum, and above optimum. In the previous report format, the terms high and very high were used, which often led to confusion. Some clients interpreted "high" as excessive or problematic, when in fact it indicated an ideal nutrient level. Similarly, "very high" simply meant that nutrient levels exceeded what plants require, without necessarily causing harm. To improve clarity, the terminology was revised: High is now labeled as Optimum, and Very High is now labeled as Above Optimum (Figure 2).

Nutrient Level	True Meaning
Very Low	Very Low
Low	Low
Medium	Medium
High	Optimum
Very High	Above Optimum

Figure 2. Updated nutrient level nomenclature: High is now labeled as Optimum, and Very High as Above Optimum. Currently, there is insufficient data to suggest that nutrient levels categorized as optimum or above optimum pose environmental or plant health risks. Therefore, the updated terms more accurately reflect the agronomic meaning of these levels. However, for soil pH and sodium (Na) levels, high and very high values can indicate potential plant health issues. Elevated soil pH can reduce the



availability of micronutrients such as zinc and copper, leading to deficiency symptoms and reduced plant vigor. Similarly, high sodium levels can cause toxicity, negatively affecting plant growth and development. It is explained because sodium is not a plant nutrient (or essential element), as most plants can thrive without any sodium available in the soil.

The LSU AgCenter Soil Testing Lab, located at 125 M.B. Sturgis Hall on the Baton Rouge campus, offers soil analysis and interpretation services for a small fee. Take advantage of soil testing to ensure your plants thrive: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/departments/spess/servicelabs/soil_testing_lab. If you have questions about soil sampling or interpreting soil test reports, please contact your local extension agent.



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STOP SPRING WEEDS BEFORE THEY START: FALL PRE-EMERGENCE TIPS FOR LOUISIANA LAWNS

By: Eric DeBoer, PhD Assistant Professor – Turfgrass Management, Louisiana State University AgCenter

Typically, between late February and mid-April, calls begin to come in regarding the control of “stickers” in lawns throughout the state. As a turfgrass extension specialist, it pains me to inform the inquirer that the best time for controlling these “stickers,” called lawn burweed (*Soliva sessilis*), was back in the fall (Photo 1). The same timing issues apply to many of the annual weeds that are problematic in the spring. Lawn burweed, annual bluegrass (*Poa*, *Poa annua*, po’ anna, etc), chickweed, henbit, and Carolina geranium, to name a few. All these weeds are considered winter annuals, meaning they are cool-season plants that germinate in the fall, spend the winter growing vegetatively (sometimes unnoticed), and then flower in the spring, completing their lifecycle before the rigors of a Louisiana summer are in full effect. This is a reminder to be proactive this fall with a pre-emergence herbicide application to help clients avoid the pain of barefoot spring walks through the lawn.



Photo 1. Lawn burweed (*Soliva sessilis*) is a winter annual and is best controlled with preemergence herbicides in the fall.

Fall Germination Means Fall Prevention

Lawn burweed, annual bluegrass, chickweed, henbit, and other common winter weeds all start germinating when soil temperatures drop into the low 70s°F, typically around mid-to-late September in Louisiana.

That means the ideal time to apply a pre-emergence herbicide is just before that happens, not after. Begin checking soil temperatures in early September and apply when the 3-day average soil temperature is in the low 70s.

Tracking Soil Temperature

Forget the calendar-based approach. What matters most is the soil temperature at a depth of 2 inches. Here's how to stay on target:

Digital thermometer – Even just a digital meat thermometer will work. Mark the probe at 2” and place into the soil. Measure early in the morning and take readings in several areas of the lawn for accuracy. Repeat this process for three consecutive mornings, then calculate the average of those readings. Remember, shadier locations cool down first.

You can also monitor soil temperatures from the comfort of your recliner with these resources:

- Louisiana Agriclimatic Information System – weather.lsuagcenter.com
- Syngenta GreenCast Soil Temperature Maps – <https://www.greencastonline.com/tools/soil-temperature>

Recommended Preemergence Herbicides (and What They Control)
Isoxaben, Atrazine, and Simazine will be your best bets for lawn burweed control.

What About Pendimethalin?

Pendimethalin shows decent control of annual bluegrass and burweed (rated Good to Excellent), but has shorter residual, stains hardscapes, and isn't recommended for turf that's thinning or recovering from summer stress or turf transitioning to dormancy. It works, but prodiamine or dithiopyr are usually better choices in Louisiana lawns.

Smart Application Tips

Water It In

All granular pre-emergents require 0.25 to 0.5 inches of water after application to activate. That can be irrigation or rainfall, but don't skip it.

Use Split Applications

For extended control of *Poa* and burweed, especially in sandy soils or with heavy fall rain, apply a second round 6–8 weeks after the first.

Know Your Turf Type

Some herbicides (like atrazine) are not safe on Bermudagrass unless it's dormant. Always double-check label compatibility with your lawn species.

Avoid Overseeding Conflicts

If you plan to overseed with ryegrass, avoid pre-emergents like prodiamine, pendimethalin, or indaziflam. They'll block your ryegrass, too.

Save the Date

2025 IPPS Southern Region Annual Meeting

The International Plant Production Society, Southern Region of North America, cordially invites you to sponsor our upcoming annual meeting, scheduled for 19-23 October 2025, at the DoubleTree Orlando at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL.

Event Overview: This highly anticipated event gathers professionals from across the green industry and academia for unparalleled educational programs and tours. Your sponsorship plays a pivotal role in managing costs and ensuring our members access the best opportunities available in horticulture today.

Mission of IPPS

- Sharing knowledge, information, and skills
- Supporting lifelong career achievements
- Enhancing professional recognition
- Advancing research, education, and horticultural integration

Unique Attributes of IPPS:

- Global reach and diverse knowledge base
- Focus on individual membership, fostering personal connections within the industry
- Promoting collaboration among growers, researchers, educators, and industry professionals.

Your Sponsorship Impact: By sponsoring our event, you contribute directly to the success of this significant horticultural gathering. Detailed sponsorship levels and benefits are enclosed for your review.

Next Steps: For more information on the event and sponsorship opportunities, please refer to the enclosed materials. A member of our event planning committee will follow up with you soon to discuss how we can collaborate effectively. We eagerly anticipate your participation in this influential event shaping the future of horticulture in our region.



STOP SPRING WEEDS...CONTINUED

Active Ingredient	Best For	Comments
Prodiamine	Annual bluegrass, lawn burweed, chickweed, and henbit	Strong root inhibitor. Long residual. Safe on Bermuda, zoysia, centipede, St. Aug. Do not apply to newly seeded or recently sprigged turf.
Dithiopyr	Annual bluegrass, annual grasses, oxalis, Carolina geranium	Short residual, negligible post emergent activity, not great for burweed.
Isoxaben	Lawn burweed, chickweed, henbit	Great on lawn burweed. Weak on annual bluegrass. Best when combined with a grassy preemergent for broad-spectrum control.
Indaziflam	Annual bluegrass, burweed, broadleaf, and grassy weeds	Longest residual. Excellent for professional use, especially in high-end turf. Avoid applying near cool-season grasses
Atrazine/Simazine	Lawn burweed, chickweed, Poa annua	Effective in centipede and St. Augustine, but not safe on overseeded ryegrass. Keep away from ornamentals. No atrazine on actively growing bermudagrass or zoysiagrass.

Remember, the number one defense against weeds does not involve chemical controls. Managing locations year-round for dense, healthy turf goes a long way in preventing weed encroachment (Photo 2). This means mowing frequently, mowing at a suitable height to avoid scalping, and avoiding overwatering and overfertilizing.

If you want weed-free properties next spring, the work starts in the fall, not in March. A well-timed fall pre-emergence strategy, based on soil temperature, matched to your turf type, and supported by good cultural practices, is your best shot at keeping lawn burweed, annual bluegrass, and a host of other winter weeds out of your lawn. So don't wait until the stickers show up, beat the weeds to the punch this fall.



Photo 2. Dense, healthy turf is the best defense against weeds. Annual bluegrass taking advantage of bare soil underneath crepe myrtles. Very little, if any, annual bluegrass in existing turf.



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This certification is not a license. Call LDAF Horticulture Commission at 225-952-8100 to schedule the license exam.



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October 1, 2025

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance - Brandon Adams

Introduction of Guests - Morgan Milling

- Rhonda Butler
 - o Had a meeting with Entergy about expansion into LA
 - o Where is this legislative session going? Focus on CCS, Education, Industry Growth, and Rural Communities
 - o She has one more term left.
 - o Against CCS

Minutes of Last Meeting - July 2025 - Brandon Adams

- Lisa Loup moved to approve
- Debbie seconded the motion
- Approved

Committee Reports

- Communications & Nominating, Matt Fennell
 - o Three spots opening up, hoped to have those wrapped up by mid-November, Lisa suggests getting someone in now that maybe interim but also stick with it for 2 years, will need to vote Jacob out, Lisa suggests doing it now,
 - Candidates: Stetson, Madilyn, Tori, Ricky Jr., Jeff, Matthew
 - Chad Everage: Could continue to do board duties, but feels hesitant about moving into the President position, need a new plan moving forward
 - Lisa moved to remove Jacob Morgan from board
 - o Debbie Head seconded
 - o Motion passed
 - Lisa moved to reinstate Jeff Reed to the board
 - o Chad seconded
 - o Motion passed
 - Matt Fennell will speak to Jeff Reed about where he wants to serve
 - Texting Service
 - This is in the contract with ASG within a reasonable
- Education, Chad Everage
- Finance, Brian Bridges
 - Total assets as of 8/31 \$231,454
 - Cash in bank now \$98,000
- Funding, Brian Bridges
 - Request for LSU Ag Excellence Award Sponsorship - \$1200 - tabled till Jan. meeting
- Legislative, Lisa Loup
 - Kim Landry reached out to Lisa in August to partner with LNLA
 - Working on a date for Capitol Day - Hopefully March 17, 2026
- Marketing & Sales, Tony Carter
 - Morgan sent out raffle ticket packets to everyone on the board, should be able to start selling tickets soon
 - Plant Day: Tony will be sending out information to committee to discuss which plant we want to use, Tony's ideas: Marigolds, Creole Tomato, or some Natives
- LDAF Report - Tina Peltier
 - o Concerned about two-spot cotton leafhopper, detected in multiple Southern states, including Louisiana, doing survey in LA, found it in August in LA
 - o Multiple surveys

- Reviewing Citrus Nursery Stock Protocol
- LNLFSR Report - Dr. Allen Owings
 - Gala made \$21,789
 - Gala Location change: Covington Country Club on June 5, 2026
 - 4 Research Grants given out for this year
 - Scholarship applications are live, due November 1
 - Campaign for raising money - \$15,000 for 15 Galas, \$2,000 raised so far, requested the board consider a contribution to this campaign
 - \$222,000 in the bank currently
 - Executive Director Situation: Needs clarification about who the Executive Director is
- Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Report - Matthew Waguespac
 - Government shutdown
 - Labor: Law suit that challenged 2023 wage ruling, thrown out, now we are back to the 2010 ruling
 - H2B Language Issues
- Hammond Station Update
 - Christine Coker, new director
 - Colton Blankenship, new weed specialist
 - March 13th - Save the Date for the Garden Party
 - Potentially moving field day to June 25th
 - received support to do work with stone mulch and revitalize the station
 - nursery work, water nutrient management, urban nursery work
 - NAHS tour in July
- Other Business - Morgan Milling
- Legislative Day - Hopefully March 17th, working on nailing down a date
- Education - Irrigation Class: Thoughts from Board? The Irrigation Association? Figuring out what's going on there?, would need to get approval from LDAF, would need to be 6 hours of education, provide discount for LNLA members, maybe December or January?, Suggested to do hybrid with in person event at Hammond Research Center
- LNLA Board
 - Gala Auction Item Missed: 4 Houston Rodeo Tickets, maybe do a raffle?, Does this belong to LNLA or the Foundation?, need to make sure it's advertised under the Foundation, not LNLA
- December 3, 2025 - Wednesday 10-2 Mike Anderson's Baton Rouge, LA
- March 17, 2026 - Legislative Day Baton Rouge, LA

Other Dates to Remember

- October 2, 2025 - Education Day Alexandria, LA
- January 14, 2026 - GSHE Education Sessions Mobile, AL
- January 15th & 16th - GSHE Trade Show Mobile, AL
- Budget Day
 - Morgan Proposed: November 5th or 6th, 10 am-12 pm, Lafayette, Morgan will work on a location

Brandon motioned to adjourn

Debbie seconded

Adjourned at 2:19 pm



LNLA Membership Application

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone1: _____ Phone2: _____ Toll-free: _____

FAX: _____ Email: _____

Website: _____

Referred By: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (select one) and Business Types (select all that apply – up to 5)

☐ **REGULAR MEMBER (Voting) - \$ Based on gross sales per year (below)**

A licensed or permitted business or person (**in Louisiana only**) engaged in one or more of the business types listed in box at right -- **Please select no more than 5.**

Dues **Annual Gross Sales**

☐ \$200.00 \$0 - \$249,999

☐ \$250.00 \$250,000 or more

☐ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER (Non-Voting) - \$250.00** – includes out-of-state businesses

☐ **In Louisiana - Wholesale Allied Supplies (AS)** A business/person selling any non-plant item such as chemicals, containers, equipment, fertilizer, garden décor or furniture, insurance, mulch, soil, stones, etc. Product(s) sold: _____

☐ **Out-of-State** -- State: _____ -- **Please select no more than 5.**

☐ **AFFILIATE MEMBER (Non-Voting) – \$25.00**

An employee of any horticulture business with a paid regular membership -- **Please select no more than 5.**

☐ **GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION MEMBER (Non-Voting) – \$25.00**

An employee of a government or non-profit entity, having a job responsibility in horticulture or closely related field

☐ College or University Education/Extension/Research (U)

☐ Educational/Regulatory Government Agency (GV)

☐ Public Gardens or Parks (PG)

☐ **RETIREE MEMBER (Non-Voting) (R) – \$25.00** - Any person formerly actively employed in horticulture or closely related field and having been a paid member of LNLA before retirement from that employment.

☐ **STUDENT MEMBER (Non-Voting) (S) – FREE** - Full time student enrolled in a Louisiana university/college in horticulture or a closely related field. University/College name & location (city): _____

The ★**Business Type** designation is used in LNLA's membership directory and website. Check each ☐ that applies - up to 5.

☐ Arborist/Urban Forester (A)

☐ Interior Plant Maintenance (IM)

☐ Irrigation Contractor (IR)

☐ Landscape Horticulture (LH)

☐ Landscape Design/Architect (LA)

☐ Landscape/Lawn Maintenance (LM)

☐ Plant Broker (BR)

☐ Retail Nursery / Garden Center (GC)

☐ Small Greenhouse/Field Grower (SG) -grow/sell direct to consumers

☐ Sod/Turf Producer (T)

☐ Wholesale Allied Supplies (AS)

☐ Wholesale Greenhouse Grower (WG) -bedding/ tropical plants

☐ Wholesale Field Grower (WF) -balled/container woody plants, perennials

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☐ **OPTIONAL:** Members wishing to support the **Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation for Scholarship & Research (LNLFSR)** fund for scholarships to deserving university/college horticulture/landscape students and grants for horticulture/landscape research/education should indicate amount and add the \$\$ to their dues check. This donation is tax deductible.

Donation Amount \$ _____

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