



Master  
Gardener™

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
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Website: [stmastergardener.org](http://stmastergardener.org)

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Lying on a soft bed of moss viewing the cobalt blue sky painted with thick impastoed layers of clouds framed sumptuously with swaying trees and dancing leaves is the best way to view nature's museum.

Khang Kijarro Nguyen

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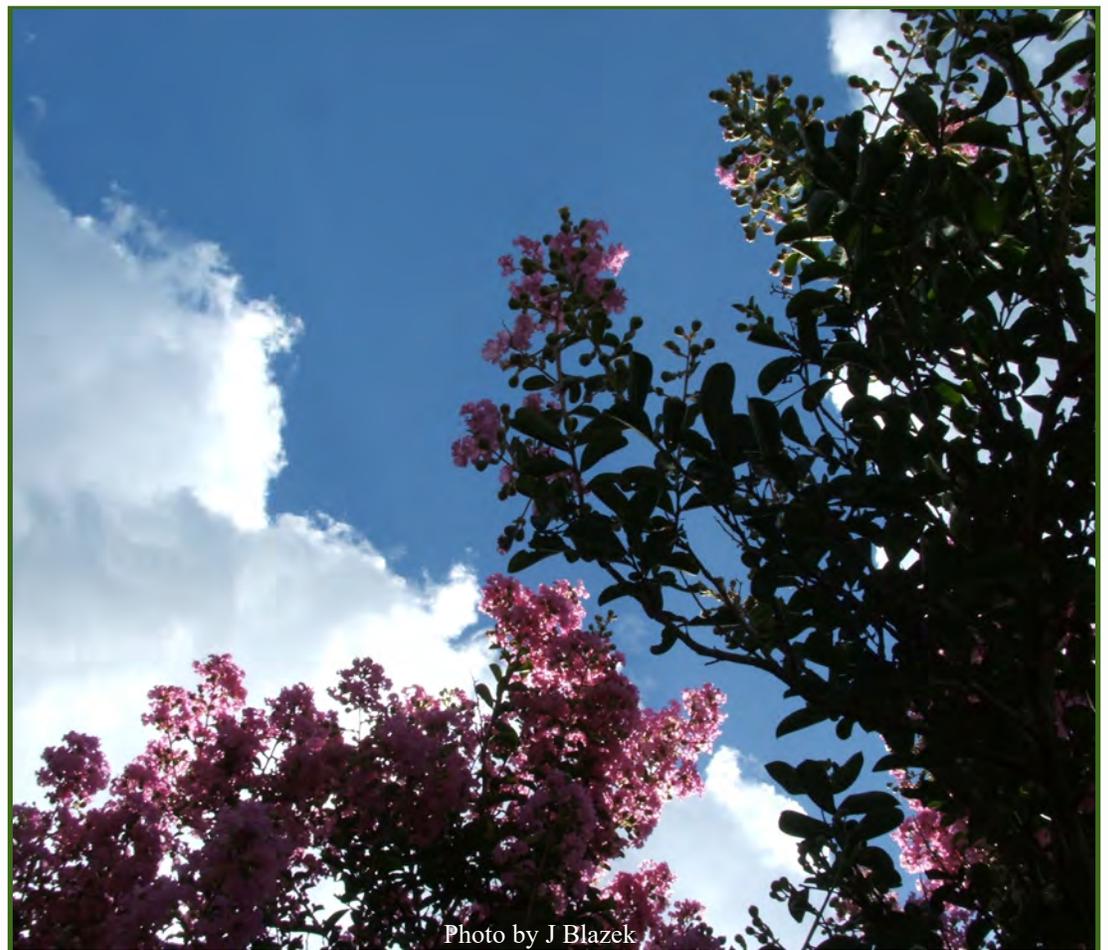


Photo by J Blazek

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## Moss, Moss Marvelous Moss

There is an old saying, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Thanks to a previous owner, my home has given me lemons. And satsumas. And an abundance of shade. As I have discovered, there are many wonderful plants that love to grow in shade, but grass is not one of them. The reason I know this: I have tried most of them. After repeated failures, I started to observe that the lawn was not totally bare. Of course, there were some weeds but there was also some “fuzzy green stuff” covering part of the area in the shade. I soon discovered that this “stuff” was native moss and it just LOVED growing in the shade. Moss for a lawn? Why not! Moss to fill in between flagstones? Of course! I have learned to appreciate the versatility of moss and would like to share some of this enthusiasm with you, as well as some of what I learned along the way.

### Introduction to Moss

Moss, a division of Bryophyta, consists of at least 12,000 species of non-vascular, spore-bearing land plants. Mosses are not fungi, horsetails or ferns. Fungi do not photosynthesize. Horsetails have no leaves. Ferns have roots which take up and move water and nutrients. Not true for mosses.

Mosses are thought to have first appeared more than 300 million years ago. Long before the dinosaurs. They have remained pretty much unchanged since that time. Scientists speculate that the first generation of atmospheric oxygen was the product of mosses. So, take a deep breath, smile, and thank a moss. As to its use in gardens, the earliest mention comes from Japan. Over 1000 years ago, Buddhist monks grew moss in temple gardens. The same practice continues today.

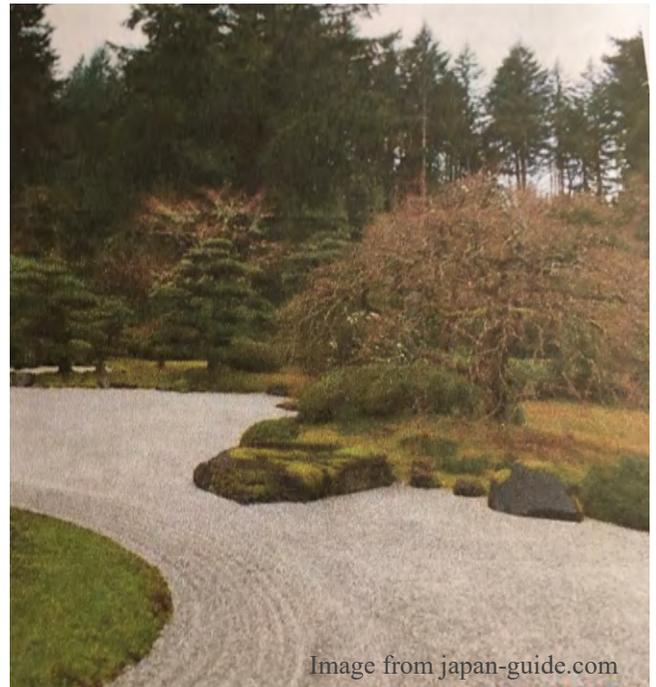


Image from [japan-guide.com](http://japan-guide.com)

## Moss, Moss Marvelous Moss, continued

Mosses lack the vascular structures called xylem and phloem which are associated with liquid transport. They have no true roots and are held in place by rhizoids. Mosses cannot take up water from roots and move it through the plant. They rely on absorbing water and nutrients directly into their leaves. To thrive, mosses must be saturated with water which explains why they prefer shady, damp places where water does not readily evaporate. When conditions are not favorable and water is not available, mosses can almost halt their metabolism and wait for water to return.

The family of moss is broken down into three major groups of plants: **musci, hepaticae, and anthroceratae.**

### **Musci**

This is the type we are most familiar with and what people think of as a “moss.” This type of moss has a clear differentiation between its leaves and stems. According to its growth habit, this group can be further subdivided into acrocarpous and pleurocarpous.

Acrocarpus exhibits short upright growth with foliage that is erect and unbranched. It forms thick tight mounds that inhibit weed growth.

Pleurocarpus has a branching growth habit and is able to grow on rocks or rough ground.

### **Hepaticae**

These mosses are also known as liverwort. They have rhizoids that are unicellular (one-cell thick) and lack stomata (breathing holes). Musci, on the other hand, have multicellular rhizoids and true stomata.

### **Anthroceratae**

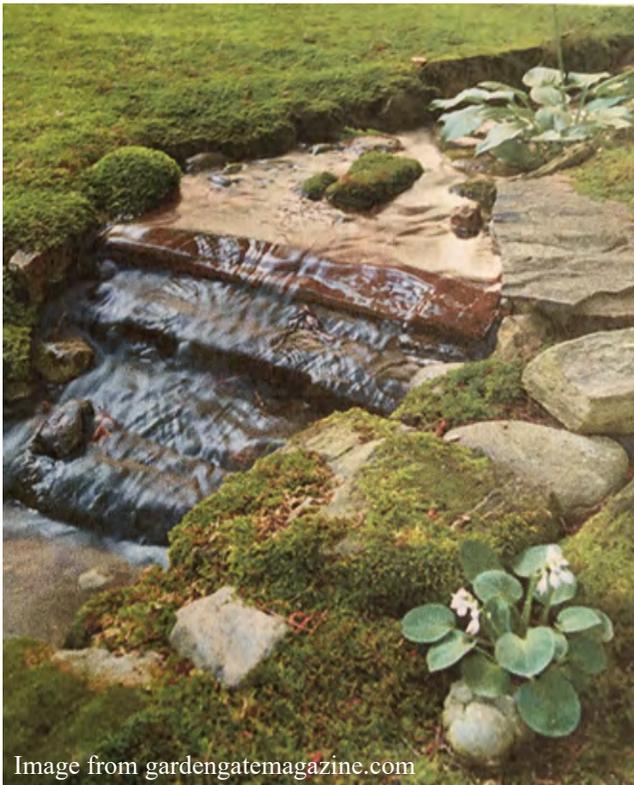
Also known as hornworts. They are identified by their lobed, pointed branches. This is the least common of the three types of moss.

## Moss, Moss Marvelous Moss, continued

### Benefits of Moss

Considering how simple a moss plant is, it can be easily overlooked as a beneficial. You may be as surprised as I was at how useful this plant it can be.

For all of us who care about the environment, moss is a friend because it is effective in purifying air. It readily absorbs pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO<sup>2</sup>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sup>2</sup>), and trioxigen (O<sup>3</sup>), also known as ozone. This has been put to commercial use by a company in Germany that has created a product called City Tree. Not a real tree, it is a vertical frame covered with moss that can be moved about as a mobile air purifier.



Moss provides an excellent habitat for birds in two important ways. Many insects, including lightning bugs, lay their eggs in moss. The mature insects serve as food for birds. And moss creates a soft, secure nest for breeding birds. Mosses have historically been put to many uses: drinking water (moss is spongy), food, insulation and packing material. During WWI, Sphagnum mosses were used to dress wounds and stop bleeding. A very practical use today is the role it plays in the smoking of malt to produce Scotch whiskey.

Of primary interest to us as master gardeners is its use in the garden. Recall that moss can grow almost any place and it absorbs water as it does so. If you have a problem with soil erosion, moss might be your answer. Moss creates a landscape that looks ancient, peaceful, and calming. For that reason, it is still used in places for quiet meditation.

## Moss, Moss Marvelous Moss, continued

As a substitute for a turf lawn, moss is an excellent choice. Consider the following.

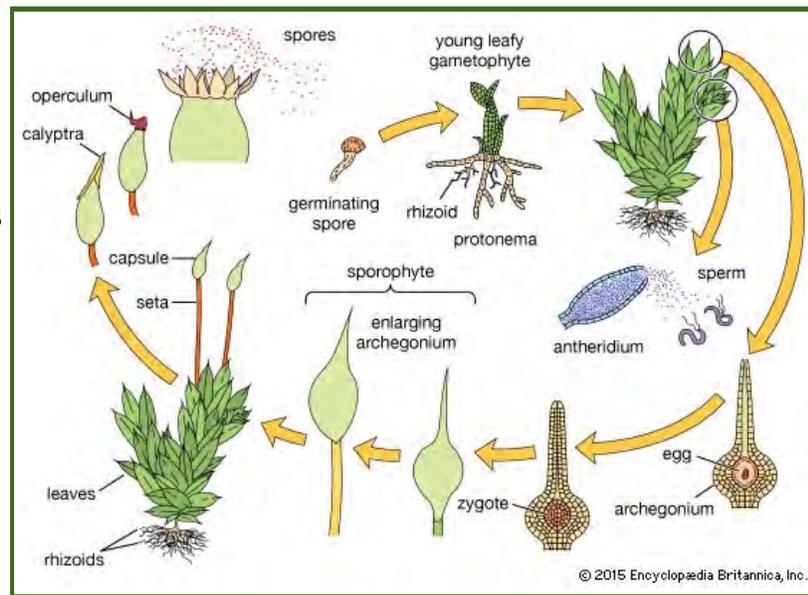
### Moss

- is low maintenance.
- gets its nutrients through its leaves directly from rainfall.
- requires neither fertilizer nor pesticides.
- stays thick, dense, and short. Throw away the mower!
- is drought tolerant (to a point).
- can take foot traffic except for digging dogs and soccer playing kids.
- is winter hardy which is important for climate zones colder than ours.
- is free!! It can easily be grown from pieces of moss that very likely are already thriving in your yard.
- is easy to grow, as I will explain shortly.

### Moss Propagation

Mosses reproduce by means of spores rather than seeds. The lifecycle of a generic moss is illustrated on the right.

The evidence of healthy, reproducing moss is the presence of long stalks that grow upward terminating in a diploid sporophyte that contains and releases spores. For those who want to cultivate moss by natural propagation, it will require a lot of patience. The process can take months or years depending on moisture conditions.



The easiest way to start a moss lawn or garden is to begin with the moss you probably already have. Look for shady areas in your lawn or patio. Recall that moss will grow on surfaces such as brick and rock. If you do not find any moss on your property, look along paths near wet areas. Just be sure you have permission to remove the moss from the site, be it private or public. Some public parks prohibit removal of plants.

## Moss, Moss Marvelous Moss, continued

### Starting your moss garden

To harvest moss, I have found that a flat-bladed spatula or putty knife is an excellent tool. Use the spatula to gently scrape the moss from the surface on which it is growing, being careful to include any soil under the moss. If you are harvesting moss from a lawn or other soil, use the putty knife to cut the moss and substructure soil into patches or rectangles.



Photo by D Howland

Transfer the moss to a bucket whose bottom is covered in water.

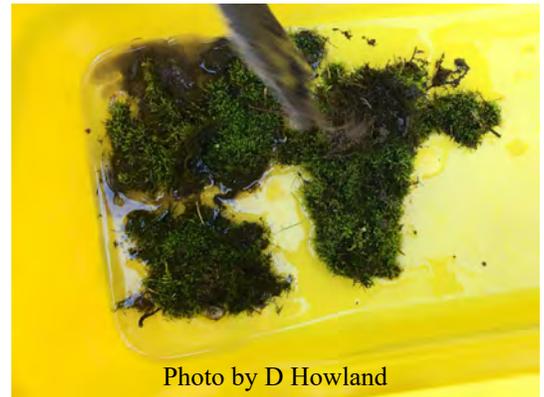


Photo by D Howland

Prepare the area for planting by removing everything currently growing there. Dig up weeds and other plants and rake the area to remove as many roots as possible. Water the area until muddy.



Photo by D Howland

To help the moss stay in place either press it firmly into the mud or use a stick to hold it in place.



Photo by D Howland

## Moss, Moss Marvelous Moss, continued

To accelerate growth, water the newly planted moss with a 1:1 solution of water and buttermilk.

The buttermilk is acidic which is the pH range that moss prefers. To help keep the moss growing, water it frequently. It should establish itself within a few weeks. In St. Tammany Parish the best time to transfer moss is winter or spring when there is more frequent rainfall.

You can speed up the process by making a “moss shake” also known as moss paint. The recipe is:

- A clump of moss
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 2 cups water
- ½ tsp. sugar

Place all ingredients in a blender and mix until it is the consistency of paint. Do NOT use a blender that is used to process food. The paint can be applied to soil, rocks, walls or wherever you choose, as long as it is shady. You can become an artist by making a living design.



This is whole new way to create your own unique garden requiring minimal effort!

Donna Howland  
Master Gardener

## Recommended Documentary: The Gardener

This 90-minute documentary takes you on a tour of Les Jardins de Quatre-Vents, a beautiful 20-acre garden created by Frank Cabot on the St. Lawrence River in the Charlevoix region of Quebec. Mr. Cabot at one time was chairman of the New York Botanical Gardens, and advisor to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Ontario.



Image from atlasobscura.com

Click on the link below or copy and paste into your browser.

[https://www.amazon.com/Gardener-Frank-Cabot/dp/B07DJD29YR/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+gardener&qid=1612718313&s=instant-video&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Gardener-Frank-Cabot/dp/B07DJD29YR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+gardener&qid=1612718313&s=instant-video&sr=1-1)

Sandra Pecoraro  
Master Gardener

## A Louisiana Master Gardener in South Florida

This past fall I visited my sister, Nancy, and her husband, Wade, at their new home in Miami. The house had existing landscaping, but needed some updating and TLC. Now that I am a master gardener, I get lots of questions from friends and family. What type of weed/plant/flower is this? How do I grow this plant? Would you come landscape my new house for me? I heard all of these from Nancy and Wade. Since she is my baby sister, I just had to fly to Miami to help them out.

As a Louisiana Master Gardener, my first step before traveling to Miami was to research the types of plants that grow well in the south Florida climate. I looked for plants that require a minimum of maintenance and upkeep, since Nancy and Wade have a new baby.

The Florida Master Gardener website describes plants that are native to the area and those that do well in the Florida climate. When I arrived there, I walked the neighborhood with Nancy while we discussed different plants and landscaping ideas for her home. I was amazed that many plants that we consider here as potted plants, in Miami are actually outdoor landscape plants. Nancy's house has orchids that are wired to her palm trees and live outside with minimal, if any, care from her! Another familiar plant, the croton, grows in Miami landscapes as a shrub or hedge (see below).

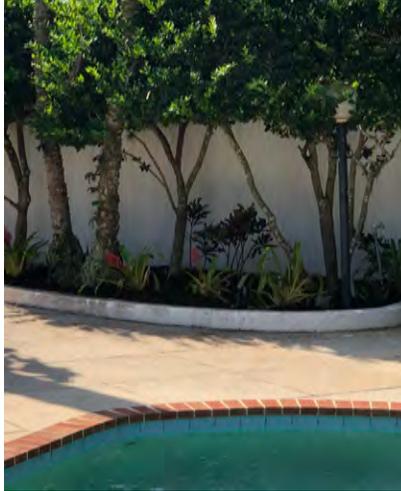


The first thing Nancy and I did was to walk her property and discuss what plants she liked, how they plan to use their yard and patio, and other aesthetics. The lot behind her house was sold separately, so a new privacy fence at the back of the property was planned. Plants along that property line needed to be transplanted in order to be saved. We moved bromeliads from the new fence line area to a bed under some acacia trees (see above).

When we were removing the bromeliads, we learned quickly they have very sharp, serrated edges on their leaves! After band-aids were applied and garden gloves were put on, we resumed transplanting the bromeliads.

## A Louisiana Master Gardener in South Florida, continued

We then focused our attention on a neglected flower bed next to a patio seating area (below). In that bed, we transplanted some smaller crotons that the real estate agent had put in pots when she was showing the house.



The previous owners left behind many large palms with attached orchids and along with bromeliads (on the left).

We filled several decorative planters in the front of the house (on the right). One large concrete planter now has creeping jenny, a flowering ginger plant, and some “filler” perennials from the local garden center.



Using one of my favorite plants, white vincas, we filled pots in a front flower bed (left) under some large palms, and in this planter box near the front door (right).



All photos by L Wall

## A Louisiana Master Gardener in South Florida, continued

Nancy and Wade wanted some fresh herbs and vegetables. We chose a side patio to plant herbs and tomatoes in pots. This area gets the right amount of sun, and is open to the rain. We added two flowering hibiscus plants in pots flanking the rear doorway. Fortunately, South Florida receives sufficient rainfall so Nancy rarely has to water the plants. They get all of the water they need naturally.



I have been back to Miami since we did our initial landscaping in early September 2019. Our transplanted and potted plants are alive and flourishing! We have plans for more landscaping and potted plants to help soften and camouflage the new fence behind their patio and pool. Each time I go back to visit, we add something new. We have discussed some landscaping ideas for the future, and I've encouraged Nancy and Wade to look at other homes in their neighborhood for inspiration.

I know I would not have been as successful in choosing the right plant for the right site had I not gotten the training and education in the Louisiana Master Gardener program. I am sure I would not have had the confidence to advise others on what plants to buy and where to place them.

Now that I have this experience, who knows what I will try next? Maybe some landscaping in my own yard in Mandeville ... if I can convince my dogs to stop digging in my flower beds!

Leigh Anne Wall  
Master Gardener

## Escape to the Garden Cottage in St. Louis

Susie and I experienced burn-out from staying home too long, like I am sure many others have. We decided to take a vacation for a few days to visit our daughter, Katy. Susie did a wonderful job finding a small house to rent just a few minutes from Katy's apartment. We soon discovered the attraction this cottage would have to two master gardeners. Advertised as "The Garden Cottage in the City," it was in a comfortable urban neighborhood in St. Louis.

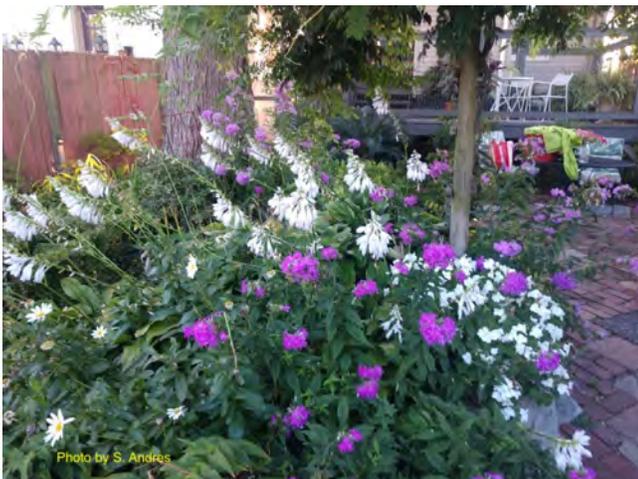
The cottage had great parking off an alleyway at the back gate. Entering the gate was like opening the side door to the Secret Garden.



We were immediately engulfed in a welcoming variety of plant colors, sizes, and textures framed by a warm wooden fence.

The soothing sound of a waterfall provided all the invitation we needed to enter this tiny paradise.

The first flower to catch my eye was a pink phlox that nicely countered white hosta. I was immediately hooked. My eyes were on their own!



The bricks that bid us enter guided us to more of the beautifully arranged flora in this gardener's oasis.



## Escape to the Garden Cottage in St. Louis, continued

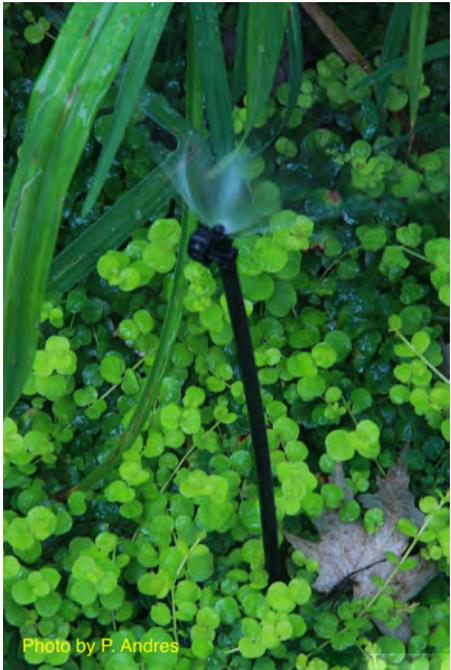
The oxeye daisies added brightness to the garden without any light pollution. We saw a white hibiscus in various stages of bloom. The nearest I got to identifying it: a Luna White Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), possibly. Several types of kalanchoe and other succulents were tastefully used throughout the manicured garden.



Even the ground cover had a look of comfortable neatness. The house was efficient and had plenty of room for two visitors. But we kept returning to the garden, which for me was the focal point of this rental. Stepping onto the back porch of the house gave me an elevated view of the garden and an excuse to linger longer with a cup of coffee.



There I was immediately greeted by a hanging arrangement of impatiens, coleus and succulents displaying the artistic concept of “thrillers-fillers-spillers”. From this perspective I could see the larger picture with placement of each specific area and arrangement. The natural and pleasant flow from one plant to the next, from one area to another, added to the welcoming atmosphere of the Garden Cottage.



Escape to the Garden Cottage in St. Louis, continued

Looking into the garden our eyes and ears are captured by the fishpond and the waterfalls.



The balance of color, texture and heights guided us along the flowing stream bed to more garden art and seating areas.



Details, such as the garden art and fish swimming in their pond, just seemed to complete the picture.

This visit was made in September of 2020. We are looking forward to going back to the Garden Cottage in the City just to see what the other seasons have to offer.



Paul Andres  
Master Gardener  
Vegucator  
Audubon Louisiana Nature Center, Project Chair

## Growing Mirlitons

Mirliton, melataun, alligator pear, vegetable pear, chayote, chocho, tayota, christophine, chouchoute, or *Sechium edule* are just a few of the names given to this unassuming vegetable. Call it what you want. This green mildly flavored vegetable is ubiquitous in south Louisiana cooking. Ask anyone who lives here and you will find out that their momma has THE BEST mirliton recipe. You will find it stuffed with seafood, simmering in soups, pickled, baked in desserts, floating in a crawfish boil, and even served raw in salads and on veggie trays. Did you know that the roots, leaves, flowers, tendrils, seeds, and of course the fruit of the mirliton vine are all edible?

You will also find mirlitons in many south Louisiana backyards hanging from lush climbing green vines. They are easy to grow. Start by saving a few large ripe mirlitons from the fall crop. Let them mature on the vine and pick them right before the first frost in fall. Pick two or three more than you plan to plant. Not all of them will make to the spring. Even though the mirliton is a perennial, I do this every fall just in case we have a harsh winter and my established plant does not survive.



Photo by J Blazek

Place the mirliton in a paper bag (one per bag). You can start with a small bag, but eventually when it begins to sprout, you will need to transfer it to a larger one. Leave the closed bag in a cool, dry, dark place indoors. Some folks put it under a bed or piece of furniture, in a cabinet or closet. It needs to be stored out of direct sunlight with in a temperature between 45 - 60 F. Check it every week or two to watch for sprouting and for fungal damage. This is why you place only one in each bag. If one gets moldy, it will quickly spread to another in the same bag. Throw away any that develop fungal damage or have spots that appear to be rotting.



Photo by J Blazek

The fruit will begin to sprout a vine from the larger end. Make sure there is space in the bag for sprouting. This is when I usually transfer to a larger bag. It will take about four weeks or so for sprouting to begin.



Photo by J Blazek

## Growing Mirlitons, continued

Once sprouting begins, I check the mirlitons more often. At this point I usually have them on the dining room table. Still out of direct sunlight in a closed bag. One per bag.



Photo by J Blazek

Once the sprouting vine is five to eight inches tall, the mirliton can be planted. In my experience this occurs in January, when it is still too early to plant the vine in the ground. It is time to put it in a large plastic pot. Use generic potting soil. Place the mirliton's large end (the sprouting end) down at about a 45-60 degree angle. The roots will emerge from the same end as the sprout. Leave the smaller tip exposed. The fruit itself will serve as nourishment for the vine as it grows roots.



Photo by J Blazek

The pot needs to be kept in a warm place. The tender vine will be damaged by dipping temperatures at night. I leave mine in a heated greenhouse with the rest of my over-wintering plants. The vine can be clipped back if it gets too gangly. As the vine continues to grow, the exposed smaller end will begin to shrivel and it can be covered with soil.



Photo by J Blazek

Plan on transplanting the mirliton vine into the ground after there is no longer any danger of frost. That is usually mid to late March. Pick a sunny spot with good drainage. Root rot is one of the leading causes of vine loss. Your vine will need lots of support. In my garden we erected a hoop between two raised beds. The vine is planted in the bed. Give the vine a framework on which to climb, such as chicken wire or woven ropes. A trellis, a fence, an unused clothesline also works.



Photo by J Blazek

## Growing Mirlitons, continued

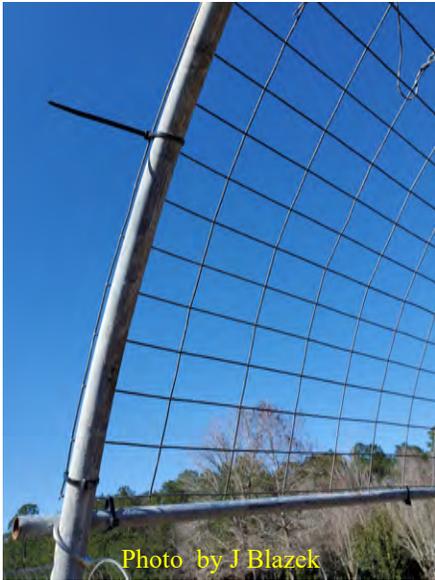


Photo by J Blazek

Originally we used rope for vine support. Now we have chicken wire attached with zip ties. A pipe is attached across the top to prevent sagging.



Photo by J Blazek



Photo by J Blazek

The vine is a vigorous grower. It has both male and female flowers, and requires pollinators, such as bees, for fertilization. Only the female flowers produce fruit. It takes about 150 days to produce its first fruits.

This is a perennial plant. It will die back after the first frost in the fall. If you mulch well, the vine will return in the spring. You may even get fruit the second spring, but the larger harvest will be in the fall.

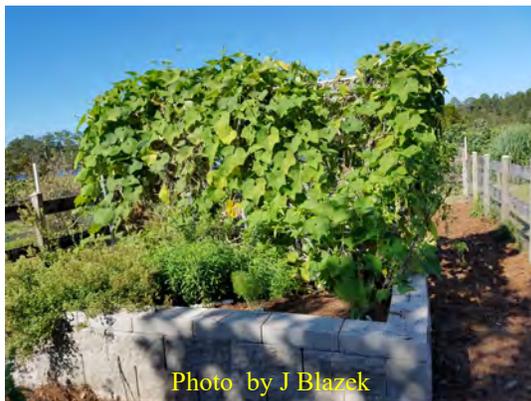


Photo by J Blazek

The roots of a mirliton vine are shallow and benefit from frequent watering and a light mulch. I apply compost in the early spring and once or twice during the summer. One vine usually provides more fruit than a family of four can eat, so plan on sharing your harvest with family and friends. Or give them those extra vines you potted so they can grow their own.



One day's harvest/photo by J Blazek

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Jamie Blazek  
Master Gardener  
Vegucator  
*The Gardengoer*, Editor

## Epsom Salt

Reading through popular press articles and hearing about incredible silver-bullet cures for plant ailments, one would believe that Epsom salt is the savior of the plant world. Although Epsom salt does have a long history and many tried and true uses, I find that some of the testimonials seen on message boards and social media platforms are completely exaggerated. The old saying, “If it’s too good to be true, then its too good to be true,” should start popping up in everyone’s mind. By examining the science behind Epsom salt, you can understand how its addition to a fertilizer program can be helpful to some gardeners.

Technically speaking, Epsom salt is a common name for the chemical compound, magnesium sulfate ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ). It is a chemical salt consisting of magnesium ( $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ) and sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ). In chemistry, salts are defined as a chemical compound where a positively charge ion, a cation, and a negatively charged ion, an anion, are joined together due to their opposite charges. Many salt compounds are easily soluble in water. In other words, they easily break apart when added to a water. Magnesium and sulfur are 2 of the 17 essential nutrients that all plants need to grow and develop properly. If deficient in the soil, this is the reason gardeners have seen positive results when adding Epsom salt to the garden.

Magnesium is absorbed by plant roots as  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  dissolved in the soil-water solution. Magnesium competes with other cations like potassium ( $\text{K}^+$ ) and calcium ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) for access to cation exchange site, a negatively charged area that holds cations in a soil. It is involved with several important plant processes including photosynthesis and transfer reactions within the plant. With regards to photosynthesis, magnesium is featured at the very center of a molecule of chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is a plant pigment used to harvest light energy and break the hydrogen bond in water molecules ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). Plants treated with a foliar application of an Epsom salt solution will typically appear a darker green due to this reason. This may be the source where all the wild claims originate. Magnesium is also required for optimal activity of almost every phosphorylating enzyme in carbohydrate metabolism, or simply put, the release of stored energy.

The other constituent of Epsom salt, sulfur, also plays important roles inside of the plant. Sulfur is taken up by plants in the form of  $\text{SO}^{2-}$ . Its main function is in the production of sulfur-containing amino acids, which comprises about 90% of the sulfur in plants. Amino acids are the basic building blocks of proteins and play a significant role in the growth and development of plants. Sulfur is also found in volatile compounds that are responsible for the distinguishable odor of mustard and allium plants.

## Epsom Salt, continued

The use of Epsom salt in the garden should be influenced by the current concentrations of these elements in the soil. To determine the availability of these elements in your garden soil, send a sample to the LSU AgCenter's Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Lab. Both magnesium and sulfur are included on the routine soil test package. A rating of medium, low, or very low indicate that the specified crop will be deficient in the corresponding element. Use these rating descriptions to decide whether magnesium or sulfur is required through fertilization.

When applying Epsom salt as a fertilizer use a general rate of 1 pound per 100 square feet. This will provide immediately available magnesium and sulfur to nearby plants. Water in thoroughly upon completion. For more immediate results, Epsom salts can be applied as a foliage spray. The general rate for a foliar application is 2 tablespoons dissolved in a gallon of water and applied to the leaves of a plant with a simple watering can.

So, as you continue your gardening journey, be wary of incredulous statements and ridiculous claims. Make informed decisions using information and experience gained along the way. And always, reach out to your local county extension agent when an unbiased authority is needed. We are here to help.

Will Afton  
County Agent  
LSU AgCenter





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Projects Coordinator:	Dave Maher
Publicity:	Snoann Willett
Scholarship Committee:	Kay Hanson
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## St. Tammany Master Gardeners Association 2021 Leadership

### **Educational Coordinator:** Mimi Padgett

#### **Educational Chairs** (no term limit except as noted)

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AgCenter Library:	Kim Burt
Covington Farmers Market:	Diane Cammatte and Billie Stanga
Covington Library Project:	Julie Deus
Fall Seminar 2021:	Earlyn Pickering-Jasper
LSU AgCenter Volunteers:	Cindy Manger
Mentoring:	Jenny Graffeo
Slidell Farmers Market:	Janet Schexnayder
Speakers Bureau:	Darice Breeding
Spring Seminar 2021:	Christine Foster
Table Talks:	TBD
Vegucators:	Dawn Lavoie and Mimi Padgett (second term)

### **Project Coordinator:** Dave Maher

#### **Project Chairs** (no term limit except as noted)

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Lacombe Butterfly Garden:	Dave Maher and Barbara Moore
Lang House Gardens:	Peter Weaver
LSU AgCenter Super Plant Garden:	Will Afton
Northlake Nature Center:	Jim Russell
Otis House Rose Garden:	Ann Durel
Parenting Center Butterfly & Vegetable Garden:	Janet Jones
School Garden Partnerships (Rooting the Future)	
Lee Road Elementary:	Lyn Monteleone
Marigny Elementary:	Sue Maguire
Woodlake Elementary:	TBD
Slidell Library Garden:	Linda Franzo

## A New Horticultural Guide On The STMGA Website

There's a new horticultural guide on the St. Tammany Master Gardener Association website. "Ornamentals and Herbs: An Essential Guide" can be found in the public section under the Gardening tab ( <https://www.stmastergardener.org/gardening> ). This information was initially collated by Paul Andres, a Louisiana Master Gardener, as a quick guide for creating a successful and beautiful garden in St. Tammany Parish. Requirements for each plant, such as amount of sunlight, shade, water needs, propagation and soil types are included along with much more information. The guide can be used when planning new gardens or considering purchases of new plants for existing gardens. You can copy pages to give to your friends when you share your favorite pass-along plant. Here's a sample page:

### Amaryllis (*Amaryllis spp*)



- Type of plant: A bulbous flowering plant  
Origin: Native to southern Africa, Central and South America  
AKA: Belladonna lily, Jersey lily, Naked lady, Amarillo  
Purpose: Ornamental border plant or central focus  
Growth size: Leaves 3 inches wide by 18 to 24 inches long; Flower stem 12 to 18 inches tall with several flowers on each stem  
Light: Full sun. If planted in a container, rotate the container so plant does not lean one way.  
Temperature: Blooms best with temperatures over 60 F. Freeze tolerant down to 10 F  
Soil: Light, rich well-drained soil; plant with 1/3 of bulb exposed.  
Fertilizer: Once leaves appear, fertilize with balanced product, then monthly through the spring.  
Water: Water when top 1 inch of soil is dry; do not over water.  
Growth hints: Plant bulbs in containers about 8 to 10 weeks before blooms are desired; keep dry and cool before planting.  
Propagation: Split bulbs about every 3 to 4 years when planted in the ground.

## A New Horticultural Guide On The STMGA Website, continued

We would love to add more plants and updates from other master gardeners. There is a link on the title page of the document (on the website) for you to submit additional plants and their pertinent information.

### Template For Submission\*

<b>Plant</b>	Common Name ( <i>Scientific Name</i> )
<b>Photo</b>	Preferably one you have taken of your successes. If the photo came from a Google search, please note the website.
<b>Type of plant</b>	Perennial, annual, shrub, tree, grass, etc.
<b>Origin</b>	Country of origin, native
<b>AKA</b>	Additional common names, if any
<b>Purpose</b>	Ornamental, landscape, culinary, medicinal, container, etc.
<b>Growth Size</b>	Maximum and minimum height and width
<b>Light</b>	Sun and shade requirements
<b>Temperature</b>	Frost and heat tolerance
<b>Soil</b>	Acidic, loamy, well-drained, sandy, etc.
<b>Water</b>	Frequency, drought tolerance, soil moisture tolerance
<b>Fertilizer</b>	Frequency, any special needs such as extra phosphorus, etc.
<b>Growth Hints</b>	Trellis support, pruning, cooling requirements (for bulbs or for fruiting), invasiveness, etc.
<b>Unique properties</b>	Anything that makes it unique, such as color and timing of flowers, etc.
<b>Pests &amp; Problems</b>	Insect or disease destruction common to this plant, possible management solutions, etc.
<b>Propagation Methods</b>	Seeds, cuttings, etc.

\* Not every category in the template needs to be filled with information.

# WANTED

**WHO:** STMGA Master Gardeners

**PURPOSE:** To write articles for *The Gardengoer*

**IDEAS:** Any gardening topic that interests you, such as (but not limited to):

**Creating new gardens**

**Tour of a garden (public or private)**

**Growing specific plants, vegetables, fruit, herbs, spices**

**Overcoming a garden problem**

**Gardening tools and equipment**

**Pollinators and other garden insects**

**REWARD:** Volunteer hours

**Admiration of other master gardeners**

**Enhanced self-esteem**

Submit articles and questions to  
[jamiablazek@bellsouth.net](mailto:jamiablazek@bellsouth.net)

Jamie Blazek  
Master Gardener  
Vegucator  
Editor, *The Gardengoer*



## THE GARDENGOER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



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