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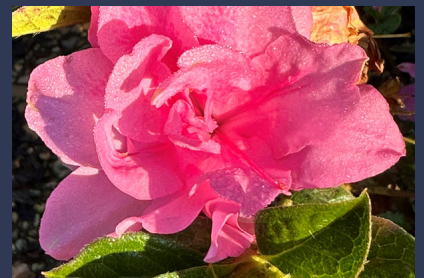
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OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life for people, conserve and protect the global environment, and promote the professionalism and profitability of the nursery and landscape industry in Louisiana.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope everyone has had a prosperous spring! Those I have spoken to on the retail side of the industry remarked on a slow start to the season due to wet, rainy weekends, but finally, in the middle of April, the weather started to cooperate. This slight delay trickled over to the nursery side because the retail centers were not reordering. For the Allied Trade, tariff scares have been causing some concerns. Many agricultural products are exempt from tariffs, but for others, it has caused price increases.

On the legislative front, we were disappointed that a few bills did not make it out of committee, namely, HB4, which pertained to CO² sequestering. HB4 would have allowed local communities the right to vote on whether CO² capture and sequestering can move forward in their respective parishes, and it would have provided some protection of lands from eminent domain. CO² capture and sequestration could result in severe consequences for the green industry, particularly aquifer contamination. If you have any questions or would like to read about this issue, you can go to www.louisianaco2alliance.org for more information.

Moving on to some sad news, Cari Jane made the difficult decision to step down as Executive Director of the LNLA in order to focus on her health and family. She will continue to be a part of the LNLA, but in a less demanding capacity. Cari Jane has dedicated much of her time to helping make the LNLA what it is today, and for that, we are very grateful. She will be training our new Executive Director in order to ease the transition and to allow time for familiarization with our industry and the LNLA. Cari Jane will be greatly missed by everyone in the industry, and we wish her well.

Our new Executive Director is Morgan Milling; she is highly qualified and comes motivated for the position. She is the Executive Director of the Louisiana Pest Management Association, so she has similar experience within organizations and understands what the job entails. We, as a board, feel she will hit the ground running and be able to push the LNLA to greater heights. So, when you see her, please be sure to give her a warm welcome.

I hope to see everyone at the Foundation Gala on Friday, June 27th. This will be year 15 of the gala, so please plan to attend this celebration. I pray that everyone has a productive summer and a calm storm season.

Sincerely,

Brandon Adams



LEGISLATIVE LINGO

By: Lisa Loup

The countdown has started. I cannot wait for this legislative session to end on June 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm. My thoughts of having an easy Fiscal session (only 5 bills per legislator) quickly disappeared with the urgency of needing very specific policies to regulate the Solar and CO2 industries, which would change Louisiana's landscapes forever. The current administration is pushing for the growth of large industry, and unfortunately, it will be at the demise of our farming communities. Agriculture is the largest landowner in our state, and rightly so; we need land and a lot of it to produce our plants, for our row crop productions, for our livestock, and all entities of agriculture.

The lack of regulation for these industries is due to the federal subsidies provided by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA), which builds on the clean air energy initiatives in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The large subsidies Solar is receiving put us at an unfair disadvantage. Their ability to lease high-value farmland with these subsidies is more than disturbing; it will price us out of the market. Then there is the CO2 debacle. The IRA significantly increased tax credits for carbon capture and storage, called 45Q tax credits. And yes, there is also the eminent domain in effect now being called the utilization of land, if $\frac{3}{4}$ of the landowners agree.

For example: if you own 100 acres and the 3 landowners surrounding your property, each with 10 acres, decided CO2 can utilize on their land; well, that is $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the landowners, and you will also have to comply. But you will be compensated whether you like it or not. In my opinion, this is all a money grab, and unfortunately, money talks.

Please take a few minutes to research the CO2 leak in Satartia, Mississippi, in 2021, and please don't forget about a much smaller leak recently in Sulfur, LA, in 2024. The potential for danger to our citizens (family and employees) and our personal property is real. The only way to make effective changes is to continuously email and call your legislators to implement regulations to protect all citizens and property owners equally. I feel as though every property owner has the right to do with their land as they please until it infringes on the rights of surrounding landowners.

It was not all bad. We worked effectively to change the language of SB 14. SB 14 by Senator McMath, to provide relative to nutrition. The language in the bill would have restricted our use of Atrazine and Glyphosate herbicides. We worked diligently with

our strong partnerships in agriculture to make sure Atrazine and Glyphosate were not listed in this bill. Thank you, Louisiana Ag Consultants, Senator Robert Allain, and Commissioner Mike Strain for partnering with us.

SB 244 by Senator Hensgens provides for the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. Agriculture was exempt from the original 219-page bill, but this changed on the Senate floor to exclude our agricultural exemption. This would have given the Department of Conservation the ability to meter our private well waters, threatening our essential rights to water usage, including the possibility of water use taxation and/or limiting or restricting our water usage. We would also be denied representation on the conservation committee. Why is this happening?

One hint: large industries require absorbent amounts of water to operate their facilities, and at present, Louisiana does not have the infrastructure to provide it. Thanks to our partnerships with the Farm Bureau, our Commissioner, and your perseverance, we added two amendments to protect our growers by exempting Agriculture and adding one of our own to the commission for a voice at the table. I would like to thank the Cattlemen's Association, the Louisiana Aviators Association, and Louisiana Ag. Consultants for partnering with us to effectively change detrimental legislation.

Here is a list of bills we worked on and will continue to work on in the name of advocating for our industry:

- HB 615 Representative Geymann - Regulation of Solar - Failed in House Passage
- HB 78 Representative Carriere - Class VI CO2 permitting in Allen Parish - Involuntarily Deferred in Committee
- HB 250 Representative Owens - Class VI CO2 permitting in Vernon Parish - Failed in Committee - Pending
- HB 251 Representative Owens - Class VI CO 2 permitting Beauregard Parish - Failed in Committee - Pending
- HB 641 Representative Romero - Class VI CO2 permitting in Jeff Davis Parish - Lies over under the rules
- HB 4 Representatives Owens, Amedee, Horton, and Schamerhorn - Class VI CO2 permitting by parishes statewide- Idle- Pending
- HB 553 Representative Schamerhorn - prohibits Eminent Domain- Idle - Pending
- HB 601 Representative Geymann - Relative to CO2 Sequestration - Call to House Final Passage

- HB 380 Representative Schamerhorn - Prohibits Eminent Domain - Idle - Pending
- HB 637 Representative Coates - Habitat Conversion fees for large-scale Solar- Lies over under the rules
- HB 638 Representative Coates - Agriculture Conversion fees for large scale Solar- Lies over under the rules
- HB459 Representative Coates - Renewable energy regulation and permitting - Passed the Senate and back to the House
- SB 14 Representative McMath - Provides Relative to Nutrition - Pending Senate Concurrence
- SB 244 Representative Hensgens - Provides for the Dept Energy and Natural Resources - Pending House Natural Resources

Legislative Day at the Capitol was a great success. Tony with Langridge Plants grew 500 succulents in our beautifully designed pots, displaying our LNLA Logo. Tony has gone above and beyond all our expectations since we began this legislative outreach, and WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR HIS DEDICATION.

We began breakfast with legislators at 7:30 am at the Pentagon Barracks, hosted by our Lieutenant Governor, Billy Nungesser. Billy's support means the world to us. THANK YOU, BILLY, your support has allowed LNLA to build new legislative relationships while maintaining others. Thank you to our seafood industry for donating the delicious shrimp and grits again this year, and the incredible office staff of the Lieutenant Governor for always setting up a beautiful display of breakfast cuisine. The breakfast ended at 9:00 am, and we were off to the Capitol Rotunda to continue advocating for our agricultural industry. It is a very proud

moment when our legislative staffers flock to our table, so excited to see us. This is our opportunity to build relationships with staffers because we all know who runs the legislative offices. We want them to experience the pleasure plants add to the quality of life.

As they chose their perfect plant, we educate them on the benefits Agriculture brings to our State. Our legislative staffers are the best and are very grateful for the gifts of plants we bring to them each year. Our day ended with a visit to both Chambers in session. A tremendous thank you to Senator Robert Allain and Representative Troy Romero for acknowledging us with our Resolution in the Senate and House Chambers. We may not have been able to change all the legislative bills we desired, but I am very proud of the work we accomplished this session. Our hard work over the years has given us the recognition and respect we deserve when visiting the capital.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to my partner in crime, Jeff Reid. Thank you for keeping me sane during the insanity of this session.

Lisa G Loup
Chairwoman of Legislative Affairs



Save the Date

2025 IPPS Southern Region Annual Meeting

The International Plant Production Society, Southern Region of North America, cordially invites you to sponsor our upcoming annual meeting, scheduled for 19-23 October 2025, at the DoubleTree Orlando at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL.

Event Overview: This highly anticipated event gathers professionals from across the green industry and academia for unparalleled educational programs and tours. Your sponsorship plays a pivotal role in managing costs and ensuring our members access the best opportunities available in horticulture today.

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Next Steps: For more information on the event and sponsorship opportunities, please refer to the enclosed materials. A member of our event planning committee will follow up with you soon to discuss how we can collaborate effectively. We eagerly anticipate your participation in this influential event shaping the future of horticulture in our region.



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FAREWELL

LNLA Executive Director, Cari Jane Murray

Hello Everyone.

It's hard to believe I'm preparing a farewell letter. For seven years, I had the honor of serving as your Executive Secretary, and for the past two years, I've had the privilege of stepping into the role of Executive Director for the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association.

That title change meant more to me than I probably let on. It was one of those small but meaningful signs of progress—of growth and refinement—not just in the organization, but in how we show the world the professionalism, dedication, and heart that define the LNLA. Still, title or no title, I stand here today as what I value most: your friend.

I've spent the last 20 years in Louisiana—yes, it's really been 20 years!—and what a journey it has been. From Windmill to marriage, from retail to babies... to the heartbreak of loss, and even the battles I never imagined I'd face, like cancer. Life has been anything but still. It has been full—painfully, beautifully, completely full.

And through every up and every down, this community, this industry, you, have been there. That's what makes LNLA so meaningful and, honestly, so difficult to leave. You're not just colleagues or members of a board or association—I have personal relationships with each of you. We've built something real, together. We've grown more than landscapes and nurseries; we've grown trust, friendship, and purpose.

If someone had asked me 20 years ago what I wanted my future to look like, I probably wouldn't have had the words to describe this exactly—but in my heart, it wouldn't have been far from what I'm looking at right now.

So, while this may be a farewell in job title, it's not a goodbye. I'm not disappearing. I'm just stepping into the next season of life carrying all of you with me—your wisdom, your kindness, and the stories we've shared.

Thank you—from the bottom of my heart—for the privilege of serving you, for trusting me, and for walking alongside me all these years.

Always from Love,

Cari Jane





MINI SKID STEER PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Information provided by Vermeer

Maintenance likely isn't a word that brightens your day. But, in order to keep your equipment running smoothly to maximize productivity, specifically mini skid steers, regular maintenance is key.

Keeping up with the maintenance can seem overwhelming, but knowing what upkeep to do when can help it be manageable over the long run. Whether it's daily, weekly, monthly or annually, here's a mini skid steer maintenance checklist to help keep you on track and on schedule. Refer to your machine's operators and maintenance manual for safety messages and further instructions.

DAILY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 10 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine (specifically the air intake and cooling areas)
- ☐ Check engine oil
- ☐ Check engine coolant level
- ☐ Fill fuel tanks
- ☐ Check hydraulic fluid
- ☐ Check air cleaner
- ☐ Grease machine (specifically the boom pivot and park brake)
- ☐ Check condition of tracks
- ☐ Check track tension

BI-WEEKLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 100 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
(specifically the fuel filter and the fan belt tightness)
- ☐ Maintain safety signs on the machine
- ☐ Check overall machine
- ☐ Check control joystick and levers
- ☐ Check neutral control positions
- ☐ Check neutral start interlocks
- ☐ Check operator presence system
- ☐ Check hydraulic system
(and relieve the system hydraulic pressure)
- ☐ Check the park brake
- ☐ Grease the operator platform

MAINTENANCE ITEMS EVERY 2,000 SERVICE HOURS

- ☐ Drain and clean the engine cooling system

Even though maintaining a machine can seem daunting, following this list can help extend the life of your mini skid steer and maximize your productivity. Refer to your machine's maintenance manual and the operator's manual for more details.

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 50 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine (specifically the fuel lines and clamp bands)
- ☐ Change engine oil and filter
- ☐ Check track tension
- ☐ Replace fuel filter
- ☐ Replace hydraulic filter

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 200 TO 250 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
(specifically the radiator hoses and clamp bands)
- ☐ Check the hydraulic oil cooling fan
- ☐ Replace the hydraulic filter
- ☐ Replace the fuel filter

BI-MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 500 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
- ☐ Remove fuel tank sediment
- ☐ Clean engine cooling system
- ☐ Replace fan belt
- ☐ Check fuel line
- ☐ Check air cleaner restriction indicator
- ☐ Replace hydraulic filter
- ☐ Change engine oil and filter
- ☐ Check battery electrolyte levels
- ☐ Clean battery terminals

YEARLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

(EVERY 1,000 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check the engine system (specifically check the fuel lines for leaks, kinked hoses and hoses that are rubbing against another part)
- ☐ Change hydraulic fluid
- ☐ Service the strainer
- ☐ Service the secondary air cleaner



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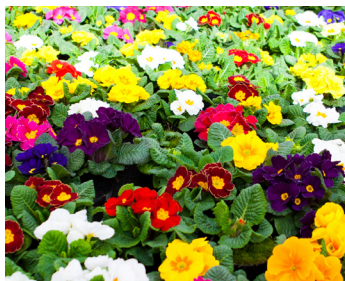
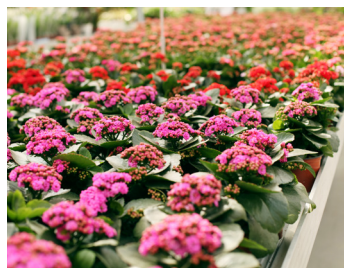
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POND BUFFERING ZONES TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

By M.P. Hayes, PhD, Assistant Professor of Agricultural & Industrial Water Quality

Pond aesthetics are one of the main drivers for landscape improvement, but a little vegetation can go a long way to support water quality and pond health. No matter the setting, the impact of nutrient runoff immediately affects the pond ecosystem. During the spring and summer months, many ponds will have algae growth and hypoxic zones from nutrient imbalance. The natural flora or vegetation around your pond plays a critical role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

The nutrient buffering zone around a pond is typically associated with a strip of native plant species roughly 3-5 feet wide and knee-high in length. These zones can be as large as 10 feet from the water edge and can be placed in specific areas if excess nutrient channels are known. Plant species in this zone should thrive in the local climate, able to handle excess nutrients, and elevated water levels in the event of pond water fluctuation. This buffering tactic is also known as a riparian zone for edge-of-field runoff or nature-based solutions because of the use of wetland plants to reduce the nutrient levels entering the waterway. There are many different grasses and shrubs, including cutgrass, cordgrass, and common rush, that can be planted for a quintessential Louisiana aesthetic. For more information on plants, LSU AgCenter has numerous extension publications for the identification and benefit of species for local waterways.

Though many could see this buffer strip as a “snake priority area”, it serves a different purpose of reducing nutrients, preventing erosion, and supporting habitat. A dense zone of brush will intercept runoff water from both natural hydrological channeling and storm events to collect pulsing nutrients before entering the pond. This system acts as a filter that slows down water flow to the pond. The excess nitrogen and phosphorus are utilized by the plants for growth, chlorophyll production, and root development. As the riparian zone grows, the root system will also ensure the stabilization of soil around

the edge of the pond. A strong shoreline helps to decrease erosion and land loss around the edge. This leads to increased water clarity from turbidity or sedimentation. Along with nutrients, dissolved minerals from soil can cause imbalances in pond health, cloudiness of water and be detrimental to pumps or foundations. An additional benefit is habitat creation. The plants surrounding the pond provide food and shelter for wildlife, fish, and insects. This promotes biodiversity and increases food web connectivity for your pond systems. The dense brush and vegetation also help deter some species like geese from accessing pond spaces. Geese can have a negative impact on water quality from manure, which increases nutrients and pathogens in water bodies.

Though the riparian zone needs very little maintenance, there are a few steps that can be taken to ensure the system is effective in reducing nutrients. After any major storm event where atypical water enters your pond, a visual inspection should be done to ensure plants remain intact and debris is clear. The buffering zone will also filter out the trash and other debris from entering your pond, but it can be damaged from long-term contact. Check for areas where plants may have been damaged or left open spaces. These areas will need to be reseeded or replanted to avoid weed intrusions. Controlling weeds is important to prevent the spread and reduction of nutrients to local plant species. The aesthetics of your buffering zone is based on native plant species and not the weeds, which can persist in empty spaces if not maintained properly. Additionally, if trees have been planted, prune them accordingly for optimal growth rates and the desired look. Overall, riparian zones can have immediate benefits for pond water quality and provide visual appeal if maintained properly. For more information on pond water quality, email mhayes@agcenter.lsu.edu.





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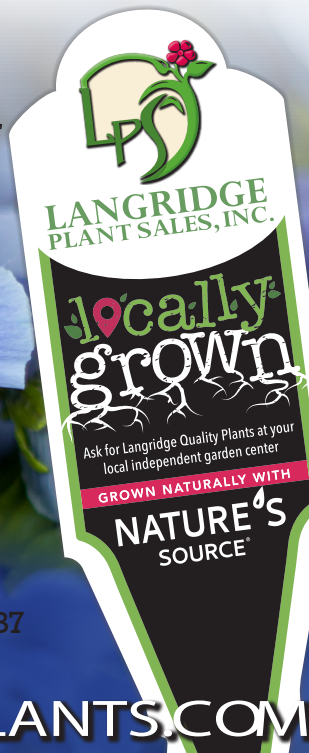
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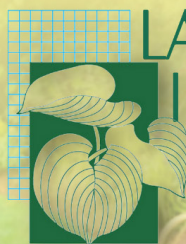
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HOW AI IS CHANGING THE GREEN INDUSTRY - AND WHY THAT'S A GOOD THING

By: Eric R. McQuiston, PLA

The green industry has always been about people, place, and purpose. Whether it's designing landscapes, installing outdoor environments, growing plants, or helping customers choose the right shrub for their yard, this work is rooted in real-world experience and a connection to the land. But like every industry, we're seeing big changes, and artificial intelligence (AI) is leading the charge.

Now, before you roll your eyes or assume this is just another buzzword, hear me out. I'm not talking about robots replacing people. I'm talking about tools that help us do our jobs better, more efficiently, more creatively, and with fewer headaches. If used right, AI can be a game-changer for every part of the green industry, from design to construction to retail.

Landscape Design: Faster Turnaround, Better Visuals, Smarter Solutions

As a licensed landscape architect, I've spent nearly three decades drawing, revising, presenting, and refining designs. It's a craft — but it's also time-consuming. AI is helping change that. Today, we can generate quick concept visuals using AI-based programs like MidJourney or DALL-E. Need to show a client a mood board or planting style? Type a prompt, and you've got images in minutes.

Design software powered by AI can also run behind-the-scenes calculations like slope analysis, sun exposure, and drainage flow, giving you real data to back up your decisions. And if you're collaborating with contractors or clients remotely, AI-driven tools can turn basic sketches into full-color visuals or 3D walkthroughs that help everyone stay on the same page.

The bottom line is that AI won't replace good design, but it makes the process faster and more interactive, which means happier clients and a smoother handoff to construction.

Landscape Construction: Fewer Delays, Safer Sites, Less Guesswork

On the construction side, AI shines when it comes to planning and efficiency. Project management platforms now use AI to anticipate delays, weather impacts, material shortages, and labor conflicts. Instead of scrambling to adjust when something goes sideways, you can see it coming and respond before it costs you time and money.

Drones and AI mapping tools can also cut down on the time spent measuring and documenting sites. Imagine flying a drone over a large site, and within hours, you've got a current topographic map and progress report. That's real value.

Some forward-thinking firms are even using robotic tools and autonomous machines for grading, trenching, or mowing. While we're not all there yet, it's clear where things are headed, especially for larger or repetitive installs. And from a safety standpoint, AI-enhanced jobsite cameras can flag risky behaviors before accidents happen, protecting both people and profits.

Nursery Production: Precision Growing, Less Waste, Healthier Plants

Nursery growers are already starting to embrace AI in a big way. Sensor-based systems connected to AI platforms can monitor everything from soil moisture to nutrient levels and pest pressure. Instead of watering on a timer or over-fertilizing just to be safe, you can make data-driven decisions that save water, reduce chemical use, and grow stronger plants.

Some systems now use image recognition to scan for early signs of disease or stress. That means problems get caught before they become outbreaks, and labor can be deployed more strategically. From an inventory perspective, AI can even help forecast what to grow and when, using regional weather, market demand, and past sales trends. It's about working smarter, not harder, and reducing the guesswork that so often leads to excess or shortage.

Garden Centers and Retail: Smarter Selling and Better Customer Experience

On the retail side, AI is making it easier to give customers what they want — and help them find it faster. Interactive kiosks and AI chatbots can guide shoppers to the right plants for their conditions. Imagine a customer typing in "full sun, low maintenance, attracts pollinators" and getting a curated list of in-stock options with planting tips. That's helpful.

AI is also being used to fine-tune inventory management and merchandising. It can track what's selling, when, and how to price it accordingly. Promotions can be timed to weather patterns or local trends, and visual tools can let customers preview how a certain plant might look in their yard. That's the kind of experience today's customer expects — and AI helps deliver it.

Some Parting Thoughts: This Is an Opportunity, Not a Threat

I get it — AI can sound intimidating. But I see it as another tool in the toolbox, not a replacement for human skills. We still need people who know how to walk a site, read a client, feel the soil, and solve real problems. AI just gives us new ways to enhance what we already do well. If you're in the green industry — designer, contractor, grower, or retailer — now's the time to start exploring how AI can work for you. Not every tool fits every operation, but the potential is real. It's not about losing touch with the craft. It's about letting technology handle the tedium so we can focus on what really matters: creating beautiful, functional, and lasting landscapes.

And that, I believe, is something worth investing in.

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DIAGNOSING SUMMER TURF PROBLEMS

By: Eric R. McQuiston, PLA

Summer in Louisiana can be a pressure cooker even for our warm-season turfgrasses. High temperatures, humidity, and irregular rainfall patterns create perfect conditions for stressed turf. For lawn care operators and landscapers, the key to effective summer turf management and happy clientele is an accurate diagnosis of what's really going wrong when turf health starts to decline. Addressing underlying issues like drought, insect, disease, or nutrient-related problems requires different responses. Unfortunately, many symptoms can look alike. A field-based approach, using practical diagnostic tools and hands-on observations, can help reduce costly missteps.

Differentiating Between Common Summer Turf Stressors

When your turf goes off-color or begins to thin out in the summer, drought stress may often be the first suspect, especially in unirrigated lawns. However, sometimes visual symptoms can be deceiving. If caught early, drought-stressed turf typically appears bluish-gray before browning, with footprints or mower tracks persisting longer than usual (Fig. 1). The grass just doesn't bounce back like normal. Advanced stages of drought stress will result in uniform browning of the turf (Fig. 1). It's gone dormant, waiting for some more moisture. Pulling a core using a small soil probe can help you estimate soil water content. Soil should rarely be bone dry and dusty. If the soil feels like there's adequate moisture, look for signs of other stressors like chinch bugs or nutrient deficiency.



Figure 1. Zoysiagrass during the late-summer drought in 2023. From left to right: Drought-induced dormancy, extreme drought-stress (purple/gray), and well-watered, dark-green turf. Notice the uniformity of each section.

Insect damage differs in appearance, location, and progression depending on the culprit. Chinch bug damage is most likely to present as drought damage. Chinch bugs use their piercing-sucking mouthparts to feed on plant fluids and inject a toxin as they feed. Chinch bug damage results in irregular patches of yellow or brown turf in sun-exposed

areas, and damage will often begin near sidewalks or driveways that radiate heat into the surrounding soil. Chinch bugs are most common in St. Augustinegrass but can damage other grasses as well. Browning St. Augustinegrass in full sun near a sidewalk will most likely be chinch bugs, if not drought.

Sod webworms and armyworms both feed on leaf blades and leave behind frass (green/brown pellets) and chewed leaf tips (Fig. 2). Webworm damage begins as small patches that can coalesce over time. Damage can be scattered and appear seemingly overnight. Armyworm damage results in large-scale defoliation, stripping large areas in a matter of days. Soap flushes (1 tablespoon of lemon dish soap in 1 gallon of water per square yard) can bring larvae to the surface to confirm their presence. If you're not seeing turf that appears chewed down or has chew marks in the leaves, something else is likely the culprit. If white grubs are to blame, turf will roll right up like a carpet, severed from the soil like freshly cut sod.



Figure 2. Tropical sod webworm chewing leaf damage (left) and larvae and brown frass (right).

Summer turfgrass diseases have distinct patterns of damage that can help diagnose issues. Take-all root rot (Ggg) and gray leaf spot are both notorious for infecting St. Augustinegrass. Take-all infects roots and stolons, and roots may appear short, stunted, and rotted or brown. Gray leaf spot results in a more tinged, drought-stressed appearance, usually with very obvious gray lesions on the leaves (Figure 3). Gray leaf spot is a foliar disease and favors compacted soils. So much so that I've seen gray leaf spot infecting St. Augustinegrass in the exact pattern where a mower wheel had been continually rolling over the same location for years, and the surrounding grass was not infected. Dollar spot is common on underfertilized turf, hungry for nitrogen. Dollar spot causes circular brown patches the size of a silver dollar or larger. This may sound like large patch, but dollar spot won't have the fiery orange smoke ring characteristic of large patch, and dollar spot patches will most likely be much smaller.



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DIAGNOSING SUMMER TURF PROBLEMS...CONTINUED



Figure 3. Advanced stages of gray leaf spot on St. Augustinegrass. May almost look like drought stress from afar.

Nutrient deficiencies, particularly nitrogen, can lead to pale green or yellow turf with stunted growth. A phosphorus deficiency tends

to result in older leaves turning purple or blue. Unlike disease or insect damage, nutrient deficiencies are usually uniform across the area and respond positively to fertilization.

When to Dig Deeper (Literally)

Sometimes surface symptoms don't tell the whole story. Use a soil probe or shovel to inspect root depth, color, and soil conditions. Compacted soils, common on sports fields and home lawns, can lead to poor root development and water uptake even if irrigation is consistent. A hard, compacted layer just a few inches below the surface can create a perched water table, where water saturates the upper layer of soil, starving the roots of oxygen. Digging also helps uncover insect larvae or grubs that may not appear in soap flushes.

Closing Thoughts

Summer turf issues may take a long time to resolve on their own. Relying on guesswork can lead to overwatering, unnecessary pesticide use, or improper fertilization, each of which may worsen the problem. By applying a field-based diagnostic approach, you can effectively determine the cause of summer stress and tailor solutions that work. Use your eyes, your tools, and when needed, your land-grant university resources to keep Louisiana lawns thriving through the toughest season of the year.



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EVALUATING PRE-PLANT ROOT MANIPULATION TECHNIQUES FOR TREES

By: Dr. Damon Abdi



We all (should) know the basics of proper tree installation. Dig the hole at least twice as wide as the rootball, and install the plant slightly above grade. But when we pop the plant out of the container and see circling roots, debate rages on as to what to do. Some people dismiss circling roots as an issue... the plant will find a way to take hold in the soil. Others swear that slicing the rootball will help spur new root growth, often scoring

the rootball with a knife or chopping the rootball base off with a shovel. Finally, some folks prefer to really get into it – breaking apart the rootball by hand “fileting” or “butterflying” the root system before planting.

At the Hammond Research Station, a two-year evaluation comparing these four pre-plant root modification practices was conducted. Using a popular tree (‘Natchez’ crape myrtle) as the model plant, we grew plants out in 1-gallon containers for almost two seasons to create condensed root systems. We installed these plants in April 2023 and evaluated their growth until October 2024. We measured the growth index (the average of the plant height and two perpendicular widths) to assess overall plant size, coupled with measuring the stem caliper (specifically the largest shoot in these multi-stemmed specimens) to get a better understanding of how quickly these trees would adapt to their new surroundings. While the growth index was universally equivalent, with no differences in size between pre-planting root treatments, we sought to dig a little deeper than that.

In October of 2024, we pulled the plants out of the landscape using a

however, we then dried and weighed the remaining root mass. Interestingly enough, there were no significant differences in the weight of dried roots between treatments.

So, what is the takeaway from this study? Well, we can’t draw too many widespread conclusions just yet. This was just one species (better yet, one cultivar), evaluated on one site, for one two-year period. Furthermore, the sandy loam on-site can be fairly forgiving (relative to compacted clay soil found in other environments). But this study does serve to start a larger conversation about pre-plant root manipulation practices. For many of us (including me), maintaining current practices that break open the rootball a little before planting would probably make the most sense... in this study, pre-planting practices had no effect (good or bad) on successful establishment; however, long-term root development remains in question. This research is in preparation for publication in a variety of venues, including Louisiana Agriculture and scientific/trade journals. Check back in later this year to read all about it. Currently, we are investigating a range of other pre-plant practices on new species, trees of different sizes, and different production methods. This work is made possible through the support of the LNLA, and we are excited to continue developing actionable and useful information to help all our green industry professionals.



hydraulic tree spade, allowing a uniform volume of soil to be excavated. After washing the residual soil off the roots, we followed up with an air compressor to leave clean, bare roots for further assessment. No surprise that the roots that were not manipulated before planting exhibited a “vortex” like form, where circling roots maintained their momentum, appearing to grow thicker in place. We didn’t just rest on observations;





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NALP ADVOCACY UPDATE

By: Andrew Bray on May 30, 2025, please contact andrew@landscapeprofessionals.org for current status of all the below issues.

H-2B Updates

NALP has been very busy in multiple fronts concerning securing H-2B cap relief for the landscape industry. Here are the most current updates on the following issues:

On May 20th, NALP hosted over 80 members and conducted over 120 meetings with elected officials on Capitol Hill to request much-needed H-2B cap relief. As expected, the timing could not have been better. The day following the fly-in, House Appropriations Committee Chair Cole (R-OK) announced the schedule for marking up all 12 FY26 appropriations bills. The FY 26 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) bill will be marked up in the subcommittee on June 9th and then head to the full Committee on June 12th.

As a refresher, DHS appropriations are the avenue that we have received cap relief since 2018 by inserting language that provides the Administration the discretionary authority to release up to an additional 64,716 H-2B visas. The June 9th subcommittee is traditionally pro forma and is a very brief mark-up. The June 12th full Committee mark-up is a critical day for any H-2B cap relief language to be inserted into FY 26 appropriations.

We have learned this week that H-2B cap relief language will not appear in the base text of the bill but will need to be offered by an amendment. This is not a major setback as the only time we have been in the base text is when Subcommittee Chairman Dave Joyce (R-OH), who is a true champion, had the power to approve the inclusion from the onset of the process. The new subcommittee Chair, Rep. Amodei (R-NV), is not against our language but would prefer it go through "normal order" by amendment.

We have already consulted with Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), who has offered cap relief amendments every year that Republicans have held control of the House, and this year will be no different. All options remain on the table, such as requesting language that is:

- Certified Employer
- Returning Worker
- May to Shall

After communicating with Rep. Harris's staff yesterday, it appears they are leaning towards the "may to shall" language that was offered as an amendment for FY 25 and passed with bipartisan support by a voice vote. While we prefer something more robust like "certified employer," it is imperative we support our champions and whatever they are willing to do on behalf of seasonal businesses to ensure some form of H-2B cap relief. We will add that we are exploring not only "may to shall" but also including language that may raise the 64,716 to a number that reflects current demand. Those conversations are ongoing.

Next steps: The H-2B Workforce Coalition is now whipping votes with each member of the House Appropriations Committee to confirm their support or mute their opposition. For the members NALP is responsible for, do not be surprised if you are added to an email from Andrew Bray to demonstrate constituent support on some of those communications. We will also be pushing a new grassroots alert next

Friday to apply continued pressure on legislators to support H-2B cap relief language.

In conclusion, this is a critical time every year for H-2B cap relief. But to use a football analogy, this is like the first quarter, and there will still be many plays/steps left in this game for FY 26, but we certainly don't want to be losing after this quarter concludes.

FY 25 Supplemental Cap Relief

On March 26th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) FINALLY announced that the FY 25 second half statutory cap had been hit on March 5, and that the full amount of supplemental H-2B visas (19,000 RWE), (13,000 + NCA) and (5,000 post May 14th) will be made available.

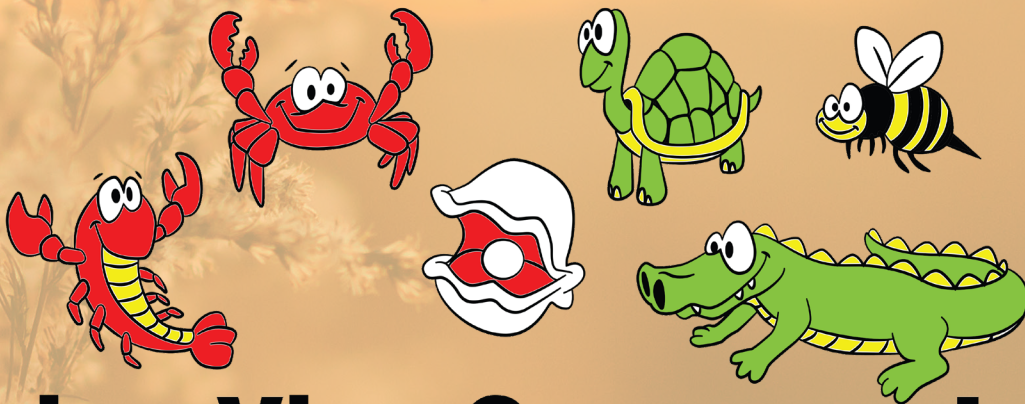
Employers will need to attest to irreparable harm if you do not receive supplemental H-2B workers, and it must be documented. If you have a valid petition in hand and were capped out of the statutory 33,000, we encourage you to file immediately, as the 19,000 RWEs will go quickly because of the delay in the announcement and the number of capped-out petitions already processed. We believe a lottery could occur when USCIS gets close to hitting that 19,000 cap, but initially, we don't believe that is the process that will occur.

The weeks preceding this announcement were nerve-racking, to say the least. We knew that the H-2B cap had been hit somewhere around March 5th due to the lack of receipts being issued, and the rate at which they were processing. We then began to hear rumors that DHS Secretary Noem wanted to "examine her options." We also knew that there were people in place at DHS that are very opposed to the H-2B program and were part of the Project 2025 document that specifically states that the Administration should not "exert their discretionary authority" in reference to H-2B supplemental visas. NALP promptly began to lead efforts, both public and private, to exert pressure via key contacts in the Whitehouse that are working for us and also our champions on Capitol Hill. We were preparing litigation if necessary, but couldn't initiate until April 1st. We are happy we didn't have to resort to that path. This release only happened because of the hard work by all of you and the relationships we've created in Congress with your help. In 48 hours, we sent over 1,000 emails. See below for the states that sent the most messages! We now know where we stand with this current Administration. We certainly have champions, but we also have significant obstacles at DHS that will remain in place during the remainder of Trump 2.0.

H-2B Litigation

On January 19, 2025, the Federation of Employers and Workers of America, the National Association of Landscape Professionals, the Seasonal Employment Alliance, and the Outdoor Amusement Business Association filed suit in the Southern District of Texas – Galveston Division challenging provisions Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") Modernizing H-2 Program Requirements, Oversight, and Worker Protections, which would provide DHS with additional oversight to bar employers with labor law violations and could hold H-2B

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NALP ADVOCACY UPDATE...CONTINUED

employers strictly liable for actions taken by foreign recruiters. The main challenges to the Final Rule are that it was a retroactive rulemaking that is not allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act, that it exceeds DHS's authority, and that it was precluded by Congress through a Congressional Review Act ("CRA") determination of a previous rule on the same topic.

On March 24, 2025, the DHS filed a partial motion to dismiss just the CRA count of the complaint. To date, DHS has not responded to the rest of the complaint, which we expect would happen after the Court rules on the motion to dismiss. Counsel has made efforts to discuss the litigation and potential settlement with DHS, but counsel for the government has yet to respond.

NALP is prepared to see this litigation to its conclusion to protect H-2B employers.

NALP Submits Comments to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services on Monarch Butterflies

In an action that could have far-reaching implications for how pesticides are used in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposed that the iconic monarch butterfly should be designated as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Because monarchs migrate over long distances to very remote locations in Mexico and California, they could be exposed to a litany of risks, from automobile strikes to pesticide

exposure. In addition to weighing the merits of listing the monarch as 'threatened', or the more dire designation of 'endangered', the Service must consider what are known as Section 4(d) rules, specific actions that are prohibited such as importing/exporting the species, taking (a legal term describing the many ways a species can be killed), either intentionally or unintentionally. Harming or killing a threatened species through exposure to a pesticide would be prohibited. However, there is a mechanism that allows the Service to tailor regulations for flexibility in conserving species. In the case of the monarch, it has an obligate relationship with the milkweed plant as the sole host for egg laying and feeding by caterpillars. As the caterpillars feed on the milkweed, they ingest and accumulate toxins from the plants that make them poisonous to predators. One of the many factors the Service listed as bringing the monarch to the threatened status is the use of glyphosate to control weeds in GMO crops.

In their proposed listing, the Service specifically asked stakeholders for information that would justify an exception for pesticide uses in certain circumstances, considering various mitigations that could be used, such as using IPM protocols or low-drift nozzles. The original comment period closed in mid-March, but due to the complexity of the subject matter, the Service extended the comment deadline to this past Monday. You can read comments submitted by NALP in favor of a 4(d) exception for turf and ornamental pesticide uses [here](#).

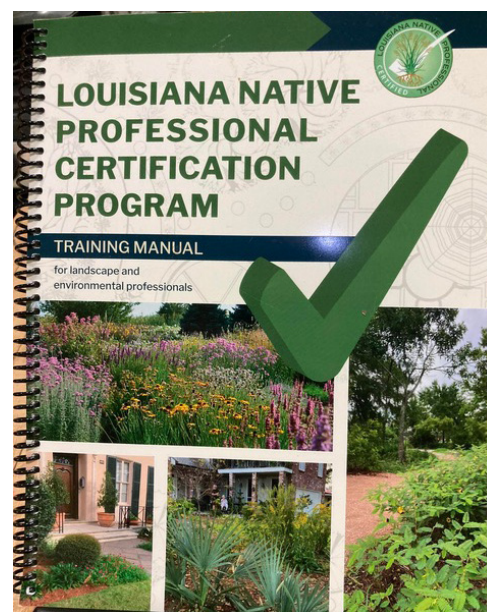
THE LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY LAUNCHES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

By: Tammany Baumgarten

With an incredible amount of collaboration from highly experienced native plant experts and after approximately 5 years in the making, the first-ever Louisiana Native Professional Certification training was held in Lafayette, June 14 and 15.

Created with support from the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association's LNFSR Grants, the classes addressed the increased demand for professionals who can understand, plan, and maintain native landscapes. The Louisiana Native Plant Society will maintain a public directory of those successfully completing the instruction and receiving certification, which will allow the public to locate skilled professionals in this specific field.

The first Basic level class took place over two days and included in-class presentations, landscape planning exercises, on-site field walks, plant identification sessions, and off-site field trips to see and discuss native landscapes. The 35 registrants for the class came from all over the state, from Shreveport to St. Bernard. More basic and additional advanced-level classes will be offered in the future in various locations. Information about future classes, as well as the directory of professionals who have completed the course, can be found on LNPS.org/programs.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HAMMOND?

By: Dr. Damon Abdi



Gearing up for another great summer at the Hammond Research Station, we have several upcoming events to showcase our gardens, research, and resources to support the Louisiana Green Industry.

Starting with some introductions, we will be welcoming Dr. Christine Coker to the HRS team as the new station director and vegetable extension specialist beginning this July. Dr. Coker brings a wealth of experience in Gulf Coast extension programming. After two decades with Mississippi State, she will take her talents to the LSU AgCenter to help support growers and garden enthusiasts throughout Louisiana. Later this summer, we will welcome our new weed scientist, Dr. Colton Blankenship, to the team. Dr. Blankenship will be a great point of contact for herbicide and weed management resources, and I look forward to bringing him on the circuit of landscape extension events throughout the state. Together, we all look forward to working to bring the best possible advice for how to grow and maintain the (ornamental and vegetable) plants we know and love in Louisiana, as well as best management practices to kill the weeds we want to keep out of our lawns, landscapes, and gardens. We are excited to team up and develop new resources to support the green industry!

Our gardens look spectacular. Our most recent hire, Caroline Blanchard (Trial Garden Coordinator since this January), has hit the ground running with getting our gardens prepared for the season. Her organizational skills and enthusiasm are reflected across the clean, color-filled beds throughout the site. Thanks to Dr.

Allen Owing's support and guidance, we have reinvigorated several sections of the sun garden and brought new life to our Azalea gardens and other collections scattered across the station. Blooms are bountiful, and we can't wait to show what we have in store at our field day later this summer.

Field day is all set for Friday, July 18th, 2025. We look forward to welcoming green industry professionals to see what we have in store. What might you expect? Count on seeing your favorite plants and new introductions in bloom in our gardens, cutting-edge research tackling the issues of nursery and greenhouse production, solutions to create sustainable landscapes, and a whole lot of camaraderie as we catch up with all of our industry friends. Save the date! If you have any questions about the event, you can always contact me. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Keeping an eye towards the future, we are excited to continue construction of the HRS Outdoor Living Area. This initiative is based on providing hands-on learning experiences for green industry stakeholders. So far, we have installed a patio and an outdoor fireplace in this area. Thank you to Eric McQuiston for his help visualizing this new focal feature of the HRS, and thank you to Scott Lunt (owner of Outdoor Bistros) for supplying materials to build the fireplace. It takes an entire team to achieve success, and we look forward to continuing to develop content and resources to support the green industry. Can't wait to see y'all at Field Day!



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South East Louisiana Nursery Association Update (SELNA)

By Paige Mizell

The Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association recently held its Folsom Spring Garden Festival at Midway Church Park in Folsom, LA. It was a beautiful day of sharing our locally grown plants with the public. We are now actively planning our Folsom Fall Garden

Festival to be held on Saturday, October 25th.

The next SELNA meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8th, at 6 pm at the Hammond Research Station.



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WHY DOES SOIL HEALTH MATTER?

By: Leandro O. Vieira, Ph.D., Assistant Professor & Soil Fertility Specialist, LSU AgCenter



Soil health is a term frequently used when referring to the sustainable, long-term use of soil. But what does it actually mean? According to the USDA, “soil health is the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans.” This normally raises a follow-up question: What is the difference between soil health and soil fertility? The USDA defines soil fertility as “the quality of a soil that enables it to provide nutrients in adequate amounts and in proper balance for the growth of specified plants when other growth factors, such as light, moisture, temperature, and the physical condition of the soil, are favorable.” In other words, while soil fertility focuses on the chemical properties (mainly the availability and amount of nutrients), soil health encompasses chemical, biological, and physical properties of the soil.

A good starting point for evaluating soil health is a routine soil test, which assesses chemical properties such as pH and nutrient levels. However, to properly assess soil health, we also need to evaluate soil structure and biological activity. Some of these indicators can be assessed visually. For example, the presence of earthworms, good drainage, and minimal erosion are signs of healthy biological and physical soil properties. Additionally, some soil testing laboratories offer comprehensive soil health analyses, which can be valuable tools for evaluating soil management practices.

The downside is that these tests are significantly more expensive. Those soil health assessments often cost over \$100 per sample, which is about ten times the cost of a routine soil test. There are several ways to improve soil health. While it is not always an easy task, increasing organic matter is likely the most impactful strategy (Figure 1). Adding organic matter enhances the biological, chemical, and physical properties of the soil. It supports the growth and diversity of soil organisms, increases nutrient concentration and the ability of the soil to store nutrients (cation exchange capacity, CEC), and reduces nutrient losses. It also promotes the formation and stabilization of soil aggregates, which improves structure, reduces erosion, and enhances water infiltration. As organic matter increases, so does the diversity and

abundance of beneficial soil organisms. This leads to improved nutrient cycling (e.g., mineralization) and natural suppression of plant pathogens, which are both essential for healthy, resilient soils.

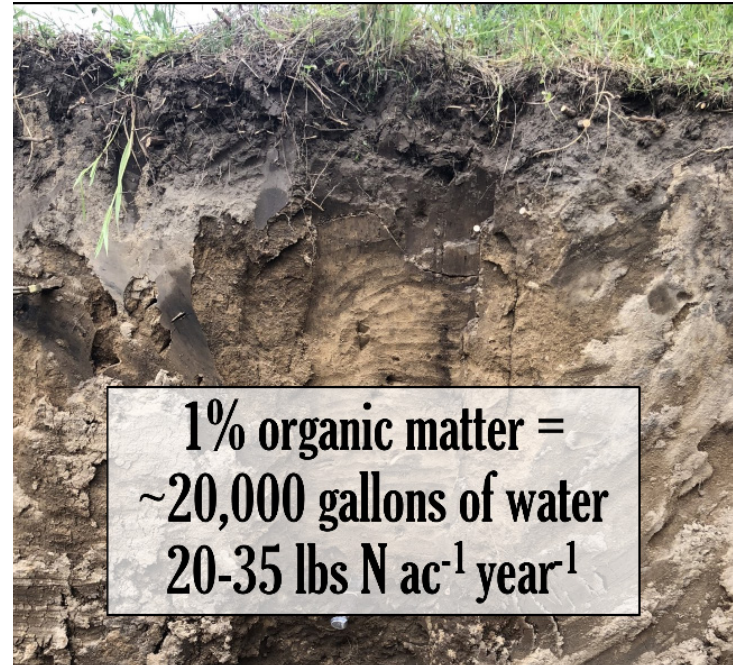


Figure 1. It is estimated that each 1% increase in soil organic matter can hold approximately 20,000 gallons of plant-available water per acre and release 20–35 pounds of plant-available nitrogen per acre per year. As a consequence, it is expected that, over time, fertilizer rates may be reduced, and irrigation intervals may become longer.

But remember, the first step towards assessing soil health is a routine soil test. By improving soil fertility, you also support the organisms that contribute to better soil structure and overall health. The LSU AgCenter Soil Testing Lab, located at 125 M.B. Sturgis Hall on the main campus in Baton Rouge, provides soil analyses and interpretation for a small fee. Take advantage of soil testing to ensure your plants thrive. https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/departments/spess/service/labs/soil_testing_lab

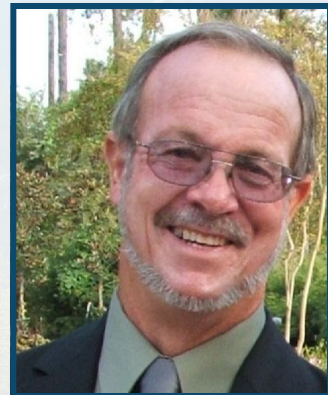
In Memorandum

Eugene Paul Mumma

Eugene "Gene" Paul Mumma, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and best friend, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 13, 2025 at the age of 76, in Loranger, Louisiana. Surrounded by his family, as a longtime resident of Loranger & of the Greater New Orleans area, he was the son of the late Lila and Merle Mumma.

Gene is survived by his beloved wife, Rose Mumma; children, Paul Mumma (Stacy Berthelot), Michael Mumma (Heidi), and Jessica Dayhoff (Gary); grandchildren, Sophie Dayhoff, Skylar, Lyla, and Michael Jr. Mumma; and his sister Merlene Eubanks, along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Juanita Jo Civello.

As an entrepreneur, Gene along with his wife, founded Gene's Greenhouses and Flower Pot Nursery and Patio Center, Inc; where they shared their passion for plants and brought beauty to many for decades. He was known for his love of teaching everyone how to boil and eat crabs/crawfish as a true Louisianan, hosting family gatherings, and the warmth and generosity he extended to everyone he knew. Gene's legacy of hard work, and simple joys will continue to grow in the hearts of all who met him. Contact the family for information about memorial services.



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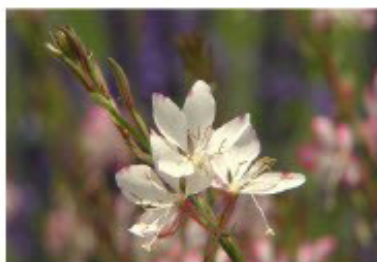
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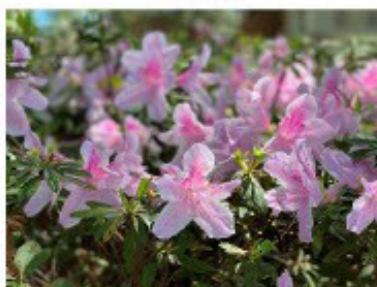
2025



Gaura



'Vermillionaire' Cuphea



Southern indica azalea
'George L. Taber' -
'Formosa' - 'G.G. Gerbing'



Dusty Miller

Previous Selections

Warm Season Bedding Plants

Alternanthera 'Little Ruby'
Angelonia - Serena Series
Angelonia 'Serenita Raspberry'
Begonia - BabyWing series
Buddleia 'Flutterby Tutti Frutti'
Celosia 'Intenz Classic'
Cleome 'Senorita Rosalita'
Coleus 'Henna'
Coleus - Flamethrower series
Columnea 'Blue Daze,' 'Blue My Mind'
Gaillardia - Mesa series
Hibiscus - Luna series
Impatiens - Beacon Series
Lantana - Bandana series
Lemon Sedum
Louisiana Iris
Ornamental Peppers
Pennisetum 'Fireworks'
Pentas - Butterfly series
Pentas - Lucky Star series
Porterweed
Salvia farinacea 'Evolution'

Summer of Salvias
Sunflower Suncredible®
SunPatiens (compact varieties)
Torenia - Kauai series
Verbena 'Homestead Purple'
Zinnia 'Zesty'

Cool Season Bedding Plants

Columbine - Swan series
Delphinium 'Diamonds Blue'
Dianthus - Amazon series
Dianthus - Jolt series
Foxglove - Camelot series
Kale 'Redbor'
Supertunia Mini Vista 'Indigo'
Supertunia Vista 'Bubblegum'
Viola - Sorbet series

Shrubs

Althea 'Aphrodite'
American Beautyberry
Azalea 'Conversation Piece'
Blueberries - Rabbiteye
Camellia 'Shishi Gashira'

Camellia 'Leslie Ann'
Distylium 'Cinnamon Girl'
Firebush 'Lime Sizzler'
Gardenia 'Frostproof'
Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight'
Hydrangea 'Penny Mac'
Illicium 'Florida Sunshine'
Muhly Grass
Rose 'Belinda's Dream'
Rose - Drift series
Rose 'Peggy Martin'
Viburnum 'Mrs. Schiller's Delight'
Virginia Willow 'Henry's Garnet'

Trees

Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
Chaste Tree 'Shoal Creek' (*Vitex agnus-castus*)
Evergreen Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Hybrid Magnolia 'Jane'
Southern Magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
Southern Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

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DR. DAMON ABDI
Director of Research & Education

The CNLP was established to provide a professional educational opportunity for 'Green Industry' professionals. Primarily, persons in the retail garden center and landscape contracting/maintenance areas of the 'Green Industry' participate. The manual review is also excellent preparation for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's landscape horticulturist license exam. An LDAF license is required to be in various landscape & nursery related businesses in Louisiana; the CNLP is not required.

This certification is not a license. Call LDAF Horticulture Commission at 225-952-8100 to schedule the license exam.

1

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2

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ONLY**

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3

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Location To Be
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Dr. Damon Abdi

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance:

Brandon Adams, Cari Jane Murray, Lisa Loup, Kellie Alford, Dr. Damon Abdi, Craig Roussel, Gerald Foret, John Hoogland, Matt Fennell, Lee Rouse, Doyle Pennick, Mike Callecod, Debbie Head, Brian Bridges & Lanie Riner

Attending Online:

Tony Carter, Jennifer McGimsey, Ashleigh Kruty

1. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to accept previous meeting minutes made by Mike Callecod
- Seconded by Tony Carter
- Motion passed unanimously

2. Grower State of the Industry

- Presented by Brandon Adams

3. LDAF Attendance Update

- Tina Peltier and Marsha Dugas from LDAF joined the meeting in person

4. Industry Reports

Landscape Industry:

- Presented by Mike Callecod

Garden Center / Retail Industry:

- Presented by Matt Fennell
- Outlook: Strong and optimistic

Allied Trade Industry:

- Presented by Brian Bridges
- Highlights:
 - More supply than demand
 - Jan/Feb storms significantly impacted business
 - Down 6.2% in Q1
 - Wholesale nursery supplies down; other sectors steady
 - Sluggish Q1 due to tariff concerns
 - Tariffs on peat moss could increase invoices by 25%, payable immediately if implemented
 - Some Chinese products qualify for agricultural exemption
 - Fertilizer prices expected to increase due to rising urea costs

5. Financial Report

- Presented by Treasurer Brian Bridges
- As of March 31:
 - Total Cash in Checking: \$122,000
 - Total Assets: \$24
 - Q1 Expenses: \$48,329
 - CDs Total: \$245,303 (both maturing soon need to find a Plan)

Investment Options for CD Funds:

- Money Market: 4.00%
- 1-Year CD: 4.05%, noncallable and guaranteed
- [Third Option: Possibly 4.35% - confirmation needed]
- Approx. available: \$121,000

Motion:

- Lisa Loup motioned to invest in the 4.05% noncallable CD
- Seconded by Tony Carter
- Motion passed unanimously

6. Sponsorships and Funding Approvals

Approved Sponsorships:

- Gala Gold Sponsorship – \$3,000
- FFA Sponsorship – \$1,000
- LSU Awards Sponsorship – \$1,000
- HRS Internship – \$3,000
- HRS Field Day (July) – \$2,000
 - Note: Internship and Field Day expenses are in the current budget but require board approval for disbursement

Motion:

- Lisa Loup motioned to approve all sponsorships
- Seconded by Matt Fennell
- Motion passed unanimously

7. LDAF Report

- Presented by Tina Peltier and Marsha Dugas
- Online testing and proctoring for licensing exams nearing implementation
- District offices will no longer administer exams
- A hiring freeze remains in place at LDAF

8. Education Committee Update

- Presented by Chad Everage, Education Chair
- Discussed the ongoing manual rewrite project
 - Board would like to see an updated cover design
 - Dr. Damon Abdi wrote a grant to fund the manual rewrite and hire licensed professionals
- CNLP Exam: Scheduled for July in Lafayette
- Education Day: October 2 at the AgCenter Station in Alexandria

9. Marketing Committee Update

- Marketing Committee will meet within the next two weeks

10. Communications Committee

- Chair: Matt Fennell
- Goal: Get everyone on the same page
- Communication Suggestions:
 - Kellie Alford: Phone calls
 - Lisa Loup: Use of GroupMe

11. Legislative Update

- This marks the 4th year hosting the Legislative Meet & Greet
- The horticulture industry contributes \$4.8 billion in annual revenue to the State of Louisiana

12. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Brandon Adams
- Seconded by Lisa Loup
- Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.



LNLA Membership Application

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone1: _____ Phone2: _____ Toll-free: _____

FAX: _____ Email: _____

Website: _____

Referred By: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (select one) and Business Types (select all that apply – up to 5)

☐ **REGULAR MEMBER (Voting) - \$ Based on gross sales per year (below)**

A licensed or permitted business or person (**in Louisiana only**) engaged in one or more of the business types listed in box at right -- **Please select no more than 5.**

Dues **Annual Gross Sales**

☐ \$200.00 \$0 - \$249,999

☐ \$250.00 \$250,000 or more

☐ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER (Non-Voting) - \$250.00** – includes out-of-state businesses

☐ **In Louisiana - Wholesale Allied Supplies (AS)** A business/person selling any non-plant item such as chemicals, containers, equipment, fertilizer, garden décor or furniture, insurance, mulch, soil, stones, etc. Product(s) sold: _____

☐ **Out-of-State** -- State: _____ -- **Please select no more than 5.**

☐ **AFFILIATE MEMBER (Non-Voting) – \$25.00**

An employee of any horticulture business with a paid regular membership -- **Please select no more than 5.**

☐ **GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION MEMBER (Non-Voting) – \$25.00**

An employee of a government or non-profit entity, having a job responsibility in horticulture or closely related field

☐ College or University Education/Extension/Research (**U**)

☐ Educational/Regulatory Government Agency (**GV**)

☐ Public Gardens or Parks (**PG**)

☐ **RETIREE MEMBER (Non-Voting) (R) – \$25.00** - Any person formerly actively employed in horticulture or closely related field and having been a paid member of LNLA before retirement from that employment.

☐ **STUDENT MEMBER (Non-Voting) (S) – FREE** - Full time student enrolled in a Louisiana university/college in horticulture or a closely related field. University/College name & location (city): _____

The ★**Business Type** designation is used in LNLA's membership directory and website. Check each ☐ that applies - up to 5.

☐ Arborist/Urban Forester (**A**)

☐ Interior Plant Maintenance (**IM**)

☐ Irrigation Contractor (**IR**)

☐ Landscape Horticulture (**LH**)

☐ Landscape Design/Architect (**LA**)

☐ Landscape/Lawn Maintenance (**LM**)

☐ Plant Broker (**BR**)

☐ Retail Nursery / Garden Center (**GC**)

☐ Small Greenhouse/Field Grower (**SG**) -grow/sell direct to consumers

☐ Sod/Turf Producer (**T**)

☐ Wholesale Allied Supplies (**AS**)

☐ Wholesale Greenhouse Grower (**WG**) -bedding/ tropical plants

☐ Wholesale Field Grower (**WF**) -balled/container woody plants, perennials

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☐ **OPTIONAL:** Members wishing to support the **Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation for Scholarship & Research (LNLFSR)** fund for scholarships to deserving university/college horticulture/landscape students and grants for horticulture/landscape research/education should indicate amount and add the \$\$ to their dues check. This donation is tax deductible.

Donation Amount \$ _____

Make check payable to: **Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association**

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TOTAL Amount: \$ _____



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