



An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 2074, Mandeville, Louisiana 70470

Website: stmastergardener.org

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May your life be like a wildflower growing freely in
beauty and joy each day.

Native American Proverb

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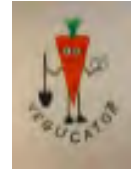
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Photo by J Blazek

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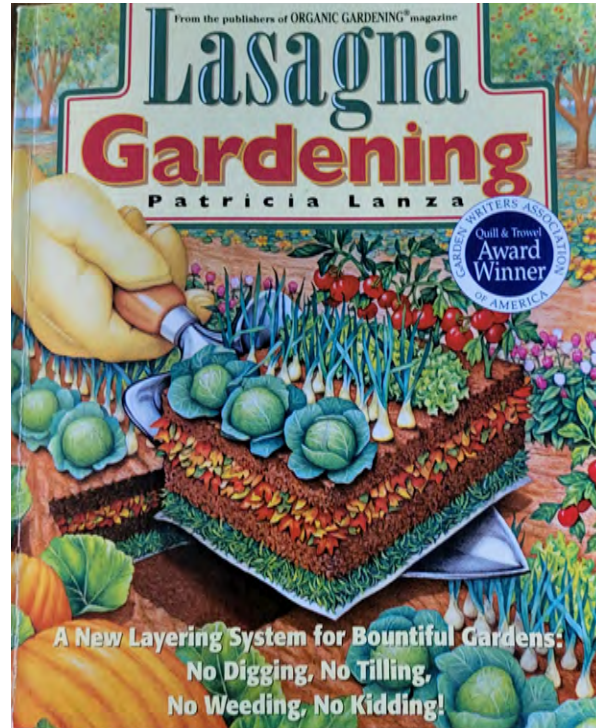
Lasagna Gardening



On July 6, 2022, Mimi Padgett presented a lecture to the Vegucators on Lasagna Gardening. The following is a summary of her presentation.

Lasagna gardening is a non-traditional, organic, layering method used to create better soil while keeping your garden neat and attractive. The name comes from the layers you create in the garden bed. It is an easy, time-saving way to install and maintain any kind of garden without removing the sod, digging, or tilling. It saves work, energy, time, and money.

The ground stays cool and damp under the layers of mulch. You can recycle many things into your garden (grass clippings, newspaper, wood ash, kitchen scraps). It is a chemical free, safe environment for birds, bees, and butterflies. Lasagna gardens can be used for flowers, vegetables, and herbs.



Cover of book by P Lanza

First, select the perfect site for your lasagna garden. Follow the sun pattern in your yard at morning, midday, and afternoon. Note the placement of trees and shade patterns. A site that gets full sun (eight or more hours a day) can support a wide variety of plants. Next look for low spots that form puddles after a heavy rain. Avoids these when possible. Make sure the site you select is close to a water source so you can water efficiently.

Next gather your mulching ingredients. These can include, but are not limited to, peat moss, animal manures, shredded leaves, compost, mulch, grass clippings, coffee grounds, hay, and newspaper. Organic mulch is important to cover and protect the soil. It creates food for earthworms and other helpful soil organisms. These organisms in turn release nutrients in a form that plant roots can absorb. Mulch feeds the soil ... and the soil feeds the plants.

Create your own compost pile on level, well-drained soil that is in full sun. Choose a site that is convenient to both your kitchen and your garden. Decide how big you want your compost pile. Remember that compost needs high carbon (brown and dry, such as, leaves, hay, straw), as well as, high nitrogen materials (moist and green, such as, grass clippings, kitchen scraps, and manure). Do **not** add fat, meat, bones, or oils to composts.

Lasagna Gardening, continued



Now it is time to start your lasagna garden layers. Assemble the following:

- First layer: something heavy, like thick pads of newspaper or sheets of overlapping cardboard
- Second layer: 2 to 3 inches of peat moss
- Third layer: organic mulch material
- Fourth layer: more peat moss
- Fifth layer: more organic mulch

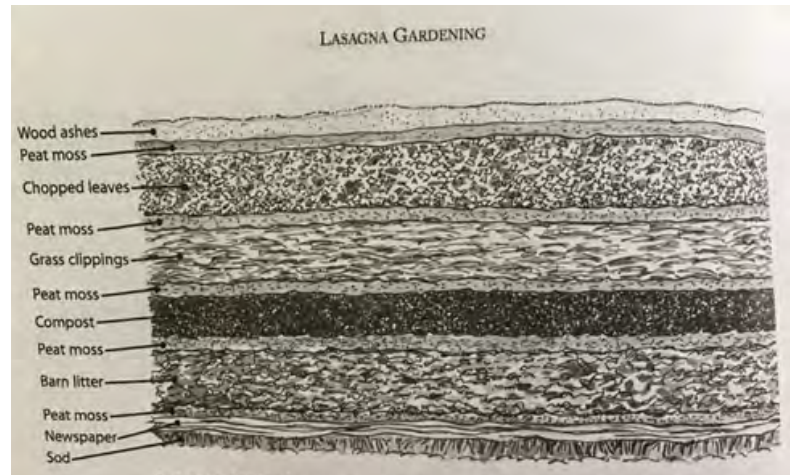


Illustration taken from *Lasagna Gardening* by P Lanza



Photo by M Padgett

The exact materials may differ depending on what you have available. Continue until you have built up 18 to 24 inches then top off with bonemeal or wood ash to add extra phosphorus and potassium. As decomposition occurs, the height of the garden will decrease over time. Just add layers on top each year to maintain the height.

With a lasagna garden you simply layer. As the book says, "No digging. No tilling. No weeding. No kidding."

And remember to get a soil test!

Summer Seminar 2022: Gardening For Success

The St. Tammany Master Gardener Association's Summer Seminar entitled *Gardening For Success* was held on Friday, July 8, 2022. It was a wonderful event with great speakers, beautiful decorations, delicious food, and eager attendees! A BIG THANK YOU to the volunteers for all your hard work.

Our speakers included Dr. Ed Bush, Dr. Raj Singh, and our own county agent, Will Afton.



Registration was well organized and flowed smoothly. Our guests were registered, greeted, and seated in time to start our program on schedule.



Coffee was a special challenge because we could not get in the door of the building until 30 minutes prior to our start time. Our Hospitality Chair, Susie Andres, made it happen. The breakfast treats were fresh and delicious!

Summer Seminar 2022: Gardening For Success, continued

The door prizes were a great hit. Thank you to Dr. Allen Owings for his generous door prize donations.



Our table center pieces were cute and functional: a bag of soil and two gardening tools. They were unique and really tied our theme together.

Our Table Talks were very well received. We had plenty of space, so no one was overcrowded. Thanks to Barry Pierce and Janice Perkins for educating us with their table talk presentations.



The Set-up/Clean-up team was utterly amazing. True to St. Tammany Master Gardener Association style everyone pitched in and made short order of cleanup. Our photographer Linda March documented our seminar in pictures. They will be posted to our website soon. Some are shared in this article.

Summer Seminar 2022: Gardening For Success, continued

Our final count was 110 in attendance. The evaluation forms are being tallied and will be available to help us improve future seminars. We would like to thank our Summer Seminar 2022 team for all their hard work.



Summer Seminar 2022: Gardening For Success, continued



All photos by Linda March

Jan Pesses
Master Gardener
STMGA President
Summer Seminar Chair

Herb Of Grace: *Ruta graveolens*

Ruta graveolens, also known as rue or common rue, has been around since ancient times when it was used as a medicinal herb. Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, recommended rue over 2400 years ago as an antidote to poison. Rue got its nickname "herb of grace" during the middle ages when hanging it in the home was thought to protect against witches and evil spirits. Certain christian religions still use rue sprigs dipped in blessed water to anoint the congregation as a blessing. Shakespeare's Richard III planted a "bank of rue, sour herb of grace, in remembrance of a weeping queen." Rue is even mentioned in the bible's book of Luke as a plant to be considered in tithing.



Rue is native to the Balkans but can now be found throughout the world. It is a favorite of gardeners for its aromatic blue-green leaves contrasted by yellow flowers which bloom in the summer months. The petals are frilly on the edges with green centers. It is a small perennial shrub, about two to three feet tall, that prefers full sun and well-drained soil. The seeds can be sown in pots or in ground as soon as the soil temperature reaches 70 degrees. Just scatter the seeds on top of the soil and lightly press them in with your palm. The soil can be acidic, neutral, or alkaline. It is not a fussy plant and will even grow in gravel. The plants should be one to two feet apart.

Rue will grow in the shade, but will not produce many flowers there.

Once established, rue requires very little water and can be used in xeriscapes and rock gardens. Over-watering mature plants will result in root-rot. Rue does prefer dry climates but will tolerate hot humid climates if it is in well-drained soil and has good air circulation around the plant. Consider planting in pots if your yard remains wet for extended periods of time. No need to fertilize. That will result in more leaves and fewer flowers. Rue loves poor soil. There are several varieties of rue, with leaves ranging from green to blue-green to vivid blue. Some varieties are more aromatic than others.



Herb Of Grace: *Ruta graveolens*, continued



Rue flowers appear on new growth. The flower size is less than one inch. Leaves are compound, alternate, and oblong about three to six inches long depending on the variety. When bruised, the leaves are very aromatic and have a bitter taste. Prune the plant to six inches tall when flowering stops (fall to late winter). If you prune too late (in spring), you will get fewer flowers.



The original plant will last up to five years. Seed pods can be harvested in the fall when the brown/copper colored capsule splits to reveal seeds. Or remove the pods after the flower dies if you do not want the plant to re-seed and spread. Propagation can be done by seed or with cuttings taken in late summer from new growth.

Care should be taken when handling fresh rue. It can cause rashes in some people. Not everyone gets a rash when rue touches their skin. But to be on the safe side, always wear gloves and protective clothing when pruning and harvesting. Especially on hot humid days when the sap can cause an increased sensitivity to sunlight causing blisters. It is preferable to plant rue away from pathways to avoid accidentally brushing up against it.

Once common in old gardens, rue was used primarily as a medicinal herb for many conditions. An extract was taken by mouth for menstrual cramps, anorexia, upset stomach, blood flow, anxiety, leg cramps, hepatitis, diarrhea, headache, arthritis, intestinal parasitic infections, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, cancer. In the middle ages sprigs scattered on the floor were thought to dispel the plague. An ointment of rue was applied to the skin for arthritis, sprains, fractures, toothache, headache, skin cancer, and warts. It was used as an insect repellent.

In western medicine, there is no good scientific evidence that rue is effective for any of these conditions. In fact, use has generally fallen out of favor because, concentrated in medicinal doses, it can be very toxic. Ingestion of large amounts can cause stomach pains, uterine contractions, convulsions, confusion, slow heart rate, liver and kidney damage. In medicinal doses it is considered **unsafe** when ingested by small children, pregnant or breastfeeding women, or those with kidney or liver disorders. Ingestion of small amounts of rue leaves is considered safe, though, in those not allergic.

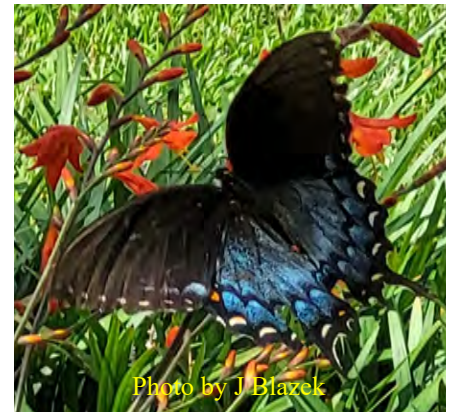
Herb Of Grace: *Ruta graveolens*, continued

Rue has been used in cooking since ancient times. In Ethiopia it is still used to spice up certain stews, and the seeds are added to coffee imparting a mildly bitter taste. There are old tomato sauce recipes in Italy passed down from generation to generation which include rue. The herb can be used dried or fresh in these recipes. Commonly the fresh leaves are placed in the simmering stews for a few minutes then removed. Dried rue is used in a *bouquet garni* that is removed before serving. Removing the herb after simmering for a few minutes imparts the flavor of the herb without the bitterness.



Freshly picked rue can cause a temporary mild numbing sensation when placed directly on the tongue (why it was once used to dull the pain of toothaches). The chemical in rue that causes numbing is the same found in certain hot peppers, capers, and citrus peel. The oil of this herb is also used as a flavor agent in some beverages, such as grappa. The fragrance of rue oil has been used in the manufacturing of soaps and cosmetics.

With its reputation for causing rashes why would anyone want to grow rue? It is a great plant to use in pollinator gardens. Butterflies, especially swallowtails, are attracted to its strong aroma. It is a host plant for their caterpillars. Organic gardeners love rue because it also attracts parasitic wasps who lay their eggs in many pesky insects. The wasps that rue attracts will take care of pests in neighboring plants, too. Rue itself is so hardy a plant, it is not susceptible to most pests and diseases. The smell of rue repels dogs, cats, deer, and Japanese beetles keeping them out of your garden beds. So it makes a great companion plant.



The humble herb, rue, has been cultivated and used by humans for several millennia. An ancient plant with modern applications. Add it to your pollinator garden. Use it as a companion plant in your gardens to attract beneficial insects like predator wasps. Wildlife and pets will be deterred from tearing up the garden around it. As an added bonus, it may also repel witches and evil spirits this Halloween!

References:

1. [yj gur tweg @qo l twg/ hqy gtu/ r m p v r t q h k g / 698: ; ; 9](#)
2. [i c t f g p k p i m p q y j q y @qo l g f k d r g l j g t d u l t w g l](#)
3. [i t q y k p i / t w g / j w o o q y g t g c t y j i c t f g p g t @qo l r m p v r t q h k g u l t w g / h q t i q w g p / j g t d / o c | 35 y | u d c m l](#)
4. [r w d o g f @ p e d k p m @ p j 0 q x l 3 9 5 2 5 2 6 8 1](#)
5. [p c w t c m g f k e l p g u 0 j g t c r g w k e t g u g c t e j @qo](#)
6. [r m p v u @ g u @ p e u w g f w l r m p w l t w c / i t e x g q r g p u l](#)

Jamie Blazek
Master Gardener
Vegucator
Editor, *The Gardengoer*

DYI: The Bucket-in-a-bucket Planter



On Wednesday, August 3, 2022, Wes Goostrey demonstrated to the Vegucators the art of making a bucket-in-a-bucket planter using re-cycled plastic five-gallon containers he obtained from a local bakery.

Supplies needed:

- 2 large stackable plastic containers
- 1 empty margarine container
- 1 piece of PVC pipe
- hand saw or sawzall
- hand drill



Step 1:

Drill at least 4 holes in the side of the **outer** large container just below the bottom of the inner container. By holding the two stacked containers to the sun, you can see through the plastic to determine where the holes should be drilled. Mark that height on the side of the outer container, then remove the inner container and drill. Do not drill through both containers ... only the outer one. These holes will drain excess water from the inner planter.



Step 2:

Cut the PVC pipe about four inches higher than the height of the stacked containers. This pipe will go through the inner container to the bottom of the outer container and will become the watering pipe. A flanged mouth for the top makes watering easier, but is not mandatory. A funnel can also be placed temporarily into the mouth of the pipe to facilitate watering. The bottom of the pipe should be cut on an angle.



DYI: The Bucket-in-a-bucket Planter, continued



Step 3:

Two holes need to be cut into the bottom of the **inner** container. A small one, the diameter of the PVC pipe, is placed near the edge. A larger hole in the center will hold the margarine tub. Mark the bottom diameter of the tub in the center of the container (photo 1 & 2). Mark the outer diameter of the PVC pipe close to the side. Next cut the holes. Drilling a hole first will allow the blade in and make cutting easier (3).



The holes can be cut with a handsaw (4), a metal cutting scissor (5), or a sawzall (6). The easiest, of course, is a sawzall.



Step 4:

Drill a few more drain holes into the bottom of the inner container. If you plan to put a tomato cage in the planter, you may want to mark where the the lower spikes touch the bottom of the inner bucket. Then drill the bottom holes where marked. This way you can put the lower spikes of the cage through the bottom holes and bend the spikes back to stabilize the cage.

DYI: The Bucket-in-a-bucket Planter, continued



Step 5:

Using a pocket knife, cut slits into the side of the margarine container. Do not cut through the top or bottom.



Step 6:

It is now time to paint all the plastic that is exposed to the sun: the top of the inner bucket and the entire outer bucket. Painting is not mandatory, but it will extend the life of the planter by a few years. Otherwise, the plastic will become brittle and crack.

The paint job can be as creative or utilitarian as you like. A good way to utilize those half-empty cans of paint left over from another project.



Step 6: Assemble

Place the margarine tub into the bottom hole of the inner container. If using a tomato cage place it into the inner container and through the drilled drain holes, bending the ends back for stability. Stack the containers. Place PVC pipe angled-end down through the inner container until it touches the bottom of the outer container. Place soil or gravel into the margarine tub. Fill the inner bucket with soil and plant. Add water through the PVC pipe until you see it dripping out the side drill holes. Those outer drill holes are as high as the water will get. Only the small margarine tub sits in the water. Your plant roots will never get water-logged but will have access to moisture at all times.



DYI: The Bucket-in-a-bucket Planter, continued



Assemble and stack photos:



Inside view of inner container
prior to adding soil

Let your imagination run wild. Do not limit this project to round containers. Re-cycle any large containers you have. Square margarine tubs and kitty litter containers also make great DYI bucket-in-a-bucket planters.



Photo by W Goostry

Wesley Goostry
Master Gardener
Vegucator

Photos by J Blazek except where otherwise noted.

Insect Hotel



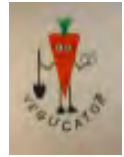
Our insect hotel is well loved by its occupants. You may notice that some of the hollow canes in this section have been packed with various straw pieces and weed stems. I suspect that these are nesting sites for some bee or other insect.

Here two wasp-like insects are peeping out. I have noticed this occurs late in the day. Sometimes several are just flying around this hotel, but they show no interest in the humans who stop and stare.



Monica Pierce
Master Gardener

Snakes of Louisiana



On August 3, 2022, Laura Steffee presented a lecture to the Vegucators on the species of snakes found in Louisiana. The following is a summary of that lecture. The full Powerpoint presentation can be found on the computer in the LSU Agcenter classroom.

Basic Facts:

- Most Louisiana snakes are harmless, and are actually beneficial to the environment as predators of small rodents and insects.
- Snakes are an important part of the balance of nature, both as predator and as prey (a favorite snack of hawks, owls, wild pigs, skunks).
- The fastest snake moves less than five miles an hour and can easily be out-distanced by humans.
- Snakes are not aggressive except when defending themselves.
- Venomous snakes can only strike a distance of the length of their body or less.
- Snakes cannot hear but can sense vibrations.
- Of the 40 species of snakes in Louisiana, there are only five types of venomous snakes in Louisiana: pygmy rattlesnake, canebrake (or timber) rattlesnake, cottonmouth (or water moccasin), copperhead, and coral snake. All the rest are non-venomous.
- Snakes use their venom for catching prey or for defense.
- To alleviate much of the fear of snakes, it is important to learn more about those found in Louisiana. You do not have to be able to identify all snakes ... just learn the few venomous ones.



Pygmy Rattlesnake



Copperhead

Louisiana venomous snakes



Canebrake rattlesnake



Cottonmouth



Coral snake

Snakes of Louisiana, continued



Avoiding Snake Bites:

- Snakes are generally non-aggressive and harmless, unless startled or cornered.
- Snakes cannot hear, but do sense vibrations. So stomp those feet!
- Most bites occur when people step on, get too near, or try to kill one.
- The strike range of a snake is approximately the length of its body. Staying five to six feet away and slowly backing up is the best way to avoid being bitten.
- Avoid snake habitats (tall grass, fallen/rotting logs, rock outcroppings, piles of leaves, swamps). If it is necessary to be moving through snake habitats, do so with attention to surroundings.
- Be still if you encounter a snake. Allow the snake to retreat. Back away slowly.
- Wear shoes outside, and snake-proof trousers or high boots when walking through snake habitats.
- Do not try to grab, handle, kill, or step on the snake.
- Remember that involuntary nerve conduction will allow a snake's mouth to contract and bite even an hour after it is killed.
- Be cautious about where hands and feet are placed. Unless hunting for food, snakes prefer to be hidden, such as, under lumber, sheet metal, and piles of leaves, or turned-over pots, and boats. Move objects in the yard carefully, being sure nothing lurks underneath.
- Snakes like to hunt at night. Be extra cautious when walking in their habitat at night.

Actions To Take If Bitten By A Venomous Snake:

- Call for help immediately and arrange transportation to an Emergency Medical Department.
- Anti-venim treatment is most effective within four hours and usually ineffective after eight hours.
- Stay calm and still. Lay down if possible with the injured site at body level.
- Remove tight clothing or jewelry in case swelling occurs.
- Apply pressure to the site but do not restrict breathing or chest movement.
- Clean the bite with soap and water.
- Try to identify the species of snake but only if it is safe to do so. Local anti-venim treatment is designed to treat wounds from all venomous species in the area.
- DO NOT try to suck the venom out or cut the bitten area.
- DO NOT place a tourniquet or apply ice to the area.
- DO NOT elevate the bite above the heart.
- DO NOT ingest anything, especially blood thinners, stimulants, coffee, alcohol, soda, aspirin, and cigarettes.
- DO NOT try to capture or pick up the snake, even if it is dead.

Snakes of Louisiana, continued



Kill All Snakes?

- Snakes are an important part of our ecosystem. They are responsible for keeping the rodent population in check. Without snakes, there would be tremendous crop loss and increase in rodent-borne diseases.
- Non-venomous snakes compete with venomous snakes for food. If you decrease the population of non-venomous snakes there will be an increase in the venomous snake population.
- Non-venomous snakes, like the kingsnake, are immune to snake venom and particularly like to dine on copperheads. Copperheads are much better at adapting to change in habitat than kingsnakes are. Every kingsnake killed, means an increase in the copperhead population.
- One of the best ways to get bitten by a snake is to try to get close enough to kill it.

Control Methods:

- There are no chemicals labeled for the lethal control of snakes.
- Marketed snake repellents have drawbacks regarding length of effectiveness and species controlled.
- The best method to deter snakes is habitat manipulation. Keep your yard free of tall grass, weeds, and low spots that hold water.

References And More Reading:

- [Snakes of Louisiana, jboundy@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jboundy@wlf.la.gov)
- Museumquestzoology.com
- Venomous Snakes of Louisiana, Identification & Safety. Danielle S Wasserman, SLU
- Behler and King, 1979. The Audubon Society Field Guide To North American Reptiles And Amphibians. New York: AA Knopff.
- Burton, JA 1991 The Book Of Snakes. New York: Crescent Books
- Smith, HM. and Brodie, ED. 1982 A Guide to Field Identification: Reptiles of North America. New York: Golden Press.
- Tennant, Alan with John Werler and Bill Marvel. 1985. A Field Guide to Texas Snakes. Houston:Gulf Publishing.

Editor's note: there is much more information and many more images not included in this article on snake identification, both venomous and non-venomous, in Laura's full lecture. It can be found on the Agcenter classroom computer. Be sure to check it out!

Laura Steffee
Master Gardener
Vegucator

Covington Community Garden Project

Located between Pine View Middle School and the City of Covington's Department of Public Works (DPW) Building, the Covington Community Garden facility will offer innovative fruit and vegetable growing experiences to the surrounding neighborhood and communities.

Mr. Tim Ellzey, a retired engineer from Shell and a citizen of Covington, LA, had a vision to create a community gardening facility in downtown Covington for years. As a hobby cyclist, Tim rides his bike all throughout the city of Covington. Riding through the West 30's neighborhood, he thought that it would be nice to work with community members on cleaning up some of the nearby blighted properties. A community garden facility could do just that, along with adding natural beauty to the area, educating people on how food is produced, and allowing hands-on experience with plants.

With this idea in mind, Tim scheduled a meeting with Mark Johnson, the mayor of Covington, to discuss possible options. Mayor Mark was thrilled about the enthusiasm and found a lot where a community garden could be built. The triangular piece of land between DPW and the school was perfect because it was close to city facilities, next door to a middle school, received full sun, and had easy access to water and power. A three-year cooperative agreement was eventually signed that allowed the Covington Community Garden



to operate for three years with the help of the city.



Photo on the left, taken during a planning meeting at the garden site. The blue lines indicate where the main water line will be placed in the garden. City of Covington donated the water main installation to Covington Community Garden. The property is triangular shaped with a narrow end and a wide end.

Covington Community Garden Project, continued

The garden itself will be built in three phases. The narrow portion (Phase one) is currently under construction and will hold a variety of containers to grow vegetable plants. Recycled nursery containers, five-gallon buckets, and grow bags are some of the containers that will be demonstrated. The second phase will feature a Nutrition Education Station (NEST), a structure used to give presentations, demonstrations, and workshops. NEST will be equipped with running water and electricity to accommodate hand/produce washing stations and power to run appliances or presentation devices. This middle section will also display various raised garden beds, such as, livestock water troughs, galvanized steel raised beds, and other possibilities as they are discovered. Phase three of the garden will be the largest area within the entire complex. Planning in this section is still on-going but discussions have included the possibility of in-ground gardens and fruit trees.



This community garden project is being administrated through a non-profit group called the Covington Community Garden. The non-profit was created so that the project would be able to apply and receive various private, state, and federal grants. The project has been awarded an LSU AgCenter Healthy Communities mini-grant (for the NEST) and a Brown Foundation grant so far. The organization will be sourcing more grants for the future as the project continues to grow.

Photo on the right, an Ag class from William Pitcher Junior High School helps install part of a perimeter fence.



Covington Community Garden Project, continued

Once the garden evolves and plants are added there will be educational opportunities for the surrounding community. The LSU AgCenter County Agent supports this community garden through horticultural consulting and by serving as a board member. This garden will be a great venue to hold local gardening seminars, planting/harvesting demonstrations, and a multitude of garden education-centered activities. Please come out and visit the garden. Use the street address for Covington DPW (1300 W. 27th St. Covington, LA 70433) to plug into a GPS unit. Garden volunteers meet on Fridays at 4:00 PM to perform garden related activities.



Photo on the left, Michael Hunly (CCG Board Member), Monnie Greer (CCG Board Member), Tim Ellzey (CCG Board Member), and James Roberts (City of Covington employee) work together to install the first gate at the Covington Community Garden.



Photos on the right and below, a group of volunteers who came out Saturday, August 20, 2022 to work in the garden.



All are invited to help out. Please contact Will Afton for more volunteer opportunities.

Will Afton
County Agent
LSU AgCenter



Photos by W. Afton

Member's Brag Board

WANTED

Pictures of your garden
to share on our STMGA
member's brag board.
Submit to jamieblazek@bellsouth.net

Add "Brag Board" to
subject line.



Photo by J Blazek

Above, my third harvest of sweet basil from just four plants started from seed this past spring. I made five batches of pesto with it. Froze most of the pesto in small portions, but saved some to season those eggplants after roasting them in the oven.



African Blue Basil

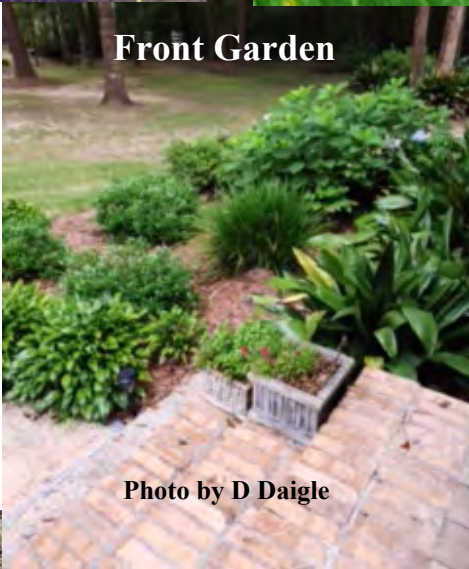
Photo by M Padgett



Ginger

Photo by M Padgett

Member's Brag Board, continued



Changes at the Steffee homestead



Member's Brag Board, continued

Cuffea



Esperanza



Jacobina

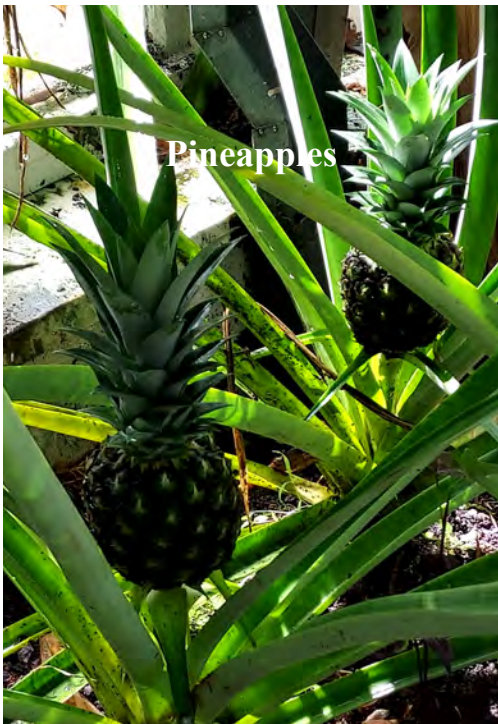


All photos on this page were taken by P. Andres in his garden. The bottom three pictures were taken by Paul in the tropical greenhouse at the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center in New Orleans East where he volunteers.

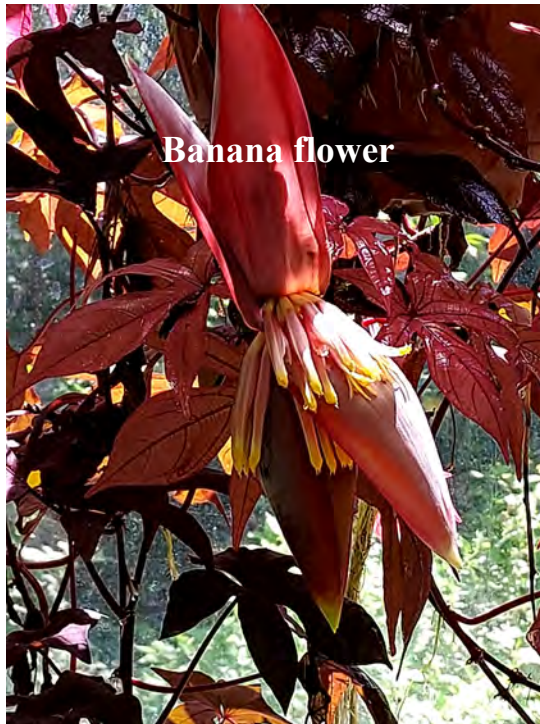
The Pond



Pineapples



Banana flower



Bananas



Monarch Butterfly: Endangered



The eastern migratory monarch butterfly population has decreased by 80% over the last 30 years. Because of this alarming trend, the monarch was recently added to the endangered species list by the International Union of Conservation of Nature. Why the population is decreasing is complex and multi-factorial. But one big reason is use of herbicides resulting in loss of habitat and native milkweed, the host plant for monarch caterpillars. As master gardeners we can make a difference, one garden at a time. Encourage the planting of native milkweed and pollinator gardens. Request local nurseries carry more native plants. Limit the use of broad spectrum herbicides and pesticides. Teach neighbors and local garden clubs about the importance of native milkweed and pollinator gardens.

There are many on-line sources of native milkweed plants and seeds ... just an Internet search away. Hilltop Arboretum, Crosby Arboretum, Pelican Greenhouse in City Park often have sales that include native milkweed (on September 10, 2022 at City Park!). Native milkweed is even available at our STMGA plant sale each year. Find space for more native milkweed in your gardens.

References: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/monarch-butterfly>
[Xerces.org](https://xerces.org)
monarchwatch.org

Jamie Blazek
Master Gardener
Vegucator
Editor, *The Gardengoer*

THE GARDENGOER
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



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www.lsuagcenter.com/mastergardener/

Folsom Fall Garden Festival

Saturday, October 29th

8:30 am—2:30 pm

Midway Church Park

Folsom, LA

(Next to 82424 Hwy 25, Folsom Post Office)

**Free Admission
to the public—
No Pets**

**(Except Service
Animals)**

Fall is for Planting!

- Meet and talk to local growers
- Louisiana grown plants for sale
- Fun children's activities
- Midway Church concessions
- Garden equipment and accessories



Sponsored by Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association