



Northwest Chapter



Seedling

Fall 2022



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President's Message



HOT AND DRY! HOT AND DRY! NEVER FEAR, FALL IS NIGH!

Summer is just about gone for this year and fall is upon us. Time to get those fall veggies in the ground and the beds cleaned and cleared of weeds, in preparation for winter.

We want to Welcome our new Director of the Northwest Region of the LSU Ag Center, Dr. Ron Strahan. Dr Strahan (the weed man) has been a valuable and favored presenter for our Master Gardener classes for years and is a great friend to our organization. WELCOME, Dr. Strahan.

The Le Tour des Jardins 2022 is in the books as the most profitable in history. Special THANKS to Lynn Burke and all her team, and every member that contributed to this roaring success. The 2023 LeTour team, under the direction of Karen Durham, has completed the garden selection process and is preparing for another successful Tour; but many hands make light work, so your volunteer service is critically important. There is a job for everyone.

The Rambling Rose Preservation Project at the American Rose Center is well under way and growing steadily both in foliage and specimens. There will soon be 350 different varieties of Rambling Roses on site. Since Lou Osburn has moved to be near family, Larry Williams needs just a few more volunteers to fill out his team, for this important project. Contact Larry Williams at 318-458-1950 to join the team.

The Bulb/Plant sale is almost here October 29, 2022 at the Red River Research Station. In addition to bulbs there will be some plant specimens for fall planting and a spectacular array of potted house plant arrangements. Polly Buller and her team will need all your help. Set up for the Bulb/Plant Extravaganza will be at 8:00 Friday October 28. Please come help!

We need to see you at the meetings.

Ed Durham
NWLAMG President



The Agent's Corner



The future of horticulture in the northwest region.



While many are aware, some may still not know the LSU AgCenter Northwest Region has a new director. Dr. Ron Strahan has been selected and started his new post on August 1st. Dr. Strahan is not only a wonderful resource to have in the region as he is exceptional in his field, but is a strong supporter of extension and horticulture. “I look forward to the opportunity to work with scientists and extension agents to improve the lives of our stakeholders in the Northwest Region,” Dr. Strahan. Before joining the region Dr. Strahan served as the LSU AgCenter’s lawn turf and weed specialist. With this new support, the future of horticulture in the region is bright.

New plans are being made now to modify, improve, and add to the horticulture impact here in the region, centering on the Red River Research Station. These programs include, but are not limited to, the addition of: a pollinator/butterfly garden, a small orchard with several small fruit crops, a vegetable garden, and a bulb/rhizome bed. This also includes the overall reorganizing and restructuring of the front horticulture gardens at the station. More areas can be added or modified as needed or requested. The final idea for the gardens is to showcase all aspects of horticulture for residents in the region and to overall reduce the amount of hand-based physical labor.

In addition to the support for the horticulture programs in the region, Dr. Strahan is also a firm supporter of the Master Gardener program. He has aided in Master Gardener trainings across the region and in numerous educational programs. With his support, additional educational programs could be brought to the region to further the mutual goal of by the LSU AgCenter and the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners.

Mark A. Wilson

Horticulture Regional Agent

2022 Bulb Sale will be held at the Red River Research Station

Important dates:

Drop off your donated bulbs or plants: Monday -Thursday October 24th- 27th 9:00-12:00

Bulb bagging: Thursday October 27 9:00-12:00

Setup for the Bulb Sale: Friday October 28 9:00-12:00

The Bulb Sale: Saturday October 29 8:00-1:00

Welcome to the Fall planting season and hopefully cooler weather! While trying to write this article, I have learned so much about bulbs that I found it hard to settle on one topic. In the end, the focus of this article is daffodils, aka narcissus, but much of the information can be applied to other bulbs as well. The majority of this information has come from the website of Van Engelen Inc. Wholesale Flower Bulbs.

Daffodils in the United States came with settlers from the 16th century and forward. Of the original daffodils and Narcissus that were planted in the United States over the centuries, some have naturalized and continued in localized populations for hundreds of years. That said, some of the bulbs we sell are grown in the Netherlands while some have been donated from local gardens.

Heirloom Narcissus at the 2022 Bulb Sale (tentative)

1940 Large Cupped Flower Record

1945 Small Cupped Barrett Browning

1949 Cyclamineus Narcissus Tete a Tete

1916 Triandrus Narcissus Thalia

1906 Tazetta Narcissus Avalanche

Narcissus tazetta 'Grand Primo' (maybe 1923)

Plant Narcissus Bulbs in the Fall

All Narcissus bulbs should be planted in the fall once the soil has cooled to 60-55 degrees. Bulbs respond to soil and ambient air temperature and sunlight. Planting before the soil has really cooled down can cause the top of the bulbs to grow rather than develop their roots. Planting later in colder soil retards root growth and may cause reduced foliage and fewer blooms in the spring.

Fall Bulb Sale, continued

Preparing the Planting Site

With few exceptions, all flower bulbs require the same sort of planting site: well-draining, neutral pH soil that is free of disease with at least six hours of daily sunlight. Bulbs should be planted away from aggressive tree and plant roots that can strangle bulb roots, compete for limited water and nutrition, and actually push bulbs up from the proper planting depth. Like many other bulbs, Narcissus hate to get their feet wet. Plant in areas with good drainage and with other 'like-minded' plants. Poor drainage or watering needs of near-by plants can cause healthy bulbs to rot.

Planting: Depth, Spacing, Which-End-Is-Up

Check the planting directions and plant each bulb to at least the proper spacing and proper depth. The planting depth and spacing are so very important for the long-term health of the bulb. Dig 2"-3" below the planting depth to loosen the soil to promote thorough root growth.

At a certain point, a planting may become so dense, with root systems so entwined, that they will yield more foliage than flowers. When this happens, it means that the bulbs need to be dug up, gently separated, and replanted to the proper depth with as little root destruction as possible. Other possible causes can be acidic or alkaline soil, insufficient cold temperatures, temperatures spiking over the winter, shallow planting or prior spring foliage that was prematurely cut, braided or covered by other plant material.

Place each bulb firmly in the soil with the pointed end up, and the root base down. Never put anything in the bottom of a planting hole to avoid the possibility of root burn. Bulbs are perfect little packages that contain everything they need for wonderful blooms in the springtime. But it won't hurt to start fertilizing three times a year after you plant them. Broadcast an organic granular fertilizer in the fall to promote root growth. Fertilize again in the spring when the sprouts emerge to help grow the flower and foliage. Fertilizing one last time when the flower starts to die will nourish the bulb itself. Water lightly if there is a prolonged dry period after fertilizing.

Fall Mulching

Apply no more than 2" of mulch after the surface of the ground freezes. The mulch will trap the cold in the soil, retain moderate soil moisture and protect the bulbs from spikes in temperature. Loosen or remove the mulch prior to the sprouts emerging in the spring.

I enjoy my garden year-round, no matter the season. I love the textures in winter as much as the colors in spring. In the fall, when you are crawling around planting your bulbs, enjoy the anticipation of the spring flowers.

Polly Buller

2022 Bulb Sale Director

2022 NWLAMG Bulb Sale

Held just in time for planting season, the **Fall Bulb Sale** offers a variety of bulbs to brighten your spring. Master Gardeners dig thousands of bulbs to supply the sale with native and naturalized daffodils, spider lilies, amaryllis, and more. This is in addition to the heirloom narcissus, peonies and crinums. Each year we select different bulbs so you can add to your collection.

ALLIUMS

Allium Schubertii, also known as Tumbleweed Onion, is a definite wow- stopper! It boasts huge, 12-15" loose spidery flowers on plants that are only 20" tall. The flower heads resemble a beautiful, botanical sparkler especially when dried!



Drumstick



Schubertii



Graceful Beauty

AMARYLLIS

A new amaryllis to add to your collection, Doublet is unique with its narrow petals while being fully double. The bloom is white with an amazing range of red streaks, stripes, speckles and striations.



Doublet



Miracle



Amalfi



Dancing Queen



Picotee

DAFFODIL/NARCISSUS

A field of delightful daffodils is a welcome sight after a dreary winter! Ice King, the double form of Ice Follies, is a ruffled beauty with an ivory-white perianth and a fully-double, sulphur-yellow cup adorned with highlights of white. Barrett Browning with its white petals and orange cups creates an impressive display. It naturalizes well and reliably comes back year after year.



Fragrant Thalia



Pink Charm



Large-cupped
Ice King



Cassatta



Flower Record



Large-cupped
Ice Follies



Double Tahiti



Kedron



Small-cupped Barrett
Browning

PEONIES

Tucked behind the building at Norton Art Gallery, one can't help being drawn to the grace and fragrance of these large blooms. Do Tell Peony can't keep a secret! Expect soft pink double blooms with coral and white tones throughout from this delectable peony. The blooms of the lush, fully double Sorbet are irresistibly beautiful with flouncy layers of pinkish-ivory and pink petals. Once established peonies can live for decades and are generally low maintenance. Plus they are a great choice for cut flowers!



Festiva Maxima



Do Tell



Sarah Bernhardt



Sorbet



Coral Sunset



Bowl of Beauty

ASIATIC LILIES

Orienpet Lilies combine the stature of the Chinese Trumpet Lily with the exotic beauty of the Oriental Hybrid Lily. Pretty Woman earns her name with her huge, waxy flowers that open pale yellow with soft pink petal edges maturing to bright white. You might catch a whiff of her subtle, fruity perfume as you stroll by.



Pearl Melanie



Lizzy Dizzy



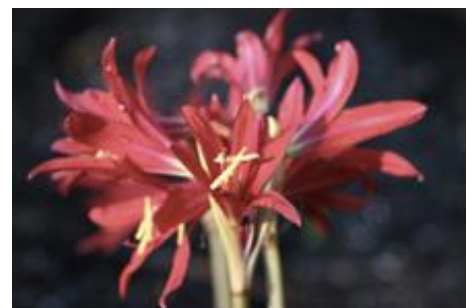
Pretty Woman Orienpet



Splendens Tiger Lily



Red County



Oxblood Lily



Sparaxis or Wandflower



Ipheion Wisley Blue

Hopes For a Fall Garden

When I lived in New Hampshire, I could tell fall had arrived by the seductive smell of apples in the air. Leaves would turn with fiery colors. Maple trees would weep sweet syrup ready to be tapped and collected. Here in Louisiana, I can tell fall is here when nurseries start selling mounds of colorful mums and cool weather vegetable plants. The dome of heat may crack a little and a cooler breeze may sneak in. Gardeners begin to brave the outside again, to spend afternoon and evening hours toiling and preparing to plant their Fall gardens. We have hopes that our delicate seeds and transplants will take and survive the mercurial weather.

Fall is a transitional season. Heat tolerant vegetable plants start to bolt, and wilt as cooler weather moves in. The ground temperature drops lower each night. Daylight becomes shorter and shadows longer. The precious time gardeners have is frenzied with planting cool weather crops and plants. Vegetables like kale, Swiss chard, bok choy, collard greens, carrots, lettuce, sweet peas, and spinach can be nestled into the garden bed alongside ornamental flowers such as snapdragons, dianthus, chrysanthemums, yarrow, aster, pansies, and petunias. Onion sets can be placed in the warm soil next to shrubs like Texas sage, Perovskia, gardenias, and rosemary. As the night temperature of the soil drops, these plants will develop strong root systems that can withstand the winter and the coming summer.

As the weather cools and the season changes, trees and shrubs should be added to the garden to establish a good foundation. By planting in the fall, these types of plants have time to grow a strong root system without the stress of trying to produce leaves or blooms. Trees and shrubs should be planted at the same height they were in the container, or just below the crown of the root ball. The hole should be dug twice as wide as the root ball. Place the plant in the center of the hole, fanning out the loose roots. Back fill the hole with original soil and gently tamp in place to support the plant trunk. Water the new plant well to close up any residual air pockets and to help the roots receive the nutrients in the soil. By summer, the plants will be sturdy and able to tolerate minor droughts between deep waterings.

Living in the deep southern state of Louisiana, planting zone 8a&b, we are blessed with a yearlong planting calendar. We are also blessed with the ability to grow a variety of vegetables and ornamentals. Our yards practically burst with color and scents, morning, noon, and night, all year long. What gardener doesn't love that. All it takes is a little work and a great hope.

Mary Dumars

Events & Things to Do!

You-Pick-it Farms & Farm Stands:

Ed Lester Farms, Open Mon-Sat, 8:00am-5:00pm. Awesome place! Featured in *Southern Living Magazine*.
1165 US-84 Coushatta, LA 71019 (318.932.4298)
Subscribe to their newsletter for all the latest info!
edlesterfarms.com



Shuqualak Blueberry Farm, Open 7-days a week, 7:00am-7:00pm.
Old fashioned family fun! Be sure to get a blueberry popsicle!
232 Shuqualak Farms Rd., Frierson, LA 71027 (318.797.8273)
Check out their Facebook page.



Me and McGee Market located just outside of North Little Rock, AR
10409 Hwy 70 North Little Rock, AR. (501.355.6222)
Tues-Fri (10-5), Sat (9-4), Sun (11-4)
So much more than an ordinary farm stand!
Check out their website and Facebook page.
meandmcgeemarket.com



Be sure to sign up for their newsletter.
P. Allen Smith did a wonderful YouTube video tour of this place...link is on the website.

For an awesome list of markets and you-pick-it farms visit: louisianatravel.com
Search for "pick-your-own farms" or use this rather lengthy link. :)

louisianatravel.com/articles/visit-Louisiana's-pick-your-own-farms



Stay connected via Instagram, Facebook and our
website, nwlamg.weebly.com,
for event announcements.

Local Classes and Workshops 2022

*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)

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

Email Mark Wilson

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

Community
Supporters



Crew Masters, LLC



Thank
You!

Editorial Notes-

As always, many thanks to all of our writers!

Happy Gardening!



Sarah

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