

LPMGA SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday

Sept. 2, 2015 - 12 noon

Lafayette Public Library
301 W. Congress St.

LPMGA BOARD MEETING

1 PM MONDAY,

SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE
CENTER (INHC)

September General Meeting

Dr. Charles Allen will be our featured speaker for the September Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association meeting. Dr. Allen's topic is "**Landscaping with Native Plants.**" Dr. Allen is the lead author on a selection of books including the *Louisiana Wildflower Guide*, *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Louisiana*, *Grasses of Louisiana*, and *Edible Plants of the Gulf South*. His company, Allen Native Ventures, offers ecological and botanical professional consulting services, and in-depth and hands on plant identification classes. See his website for more information: <http://nativeventures.net/>

Also, **Elizabeth 'EB' Brooks**, Director of Administration & Capital Projects for Lafayette Central Park will give a short presentation about the progress and future plans for the Horse Farm.

The meeting will be held at **12:00 noon, Wednesday, September 2**, at the Lafayette Public Library downtown, at 301 W. Congress Street. The public is invited.

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2015 BOARD:

President :

Heather Warner-Finley 2012

Vice President :

Linda Beyt 2013

Recording Secretary:

Jay Ruffin, Jr 2012

Corresponding Secretary:

Carolyn Rink 2013

Treasurer:

Sandra Scheuermann 2012

Member at Large:

Juan Nieto 2006

Prior President:

Babette Werner 2010

Agent/Adviser ;

Gerald Roberts

Volunteer Coordinator:

Mary Ann Armbruster 2010

Newsletter Editor:

Theresa Rohloff 2012

Note: Our October meeting will be moved to **October 14 instead of October 7** to give us plenty of time to enjoy our October speaker, **Felder Rushing**. His topic is "Slow Gardening - Cajun Style (gardening with all senses, all seasons, and savoring it all). Felder Rushing started the Master Gardener program in Mississippi. His books include *Passalong Plants*, *Tough Plants for Southern Gardens*, *Bottle Trees and the Whimsical Art of Garden Glass*, and *Slow Gardening: A No-Stress Philosophy for All Senses and All Seasons*. <http://www.felderrushing.net/>

The third Saturday September Garden Talk will cover "**Native Plants**" with speaker **Donna Thibodeaux** on **September 19**, 10 am at Ira Nelson Demonstration Beds. See pg. 3 for details.

Plantfest is October 3! See pg.4. The **Fall Plant Swap** will take place October 10. See pg. 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Woohoo! Rain!!! Welcome to our new Master Gardener class. I enjoyed being at Ira Nelson for the first day of the new Master Gardener class. Everyone is so excited. We're excited for a new class and the class is excited for the opportunity to learn new things and meet new people. We Master Gardeners have so many exciting and fun things happening this fall. We have an excellent line up of speakers for our fall meetings. Our 2nd Saturday and Garden Talk Series have some great speakers coming up for the Saturday talks. We have a fall field trip planned for **Bellingrath Gardens**. And we have **PlantFest!**

And we will be nominating and electing next year's executive board. Our current Vice President, Linda Beyt, will become president. The positions of Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Member at Large will be open. The Treasurer and one of the Secretary positions will be one year terms only so that we can set the pattern for the staggered board terms previously approved by the membership. When the Nominating Committee submits the slate to the general membership, they will specify the length of the terms.

So, if you have ideas about the future of our organization, if you have a vision of where we could be, or if you would just like to be a part of making decisions and setting the course for Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners for the future, I encourage you to submit your name.

Thanks, Heather

GERALD'S CORNER

As we approach the end of summer, we can begin to look forward to progressively cooler temperatures as we prepare for many fall gardening chores. I must admit that this has been **a tough year so far for gardeners, but even tougher on plants**. If you can recall coming out of the winter and into spring it began to rain and the pattern continued through spring into early summer. The rain finally subsided, then it seemed to come to a complete halt with most parts of Acadiana gradually experiencing a moderate drought. To top that off, we had above-average temperatures with several days approaching or at one hundred degrees or above. Combine the actual temperature with the heat index and outdoor chores, including gardening, became downright dangerous with heat advisories leading many weather forecasts. Dan Gill, as a part of his presentation on botany to the new MG Class of 2015, talked about USDA Zones for heat and cold, saying that for many years most Louisiana gardeners primarily paid attention to the cold hardiness zones. Dan pointed out that as gardeners become more educated about weather patterns and how heat impacts plants in the landscape, more attention is being paid to USDA heat zones. He also emphasized that as gardeners we need to focus our attention to the growing conditions plants need to perform, and less on where we want to put plants or what we want them to do. We must not forget that plants have been genetically programmed to require growing conditions and perform like their ancestors. For example, we cannot expect a plant that requires shady growing conditions to survive in full afternoon or western sun. The stress from heat directly impacts plant performances and when compounded by drought conditions, plants can be injured or killed. During the month of July, and so far into August, I've seen more trees and shrubs suffering from die back, defoliation, and death than I've seen in several years. It appears to me a lot of the damage began in the spring with above average rainfall resulting in saturated soils, depriving roots of oxygen, and making roots more susceptible to root rot. Instead of plants being able to recover, they were then exposed to drought conditions and above-average day time temperatures, leading to further stress and decline. Most gardeners are looking forward to fall gardening with the hopes that cooler temperatures and timely rainfall will result in more pleasant working conditions and better plant performances.

On my visits to address the various landscape issues with plants, I'm noticing that many of the plant beds have settled and **mulches have decayed and thinned over the summer**. Topping the beds with bed builder and adding additional mulch should be included in the list of fall gardening chores. Replenish mulch layers with fresh material to maintain approximately a 2-3 inch thickness in beds. Ideally many people will mulch with what they can get their hands on for free such as leaves or pine straw. If you prefer the look of purchased mulch, put down an inch or two of leaves or pine straw, then top it off with an inch of your favorite purchased mulch. This can save money and still give you the look you desire.

Pecan trees tend to be alternate bearers, that is producing a heavy crop every other year. Pecan trees have relatively brittle wood, having branches that can sometimes break without warning. Pecan trees that are loaded with a heavy crop are prone to limb breakage especially during rain and thunderstorms with gusty winds. Although it is disheartening to see a large branch fall from a pecan tree, there is not much that can be done. It's important to water pecan trees slowly and deeply during this month if it is dry. This will help the nuts finish filling out and also minimize nut drop.

The hurricane season will be kicking into high gear this month. This is the time of the year where you should be **evaluating the overall health of shade trees**, and prune if needed or remove dead or broken branches. Additionally, if there are dead trees or partially dead trees in the home landscape that threaten a structure, they should be removed.

Chinch bugs can remain active in lawns at this time of year. Look for dead, tan, straw colored areas in the lawn, particularly those areas located in dry sunny areas next to concrete driveways or sidewalks. Generally these areas will get noticeably bigger and these sucking insects move into healthier greener grass which enlarges the area. These areas can be treated with Talstar, Bifenthrin, or Orthene (acephate). It's very important that label directions on pesticides are read and followed carefully.

From now on **don't apply any fertilizer containing nitrogen to home lawns**. Fertilizing lawns with nitrogen containing fertilizer this late in the year can lead to lush green growth that can increase the problems with a fungus disease called brown patch or large patch. Additionally, nitrogen can slow the grass from going dormant leading to winter injury or winter kill. If you choose to winterize your lawn, the only nutrient applied should be potash. Any winterizing fertilizer containing moderate to high nitrogen should be avoided.

No pruning should be done on spring flowering shrubs such as gardenias, hydrangeas, sasanquas, and azaleas because they've already formed their flower buds and pruning now will reduce the quantity of future blooms.

If you have areas of **Virginia Buttonweed** in your lawn, as we move into the fall and it approaches maturity, pull as much of it as you can being sure to remove as much of the plant containing seeds as you can. Place all the old plants that you pull up in a garbage bag and discard. This will help to reduce the numbers of seeds that will germinate in your lawn next spring.

Evaluate caladiums - when the plants begin to look less attractive, and two thirds of the leaves have fallen over, it time to dig the tubers. Caladiums may return next year if left in the ground, but it's more reliable to dig them and store them indoors over the winter months. Dig the tubers carefully to minimize bruising leaving the foliage attached. Spread them out in a well ventilated area to dry. When the foliage is dry and brown, remove foliage and store tubers in paper or net bags indoors.

Happy Gardening!! **Gerald P. Roberts**

Horticulturist/Master Gardener Program Coordinator LSU AgCenter

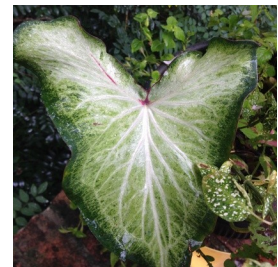
1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325

Lafayette, LA 70501

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EVENTS, REPORTS, AND BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 LPMGA Meetings:
(First Wednesday
Except in January & July)
Daytime—noon/Evening—6 pm

2015 LPMGA Board
Meetings, 1 pm:
(Third Monday except for
Jan., Feb., Jul. & Dec.)

SEPTEMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 21

OCTOBER 14 (not the 7th!)

OCTOBER 19

NOVEMBER 4

NOVEMBER 16

DECEMBER 2 Social

DECEMBER 14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Pine Straw orders will be taken at the **Sept and Oct general meetings**. Pick-up dates to be announced. \$7 per bale, cash or check payable at pick-up, 20 bale maximum. Order early! They go quickly!
Thanks, Theresa Gore

**Plantfest T-shirts**

Please check your email for information about ordering PlantFest t-shirts. This year they will be pumpkin colored. The **absolute deadline to order is Sept. 2**. Call or email Peggy Taylor for more info. Pttaylor@hotmail.com or 837-2404.

Garden Strolls

The Garden Stroll Committee recently met to discuss past garden strolls and plan for new ones. **We are looking for gardeners who would love to share their gardens with us.** We know this hot, dry weather has impacted everyone's garden. Don't let this stop you! If you want to share your garden with us, or know someone who is not a MG who does, please email or call Linda Beyt (lbeyt@att.net; 337-278-1258). Remember, attending a garden stroll is one hour education! Also, Master Gardener strollers can bring a one non-MG garden friend.

No Second Saturday Class

There will **not** be a **September Second Saturday Class** because the site is not available. The next class is **October 10** at 10 am with Tina Jumonville speaking about **Cool Season Annuals and SuperPlants**. 501 Church St., Youngsville.

OCT 10	Tina Jumonville	Cool Season Annuals
NOV 14	Candy Bienvenu	Irrigation

3rd Saturday Garden Talk

Donna Thibodeaux will speak about **Native plants** on **September 19** at 10 am at the Ira Nelson Demo Beds. Donna Thibodeaux is a Master Gardener from the Class of 2010. Donna grew up on a farm and has gardened since she was a child. She grows herbs, vegetables and cut flowers at Granny's Garden, a small farm in Youngsville. Her style of gardening is "Obsessive" – too many gardens, too many plants, too many projects. She uses organic methods when possible and became intrigued with native plants while researching organic methods of insect control. Recent projects include bokashi, hydroponics and installing hedgerows to attract beneficial insects.

OCT 17	Brock Barker	Permaculture
NOV 21	Juan Nieto	Irrigation



The August Garden Talk with Becky Taylor speaking about "Propagation" was a huge success with 32 people attending!

Tune into In the Garden September 3, Noon, AOC

September's show features Master Gardener offerings that will be for sale at Plantfest. Always a delightful show brimming with eye candy!

This monthly TV Show broadcasted by AOC Community Media, is targeted to run LIVE, every first Thursday at noon, with reruns each week throughout the month on LUS Channel 3/Cox Channel 15. The show is streamed by computer through AOC One.

EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE

BRING YOUR REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE TO MASTER GARDENER FUNCTIONS!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PlantFest!!

Saturday, October 3, 2015, 8am—3 pm

Please get the word out and post on your facebook pages and websites! Plantfest t-shirts must be ordered by Sept. 2. See the Sept. 3 In the Garden show on AOC for a Plantfest Preview. Volunteers will be needed to set up Oct 2 and close out after 3. Contact Sharon at bakaysharon@hotmail.com



Fun and Fabulous Children's Activities

Food and Refreshments from Local Vendors

PlantFest

MASTER GARDENERS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

8 AM – 3 PM

Across from Blackham Coliseum on Coliseum Road
LPMGA Plant Sale and Gardening and Landscape Vendors

Enjoy a Wide Variety of Workshops!

Find a Garden Treasure at the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Plant Sale



Get Expert Garden Advice at the LSU AgCenter Plant Clinic



For vendor application visit plantfest.org

For more information, please contact
Colette Anzalone • 337-288-0283 • colette@louisiana.edu

Gardener-in-Chief of Versailles Alain Baraton to Visit Lafayette in November

Gardeners in the Lafayette area will soon have the opportunity to meet **one of the most famous gardeners in the world**. Thanks to Mayor Joey Durel, Lafayette City-Parish President, the Lafayette International Center, and the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association, Lafayette will serve as host to **Alain Baraton**—Gardener-in-Chief of the park at the Palace of Versailles. During the week of **November 15, 2015**, Monsieur Baraton will lend his expertise to those planning the gardens at Central Park, formerly the Horse Farm. He will give a talk at a luncheon to be held at the Petroleum Club on **Tuesday, November 17** from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. He has agreed to sign copies of his book, *The Gardener of Versailles: My Life in the World's Grandest Garden*. The public is invited to attend this luncheon and talk. Places are limited. Please purchase tickets and books at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/conference-with-alain-baraton-gardener-in-chief-of-the-park-at-the-palace-of-versailles-france-tickets-18214780900>

Monsieur Baraton has been **Gardener-in-Chief of the Palace of Versailles since 1982**. As host of a popular radio series in France, La Main Verte ("green thumb"), he has a large following in France. Plans during his visit to Lafayette include conferences with the architects of Central Park, meetings with government officials, and a tour of Lake Martin and Vermilionville, including the Healers' Garden of medicinal plants.

For additional information, please contact Christophe Pilut at clpilut@lafayettela.gov or (337) 291-5474

Late August Event: Healing Traditions Aug. 29

Healing Traditions of Acadiana, the Healer's Garden's quarterly speaker series announces its next lecture event entitled **"Home Remedies and Herbs used by African-Americans."** Presenting speaker will be **Eddie L. Boyd, M.S., Pharm. D.**, Emeritus Associate Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy. Dr. Boyd is the author of the book *African-American Home Remedies: A Practical Guide with Usage and Application Data*. The UL Press, says of the book, "For a significant portion of the African-American population, the use of home remedies and herbs was an important component of health care when they had no health insurance and/or no funds and were unable to regularly visit conventional health care practitioners. African-American Home Remedies utilizes information obtained from two studies conducted in affiliation with the University of Michigan to demonstrate the use of over one hundred home remedies and herbs and their relation to socio-demographic characteristics in the African-American community. Information includes what the respondents used the remedies to treat, what the remedies have been used to treat in the past, clinical or scientific support for use of the remedies, and precautions and toxicities, if any, associated with use of the remedies."

The talk will take place in the Performance Center at **Vermilionville on Saturday, August 29, 2015, at 11 AM**. Admission is free, but a five dollar donation is suggested.

LPMGA 2015 FALL FIELD TRIP

The Field Trip for Members and the 2015 class will take place October 8, 2105. **Bellingrath Gardens & Home** has been selected as our destination. Bellingrath is in Theodore, Alabama (3.5 hour trip), located on the Isle aux Oies River, with a conservatory, nature walk, water features, and several themed gardens. www.bellingrath.org/

The cost per person for this trip is \$70.00, which includes:

Bus \$2063.19 / with 50 per person costs is \$41.76

Tour and Lunch at Bellingrath : Total is \$1,325.00/ per person is \$25.50

Snacks and water on bus Total \$112.00/ / \$2.24 per person



Itinerary:

Depart: 7:00 AM Ira Nelson Horticulture Center

Arrive 11:00 AM Bellingrath

11:15 Lunch in Bellingrath Cafe

12:15 begin tour of Home and Gardens

3:15 visit Shore Acres Nursery (next door)

4:00 pm Depart for Home

8:00 PM Arrive at Ira Nelson Horticulture Center

To reserve a seat on the bus, send your check made payable to Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association for \$70.00 by **September 25, 2015** with completed sign-up sheet (below) to:

Linda V. Broussard, 803 Canberra Road, Lafayette, La 70503

Send questions to lindav@lusfiber.net or call 337-9847570

Trip Registration Form

BELLINGRATH HOME GARDENS, Theodore, Alabama, October 8, 2015

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION :(DESIGNATE A PERSON THAT WILL NOT BE TRAVELING WITH YOU)

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

FOOD ALLERGY/DIET RESTRICTION: _____ PLEASE NOTE I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HONOR YOUR RESTRICTION, BUT I CAN NOT GUARANTEE YOUR REQUEST WILL BE AVAILABLE.

TRIP FEE: \$70.00 _____

MEDICAL CONDITION: DO YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL OR MEDICAL CONDITION THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF OR

REQUEST HANDICAP ACCOMMODATIONS? NO ___ YES ___ PLEASE SPECIFY: _____

PLEASE NOTE: DRESS SHOULD BE CASUAL WITH COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES.

What Plant Am I?

I'm a prostrate, perennial, herbaceous plant, native to tropical & warm temperate regions around the world. My family includes the morning glory. My flowers, which bloom from May to June, are white, greenish, or yellowish, 2 to 3 mm in diameter.

As a ground cover, I grow 2 to 4 inches tall, but in a hanging basket, I can cascade downward for 3 to 6 feet. Propagate me from seeds or runners, in sun or partial shade. My soil should be dry to medium moist. I tolerate drought and have no serious insect or disease problems.

Do you know what plant I am?

See page 10 for the answer.

SCHOOL GARDEN INITIATIVE UNDERWAY

Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners are gearing up and going back to school as we begin another year with the School Garden Initiative program. With grants provided by United Way and Blue Cross Blue Shield, **eight Lafayette Parish Schools** will have an opportunity to grow gardens and participate in several events throughout the year. The schools that are participating this year are: Alice Boucher Elem., Charles Burke Elem., G.T. Lindon Elem., L.Leo Judice Elem., Sts. Peter and Paul Elem., Judice Middle School, Northside High School and St Thomas More High School Options Program. School gardens provide an excellent learning opportunity for students at any age and level. As students learn about gardening, the teachers can apply the information to other subject matter, such as math, science and social studies.

In addition to planting vegetable seeds, this program plants "seeds" of service-learning in the minds of the students. Service learning enables youth to utilize newly acquired skills and knowledge and typically enhances what is taught in the classroom or in a community setting.

The first parish wide event will be a **Training Day** for students, teachers and Master Gardeners. This year's training will be held on **Wednesday, September 16th** at Charles Burke Elementary on Ridge Road in Duson. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The program will begin at 9:00 AM. Participants will learn gardening techniques and terms through "hands-on" activities and a visit to the school garden.

All Master Gardeners and the 2015 Master Gardener class are invited to attend. **However, if you have not signed up, pre-registration is required.** Please email Mary Kramer (mary.kramer@lusfiber.net) if you have questions or would like to attend. The program will conclude at 2 PM.

Call for Photos!



Can you picture your pictures on our website? If you ever wanted to show off your flowers or garden pictures, now is the time! We are looking for great looking pictures to add to our website. Best size 2 to 3 mb, 300dpi, per picture. Would love to get some great fall color photos to be ready for fall.

Please send to img@kreativetouch.com. If you have any questions, email or give me a call.

ELECTION FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

We will be electing an active member to serve on the Nominating Committee at the September meeting. The Nominating Committee will meet in September to prepare a slate of officers. If you would like to serve as an officer for our organization, please contact Babette Werner, Past President at 258-6411 or babsvwerner@aol.com. Candidates should have served as a chair or a committee member on LPMGA committees and/or have previous board experience in other organizations.

Page 3 of handbook

ARTICLE VI. NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS

Section A. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be a standing committee composed of five board and non-board members as follows: the Past President who serves as chair, the current Member-at-Large, the AgCenter agent, a board member appointed by the president, and a member in good standing elected by the general membership.

Section B. Nominations of the Officers

1. In September the Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees to be presented at the October General Meeting.
2. The committee must receive prior permission to be nominated from each proposed nominee.
3. Nominations for the At-Large-Member will take place at the October General Meeting.

Section C. Election of Officers

1. The election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting in November.
2. There shall be no term limits.

OUTSTANDING MASTER GARDENER AWARD

An Outstanding Master Gardener award will be presented at the December social to a Lafayette Parish Master Gardener for her/his contribution to the Master Gardener program. If you would like to nominate someone for this prestigious award, please fill out and submit the nomination form by **October 1st**. Fill out the form below or you can go to the LPMGA Volunteer Handbook section labeled FORMS, pages 58-59 for an Outstanding Master Gardener nomination form. Completed forms can be mailed to Babette Werner, 342 W. Martial Ave. Lafayette, LA 70508 or mailed to the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association Office, Attn: Outstanding Master Gardener Award Committee, 1010 Lafayette St. Suite 325, Lafayette, LA 70501.

**Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
Outstanding Master Gardener Award
Nomination Form**



Lafayette
Parish
Master
Gardeners

Complete the form below and attach additional sheets as necessary. Completed applications must be received by **October 1st**.

This annual award recognizes a Master Gardener who has provided outstanding and exemplary service that has benefited the LPMGA and the LSU Ag Center Master Gardener Program. The nominee's contributions should be above and beyond those associated with various leadership positions. Criteria used to select the Outstanding Master Gardener of the year will include the following:

- Be an active member of LPMGA (as outlined in the Volunteer handbook)
- Possess positive attributes such as dependability, enthusiasm, and cooperative spirit
- Demonstrate leadership skills that have strengthened the LPMG program
- Make unselfish contributions that have benefited the LPMG program

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Year Nominee became a Master Gardener: _____ Parish: _____

Has the Nominee been nominated previously? _____ If so, when? _____

1. Describe the nominee's involvement within LPMGA. Include a list of leadership positions.

2. List positions held in the LPMGA.

[illegible][illegible]

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: Award selection committee members are not eligible to receive award. If a committee member is nominated, s/he must recuse him/herself from serving on the committee.

It's not too early to get those cuttings ready for the Fall Plant Swap. Head to the LPMGA Demo Beds at Ira Nelson Horticulture Center on Saturday, October 10th at 9am to trade plants and talk gardening. Sign in will begin at 9, the Swap will start at 9:30. Sign up one plant for the Formal Swap and bring as many as you'd like to trade before and after. Remember, the more interesting the plant, the more interesting the Swap. Plants that don't find a home will be donated to Habitat For Humanity. If you have any foundation plants or shrubs that need a new home, bring them to be added to the H4H bin.

Swappers have been looking for: Red Crocosmia, Yesterday Today and Tomorrow, Louisiana irises, heirloom roses, and many other plants. Contact Louann Long (mglouann@gmail.com) for more information, to volunteer or to find out other plants people are looking for. (Attending the Swap counts as one hour of CE for Master Gardeners.)

BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



It's HOT! At least it is now, while I'm writing this. I sincerely hope that by the time you're reading it the heat wave will have broken, it will be considerably cooler and we will have had some nice, long, slow rains to cool us off and give the poor plants the water they so desperately need. But I still have to write this now, so here goes.

While it's hot you know it's important to **keep your plants watered, but how often and how much?** How do we accomplish this in view of the water restrictions so many of us are facing now?

First, remember that one **deep watering is much more effective** than multiple, short, shallow waterings. When we water a little bit, as with a hose in the hand, or a sprinkler set for 10 or 15 minutes, it gets the top layer of soil moist. That encourages new roots to develop in that shallow area. That shallow area dries out fastest and those new roots then die. Poor plants. ☹️

What to do instead? Water long, slow and DEEP. This encourages new roots to develop deep in the soil so when the shallow surface layer dries out, the plant is in good shape, with its roots deep in moist soil. Applying about an inch, or in this heat maybe an inch and a half or even two inches, once a week will keep your garden healthy. **Water VERY early in the morning**, before 6 if you have an automatic system, or as early as you can get out there if you have to do it manually. Watering at ground level prevents a lot of water loss to evaporation, and puts the water at root level where the plants can use it. It also avoids wetting the foliage which can lead to disease under the right conditions, so if you have soaker hoses, use them. If not, you can do what I do and lay a hose on the ground with the water turned on low to medium – not a strong force, you don't want to create a gully – then just let it run for about 30 minutes. I set a timer and keep going out to move the hose. Over the course of the day I can quite thoroughly get a great deal of the garden watered.

There is just one caveat though, everything I said above applies to plants in the ground. **Plants in pots are totally different.** Plants in pots have nowhere for roots to go looking for water. In pots there is no 'deep'. Pots have to be watered when they get dry - period. Test by sticking your finger into the soil; if it feels dry, water. In hot weather pots may need to be watered daily, sometimes twice if it's hot and windy. The only way to tell is to test. After a while you will become good at determining how often to water. Another way is to feel the weight of the pot after it has been thoroughly watered. It feels heavy. Then, as the water evaporates, the pot gets lighter and lighter. With a little practice it becomes easy to lift the pot and determine that it needs water. It keeps your finger clean, too.

Since I wrote the above I looked at the forecast and saw that we are supposed to have a 60% chance of rain today and over each of the next five days. Maybe, maybe not. 60% chance it will rain where you are, 40% it will not. I hope we all get some good rain, but the information about watering is good to know anyway. When I got home from the Board meeting it had rained a little here.

HOORAH!!!

Can you plant now? Yes, but... It will take extra work to plant when it is this hot and dry. Especially with delicate seed, like carrots, it will require extra vigilance on your part to make certain that the seeds and seedlings are never allowed to dry out. Until the middle of September you can continue to plant bush snap beans, English peas, Irish potatoes and pumpkin. Any time during September you can plant beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, carrots, cauliflower (transplants), Kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, radish, shallots and turnips. September is your last chance to plant collards until next March. Starting in mid-September you can plant onions and leeks.

Onions are interesting plants. First, they are biennials, so it takes two seasons to go from seed to seed and those seasons are divided by winter cold. Onions are also photothermoperiodic – isn't that a great word? It means that onions are affected by both day length and temperature. Starting from seed, the onion germinates at soil temperatures of 55° to 75°. The plant grows, then when the daylight hours reach a given length (which is variety specific) the plant stops growing leaves and starts forming a bulb (this is the 'photo...periodic' part of the word). Then when the plant is exposed to temperatures of 40° to 50° (again, variety specific) it stops making bulb and begins forming the flower (called 'bolting'). This is the '...thermoperiodic' part of the word.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE:

Between the Rows continued from previous page:

So varieties perform differently depending on day length. There are **actually three groups of onions**, short day, long day and day neutral. Short day onions will begin to form bulbs when the day length reaches 10 – 13 hours. These are good for us. In the north, the days get long early in the spring when it's still cold causing the plant to form tiny bulbs. Growers in the north need to plant long day onions, ones that don't start making bulbs until the days reach more than 14 hours. It's warmer then and they can get a good crop. Here, our days never reach 14 hours, so planting long day onions will result in a really disappointing crop. No bulbs at all. Unfortunately, most onions are long day type, so you have to make certain that you're getting short day or at least day neutral varieties.

The Ag Center recommends the following reds: Red Creole, an open-pollinated heirloom that can be used to save seed, and Southern Belle, a short-day hybrid. **Never save seed from hybrids.** They do not breed true. For whites: Candy and Savannah Sweet, and for yellows: Granex 33, Grano 520 and Texas Grano 1015Y.

You might also find local offerings labeled 'Texas Sweets'. These are Granex under another name. Onions have small root systems so it's very important to make sure they get regular nitrogen before bulbing starts. This means **supplying them with nitrogen regularly**. If you're using chemical fertilizers, the Ag Center recommends fertilizing onions and shallots with 4-5 pounds of 8-8-8 or 3-4 pounds of 8-24-24 per 100 foot row four to six weeks after transplanting.

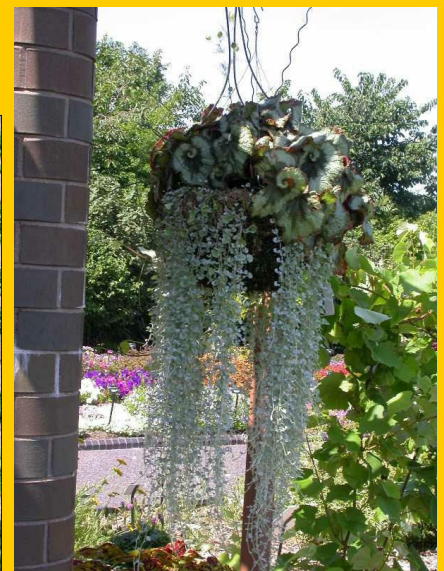
Other varieties recommended are beets: Detroit Dark Red, Kestral, Red Ace and Ruby Queen. A beet that I like a great deal is Cylindra, a Danish heirloom. Each root is normal beet width, but instead of being round they are long like a carrot, giving a lot of uniform slices from each root. Various seed companies describe it as 5 to 8 inches long. Of course that depends on when you harvest it. I've grown it every year since I discovered it, both here and in Arizona, and I've gotten excellent yields in both locations. It tastes great, too; in fact its other name is Butter Slicer, it's that smooth. The greens are not just edible, but delicious both raw and cooked.

For **carrots** the Ag Center recommends Danvers 126, Purple Haze (this one has purple skin and orange flesh), Deep Sails, and for deep soil, Apache, Enterprise, Maverick and Navajo. I also like one called Purple Dragon; this one has purple flesh with an orange core and there is another that I just discovered called Dragon – it's solid purple. I haven't tried it yet, but I will be doing so soon. I'll let you know how it handles in the garden as soon as I know myself. Burpee offers a mix called Kaleidoscope. It contains white, yellow, orange, red and purple varieties. I actually bought that mix a couple of weeks ago at a local produce store. It looks beautiful in the bowl and on the plate and tastes just as good as it looks, so I have high hopes for the seed.

Until next time, Good gardening

WHAT PLANT AM I? ANSWER:

Dichondra Argentina,
also called pony foot.



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LPMGA Calendar SEPTEMBER 2015

August 29th: Healing Traditions, 11 am. Home Remedies and Herbs Vermilionville
September 2nd: General Meeting, noon, Lafayette Public Library Downtown
September 2nd: Deadline to order Plantfest tshirts
September 3rd: AOC In the Garden, noon. "Topic: Plantfest 2015"
September 16th: Training Day for School Garden Initiative, 8:30 am—2 pm
September 19th: Third Saturday Garden Talk, 10 AM, "Native Plants" Ira Nelson
September 21st: LPMGA Board Meeting, Ira Nelson, 1 pm
September 25th: Deadline to sign up for Oct. 8 LPMGA Fall Field Trip

Upcoming:

October 1st: Deadline for Outstanding Master Gardener Award Nominations
October 3rd: Plantfest! @ "Cabbage Patch" 350 Coliseum Road, Lafayette: 8-3 PM
Volunteers will be needed to set up Oct 2 and close out after 3. Contact Sharon at bakaysharon@hotmail.com
October 8th: LPMGA Fall Field Trip to Bellingrath Gardens, 7am—8 pm
October 10th: Second Saturday Class, Tina Jumonville, 10 am Youngsville
October 10th: Plant Swap, sign in 9am, Ira Nelson Demo Beds
October 14th: General Meeting, Felder Rushing
October 17th: Third Saturday Garden Talk, Brock Barker "Permaculture" 10 am
October 23-34: Southern Garden Symposium, St. Francisville



Gardener's Gazette is issued to all members of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners' Program. All members are encouraged to submit news, educational features, and photographs. The deadline for all submissions is the 17th of each month for publication in the next month's issue unless otherwise noted.

Please send newsletter items to:

Theresa Rohloff thescottherald@aol.com Please include:

"MG NEWSLETTER" in your subject bar.

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337-291-7090

Please note: All meeting and event dates, times, and locations are subject to change.