



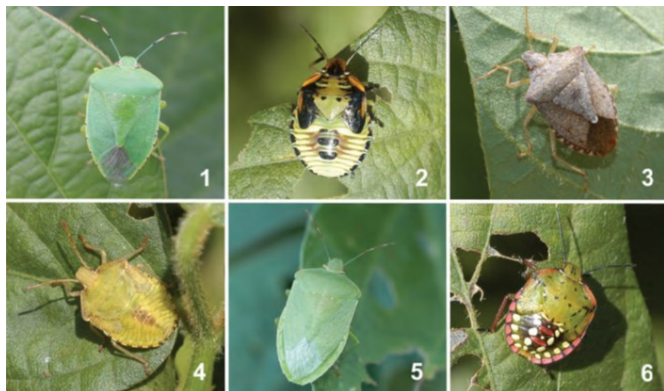
## Stink Bugs in Your Vegetable Garden

One of the most damaging and common insect pests in late summer and fall gardens are stink bugs. A crop of vegetables can be damaged so severely by heavy infestations of stink bugs that the crop can be ruined. There are several key reasons that stink bugs are such a problem in late season vegetable gardens.

First, stink bugs have several generations each year, increasing their numbers with each generation. This is the reason that there are heavier numbers of stink bugs in the late summer than there were earlier in the year. Second, stink bugs reproduce on many different major row crops and weeds. After these crops mature the stink bug adults are trying to find another suitable host. Stink bugs are strong fliers and this makes it easy for them to move in where they feel comfortable. Third, stink bugs are fruit and seed feeders who focus their feeding on the part of the plant that we, as humans, like to harvest and eat as well.

The most common stink bug species that we have to deal with here in south Mississippi is Green Stink bugs, Southern Green Stink bugs, and Brown Stink bugs. The immature stink bugs known as nymphs can cause the same damage as the adults. The nymphs look similar to the adults as far as shape but the color can vary based on their stage of development. Another bug that can cause the same damage as the stink bug is the Leaf Footed Bug. They are larger and have an elongated body with leaf shaped segments on their hind legs.

Using an effective insecticide, such as products containing bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, gamma-cyhalothrin, permethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin or malathion, is the best way to get rid of this pest problem. **(Make sure and use the pesticide that is labeled for your particular crop.)** Most likely you will have to treat several times for stink bugs or leaf footed bugs because these unwelcomed bugs will continue to visit as long as there is a crop there that they like. **Be sure to always read the label carefully and follow the directions because the LABEL IS THE LAW!**



1. Green Stink Bug Adult
2. Green Stink Bug Nymph
3. Brown Stink Bug Adult
4. Brown Stink Bug Nymph
5. Southern Green Stink Bug Adult
6. Southern Green Stink Bug Nymph



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## Sod Webworms Causing Turf Damage

There are several species of caterpillars that occasionally damage turfgrass in Mississippi including fall armyworms, cutworms, and sod webworms. Although fall armyworms are the primary pest we see in pasture and rangeland almost annually, we often see the both the sod webworm and tropical sod webworm on the coast. The good news is these sod webworm pests aren't always reaching the economic threshold; the bad news...they are this year!

Tropical sod webworm moths look much different than the moths of other sod webworms. Moths are often noticed before damage is observed, with large numbers of low-flying, small, whitish or brown moths being flushed up from the lawn and surrounding ornamental shrubs, or being attracted to lights at night. Because these insects do not survive freezing weather, they are more common in the coastal counties.

Heavy outbreaks are sporadic and can cause severe short-term damage, with turf having a dead, ragged appearance, and with trails of webbing present among the grass blades. In heavy infestations, small brown patches of affected turf may run together forming irregular, brown patches.

Sod webworms will damage all types of turf grass but especially favor St. Augustine, bermuda, and centipede so careful, frequent scouting is necessary to detect a developing infestation before it causes damage. There may be two or three generations per year so several applications may be necessary in a growing season. Foliar spray products such as Sevin concentrate containing Beta-permethrin, Spinosad, and Ortho Bug-B-Gone Insect Killer containing Bifenthrin are a few choices to consider although there are granular products available. Please read and follow all label directions.



Small spots of dead grass indicative of sod webworm damage



Lawn damage caused by sod webworms



Sod webworm larvae

### 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Ornamental Horticultural Field Day

**Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Registration: 8:30 a.m.**

**Program: 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

**Topics Include:**

- Spray & Fertilizer Equipment Demonstrations
- Drone Demonstrations
- Historical Overviews
- Research Posters

**MSU South MS Branch Experiment Station**  
 711 W. North St  
 Poplarville, MS 39470

**This is a free event, but registration is required for meal purposes.**  
 For registration, contact the Pearl River County Extension Service office at 601-403-2280 or register online at:  
[https://reg.extension.msstate.edu/reg/event\\_page.aspx?ek=0081-0004-fd914b71dce649c18a3bfeac418e87fd](https://reg.extension.msstate.edu/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0081-0004-fd914b71dce649c18a3bfeac418e87fd)

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# Garden Calendar: October

## Plant

- Spring flowering bulbs should be planted this month, with the exception of tulips and hyacinths, which should be placed in the refrigerator for 6 weeks before being planted in late December or early January.
- Pot up Basil, Chives, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, and Sweet Marjoram for that sunny kitchen window.
- Annuals to plant are Pansies, Violas, Pinks, Flowering Cabbage and Kale, English Daisy, Wildflower planting, Cornflowers, Larkspur, and Queen's Anne Lace.
- Perennials to plant include: Asters, Salvia, Hollyhock, Daylilies, Babies Breath, Iris, Shasta Daisy, Peonies, and Phlox.
- Many evergreens may be planted this month.

## Fertilize

- Test soil in garden to monitor balance of minerals.

## Prune

- Remove damaged and dead wood from trees.
- Pick blossom-like fruit of Golden Rain Trees and let dry for winter arrangements.
- Prune back annuals like Blue Salvia and Dianthus to the ground and mulch. They may go through the winter and bloom again.



## Miscellaneous

- Dig up Caladiums now with foliage intact, allow to dry, remove dried foliage and store in peat moss in a cool dark place for replanting next year.
- Force bulbs for indoor show. Place bulb on gravel and water enough to cover the roots, keep in dark place until root system is established and sprout reaches 3 inches, bring gradually into the light and refill container with water to original level. Enjoy the blooms of Paper-white, Narcissus, Lily of the Valley, Jonquil, or Hyacinth in this way.
- Make sure the birds in your garden have food, shelter, and water.
- Place leaves in compost bin.



## In Bloom

Mums, Marigolds, Periwinkle, Salvia, Sasanquas, Golden Rain Tree, Roses, Ageratum, Aster, Camellia, Celosia, Colchicum, Dahlia, Petunia, Salvia, Torenia, and Zinnia.



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## Fall Hummingbird Migration

The fall hummingbird migration is a truly awe-inspiring natural event that captivates bird enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. These tiny, jewel-toned birds embark on an epic journey that covers thousands of miles, from their breeding grounds in North America to their wintering grounds in Central and South America.

The journey is fraught with peril, and the hummingbirds must overcome numerous challenges, including extreme weather conditions, hunger, and exhaustion. To prepare for the journey, they undergo an extraordinary transformation, bulking up on nectar and insects until they double their body weight. They also store extra energy in their muscles, allowing them to fly for hours on end without stopping.

Despite their small size, hummingbirds are remarkable navigators, using a combination of celestial cues, magnetic fields, and landmarks to find their way. They also possess an incredible memory, allowing them to remember the locations of food sources along their route.

As the migration progresses, hummingbirds can be seen in a variety of habitats, from coastal areas to mountain ranges. Birdwatchers can catch a glimpse of these magnificent creatures during their journey by setting up hummingbird feeders or visiting areas where they are known to congregate.

One of the best ways to attract hummingbirds to your garden is by planting flowers that they love. There are many plants that are great for hummingbirds, including bee balm, cardinal flower, and salvia. These plants have brightly colored flowers that are rich in nectar, which is the main source of food for hummingbirds. By planting these flowers, you can create a beautiful and welcoming environment for these amazing birds, and help to support their population in your area. So if you want to attract hummingbirds to your garden, be sure to plant plenty of flowers that they love!

Overall, the fall hummingbird migration is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of these amazing birds. It is a stunning display of nature's wonders and a reminder of the incredible diversity and beauty of the natural world.





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## Should I Winterize My Lawn?

How many times lately have you been to your local garden center only to notice there are so many fertilizer bags that say “Winterizer” or “Fall Lawn Food” on them? Then you may question which one is best for your needs. The answer is simpler than you think. But, to answer the question ‘Should I Winterize My Lawn?’ above, for now I’ll say Yes ...and No! While I am not saying don’t prepare your lawn for winter, you should be cautious when using winterizer type fertilizers.

Winterizer fertilizers are a controversial practice here in the south, mainly since our primary grass types are all warm-season grasses (Centipede, St. Augustine, Zoysia, etc.). Warm-season grasses begin to decline in growth rate around mid-late summer as shorter day-lengths approach. Cool-season grasses (fescue, bluegrass, etc.); however, are beginning their second growth cycle (first in the spring) during this time period and benefit from a winterizer much more than warm-season grasses. So, what should you do to prepare your lawn for winter?

First, let’s look at what each number on a bag of fertilizer represents. If you have a bag of winterizer fertilizer that reads 32-0-10, the numbers represent the percentage of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K), respectively. Nitrogen promotes leaf and stem growth and although most winterizers are often void of phosphorus, it promotes root growth and fruiting and flowering in plants. Promoting growth is not what we want this time of year. Potassium is a very important nutrient in overall plant health. It helps to strengthen and harden plants from top to bottom, making them more tolerant of cold and stress. While all nutrients are essential for plant growth and/or development, potassium is the key element in winter preparation, particularly for warm-season grasses. Potassium promotes winter-hardiness.

Winterizer fertilizers, especially those containing a high percentage of nitrogen, are most adapted for cool-season grasses, promoting growth and hardiness to grass types that are in the fall growth cycle. Excess nitrogen applied late in the year to warm-season grasses may result in disease problems in the spring. A soil test will provide you with information about your current soil’s nutrition, and soil test kits can be acquired at your local Extension office. Most soil tests I’ve viewed in Harrison County indicate a need to add potassium. However, if your soil test results indicate you have plenty of potassium, then there’s no need to add more, or anything for that matter. So, to prepare your lawn for winter, apply the recommended amount of N, P, and K during the spring and summer but make sure it has the right amount of potassium for winter hardiness.



Lawn winterizers often contain a high nitrogen % that’s not beneficial to warm-season grasses.



This winterizer has a high nitrogen and iron content indicating it’s primarily for cool-season grass growth and green-up.



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## Fall Container Gardening

Container gardening is not just for the spring or summer. With flowers like pansies, violas, flowering kale or cabbage, dianthus and chrysanthemums, the choices for your fall planter are great. To add greenery to the planters, choose from variegated ivy, asparagus fern, edible lettuce, or small shrubs like juniper or ligustrum.

Why not use herbs in your bowl or planter? You could fill it with oregano, lemon, thyme, parsley, cilantro, chives, mints or erect rosemary topped with your winter flowers. Harvest the herb leaves for fresh use in holiday dishes like pork or poultry, or dry and store them in airtight containers for later use. Your garden center is loaded with herbs right now.

Select a container that will give plant roots room to grow, but not so much that they will fill the pot. Consider the mature size of the plants you will be growing, and follow spacing recommendations.

Pots with a small amount of soil dry out faster and require frequent watering, so the deeper the pot, the less watering it will need. Small pots or hanging baskets also make plants more susceptible to cold damage.

Container-grown plants have a benefit other than being moveable when extra cold weather occurs. You can select and modify the soil to grow almost any plant. Containers can provide garden plots in high-rise apartments or homes with no traditional space for a garden. Their mobility gives the option of placing them in the sun or shade as required by the specific plant. The lightweight pots that look like Old World clay are reaching the price level of even the tightest pocket books.

The potting mix should be light and airy. This is one place to avoid skimping. Many bargain soils sold by the pound are heavy and don't drain well enough. Large containers with this type soil would be extremely hard to move around. Today's best ready-made mixes are weed free and have controlled-release fertilizers added.

Keep the plants well watered as they get established, keeping in mind that containers dry out faster than the flowerbeds. To keep plants well fed and blooming, use a time-released granular fertilizer or water with a dilute-liquid fertilizer.



# BUGFEST

at  
THE CROSBY ARBORETUM  
PICAYUNE, MS

**FRIDAY** • October 13  
**SATURDAY** • October 14

## FRIDAY

**9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

School/homeschool groups\* – Educational field day

**12:30 p.m.–4 p.m.**

General public – Insect displays, educational exhibits, enjoy the pollinator garden, insect photo exhibit, and insect arts and crafts for children!

**6–8:30 p.m.**

General public – Black lighting for bugs, identifying insects, looking for bats, talking to experts, and children's crafts. **Bring a flashlight!**

## SATURDAY

**10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

General public – Insect programs and exhibits, vendors, photo contest winners, pollinator tours, and more!

\*School groups **MUST** call to register. 601-799-2311

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The Crosby Arboretum

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## Events

Let's Get Your Garden Ready!  
Q&A w/Dr. Eddie



Join us for the 50th Annual Ornamental Horticulture Field Day at the MSU South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Poplarville.

Topics covered during the event include: Spray & Fertilizer Equipment Demonstrations, Drone Demonstrations, Historical Overviews, and Research Posters.

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

Use the following link to register: [https://reg.extension.msstate.edu/reg/event\\_page.aspx?ek=0081-0004-fd914b71dee649c18a3bfcae418c87fd](https://reg.extension.msstate.edu/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0081-0004-fd914b71dee649c18a3bfcae418c87fd)

You can also call the Pearl River County Extension Service office to register at 601-403-2280.

4th Thursday of each month  
@ 9:05AM on WRJW



## 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.



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