



It's Not Too Late to Plant a Fall Garden

Fall gardening is a great way to extend your growing season and enjoy fresh produce well into the cooler months. With a little planning and preparation, you can have a thriving garden even as the leaves begin to change colors.

One of the first things to consider when fall gardening is the type of plants you want to grow. Some great options for fall include kale, lettuce, spinach, and broccoli. These vegetables thrive in cooler temperatures and can even withstand a light frost.



Another important aspect of fall gardening is soil preparation. You'll want to make sure your soil is healthy and nutrient-rich to give your plants the best possible chance of success. Consider adding compost or other organic matter to your soil to help improve its quality.

When it comes to planting, timing is crucial. You'll want to make sure you plant your seeds early enough in the fall that they have time to mature before the first frost. Depending on your climate and what you are growing, you can still plant as late as September.

Finally, be prepared to protect your plants from the elements. As temperatures drop, you may need to cover your plants with blankets or other protective coverings to keep them warm. Additionally, be sure to water your plants regularly, as they may need more water than they did during the summer months.

Overall, fall gardening can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. With a little planning and preparation, you can enjoy fresh produce well into the fall and even winter months. So grab your gardening gloves and get ready to make the most of the cooler weather!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What is this Weed?	2
Garden Calendar	3
Fall Webworms	4
What is this Weed?	5
County Events and Programs	6
Falling in Love with Gardening Program	7
Events	8

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What is this Weed?

Chamberbitter, also known as gripweed (for obvious reasons), is a very common summer annual weed and is one of our most significant summer weeds due to its, seemingly, aggressiveness in lawns and beds. Chamberbitter is actually the common name for two weeds from the genus *Phyllanthus*. The larger of the two, long-stalked chamberbitter grows up to two feet tall and the smaller, compact version is called gripweed. Although the two are referred to as chamberbitter, gripweed seldom gets to one foot tall, especially in lawns that are mowed often. Here, we will refer to both as chamberbitter.



Chamberbitter or gripweed.

Both chamberbitter species grow in the same environments and have very similar biology. Both species are easily identified by their mimosa-like leaves and characteristic seed pods. In fact, many homeowners describe this weed as a mimosa-like weed. Chamberbitter leaves are compound with rounded leaflets growing on the long, stem-like part of the plant. The plants produce flowers quickly, and fruits follow soon after. When the fruits mature, they shatter explosively, scattering seeds far and wide.



Chamberbitter seeds.

Chamberbitter can be pulled by hand easily if the ground is moist. If you choose to manage these weeds by hand-pulling, scout often and pull them as soon as possible. Once the mature plants are removed, a thick layer of mulch is effective in keeping chamberbitter out of landscape beds. Apply your mulch 2-3 inches thick and weed as needed. If it is possible, decreasing your irrigation is a helpful cultural control.

Chamberbitter can be difficult to control once they start to develop a woody base, even with herbicides. In ornamentals, if you are able to apply a herbicide just to the foliage of the chamberbitter without getting it on the nearby desirable plants, then you can use glyphosate. If desirable plants are nearby, you may consider protecting them. Use a shield when spraying or cover nearby ornamentals with plastic sheeting or bags to prevent the spray from getting on them. If the herbicide gets on the foliage of desirable ornamentals, it will damage or kill them.

Many preemergence herbicides don't always prevent chamberbitter infestations, but Trifluralin (Snapshot, Preen) can provide good protection when applied mid-February, June, and late September-early October. In warm season turfgrass (Centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass, Bermudagrass, and Zoysiagrass), both Gallery or Atrazine provide good preemergence control.

Postemergence control can be achieved in St. Augustinegrass and Centipedegrass with two applications of atrazine applied approximately 21 days apart. Spot treat with atrazine during the summer. Products containing 2,4-D, MCPP, and Dicamba (Ortho Weed B Gon, Trimec) can be effective with multiple applications when weeds are young. If it's too hot to apply it over the entire lawn, you can spot spray where the weed occurs. Make two applications following label directions. As always, healthy, well-maintained turf is the best defense against weeds like chamberbitter.

Garden Calendar: September

Get Ready

- ◆ Make sure you've ordered daffodils and other spring bulbs for October planting.
- ◆ Build or buy compost bin in anticipation of autumn leaves.



Plant

- ◆ Plant cool season leafy root vegetables: Carrots, Beets, Turnips, Lettuce, and Spinach.
- ◆ Sow hardy annuals: Sweet Alyssum, Calendula, Annual Pinks, Snapdragon, and Sweet Peas.
- ◆ Sow rye grass seed in winter lawns.



Fertilize

- ◆ Stop feeding mums when the buds start showing color.
- ◆ Acidify Azaleas and Camelias.

Water

- ◆ Slow down watering of Azaleas and Hydrangea to allow them to harden against winter freezes.
- ◆ Spray foliage of Camelias in anticipation of their bloom.
- ◆ Water potted plants and hanging baskets frequently.

Prune

- ◆ Disbud Camellias, Dahlias, and Chrysanthemums to produce specimen blooms. It is generally not a good idea to prune this late in the year, because new growth will be more susceptible to winter freezes.

Miscellaneous

- ◆ Turn compost pile.
- ◆ Propagate by layering. Scrape underside of a strong branch, bend down to ground, cover with soil and weigh down with a brick. Water from time to time and end of branch will put out new growth; becoming a new plant.
- ◆ Pick flowers in bloom and dry for future arrangements. Bundle flowers together and hang upside down in a dry, sheltered area.
- ◆ Repot houseplants. Prune away damaged foliage and give a good dose of food.

In Bloom

- ◆ Canna, Cosmos, Copper Plant, Marigolds, Periwinkle, Plumbago, Crape Myrtle, Althea, Four-o'clocks, Salvia, Ageratum, Coleus, Lycoris, Aster, Begonia, Celosia, Chrysanthemum, Coral Vine, Ginger Lily, Gladiolus, Jacobina, Liriope, Morning Glory, Petunia, Phlox, Rattle Box, Rose, Spider Lily, Torenia, Vinca, White Zephyranthes Lily, Zinnia, Buddleia, Franklin Tree.

Fall Color

- ◆ Flowering Dogwood with showy, drooping red leaves.
- ◆ Ginkgo leaves turn pure yellow.





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Fall Web Worms

Fall webworms (*Hyphantria cunea*) are caterpillars that feed on many types of hardwood trees, most notably persimmons and pecans in our area. Every fall they are a common sight across the south with populations varying yearly; some years see much higher infestations than others. The caterpillars spend most of their time feeding on leaves from a communal web, protected from birds and other predators.

During heavy outbreaks they may completely defoliate a tree. While this can hinder nut production for the current or following season, the defoliation typically does not cause any long-term effects on trees. While it is easy to assume, in researching for this article I can find no correlation to temperature and rainfall patterns on web worm populations. Infestations appear to be random.

In a commercial setting these pests can be easily controlled with high volume air sprayers and appropriate insecticides, but that is seldom safe or practical to do in urban or home settings. The most common and practical approach is to do nothing. While the trees may look unsightly short term, in the long-term they will recover. Mechanical removal or using a pole to tear apart the webs is a method of exposing the worms to predators that will assist in depopulation.

For trees that are small enough to be safely sprayed in an effective manner, products containing spinosad are often recommended. Take precautions to ensure coverage of the webs and surrounding leaves.

For more information on web worm control, please check out a copy of MSU-ES Publication P2369, *Insect Pests of Ornamental Plants in the Home Landscape*: http://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/P2369_web.pdf.





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Harrison County Events

September 13 – Harrison County Extension Agent, Tim Ray, will host a Private Applicator Certification training at the Harrison County Extension office located at 9229 Hwy 49 in Gulfport beginning at 1 PM. Private Applicator licenses are for those who need to purchase restricted use pesticides and own or rent land for agricultural purposes.

September 20 – Dr. Rebecca Melanson will host a Disease Management in Home Vegetables program from 10 AM - noon at the Harrison County Extension office located at 9229 Hwy 49 in Gulfport.

September 27 & 28– Harrison County Extension Agent, Tim Ray, will host a two-day educational program via Zoom (links below). A Lawn Management program will be held on the 27th and a Common Problems with Landscape Plants program will be held on the 28th. Both will begin at 1 PM. In these two programs Tim will focus on topics within the two programs that homeowners ask the most and/or should know when it comes to properly managing your lawn and landscape.

Lawn Management Program – September 27, 2023

<https://msstateextension.zoom.us/j/98919529194>

Meeting ID: 989 1952 9194

Common Landscape Problems – September 28, 2023

<https://msstateextension.zoom.us/j/98851171284>

Meeting ID: 988 5117 1284

Pearl River County Events



PEARL RIVER COUNTY BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

Date: Saturday, September 2, 2023

**Location: MSU Pearl River County
Extension Service Office
204 Julia Street
Poplarville, MS 39470**

**Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for a time of
friendship and fellowship.**

The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 p.m.

**Our guest speaker will be Michael Goblisch
from the USDA Research Facility in
Poplarville, MS.**

**Michael will be talking about bee projects
that relate to our area.**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Call 601-403-2280 to RSVP for meeting.



The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University

Sept. 16 (Sat) New Orleans “Bug Lady” Linda Auld will discuss three recent monarch research studies, tagging, etc.

Sept. 17 (Sun) Pine Needle Basket Making, Denine Jones, Two workshops: 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 30 (Sat) Glassblowing workshop, Solange Ledwith

For Reservations: Call the office at (601) 799-2311. Address: 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466.



Forrest and Lamar County Extension and Pine Belt Master Gardeners present our annual Fall Garden Day:



Falling in Love

with

Gardening

Friday, September 29, 2023

Lamar County Multipurpose Center
43 Central Industrial Rd. Purvis, MS

Registration begins at 8:30

Program begins INSIDE at 9:00

**Plant sales and vendors outside
during breaks and until NOON**

Speaking at 9 am - Dr. Eddie Smith

"Creating Pollinator Gardens that Thrive in Summer Heat"

Speaking at 10:30 - Lee Taylor

"Garden Tools Maintenance"



Calling all Homeschool students 5th-12th!!

JOIN US THIS FALL FOR HANDS ON LESSONS
ON SUSTAINABILITY AND SOLUTIONS

Fridays 9:30-11:30 AM

The Crosby Arboretum
370 Ridge Road, Picayune MS

Limited to 20 students

Each student/group of students must be
accompanied by an adult

Please register in advance

Free to members.

Non-members: Adults \$5 Children under 12 \$2

September 1

Microplastics and the Mississippi
Coastal Watershed

- Analyze microplastics samples

September 22

Reducing Food Waste

- Build a vermicomposting bin

November 3

Eliminating Single-Use Plastic

- DIY beeswax wraps and lotion tins

November 10

Getting Involved in Litter Control Programs

- On site cleanup and plastic brand audit



Photo: D.I.Y.
Beeswax Wrap

**To register or for more
information call:**

**The Crosby Arboretum
+ 1 (601) 799-2311**



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EXTENSION

Events

Do you have questions about your garden, lawn, or landscape? Join us LIVE every 4th Thursday with the MSU Extension's Dr. Eddie Smith at 9:05 a.m. He will be taking your calls and answering them live on air. You can also email your questions in advance to WRJW at (news@wrjwradio.com). Please include GARDEN or DR EDDIE in the subject line.



EXTENSION

Tune in to Mississippi State Extension Service highlights on WRJW 106.9-FM & 1320-AM Radio or the WRJW APP.

Every Friday at 9:05 am

Online Private Applicator Certification Program

A private applicator is a certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of restricted-use pesticides to produce an agricultural commodity on his or her own land, leased land, or rented land or on the lands of his or her employer. Private applicators must be at least 18 years old.

In response to limited face-to-face training during the COVID-19 situation, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Plant Industry has approved an online private applicator certification program developed by the MSU Extension Service. Persons needing to obtain or renew their private applicator certification can complete the online training (two video training modules and a competency exam) by using the following link: <http://extension.msstate.edu/content/online-private-applicator-certification-program>. The fee for training and testing is \$20, payable online by credit card, debit card, or eCheck.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY... EXTENSION

Private Applicator

TRAINING AND TESTING ONLINE

Watch the training modules, pass the exam, and receive your private applicator certification from MDAC Bureau of Plant Industry.

\$20 COST

Visit <http://msuext.ms/agmes> or contact your local MSU Extension office for info on how to register.