



Northwest Chapter



# Seedling

WINTER 2023

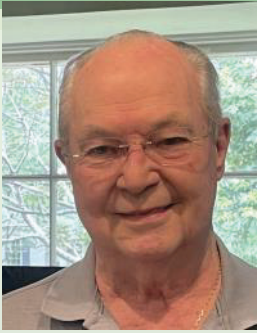


this quarter...

- ~ President's Message
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- ~ Christmas Move at RRRS
- ~ Winter Recipe
- ~ NWLA MGs Volunteering
- ~ Events & Things to Do!
- ~ Editors Note: Winter Cleaning

bhg.com

# President's Message



## President's Message Winter 2023

Oh, what a beautiful morning! The sun is shining, the air is crisp and the Thanksgiving Holiday is now put away for another year. But let's not stop giving thanks every day. "What if you only received today, what you gave thanks for yesterday?"



If you haven't done so it is time to get your plantings mulched in for the winter, time to plant those new shrubs and just get everything tidied up. This is a great time to clean and sharpen your garden tools, clippers, loppers and diggers. you don't want to wake up in the Spring with a closet full of rusted dull and frozen equipment.

As we draw near to the close of our fiscal year, and it is time to pass the reins of leadership to a new Team, I just want to take a couple of moments to express my Deep Thanks for the outstanding job all our Board of directors and committees have done. With all the uncertainty of the move to the Red River Research Station, everyone has pitched in and insured that we had some of the most successful years in the history of the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners. Although there were a lot of unknowns, our Plant sales, Bulb sales, Le Tour des Jardins, Volunteer time to the LSU Ag Center activities, and 4H activities for Caddo and Bossier Parishes, all while developing our new infrastructure, in the propagation beds, greenhouse, and storage buildings and our office set new records for expansion.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the great privilege of serving as your president for the last 2 years. It has been one of the highlights of my life. I trust you will get behind Lynn Burke and the new Board and soar to even greater heights. God Bless you all!

December 13th, will be our last meeting and Christmas Party for the year, so I look forward to seeing all of you there. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

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



*Horticulture in the northwest region.*



Summer 2023

## **Chickweed: the weed here today, not gone tomorrow**

by: Mark A Wilson

*Stellaria media* or common Chickweed is a cool-season winter annual weed regularly seen throughout Louisiana. Chickweed typically germinates in early fall, grows through the winter, produces a flower in the spring and reproduces and spreads through seed. Chickweed is a profuse seed producer and has a low prostrate, mat-forming growing habit making it a very difficult weed to control.



Common chickweed leaves are oppositely arranged along freely branching stems, which can sometimes be purple in color. The leaves are oval to elliptic shaped leaf with smooth edges and are typically light green in color and are smooth, however, can sometimes be hairy toward the base. It produces a small white flower at the end of the stem and have 5 deeply divided petals appearing like 10 separate flower petals.

Chickweed has a shallow, fibrous root system making it easy to pull by hand before seed production has started. In addition to cultural practices, herbicide applications may be required to achieve effective weed control. Common chickweed is readily controlled by several pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicides. Always remember, the best way to prevent or reduce weed encroachment is to maintain a healthy lawn through proper fertilization and regular mowing. Properly maintaining a lawn through these cultural practices promotes dense and vigorous turfgrass, allowing it to better compete with weeds.

Mark A Wilson  
LSU AgCenter NW Regional Horticulture Spec.

# The Agent's Corner



When applying any type of herbicide, you must follow the manufacturer's labeled directions  
 Summer 2023

	St. Augustinegrass	Centipedegrass	Zoysia	Bermudagrass
<b>Preemergence Herbicide Active Ingredients</b>				
atrazine	✓	✓	✓	dormant
simazine	✓	✓	✓	✓
isoxaben	✓	✓	✓	✓
oryzalin	✓	✓	✓	✓
dithiopyr	✓	✓	✓	✓
prodiamine	✓	✓	✓	✓
pendimethalin	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Postemergence Herbicide Active Ingredients</b>				
atrazine	✓	✓	✓	dormant
simazine	✓	✓	✓	✓
2,4-D + dicamba + mecoprop	✓	✓	✓	✓
2,4-D + dicamba + mecoprop + carfentrazone	✓	✓	✓	✓
thiencarbazone + iodosulfuron + dicamba	✓	✓	✓	✓
penoxulam + sulfentrazone + dicamba + 2,4-D	✓	✓	✓	✓
metsulfuron	✓	✓	✓	✓
metsulfuron + dicamba	✓	✓	✓	✓
metsulfuron + sulfentrazone	✓	✓	✓	✓

Mark A Wilson  
 LSU AgCenter NW Regional Horticulture Spec.

## Upcoming Events in the Ark-La-Tex

DECEMBER 15TH @ 6:00pm— Bring out the family for movie night at the Red River Research Station. Featuring Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer movie, Santa, and hot chocolate and cookies! Must RSVP by December 11th to Donna Haynes at 318-408-0971. Cost is \$5 per ticket, check or cash due at reservation.

Akins Nursery, classes are the last Saturday of the month at 10am.

NOT MUCH HAPPENING DURING THE WINTER, BUT NWLAMG CAN USE VOLUNTEERS ALL THE TIME IN THE GREENHOUSE AND IN THE OFFICE ANSWERING PHONES.

# Christmas Movie Night at the Farm December 15th, 2023 6:00pm



Red River  
Research Station  
262 Research Station Drive  
Bossier City, LA 71112

## FEATURING Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer Movie

\$5.00 per ticket

Limited to the first 200 people

Cash or Checks Payable to:

LSU AgCenter

**\*Payment for tickets are due  
upon reservation.\***



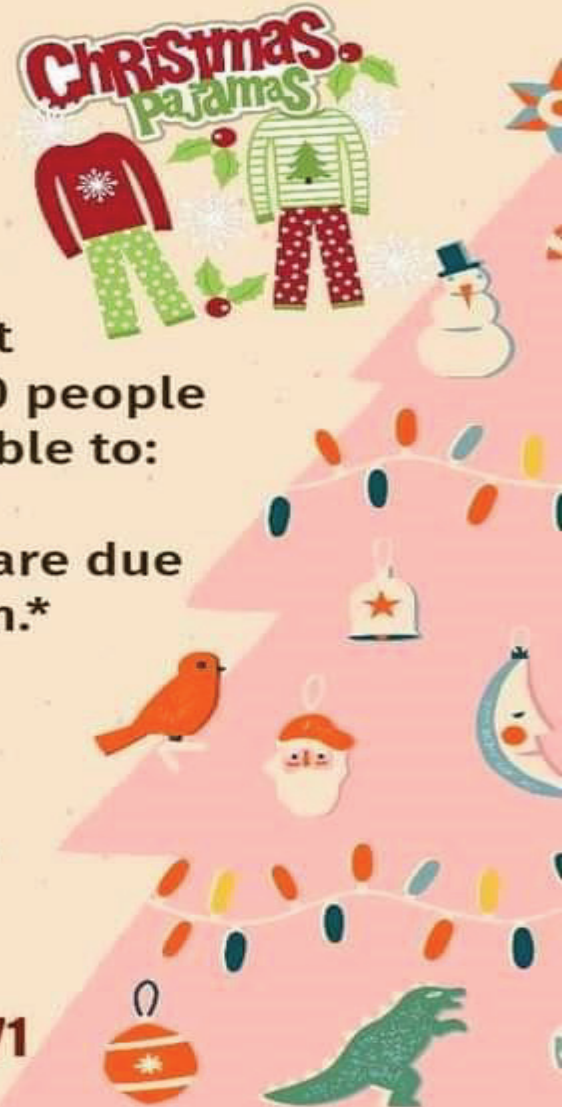
### Activities Include:

- Special Guests...Mr. & Mrs. Claus
- Hot Chocolate & Cookies
- Movie on the big barn

*\*Bring your chair and/or blankets and wear your favorite Christmas PJ's*

**RSVP by December 11th**

**Contact Donna Haynes 318-408-0971**



# Easy Roasted Winter Vegetables

Super easy sheet-pan roasted vegetables. Winter/Fall favorites like sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, green beans, apple, and baby potatoes. A perfect Thanksgiving side dish or any day.

Prep Time 10 minutes  
Cook Time 30 minutes  
Total Time 40 minutes

Course: Side Dish  
Cuisine: American

Servings: [6](#) servings

Calories: 164 kcal



Author: [Susan | SimpleHealthyKitchen.com](#)

## Ingredients

- 1 large sweet potato about ½ lb., peeled and cubed
- 2 cups Brussels sprouts trimmed and halved
- ½ lb. small purple potatoes or red/gold/or combo, halved
- ½ lb. green beans trimmed
- 1 medium apple diced (or sliced)
- 1 shallot sliced
- 2 tablespoon dried cranberries
- 1 oz. candied pecans or roasted pecans

## Instructions

Preheat oven to 425F.

Combine sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, green beans, apple and shallots in a large bowl (or ziplock bag). Drizzle with olive oil and toss to coat.

Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Spread vegetables in a single layer on baking sheet, leaving a little room around each vegetable ( you may need 2 baking sheets). Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste.

Bake until vegetables are tender enough to pierce with a fork and have some charred bits on the edges ( approx. 25-35 min). Use a spatula to flip vegetable mid way through cooking.

Transfer to serving dish and top with pecans and dried cranberries.

## Notes

\* This dish can be prepared up to one day ahead of time and reheated in the oven for about 10 mins ( 400F) \*\* These roasted vegetables are equally as delicious served at room temperature.

## Nutrition

**Serving: 1 serving Calories 164kcal**

**Carbohydrates: 21.5g | Protein: 3.2g | Fat: 8.4g | Saturated Fat: 1g | Sodium: 28.7mg | Fiber: 4.8g | Sugar: 7.8g**

# Events & Things to Do!

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## You-Pick-it Farms & Farm Stands:

**Ed Lester Farms, Currently closed and reopens May (during regular season it is 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, Currently closed.**

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 website.



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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**

# Winter Cleaning

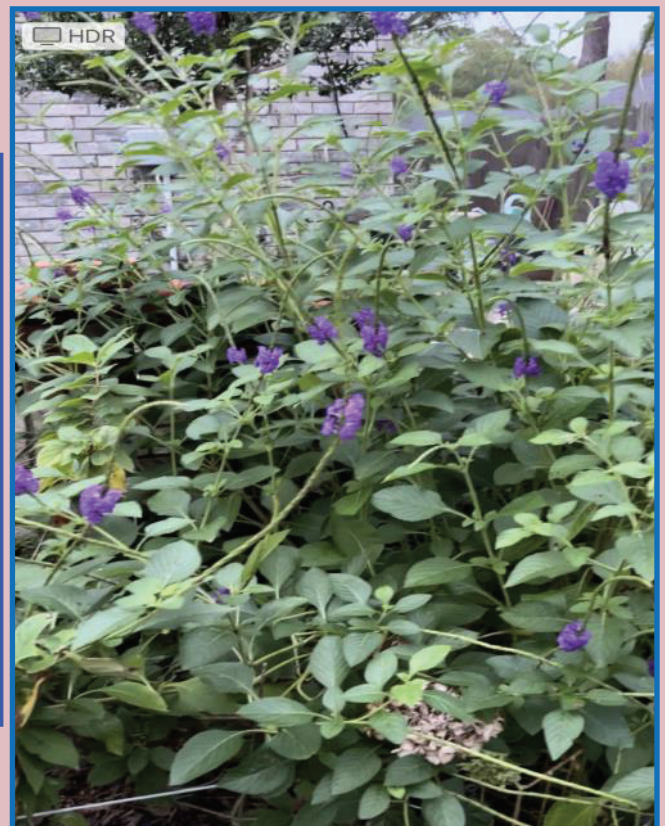
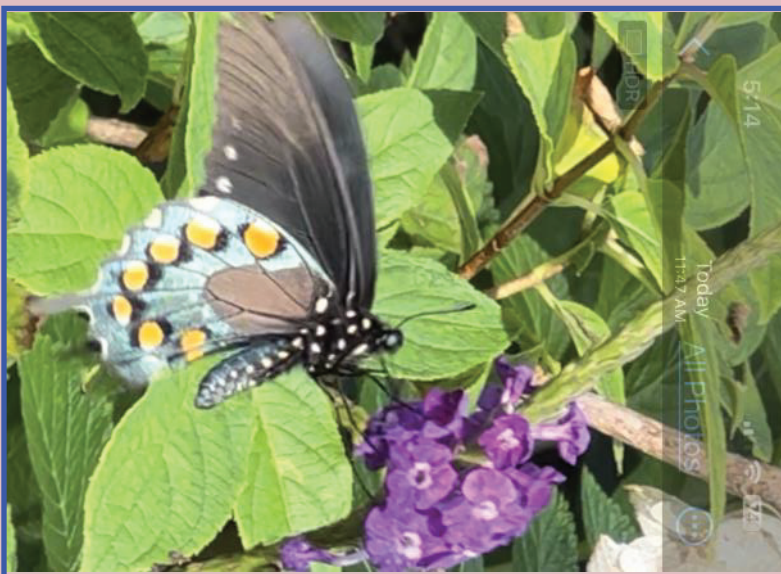
Winter time brings shorter days and shorter days means less time in our gardens. This can be a drab and dreary season but we can use it to plan out and prepare the next season. Additionally, this is a great time for hardscape design since the garden isn't demanding your every spare minute. I've personally been cleaning up the flowerbed borders since the ground is much softer right now. I'm using my half moon edger to increase the borders by 8 inches or so all around, adding curves where it once was too straight. It is coming along nicely and come spring I will have more space for more plants and thus keeping my addiction going strong! And I am trying to up my vegetable game, so to help me remember what to do, I've been organizing my seeds and my garden calendar with reminders on my phone. Of course I think winter is the best season actually for cleaning. Spring cleaning just wastes pretty days in the yard, so I've decided to make it Winter Cleaning! I'll do the usual maintenance tasks of cleaning equipment and mulching up sensitive plants and such, but I'm also going to clean pots and take them to the RRRS and to Lex Plant Farm for them to use again...maybe save them some money! One successful new habit I incorporated this year to avoid repeating mistakes was walking around and documenting my yard and garden with notes of what did really well and what didn't.

My biggest lesson I documented from last spring was to wait to plant moisture sensitive bedding plants until it warmed up some because the cold wet just rots most things at their roots. When I waited for the warmth to come, I found those same plants did really well because in between the rains, they had time to dry out. Not only are those videos saving me money, but I am so encouraged during the winter when I watch them be-



cause I can see what the next season will bring. Those sad looking winter plants can depress me, but my videos and photos quickly perk me right back up. So how are you going to make this winter wet season a benefit rather than a dreaded nuisance? What new projects can you dream about or what tasks can you tackle that you find impossible during the vigorous growing season?

I am also looking to add a new section to the newsletter. It will be a member section. I love the idea of getting to know our fellow members. I think it would be really fun and a great way for us to connect by featuring members and their garden successes and for the brave ones — their failures in the gardens. This could be a section where you can send it pics from the garden or from your volunteer work. All you would have to do is email me photos and descriptions. It could be pics of your favorite plant, your precious garden visitors of butterflies and hummingbirds. It could be a proud moment of finishing a project with before and after pics. Just anything you would like to share or celebrate with your NWLAMG family. I'm always looking for advice and "this worked for me" type of tips and suggestions, and I am sure the rest of you appreciate those as well. So I will start. Here is a purple porter weed I bought at the plant sale. It was tiny when I planted it, but it sure did grow....actually larger than I expected. So next year, I do plan to plant it again but a further over so it isn't growing into my walking area. If you see this at the plant sale, grab one up for your yard. The leaves are vibrant and the flowers draw so many bumblebees and butterflies.



# Community Supporters



Crew Masters, LLC



# Thank You!

## Editorial Notes-

It has been a great year for NWLAMG. Thank you to all who helped along the way. Let's keep encouraging each other to keep active in our gardens and to check out the website often for opportunities to help out and make friends at the same time.



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

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Seedling Editor  
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An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

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