



## this quarter...

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Pxfuel

# President's Message



**Happy Fall!** As we are all looking forward to cooler weather and getting back into the garden, I'm reminded of how fortunate we are in this part of the country to have another "warm-season" growing period between summer and late fall. Planting a second go round of warm-season vegetables in mid to late summer means we'll continue to enjoy tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumber, squash, and snap beans into October. I'm looking forward to starting cool-season veggies as well!

Fall will be a busy time for our organization. The NWLA MG Fall Bulb Sale, will be taking place on Saturday, October 30th, at the Randle T. Moore Center. This will be our last fundraiser for the year and I hope everyone will come out and support this wonderful event! Ron, Barb and the Bulb Committee have put together an awesome selection of bulbs and seeds, many of which are first-time offerings at this event. Enjoy this sneak preview provided by Ron and Barb!

See all of you at our next meeting!

Sadie Bolyer, NWLA MG President

## Bulb Sale Preview

**Alliums** - Drumsticks • **\*Graceful Beauty** • Schubertii

An early summer bloomer with oval shaped burgundy colored blooms on wiry stems. It's eye-catching shape gives a new dimension to the border garden. Beneficial for pollinators!



dutchgrown.com

**Allium Sphaerocephalon**  
(Drumsticks)

\*Indicates new to the sale!



**Amaryllis** - \***Miracle** · Dancing Queen · Picotee · \***Amalfi**

Developed especially for pot culture, **Miracle®** has stout stems and the leaves often grow simultaneously with the flowers. Beautiful...just in time for the holidays!



**Amaryllis Miracle®**



**Asiatic Lily 'Tiger Baby'**

**Asiatic Lilies-** \***Pearl Melanie** · \***Tiger Baby** · \***Red County**

Hardy lily with a lovely freckled apricot-colored face that fades to a beautiful peachy-pink at the edges and back. Slightly curved petals, and a wonderful, light fragrance. Great in the garden or for cut flowers, and usually produces 5-7 flowers per stem in a season. Exceptional! A Southern Favorite!

**Daffodil/Narcissus** – Flower Record ·

Thalia Triandrus · Cassatta · Pink Charm · Ice King · \***Kedron** · Tahiti · Ice Follies · Avalanche

Slender stems carry multiple blooms. Rare reddish-orange bicolor and prized for its unique bronzy petals and delicately sweet scent. Ideal for cut-flower bouquets and border plantings. Easy to grow and disease resistant, this petite beauty is sure to delight. A true Southern Performer!



**Kedron Jonquilla Daffodil**

\*Indicates new to the sale!

**Dutch Iris** – Red Ember · Alaska · Mystic Beauty · **\*Blue Magic**

The name indicates "blue" but the color is an impressive regal combination of violet purple and golden yellow. A simply stunning flower for cutting or for enjoying in the late spring garden. Flower year after year with little care. Beautiful in arrangements!



**Dutch Iris 'Blue Magic'**



**Byzantine Gladiolas**

**Gladiolas** - Byzantine · Parrot  
*(both are heirloom varieties)*

Graceful and hardy!

The tiny, cerise to magenta blooms on this perennial look more like orchids than glads. A sturdy plant, its stems do not need staking. Unlike most gladioli, you plant this gem in the fall. It increases annually with ever-larger, more beautiful clumps. Lovely in pots. Also known as Whistling Jack in some parts of the world.

**Hyacinth** – Blue Jacket · **\*Jan Bos** ·  
**\*Yellowstone** · **\*White Pearl**

One of the great blues of the flower world. These award-winning hyacinths display big columns of royal blue florets with crisp white edges. They go with every other color in the garden. Plant them near the front of your flowerbeds where you can enjoy their wonderful fragrance.



**Hyacinth Blue Jacket**

**\*Indicates new to the sale!**

**Orienpet Lily – Pretty Woman**  
(Hybrid Lily: Oriental/Trumpet Lily cross)

Dazzling! Exotic! This lily is a winner with its strong, sweet fragrance and showy white flowers the size of *dinner plates!* What's more, within a few years, Lily 'Pretty Woman' will quickly establish in pots and borders to tower over other plants in your display. Pretty Woman Lily can grow up to 6' under ideal conditions, but will usually grow at least to 4' tall.



Orienpet Lily 'Pretty Woman'



Oxblood Lily

**Oxblood Lily (*Schoolhouse Lily*)**

Once classified in the amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) family, oxblood lilies bear a notable resemblance, with both having long, narrow leaves and slender flower stems topped by trumpet-shaped blooms. Autumn rains prompt these plants to bloom, much like Rain Lilies and *Lycoris*. They can be planted or transplanted any-time from early fall to late spring, usually without affecting the following autumn's bloom. Show Stoppers!

**Peony - Bowl of Beauty • \*Coral Sunset • Festiva Maxima**

Award-winning peony! Brilliant coral-red, lightly fragrant, semi-double, ruffled flowers arrive early in peony season on this highly prized perennial. Very thick and sturdy stems. An excellent cut flower. Lovely massed in borders. An herbaceous perennial.



Peony 'Coral Sunset'

\*Indicates new to the sale!

## Sparaxis (Wandflower or Harlequin Flower)

Early to midsummer bloomers, these cheerful flowers are perfect for garden borders, containers, mixed perennial and annual flowerbeds. Also known as wandflowers or harlequin flowers these cor-mous perennials bloom to create a carpet of brightly colored, daisy-like blooms with distinct centers.



Sparaxis tricolor



Spider Lily (Red) *Lycoris*

## Spider Lily (Red) - Heirloom Variety

This variety of spider lily blooms in bold red, with long, curling filaments. Also called magic lily and resurrection lily. Their bloom stalks pop up, seemingly out of nowhere, in mid to late summer, which is how they get their common names. Spider lilies make excellent, dramatic cut flowers and are extremely long lasting in vases.

## Tulip – Lady Jane • Tubergen's Gem

Tubergen's Gem Tulip is a hardy species tulip with dark yellow and red petals, sometimes called a Candlestick Tulip. Typically blooming in mid to late March. Tubergen's Gem Tulip is a perennial tulip and naturalizes (multiplies and spreads) over the seasons. Award-Winning variety!



Tulip 'Tubergen's Gem'

\*Indicates new to the sale!

# Seeds



*Nigella damascene*

Love-in-a-Mist  
Sweet Pea  
Cornflower  
Bachelor Button  
Rocket Larkspur  
Corn Poppy  
TX/OK Wildflower Mix



*Lathyrus odoratus*

Sweet Pea

Any questions can be sent  
to:

Ron Calk  
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Barb Thompson  
[barb933@hotmail.com](mailto:barb933@hotmail.com)



*Papaver rhoeas*

## Adding Fall Texture and Seasonal Color -



Add some color and texture to your garden this fall with LSU AgCenter 2021 Fall Super Plants. This year the LSU AgCenter added two new great plants to their ever growing Super Plants family. Muhly Grass, or *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, can be a wonderful addition to any landscape. They provide

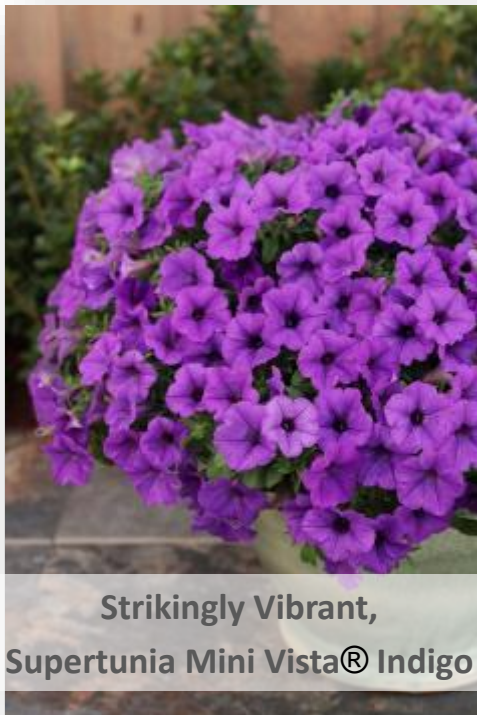
a contrasting texture when placed near the larger or coarser leaves found on the more common landscape plants. Leaf movement in the breeze, creating motion in the landscape. The diversity in color, size, and shape provides many exciting selections. One of the best attributes regarding the use of ornamental grasses in the home



Stunning in the fall, Pink muhly grass

LSU AgCenter file photo by Allen Owings

landscape is their care and maintenance requirements. Not many things will attack an ornamental grasses, resulting in a rather pest free plants. In addition with their extensive fibrous root systems they are able to survive most environmental stresses. Muhly grasses grow on average 2-5 feet in height with a spread of 2-5 feet. They will bloom in the later parts of the summer and will continue to remain colorful through-out the fall. Even though they may lose color in the winter, they still provide a wonderful textural addition to your late winter landscape.



Strikingly Vibrant,  
Supertunia Mini Vista® Indigo

plantaddict.com

During the 2019-2020 cool season annual bed trials at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station several Supertunia cultivars, coming in a variety of colors were planted. One selection was the Supertunia Mini Vista® 'Indigo'. This plant was later named as the LSU AgCenter 2021 Fall Super Plant. The Mini Vista® Indigo requires part sun to full sun, and will grow in height from 6-12 inches with a spread of 18-24 inches. It will continue to bloom or rebloom from the time

of planting until the first hard frost. It is quite heat tolerant for a fall annual and can be planted slightly earlier than classic petunias.

Mark A. Wilson

Northwest Regional Horticulture Agent



## September

The month of September brings us the “Full Corn Moon” or “Harvest Moon.” This full Moon name is attributed to Native Americans because it marked when corn was supposed to be harvested. Most often, the September full Moon is actually the Harvest Moon, which is the full Moon that occurs closest to the fall equinox.

In two years out of three, the Harvest Moon comes in September, but in some years it occurs in October. At the peak of harvest, farmers can work late into the night by the light of this Moon. [farmersalmanac.com](http://farmersalmanac.com)



Purple Coneflower stricken with a viral-like disease called **aster yellows**. This is caused by a phytoplasma and is spread by insects that suck the sap of plants, such as the aster leafhopper. Removing infected plants from the garden is the best way to minimize spread. [joegardener.com](http://joegardener.com)

## veggies to plant

Beets, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, English and snow peas, Irish potato, kale, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mustard, onion, radish, rutabagas, shallots, snap beans, Swiss chard, turnips.

### Good to Know:

Members of the aster family (*Asteraceae*) are most commonly affected by aster yellows. These include asters, calendula, chrysanthemum, coreopsis, cosmos, daisy, gaillardia, marigold, purple coneflower, and zinnia. But other annuals and perennials from more than 40 other plant families can get the disease as well.

## -perennials-

Access perennial beds and physically take notes on what bloomed sooner or later than you expected and what looked good and what didn't work. Now you can fill in the gaps with new plants or perennial divisions this fall. **Check for this...**

The crown is what distinguishes a perennial plant, and its care is paramount to the plant's survival from year to year. Crowns can sink, get covered with mulch or plant debris. Inspect them for sinking or stranding above the mulch and groom each plant accordingly.

## In the Garden



# October

**Garlic** planting is best performed during the month of October in most parts of the country. There are two types of garlic: hardneck & softneck. With mild winters in the south, we plant “softneck” varieties. This type of garlic differs in characteristics pertaining to flowering (lack of), clove formation pattern, taste, storage suitability and cold hardiness.

The three main types of softneck grown in our area are **Elephant** (large bulbed, dark cloves, mild taste), **Creole** (intermediate size, dark purple cloves, moderate pungency, not the best to store) and **Italian** (small, pinkish skin, strong flavor, stores well).

Another variety that does well in our area is California Early. *Plant some garlic this fall!*

*Excerpt from: Growing Garlic, P. M. Arledge, K. W. Sharpe, LSU Ag Center*

October's full Moon is often referred to as the Full Hunter's Moon, Blood Moon, or Sanguine Moon. Many moons ago, Native Americans named this bright Moon for obvious reasons. The leaves are falling from trees, the deer are fattened, and it's time to begin storing up meat for the long winter ahead. [farmersalmanac.com](http://farmersalmanac.com)

## Tips for a Great Pansy Season!



bhg.com

- Plant early so well rooted before temps go below 50° Fahrenheit.
- Add humus or compost and all purpose fertilizer when planting.
- When planting, gently break apart bottom half of roots and spread out...otherwise they remain bunched up which can lead to plants popping up out of the ground (known as heaving) when a hard freeze comes along. Cold damage may occur as result.
- Trim back plants as you set them out. Snipping off flowers and long, leggy stems.
- Follow up planting with a layer of mulch.
- Fertilize again in early spring to give your pansies plenty of energy for producing lots of blooms.

*The Southern Garden Advisor, by Barbara Pleasant*

## veggies to plant

Beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, collards, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, leeks, mustard, onions, radishes, shallots, Swiss chard



This is the beginning of the prime planting season for hardy trees and shrubs. Consider planting “Virginia sweetspire” *Itea virginica*, a popular native Louisiana shrub. Henry’s Garnet is a variety found at local nurseries and was an LSU Ag Center Super Plant for spring 2017! This beauty is a pollinator plant that is showy in the spring with large white plumed flowers and again in the fall with brilliant red leaves. Perfect for home landscapes.



lsugcenter.com

Scan with phone camera  
for info on  
Virginia Sweetspire!



November’s full moon was the time for Native Americans to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. Another interpretation suggests that the name Full Beaver Moon comes from the fact that the beavers are now actively preparing for winter. It is sometimes also referred to as the Frosty Moon.

farmersalmanac.com

## veggies to plant

beets, cabbage, carrots, celery, collards, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, mustard, onions, radishes, rutabaga, shallots, spinach, Swiss chard, turnips

OUR AVERAGE FIRST FALL FROST: NOV14th

# Making the Cut - *Propagation Tips*

In the greenhouse we use several methods of propagation depending upon the plant. The method I'm writing about today is the one we use most frequently: taking cuttings. On the face of it, propagating by cuttings seems simple. You simply cut off a piece of plant, stick it in some soil or water and wait for it to grow. However, there's actually quite a bit more to it than that.

## *Timing:*

It starts with knowing the right time to take a cutting. All plants have a time when they root the best. Generally, that time is mid-June when the spring growth surge is over, and the plants are in a state of pause. But like everything else in nature there are always exceptions. Some plants prefer the fall and others can be propagated almost any time.

How do you tell when the plant is ready? There's a simple trick which we all learned in class, bend the plant's stem. If it snaps readily, it's ready for cutting. If it simply bends it's likely to rot without ever rooting.

## *Cutting:*

Next, comes the cutting itself. Select a piece of stem that is approximately the length of a pencil, no more than six inches and no less than four. I also like thicker stem pieces, rather than thinner, about half the diameter of a pencil. The reason is, thicker stems have more stored starch, which is the

plant's fat and which it will use for energy until the leaves start making photosynthesis. Skinny twigs almost never make it.

The best cuttings are going to be either *tip cuttings* or *slant cuttings*, where you make a slanted cut through the node where a new shoot has started. For tip cuttings, make your cut directly below a node, the bulging area where the leaves and buds sprout. When doing this, make sure you leave as little plant material below the node as possible. Any part of the plant not cut off is going to rot, which can lead to your entire plant rotting. At this time, you will also need to trim off all leaves save for the top two as well as any flowers or seeds. You also need to cut off any plant material above the leaves, as this also will rot. You want the plant to focus entirely on making roots. The leaves shouldn't be overly large either. If you're trying to propagate something that has Magnolia-sized leaves, you're going to have to cut the leaf in half or even into thirds. Otherwise, it'll lose too much water.

## *Rooting:*

Next step is to apply rooting hormone. This isn't always necessary, especially with perennials which often will root quickly without rooting hormone. But it does give plants that extra boost, especially if they're past the best rooting time. It's important to apply it just right, however.



# Making the Cut - *Propagation Tips*

A light dusting stimulates root growth, but more is not better. Too much rooting hormone will shut down the rooting process. The best way to apply rooting hormone is to dip the base of the stem into the rooting formula then tap the stem on the side of the jar so that only a small amount of rooting formula remains.

The cutting is now ready for soil, but outdoor soil or even potting mix is too thick for the cutting nascent roots to penetrate. *Seed starting mixture should be used.* It's the only thing that's light enough for the cutting's weak roots to penetrate. It's also specially formulated to create pockets of oxygen which allows the roots to breathe, and contains material such as sphagnum moss to hold in water. Next, before you put your cutting in, moisten the soil. What moisten means is if after you've added water you should be able to squeeze it and only get a tiny bit of moisture dripping out. This is important because it's very easy to drown those rudimentary roots.



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*“Too much rooting hormone will shut down the rooting process.”*

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Penta Cutting

Always remember that more plants are killed from overwatering than under-watering.

## Potting:

It's now time for the final two things. First, place the moist seed starter into a 4-inch pot, no larger or it'll hold too much water. Then you'll use a pencil to make a small hole in the seed starting mixture. It should be big enough so that the cutting can go into the hole without rubbing off any of the seed starting powder but narrow enough to hold the cutting firm. The final part of the process is a trick I learned from Margie Caplis for propagating roses but which I've found to be so effective I use it for propagating everything. Place your 4" pot into a zip lock bag and zip it  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of the way. You don't want it completely closed because there'll be too much humidity and your cutting will rot. It should take 3-4 weeks for your cutting to root.

And that's all there is to it. Hope I've helped someone.

Mike Livingston, NWLA MG

## Good To Know!

The major methods of asexual propagation are cuttings, layering, division, budding and grafting. Cuttings involve rooting a severed piece of the parent plant; layering involves rooting a part of the parent and then severing it; and budding and grafting is joining two plant parts from different varieties.

## Softwood Cuttings

Softwood Cuttings are taken in spring when the plant is growing due to prevailing growth hormones in the plant system. As the soft leaves are quite tender, care must be taken to keep them from drying out. Soft wood cuttings usually root quite quickly. Softwood stem cuttings have the highest rooting success of all the cuttings. Many difficult to propagate plants can be tried from softwood cuttings.

Examples of **plants that can be grown from softwood stem cuttings** include Asters, Azalea, Bedding geraniums, Bee balm, Bellflowers, Betula tree, Blanket flowers, Blueberries, Buddleja, Bugleweed, Butterfly bush, Catalpa (Indian Bean tree), Catmint, Cherries Ornamental Chrysanthemums, Clematis, Clematis, Coleus, Dahlias, Dogwood Fuchsia, Fuchsias, Hydrangea, Lavender, Lilac, Maples, Mulberry, Rose of Sharon, Spirea, Wisteria, and many more.

## Semi-hardwood Cuttings For Propagation

Semi-hardwood Cuttings are taken after flowering in mid-summer when the plant is starting to harden. The semi-hardwood is quite firm and the leaves of mature size. Semi-hardwood cuttings also root quickly.

Many broadleaf evergreen shrubs and some conifers are propagated by this method. Examples of **plants that can be propagated from semi-hardwood stem cuttings** include Althea, Angel Trumpet, Artemisia, Azalea, Boxwood, Berberis, Box, Brachyglottis, Buddleia (butterfly bush), Camellia, Caryopteris (blue mist spirea), Ceanothus, Cherry laurel, Choisya, Cistus, Coleus, Convolvulus cneorum, Erica, Escallonia, Fatsia, Fuchsia, Gardenia, Geraniums, Hebe, Holly, Holly, Ivy, Lamium, Lavender, Lonicera nitida, Lonicera pileata, Mahonia, Passion flower, Periwinkle, Portuguese laurel, Privet, Quince, Flowering, Rhododendron, Rubus calycinoides, Rubus tricolor, Solanum, Trachelospermum Viburnum, Weigela, etc. Herbs include: Bay, Hyssop, Lavender, Rosemary, Rue, Sage, Thyme

## Hardwood Cuttings Propagation

Hardwood Cuttings are generally taken from the current year growth at the end of autumn or in winter or early spring, when the plant is fully dormant with no active growth. The wood is firm and does not bend easily. It should be noted that the hardwood cuttings take longer to root.

Butterfly Bushes, Currants, Euonymus, Fig, Forsythia, Forsythias, Grape Honey locust, Privet, Russian olive, and St. John's Wort are examples of **plants that grow from hardwood stem cuttings**.

Excerpt from: [mykitchengarden.info](http://mykitchengarden.info)



# garden-to-kitchen



fall delights

john kernick



This extraordinarily rich and sweet pecan pie was the winner at the 1996 State Fair of Texas State pie competition. **Number one "out of 140 pies."**

Directions ahead



## Pecan Facts!

\*Pecans trees are native to the United States.

\*There are over 1,000 different varieties of pecan nuts.

## Texas State Fair Pecan Pie

### Ingredients~

#### Pie Shell

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 stick plus 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon ice water

#### Filling

- 1 1/2 cups pecan halves (5 1/2 ounces)
- 1 1/2 sticks cold unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups dark brown sugar
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 3 tablespoons whole milk
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 vanilla bean, split, seeds scraped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs
- Unsweetened whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, for serving

## Directions~

- Step 1 In a food processor, pulse the flour with the sugar and salt. Add the butter and pulse until it is the size of small peas. Add the ice water and pulse until the pastry is evenly moistened. Turn it out onto a work surface and knead 2 or 3 times, just until it comes together. Form the pastry into a disk, wrap in plastic and refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour.
- Step 2 Preheat the oven to 350°. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the pastry 1/8 inch thick; transfer into a deep 10-inch glass pie plate and trim the overhang to 1/2 inch. Fold the edge of the pastry under and crimp the edges. Prick the bottom with a fork in a few places. Freeze for 30 minutes.
- Step 3 Line the pie shell with parchment paper and fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake for about 25 minutes, or until lightly browned around the edge. Remove the paper and weights and bake the shell for 15 minutes longer, or until it is lightly golden. Leave the oven on.
- Step 4 In a pie plate, toast the pecans for 8 minutes, or until lightly browned. Let cool.
- Step 5 In a medium saucepan, melt the butter. Add the brown sugar, granulated sugar, corn syrup, milk, flour, vanilla seeds and salt. Cook over moderate heat just until the mixture comes to a boil. Remove from the heat and let stand for 5 minutes.
- Step 6 In a heatproof bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Gradually whisk in the hot sugar mixture until thoroughly blended. Spread the toasted pecans in the bottom of the pie shell and pour the filling on top. Bake for about 45 minutes, or until the center is just barely set and the crust is golden brown. Transfer the pie to a rack to cool completely. Serve with unsweetened whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.



BBC Good Food



BBC Good Food

**Reader  
Tip!**

### Make Ahead

The pie can be baked up to 1 day ahead. Store, covered, at room temperature. The pie shell can be wrapped well and frozen for up to 1 month.

*Recipe from Food & Wine: by Dean Fearing, contest judging panel*





On a springtime trip to Fredericksburg, in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, I discovered delightful Wildseed Farms. Located seven miles east of Fredericksburg on Hwy 290, Wildseed Farms is the largest working wildflower farm in the United States with 200 acres of seed production on site and an additional 800 acres in production across Texas. From March to October its wildflower fields are a veritable kaleidoscope of color. Each season provides its own breathtaking bloomers, from bluebonnets, poppies, and paintbrushes in the spring, to sunflowers, gloriosa daisies, and cosmos through the summer and fall.

Thirty five years ago, there were few sources of wildflower seeds in the United States, and those available were prohibitively expensive. Wildseed's founder and president, John R. Thomas, recognized the public's love of wildflowers and increasing demands for seed from landscape contractors and the highway department. He was motivated to turn his sideline turf seeding business into a full-time wildflower farm.

Over the years, the new company pioneered the practice of planting wildflowers in rows on large acreage and developed machinery to plant and harvest the tiny seeds.

From its humble beginnings, Wildseed Farms has grown considerably. Its retail operations provide an exhaustive array of wildflower, native grass, and culinary herb seed which can be purchased at its retail store or ordered online. There are a variety of seed mixes formulated for various parts of the country including a southeastern US mix for our area. In our Zone 8a, October 1 through December 1 is the ideal time to plant wildflowers to allow seedlings enough time to establish a healthy root system before going dormant in the winter. Wildseed Farms offers an excellent online resource, its annual "Wildflower Reference Guide and Seed Catalog" which provides detailed planting and cultivation instructions along with its seed offerings for gardeners ready to take the plunge into wildflower growing.



Wildseed Farms is open year round, seven days a week, and the admission is free. Photography is welcome but allowed only from the trails to protect the flower beds. After strolling the walking trails in the flower production area, visitors can browse in the gift shop and plant nursery or enjoy a local beer, snack, or peach ice cream in the biergarten. Wine lovers can also sample Wildseed's own varietals in the newly renovated tasting room. Experiencing the breathtaking beauty, shopping opportunities, and local libations of Wildseed Farms should rank at the top of any avid gardener's bucket list!

-Lesa McDonald, NWLA Master Gardener



## Visit Wildseed Farms

100 Legacy Dr.  
Fredericksburg, TX  
78624

### Contact Us

Seed/Catalog Department:  
800.848.0078

Open Monday-Friday, 8-5 CDT

Retail Store: 830.990.1393

**Open** every day - 9:30 am to  
6:00 pm

Walking Trail: closes at 5:30 pm

Tasting Room: 830.990.6684

Hours: Monday - Saturday  
10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm



**Wildseed  
Farms**®

For upcoming events and news from the farm...sign up for their newsletter!

Request a free seed Catalog by mail or download a digital version from the website!

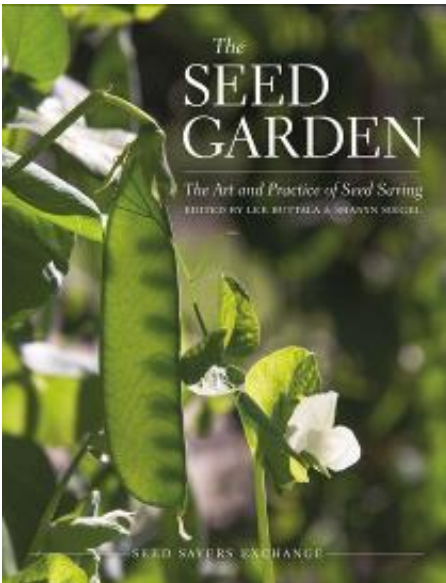
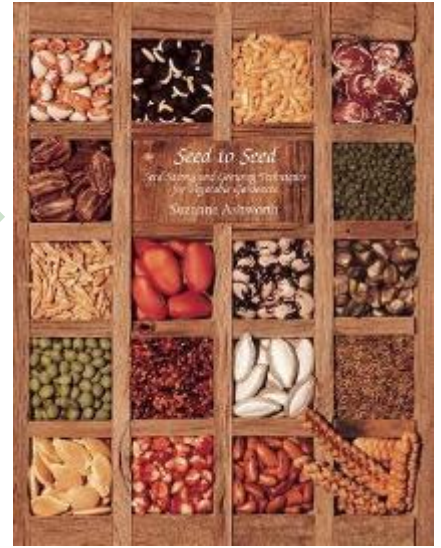
wildseedfarms.com



# great fall reads!

## Seed To Seed: Saving Our Vegetable Heritage

[Suzanne Ashworth] 2nd edition. A thorough and comprehensive book on seed saving for both new and experienced seed savers. Covers all major and minor vegetable crops, many herbs, and unusual or rare vegetable crops. Discusses pollination dynamics, methods of maintaining variety purity, seed cleaning methods, seed collection and storage. An essential reference for seed savers.



## Seed Garden, The, The Art and Practice of Seed Saving

Shanny Siegel and Lee Buttala (editors), Micaela Colley and Jared Zystro (authors)] Seed Savers Exchange partnered with the Organic Seed Alliance to publish this beautifully illustrated volume written both for home gardeners and farmers. They succeeded wonderfully. An excellent complement to Seed to Seed, focusing on more of the main vegetable and herb families, and including new seedsaving research. Guidelines that break down numbers and methods for the home garden, commercial seed crops, and variety preservation are especially valuable.

## Epic Tomatoes: How to Select and Grow the Best Varieties

Craig LeHoullier] Craig introduced Cherokee Purple to SESE and the world. He has grown thousands of tomato varieties, most of them in hot and humid North Carolina, and here he shares his hard-won wisdom on how to grow great tasting tomatoes. A beautiful book is filled with great pictures of amazing tomatoes.



# 318 Growers -

# WINE

Ed & Tracy Jordan

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*Kickapoo Twist  
Winery  
&  
Vineyard*

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The development of grapes that can withstand Deep South humidity and insects has brought more vineyards and wineries to North Louisiana and East Texas. One of the newest is Kickapoo Twist Vineyard & Winery in North DeSoto Parish.

The catchy name comes from “**Kickapoo**,” the name of the community where the winery is located, and “**Twist**,” from a devastating tornado that ripped through the property in 2015. Owner Ed Jordan is a longtime agriculture teacher and former dairy farmer. Wife Tracy is a dental hygienist. Both operate the vineyard and winery while maintaining full time jobs.

Kickapoo became a licensed winery in 2017, and the Jordans opened a tasting room right on their Kickapoo property in October 2019. Kickapoo’s main grape is the Crimson Cabernet, a relatively new hybrid developed by breeding the popular Cabernet Sauvignon with the Midwestern Norton grape. They bottle and sell about 15 different wines, many from grapes grown in their own vineyard. The “estate-grown” Crimson Cabernet and muscadine wines are favorites but Kickapoo’s selection includes plenty of other dry and sweet red and white wines as well as fruit wines such as Peach Twist and Watermelon Twist.

Free tastings are available 4:30 to 6:30 pm Monday through Friday and 2 to 6 pm Saturday at the winery located at 7672 Highway 5, just west of the intersection of Highways 5 and 171. Appointments are preferred during the week. More information is on the Kickapoo Twist Winery and Vineyards Facebook page.

The Seedling talked with the Jordans about their vineyard and winery recently.





*"...muscadines really do well with the humidity."*

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**Seedling:** What varieties of grapes do you grow?

**Ed:** Crimson Cabernet, Lenoir, Blanc du Bois, Favorite, Muench, White Muscadine, Red Muscadine, All of the ones we are listing are (bacterial infection) Pierce's disease resistant. And we have a Victoria Red. We have made some wine out of it, but it's more of an eating grape. The main cash cow is the Crimson Cabernet. And the muscadines really do well with the humidity.

**Seedling:** How Did You Get Into Winemaking?

**Tracy:** His dad used to make muscadine wine for family and friends. We've done all kinds of projects with the kids growing with 4-H and FFA. We've had cows, sheep, goats, pigs and then our last project, a few steers. Eddie said no more animals. His first winemaking experience was in 2015. He got blueberries from Hillcrest Farm. He did a batch in buckets. They were in the bathtub in the kids' room. Then the tornado hit the house. That was the first thing he wanted to get out of the house because he was making wine for our son's rehearsal dinner.

**Seedling:** How Did You Take it From Hobby to Business?

**Tracy:** He started doing a lot of research and said he wanted those Crimson Cabernet grapes. We had to purchase an acre's worth of grapes and sign a contract because they are trademarked and patented.

**Ed:** (Landry Vineyards in West Monroe) used them, and they were a stalwart for him. He knew the guy (breeder Lucian Dressel). The guy's a real good teacher. He wants to promote that particular grape but he also wants to help small people in the business. ■■■▶

**Seedling:** So how many acres in your vineyard?

**Tracy:** About two, two and a half acres. We have 900 to 1,000 plants. We have not quite an acre of the Crimson Cab. Last year we had about 2,000 pounds of it. This will be our third year with that grape so we are hoping when we get to five years, we will have about 6,000 to 6,500 pounds of (Crimson Cabernet) grapes.

**Seedling:** What type of soil do you have?

**Ed:** We have a shallow sandy loam and then a red clay underneath. The grapes like a ph of about 6. They will take a little less, but they don't really care for acid either. And you'll get a different taste. Muscadines will take a lower ph. We are going to be in the 5 and a half range here natural. But I put two tons of lime per acre so I'm sitting around 6 or 6.2.



**Seedling:** What are the water requirements?

**Ed:** You've got to have irrigation. You've got to water them when they're little. We have microdrippers for each individual plant. You don't necessarily have to water so much when they're big. I haven't turned on my drippers at all this year (as of late July). I use about 1,000 gallons a night at the most when I was watering heavy, but I haven't done that this year at all.

**Seedling:** What are the challenges of growing grapes in this climate?

**Ed:** The humidity, the fungus and blight. And the rot. This year was challenging with too much rain. I've lost quite a few plants this year. The leaves fell off. Then that late frost that we had in April affected the blooms on our Spanish reds (Lenoir).

**Seedling:** How Do You Know It's Time to Harvest?

**Ed:** We have to test the Brix, to see where the sugar content is on them. There's a sugar meter that you mash a few grapes and get a few drops on a meter and look through it to see how many Brix. Crimson Cabs need to be above 20. The whites are in the 18 range and that will yield about a 13 percent alcohol. And you add some sugar to it too to get your alcohol level decent. ■■■▶

**Seeding:** Do you do all of this by hand?

**Tracy:** Everything is picked by hand. The crushing is not done by hand (or with our feet!). We have a crusher, de-stemmer and we have a press. But the actual labor like bottling and corking, shrink wrap and labeling is done by hand.

**The Jordans hope to make Kickapoo Twist a full-time venture upon retirement.**

**Ed:** "I only have three or four acres so with grapes, muscadines, wine, in a retirement deal, you can make a reasonable income. ... It's an outreach for ag. It's an ag product I can do. It's kind of pretty. I've got a good location. I've got good friends. It's fun.

-Jane Allison, NWLA Master Gardener



*Vineyard Tours and Complementary Wine Tastings!*

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## Visit Kickapoo Twist Winery & Vineyard

(appts preferred during weekdays)

Monday - Friday 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Saturdays 2 pm - 6 pm

7672 Hwy 5, Gloster, LA 71030

318.560.3760

318.393.5004

For more info...visit us on



Kickapoo Twist Winery & Vineyard



SUPPORT



GROWERS

**Growing** vegetables from your own seeds is probably one of the most fulfilling achievements of vegetable gardening. Planting a garden, enjoying the harvest and then collecting the seeds to grow again for next season is the most complete and perfect form of gardening I can think of. In fact, I'd call it extreme gardening.

The easiest and quickest plants to start your hand at harvesting your own seeds are from annuals. By definition, annuals complete their life cycle in one year. That means the plant will flower, set seed and then die in one year's time.

Choose open-pollinated varieties over hybrids because they will be true to plant type. Some open-pollinated varieties are "heirloom," meaning they may be passed down through the generations (some are recent selections). Hybrids are a cross between two different varieties that combines the traits of the plant parents.

It is important to note that plants grown from hybrid seed are not identical to the hybrid parents. They will be a new combination of all the traits (good and bad) of the initial plant cross, therefore making fruit quality hard to predict. Some examples of hybrid tomatoes are Beefmaster, Big Boy and Early Girl.

Some examples of easy-to-save seeds are beans, lettuce, greens, herbs, okra, peas, peppers and heirloom tomatoes. They all produce seed in the same season they are planted. All are all self-pollinating, and with just a couple of fruits, you can reliably harvest seeds.

Some things to get straight before you begin: There are dry fruit and wet fruit. Dry fruit are the easiest to collect seeds from because you can essentially walk to your garden, harvest a few mature seedpods and bring them into the house to dry, clean and store. Viola. All done.

Fruits that are considered wet fruit crops, such as squash, cucumbers, tomatoes and eggplants, must be picked when their seeds are mature and must be processed according to the fruit type.

And then an added concern is that seeds are not always mature when the fruit is ready to eat. For example, eggplant, cucumber and summer squash are eaten when the fruits are immature and still edible before the seeds are actually mature. Don't worry. That just means that a couple of fruits need to be left to fully mature in the garden to save for seeds.

The best technique for achieving reliable seeds is to dry them appropriately. Do not dry seeds on paper towels, plates or anything they will stick to and become damaged. Surfaces such as mesh that allow air flow are the best. →





It is important to turn drying seeds a couple times a day and be sure to avoid direct sunlight. You can use a fan to increase air circulation.

Let's get started with some of the easiest seeds to save and a few techniques for each type.

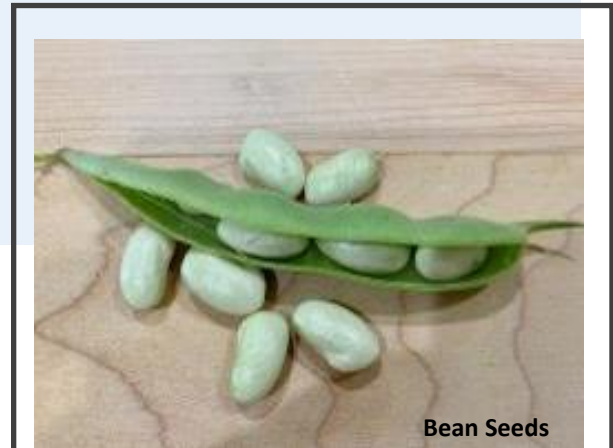
Peppers are a cinch. When the vegetable is ready to eat, the seeds are mature. Cut the central stem of the pepper with the seeds, brush the seeds onto a screen or metal mesh (plastic, ceramic or glass plates are okay) and let them dry out.

Squash, zucchini, pumpkins and all other plants in the gourd family *Cucurbitaceae* are done similarly to peppers. Open the vegetable and scrape out the seeds. Wash the seeds, and as the water goes over them, rub the seeds with your fingers to remove debris. Once again, put them on a plate to dry.

For melons of any type, remove seeds from the center of the fruit and rinse them in water. As you rinse them, rub the seeds to remove debris and get that slimy feeling off. Put the seeds into a container filled with water. Good melon seeds will sink, so remove everything that floats. Rinse the seeds again and then lay them out to dry. Cucumbers seeds can also be harvested this way, but wait until the cucumber is beyond ripe, changes color and becomes soft.

Peas, beans and okra all have pods and are easy to gather and save. For the purpose of seed saving, wait until the pods mature on the plant — usually after they turn brown. Remove pods from the plants, then remove the seeds from the pods. Put seeds in a container and stir them often to help them dry. Peas or beans take about six weeks to air dry.

Greens such as lettuce, collards, mustard greens, kale and herbs such as fennel, dill and basil are rather simple. Let the plants go to flower and let them set seed at the end of the harvest season. Seeds can dry in their pods on the plant, and then “bag the heads” by placing a paper bag over them and pulling off the seeds.



Photos: Heather Kirk-Ballard/LSU AgCenter  
& LSU AgCenter file photo



Tomato seeds are a wet fruit and are covered in gel-like substance that must be removed before they dry. It's a bit of a fermenting process. Remove seeds and place them in container such as a glass jar or plastic-ware with equal parts water to seed mass. Stir the seed mixture once a day for a few days. After a couple days, viable seeds will sink. After five days, throw away anything that floats. Separate and wash the seeds and dry them by placing them on a screen or wire mesh (plastic and glass are okay, too) in a single layer in a warm area. Keep them away from sunlight throughout the entire process and dry as quickly as possible.

Be sure to properly store your seeds in an airtight container or dry paper bag placed in a cool, dark and dry area. Seeds can be viable for many years, and many more if you freeze them. Don't forget to label your seeds. That would be a rookie move.

Saving your own seeds ensures you have a garden to grow every year. It's extreme gardening, and it saves money, too.

Article source: [lsuagcenter.com](http://lsuagcenter.com) (05/29/20)

Original content and photos by  
Heather Kirk-Ballard, LSU  
AgCenter Horticulturist



Tomato Fermentation Photos: Lorna Kring, [gardenerspath.com](http://gardenerspath.com)

## Seed Saving Resources-

**Seed Savers Exchange** - Great website! Tons of information! [seedsavers.org](http://seedsavers.org)

**Organic Seed Alliance** - Focuses on education, research and advocacy to advance organic seed. Great downloadable seed saving guide for gardeners.  
[seedalliance.org/publications/seed-saving-guide-gardeners-farmers/](http://seedalliance.org/publications/seed-saving-guide-gardeners-farmers/)

**The Community Seed Network** -This site has so much info! Connects and supports community seed initiatives. [communityseednetwork.org](http://communityseednetwork.org)

LSU Ag Center has no affiliation.

# Events & Things to Do!

## September

NWLA MG General Meeting Wed, Sept 8th, 11:30-1:00 (TBA)

\*Akins's Nursery & Landscaping, Garden Education Series (free event) – Sat, Sept 25th, 10:00 am.  
Fall is for Planting! (call to register) 318.868.2701 *Receive 10% off plants and gifts with your NWLA MG card.*

**Moss Mountain Farm Fall Lunch & Learn Tours, Sept through the end of the year...multiple dates.** Farm located in Roland, AR. *These events just keep getting better!* Lunch & Farm Tours now offer "Topic-Specific" themes on certain days. Topics include Planting Peonies, Beekeeping, Chicken Chat, Fall Planting, Fall Arrangements and an insider's look at how the Pumpkin House is constructed! For information on dates and to purchase tickets, visit [pallensmith.com](http://pallensmith.com)



**Autumn at the Dallas Arboretum-Bugtopia!** Sept 18th – Oct 31st.

The 16th annual Autumn at the Arboretum. Featuring 90,000 pumpkins, gourds and squash, grown in the pumpkin capital of Texas, Floydada! This year, the space is transformed into **Bugtopia!** Our signature display will come alive with larger-than-life insect topiaries, fascinatingly bugged-out pumpkin houses, and, of course, a maze for younger visitors. The Arboretum will also feature a NEW pumpkin village. If you haven't had a chance to visit during this festival...don't miss it this year! It's truly impressive. Visit website for mask policy and timed-ticket reservations. "One of America's Best Pumpkin Festivals" – *Fodor's Travel*



DALLAS ARBORETUM  
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

[dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org)

**Heritage & Harvest Tour,** Sat, Sept 25th, 10am-4pm.

This is an "Old Fashioned" Porch Tour. Visitors are invited to enjoy viewing and stopping by the porches of nine beautiful homes in the country (*The homes are not open for inside touring*) Maps and Tour information will be available at Hoogland Home (4610 Highway 3049 North), Belcher Presbyterian Church, Main Street Restaurant in Gilliam, and at all homes on tour. *The Self-driving Tour is Free. The tour has been adapted this year due to Covid-19 guidelines.* Heritage Harvest Tour of north Caddo Parish, for info visit:



[redrivercrossroadshistorical.org](http://redrivercrossroadshistorical.org)

Events approved for Master Gardener hours\*

# Events & Things to Do!

## October

**Corn Maze at Burden, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, Each Saturday in October 2021, 10am - 5pm**

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens Corn Maze is a family friendly, day of fall fun with numerous farm related activities. Corn Maze is Baton Rouge's most amazing event!

Admission is \$15 per person and free for children 3 and under. Friends of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens family memberships receive 4 free admissions for 2 Corn Maze Sessions. To get your member tickets, please email [events@burdengardens.com](mailto:events@burdengardens.com) for more information.



**NWLA MG General Meeting, Wed, Oct 13th, 11:30-1:00 (TBA)**

**\*Event Set Up**, for NWLA Fall Bulb Sale, Friday, Oct 29th, 8:00am-9:00,

Randle T. Moore Center, 3101 Fairfield Ave, Shreveport, LA

Needing help with tent/table setup, bagging bulbs and seeds.

To volunteer, contact either Ron Calk, [ronaldcalk7467@gmail](mailto:ronaldcalk7467@gmail.com)

or Barb Thompson, [barb933@hotmail.com](mailto:barb933@hotmail.com)

**\*NWLA MG Fall Bulb Sale, Sat, Oct 30th, 8:00am-Noon,**

Randle T. Moore Center, 3101 Fairfield Ave, Shreveport, LA

Cashiers, Checkers, Greeters, and Sales Assistances will be needed.

Will also need help with tent/table breakdown after sale.

Please remember to dig, dry, and label your donated bulbs.

To volunteer or for any questions, contact either Ron Calk, [ronaldcalk7467@gmail](mailto:ronaldcalk7467@gmail.com)

or Barb Thompson, [barb933@hotmail.com](mailto:barb933@hotmail.com)

**A big thanks to all who will make the 2021 Fall Bulb Sale a success!!**

**-The Bulb Committee**



Events approved for Master Gardener hours\*

# Events & Things to Do!

## October & November

**Dixie Maze Farms, 9596 Sentell Rd., Shreveport, LA 71107**

### **Pumpkin Patch**

This live-on-the-vine patch is the only one for miles around.

You can come and pick your perfect pumpkin from a real growing field of pumpkins for an authentic rural experience. The patch is open Wednesday through Saturday at 10am and Sunday at 12pm, closes at dark every day during their fall season, but the farm offers an array of other activities including a haunted maze and a Halloween festival on Halloween! Visitors can pick one pumpkin from the patch for a discounted price of \$4 while supplies last. So don't wait too long into the season! For more information on the Pumpkin Patch and other events at the farm visit website at [dixiemaze.com](http://dixiemaze.com) or call 318.703.2870 (Also on Facebook)



**PaPa Simpson's Farm, 961 Rich Rd, Arcadia, LA 71001**

Pumpkin patch-pick in the field, pumpkin patch- already gathered from the field, Fall festival, train rides, corn maze, straw or hay bale maze, child-sized haybale maze, tractor-pulled hay rides, Fresh eggs, gift shop, snacks and refreshment stand, restrooms, picnic area, pony rides, petting zoo and farm animals. Pumpkins are available from mid October until Thanksgiving. (cash or check) Visit website: [papasimpsonsfarm.com](http://papasimpsonsfarm.com) or email: [dairyman4family@yahoo.com](mailto:dairyman4family@yahoo.com) or call 318.263.2383



**Wine & Roses Sunday Brunch, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, November 7, 2021, 12-3 p.m.**

Friends of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens invite you to our most elegant event of the year! Wine and Roses is an annual fundraiser for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. We look forward to bringing you a unique and beautiful event this year! Check back for more updates!

For more information, visit our website at [www.LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens) or call 225-763-3990.



**NWLA MG General Meeting, Wed, Nov 10th, 11:30-1:00 (TBA)**

*Stay connected via Instagram, Facebook and our website for event announcements.*

# Local Classes and Workshops 2021

*approved for MG education hours\**

**Akins Nursery**, 5901 E Kings Hwy Shreveport, LA

Garden Education Series\* – Free

Classes held on the last Saturday of the month at 10:00 am

*Please reserve your spot:* 318.868.2701 or **akinsnursery.com**

Participants receive 10% off purchases the day of class.

(sign up for their newsletter)

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**Louisiana Nursery**, 12290 Mansfield Rd. Keithville, LA

Gardening Seminars & Workshops – Seminars\* are \$5.00/person at the door

*Please reserve your spot:* 318.925.0971 or **LouisianasNursery.com**

(sign up for their newsletter)

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## Needing Master Gardener Hours?

Visit our website for up-to-date information on committees and projects

that you can participate in.

**nwlamg.weebly.com**

## Volunteers needed for the Master Gardener Hotline

Connecting with the community is one of our most important functions as

Master Gardeners, please remember to sign up for phone duty to answer

gardening questions from the public.

*Mondays 8-12 · Tuesdays 9-12 · Wednesdays 1-4 · Thursdays & Fridays 10-1*

Drop by the carriage house to sign up or email Mark Wilson

**MAWilson@agcenter.lsu.edu** or Melissa Elrod **melissa532@aol.com**

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You!

## Editorial Notes-



This quarter's Seedling focuses on "Renewable Resources" of the garden variety...that is. To me, seed and vegetative plant material are the very definition of a renewable resource. We make more plants

from the plants we have...pretty exciting stuff for gardeners! *Hope you enjoy all the great info!*

Our fellow MGs have, once again, written wonderful and interesting articles to motivate, inspire and entertain us! From propagation tips to wildflower seed farms...and local wine production. We thank them for an awesome job!

Fall is around the corner...late afternoon shadows are already speaking it's name and this is the time of year we return to the garden with a renewed enthusiasm that only cooler temperatures can bring.

As Mark wrote this quarter, be sure to consider adding some additional color and texture to your landscape this fall. Take a look LSU AgCenter's website for suggested "Louisiana Super Plants" for our area. Always a sure bet!

As always, many thanks to all of our writers!

Happy Gardening

*Chris*

Chris Bertrand, NWLA MG &  
Grammatically-Challenged, Seedling Editor  
cbertrand4@gmail.com.

Seedling is the newsletter of the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners  
An Affiliate of LSU Ag Center  
lsuagcenter.com