



Northwest Chapter



# Seedling

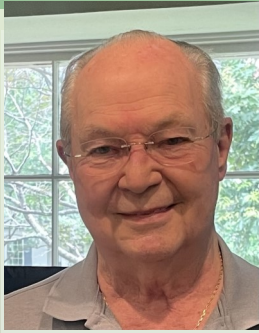
FALL 2023

## this quarter...

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- ~ **President's Message**
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# President's Mes-



Hot and dry! Hot and dry!

Summer has turned out to be hot and dry, but we can all look forward to fall and some cooler weather. I hope everyone weathered the barrage of thunderstorms and mountains of tree damage with out too-o-o much property loss. I know some of us that had shade gardens now have a lot more sun. We may have to redesign our entire landscape concepts. But now is time to get your fall planting in for a spectacular spring bloom.

There have been a lot of activities underway and progress has been made at our office. The garage that was slated to be torn down because of termite damage, has been saved, repaired, and painted. We now have more storage space at the office, the air conditioning system for the office has been upgraded and it is actually cool in the office. Plans are under way to add additional rock walkways to the propagation bed area and landscaping the office entrance. We now have access to almost all of the office building and projects are underway to utilize our areas more efficiently.

There are still plenty of opportunities for volunteer service; phone duty, weed eating around the office, organizing and storing supplies and equipment, and of course pulling weeds.

The Bulb and plant sale will soon be here and your participation is critical for a successful sale, there is much work to do as the bulbs start to arrive.

We are looking forward to seeing each of you at our regular monthly meetings at Broadmoor Baptist Church at 11:30 on the second Wednesday of every month. Great food, great fellowship, great fun, and great educational programs. Hope to see you there!

Be sure to check the WEB site [www.nwlamg.weebly.com](http://www.nwlamg.weebly.com) for the latest info available.

**Ed Durham**  
NWLAMG President





# The Agent's Corner



*Horticulture in the northwest region.*



## Season of Changes and Upcoming Events at the Red River Research Station

Summer 2023

As fall approaches, many things are changing here at the Red River Research Station. These changes include: several small renovation projects all around the station, cleaning, painting, rearranging and reorganizing the office, landscaping around the office, and modifications being made to the front beds to present a more complete view of what horticulture has to offer. These renovations and modifications will not only increase the overall appeal of the office and station but provide many wonderful opportunities the future events and field days.

The garage at the Master Gardener/Horticulture office has been renovated on the outside and is currently being cleaned to allow many items that do not require air conditioning storage to be moved out. These moved materials will free up some much needed space inside thus providing the means to do some much needed general cleaning and painting. The cleaning and painting will be done in the next few weeks. While this is ongoing the office will be re-organized into a more functional office setting, providing a set master gardener work area, a waiting and seating area, a conference room, a supply room and an office for the horticulture agent.

On the outside of the office, the bulb and propagation beds around back are being slightly modified and the area finalized. Irrigation, will also be added to these beds prior to their completion. To facilitate the completion of the back beds and to mark out additional landscape beds being added in the front of the office these areas have been sprayed to eliminate unwanted vegetation. During these bed modification and installations, a walkway to the front door will be added, as well as several plants will be relocated to the front horticulture demonstration beds to the front of the office.

The front horticulture demonstration gardens, as stated are being modified to incorporate all aspects of horticulture. This includes ornamentals, turf, fruit, crops, and vegetable crops. At this time, the large oval shaped bed in the center behind the sign has been removed. This area will soon hold a 30 x 30 raised bed demo area (green), having four 8x8 "L" shaped beds made of different materials, and a tire bed in the center. In addition, three 5 x 30 areas, one cover and ground cloth for blueberries in containers (blue), and the other two will be trellised for the production of muscadines (orange) and blackberries (purple). These new beds will set 10 feet (red) away from the front and left most beds, and evenly spaced. This will allow ample room for presenters to stand in the areas with the audience and not be overcrowded.

The hope is to have all of this done by the second week of September, so that these modifications can be shown to the public in several upcoming events. The first event is the Northwest Regional Hunters' Forum on September 30<sup>th</sup> and second is the Northwest Regional Homesteader Conference on October 7<sup>th</sup>. These events will be free and open to the public. These events will also be a wonderful opportunity for master gardeners to get education hours and volunteer hours as guides, parking assistance and attendee clickers will be needed.

Mark A Wilson  
LSU AgCenter NW Regional Horticulture Spec.

## BULBS GALORE

An attractive garden is made up of many ornamental plants. These plants come in many forms, including perennials, annuals, and biennials. As one group of flowers winds down, another springs up to draw the eye's attention. Louisiana gardens can bloom year-round with the help of bulbs, a term loosely used to describe true bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes.

Many beautiful plants come from bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes. These special types of plants allow the gardener to extend the planting seasons. They also include some exotic species of flowers. These beauties come in a variety of colors and forms.

True bulbs include plants such as amaryllis, tulips, hyacinths, paperwhites, and irises. Bulbs are rounded with a papery outside, and have layers, with a shoot coming from the center. Some of these bulbs can be forced to bloom in the fall or winter by chilling them for several weeks, then watering and fertilizing them to produce blooms. Amaryllis, paperwhites, and tulips are often given as winter gifts because of this ability.

Corms appear as rounded fleshy solid objects with a central stem. Gladiolus, crocus, and tuberous begonias grow from corms. They come in many colors and heights. Heart-shaped caladiums also grow from corms.

Louisiana irises grow by rhizomes. These beautiful plants can be dug up and separated to create more iris clumps. [gardenerssupply.com](http://gardenerssupply.com) They will also spread underground to form new stands. Rhizomes spread under the soil and send up growing stems from the tips and along the horizontal shafts.

Tubers produce flowers such as dahlias, begonias, anemones, and daylilies. These plants spread underground, similar to rhizomes. However, tubers spread by sending up stems from the tips.

All of these types of plants require similar care. They need well drained soil with organic material. Wet soil will cause the plants to rot. They require at least six hours of sunlight. Pests include thrips, spider mites, aphids, slugs, and snails. If the threshold of damage is too high, these pests can be controlled using insecticidal soap or Spinosad spray.

These plants are planted in the early fall. They bloom in the spring until early summer. The depth at which each type of plant is placed in the ground depends on the plant. Follow the instructions received with each plant. Plant the pointy part of the bulb, corm, rhizome, or tuber leading up towards the sky.

A large variety of these plants will be on sale October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Master Gardeners Fall Bulb Sale. The event will be located at the Red River Research Station in Bossier City, [262 Research Station Drive, on Highway 71 South](#). [Look for the big red barn. Sale starts at 8am, so come early.](#) By ML Dumars

## 2023 Fall Bulb Sale

Please mark your calendar for the **2023 NWLAMG Fall Bulb Sale**. The Bulb Sale will be Saturday, October 28. We will set up on Friday, October 27. The location is the Red River Research Station.

The Bulb Committee will greatly appreciate it if you (or your friends and relatives) have bulbs or plants to donate to the sale. If you plan to make a bulb donation:

1. Please mark the location of your bulbs now—type of bulb, color, and approximate number of bulbs you will be able to donate.
2. Let the green foliage die down and turn brown. The green foliage absorbs sunlight which provides energy that the bulbs use to create new blooms.
3. Around September 15, please carefully dig the bulbs, brush off excess soil, discard any soft or damaged bulbs, and place the bulbs in a warm dry location to cure. Please don't place the bulbs in direct sunlight or a damp location.
4. Closer to date of sale, the Committee will let everyone know where they can bring donations.
5. Other donated plants will be needed for the Bulb Sale. For example, if you plan to thin your Bearded Irises this summer because they aren't blooming very well, the Committee would be happy to have your extra iris rhizomes for the Bulb Sale. Large clumps of daylilies are fairly easy to divide. Please write the name and color on each pot or container.
6. Please provide a color picture of the bulbs and plants you plan to donate. You can send pictures and details in an email or send a message to Linda Jones or Lynn Brown. This will help the Committee keep track of donations and get donations ready for the sale. Please contact Linda Jones ([linjojones@hotmail.com](mailto:linjojones@hotmail.com)) or Lynn Brown ([lynncbrown247@att.net](mailto:lynncbrown247@att.net)) if you have questions or if you will need assistance digging your bulbs.

Thank you.

Lynn Brown and Linda Jones

Check out more at:

[Fall Bulb Sale - Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners \(weebly.com\)](http://www.fallbulbsale.com)

# Monthly Garden Reminder!!!!!!

## Vegetables to Plant in August

bell pepper\*, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, bunching onions\*\*, cabbage, cauliflower, Swiss chard, Chinese cabbage, collards, cucumbers, lima beans, mustard, snap beans, Southern peas, peppers\*, Irish potatoes, \*\*\*rutabagas, shallots\*\*, squashes, tomatoes\*, turnips

\* transplants; \*\* sets; \*\*\* plant small, whole potatoes saved from the spring crop

## Vegetables to Plant in September

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

\* plant seeds early or use transplants; \*\* plant sets; \*\*\* plant small, whole potatoes saved from the spring crop

## Vegetables to Plant in October

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

\* plant transplants by mid month; \*\* plant individual toes; \*\*\* leaf and semi-heading varieties are more reliable than heading types

## Vegetables to Plant in November

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

## Vegetables to Plant in December

beets, Brussels sprouts\*, cabbage, carrots, celery\*, Chinese cabbage, collards, garlic\*, kale, kohlrabi, leeks\*\*, lettuce, mustard, onions\*\*, radish, rutabaga, shallots\*\*, spinach, Swiss chard, turnips

\* plant transplants; \*\* plant sets or transplants

**Prepared by: Dan Gill, Consumer Horticulturist, LSU AgCenter**

# Fall Garden Medley

A pretty fall colored root dish



## Ingredients

- **4 Large Carrots**
- **3 Fresh Beets** (peeled and cut into 1 inch pieces)
- **2 Medium Sweet Potatoes** (peeled & cut into 1 inch pieces)
- **2 Medium onions (peeled and quartered)**
- **1/2 cup water**
- **2 tsp salt**
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1 TB olive oil
- Add Dried parsley (or fresh parsley, optional)

## Directions

**1** Place the carrots, beets, sweet potatoes, onions and water in a greased 3-qt. slow cooker. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and thyme. Drizzle with olive oil. Cover and cook on low for 5-6 hours or until tender.

**2** Stir vegetables and, if desired, sprinkle with parsley .

Nutrition Facts:

3/4 cup: 83 calories, 2g fat (0 saturated fat), 0 cholesterol, 633mg sodium, 16g carbohydrate (8g sugars, 3g fiber), 2g protein. **Diabetic Exchanges:** 1 vegetable, 1/2 starch.

Most of these recipes have videos online. If you click on the name of the recipe, it should open the webpage. If you have any trouble here are the recipe online addresses: <https://tasteofhome.com/recipes/fall-garden-medley/>

## Roasted Butternut Squash Soup

By Kathryn Taylor

- ⇒ 1 large butternut squash (about 3 pounds), halved vertically\* and seeds removed
- ⇒ 1 tablespoon olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- ⇒ ½ cup chopped shallot (about 1 large shallot bulb)
- ⇒ 1 teaspoon salt
- ⇒ 4 garlic cloves, pressed or minced
- ⇒ 1 teaspoon maple syrup
- ⇒ 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ⇒ Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- ⇒ 3 to 4 cups (24 to 32 ounces) vegetable broth, as needed
- ⇒ 1 to 2 tablespoons butter, to taste

### Directions:

- Preheat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit and line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Place the butternut squash on the pan and drizzle each half with just enough olive oil to lightly coat the squash on the inside (about ½ teaspoon each). Rub the oil over the inside of the squash and sprinkle it with salt and pepper.
- Turn the squash face down and roast until it is tender and completely cooked through, about 40 to 50 minutes (don't worry if the skin or flesh browns—that's good for flavor). Set the squash aside until it's cool enough to handle, about 10 minutes.
- Meanwhile, in a large soup pot, warm 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium heat until shimmering (if your blender has a soup preset, use a medium skillet to minimize dishes.) Add the chopped shallot and 1 teaspoon salt. Cook, stirring often, until the shallot has softened and is starting to turn golden on the edges, about 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute, stirring frequently. Transfer the contents to your stand blender (see notes on how to use an immersion blender instead).
- Use a large spoon to scoop the butternut squash flesh into your blender. Discard the tough skin. Add the maple syrup, nutmeg and a few twists of freshly ground black pepper to the blender. Pour in 3 cups vegetable broth, being careful not to fill the container past the maximum fill line (you can work in batches if necessary, and stir in any remaining broth later).
- Securely fasten the lid. Blend on high (or select the soup preset, if available), being careful to avoid hot steam escaping from the lid. Stop once your soup is ultra creamy and warmed through.
- If you would like to thin out your soup a bit more, stir in the remaining cup of broth. Add 1 to 2 tablespoons butter or olive oil, to taste, and blend well. Taste and stir in more salt and pepper, if necessary. If your soup is piping hot from the blending process, you can pour it into serving bowls. If not, pour it back into your soup pot and warm the soup over medium heat, stirring often, until it's nice and steamy. I like to top individual bowls with some extra black pepper.

Most of these recipes have videos online. If you click on the name of the recipe, it should open the webpage. If you have any trouble here are the recipe online addresses: <https://cookieandkate.com/roasted-butternut-squash-soup/>



## Upcoming Events in the Ark-La-Tex

August 26th, 10am - Getting to Know Your Soil, Akins Nursery, 5901 E. Kings Highway, Shreveport

September 30th, 10am - Planting in the Fall, Akins Nursery, 5901 E. Kings Highway, Shreveport

September 30th, Northwest Regional Hunters' Forum, call office for more details. Mark says this event is free and open to the public and an opportunity to get education and volunteer hours!!!

October 14, 2023, DeSoto Plant Swap at the LSU AgCenter - DeSoto Parish Extension Office  
More information tbd

October 7, 2023, Northwest Regional Homesteader Conference, call office for more details. Mark says this event is free and open to the public and an opportunity to get education and volunteer hours!!!

### **DON'T FORGET ABOUT COMMITTEES**

Please go to the Communicate page which is a drop down on About Us.

Scroll just under Mark's picture and locate the Committee Survey

We are asking all NWLA master gardeners to fill out the survey in order to better organize our committees for communication purposes.

1. Click on all committees that you are a member of or would really like to join.
2. You may also choose to add that you would like to work as a cashier or tally writer. (Write cashier or Talley)
3. Include your name...it is required to complete the survey.

This information will be compiled and shared with committee directors.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Melissa Elrod

# Events & Things to Do!

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## 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](http://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](http://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 site.



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For an awesome list of markets and you-pick-it farms visit: [louisianatravel.com](http://louisianatravel.com)

Search for "pick-your-own farms" or use this rather lengthy link. :)

[louisianatravel.com/articles/visit-Louisiana's-pick-your-own-farms](http://louisianatravel.com/articles/visit-Louisiana's-pick-your-own-farms)



**Stay connected via Instagram, Facebook and our  
Website, [nwlamg.weebly.com](http://nwlamg.weebly.com),  
for event announcements.**

## Local Classes and Workshops 2023

*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**

## Know anyone interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

They can apply to for the 2024 class now. Deadline for applications is November 20, 2023. All information can be found at

[Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners - Home \(weebly.com\)](http://www.nwlmga.com)

or send them this link: [MASTER GARDENER 2004 CLASS APPLICATION \(weebly.com\)](http://www.nwlmga.com)

The public can check out or organization and read the Seedling publications at the website [Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners - Home \(weebly.com\)](http://www.nwlmga.com)

Encourage your friends and family to get check us out and if interested to become a master gardener! **The more the merrier!**

*We are like a second family!*



## Editor's Note

Wow, can you believe the heat we've had this summer! I'm not sure but I think the UV rays were the culprit to most of my well established mature landscaping looking so pitiful. Not only did evergreens turn "yellow-green" (haha) but it seemed bug damaged increased as well. So I am sure like me, you are excitedly looking forward to shorter daylight hours and cooler temps. Since it has been too hot to play outside in the garden, I have been busy getting ready for the fall garden. I've ordered my seeds, drawn out a sketch of my garden, and planned out my plantings. I've updated my phone's calendar with alarms and reminders for when to start planting or when to check on my seeds I've started sowing under grow lights. I decided I am not going to let this extreme heat that stole all my tomato and strawberry plants and caused my water bill to hit almost \$300 to deter me from having a great fall crop. So if you are discouraged and upset with the way the temperature has picked on your garden, I highly recommend seed starting inside so you'll have good size seedlings to plant as soon as temps get back down.

Now let me not focus on all the bad, I did have one success. My attempt at growing watermelon for the first time was a success. At first my husband was annoyed because I planted it in the sidewalk strip, but in my defense it is so long and perfect in shape for the vine and it gets watered regularly from the lawn sprinkler and it is in all day sun, not one bit of shade. And while the neighbors may think it is tacky; the sweet fruit has made my husband quite the proud man. So I've started pumpkin seeds indoors. And once the watermelon is done in the strip area, I'll be planting the pumpkins and growing my own decorations for the fall.



# Community Supporters



Crew Masters, LLC



# Thank You!

## Editorial Notes-

I am still new to NWLAMG and to the various ways NWLAMG gives back to the community. I just want to encourage everyone to check out the website often and don't be afraid to volunteer.



If you would like to share something in the newsletter or write an article, please email me.

**Kerry Friestad**  
NWLA MG &  
Seedling Editor  
kfriestad@comcast.net



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