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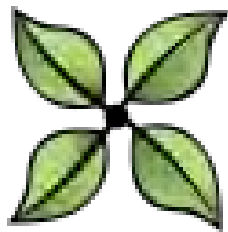
John Kavanaugh with LIA sponsored scholarship winner Cecil Chapman



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	9
In Memorandum.....	11
James Foret Award.....	15
Distinguished Service Award.....	15
Professional Achievement Award	16
Professional of the Year Award.....	16
Young Professional of the Year Award.....	17
LNLFR Scholarship Award Winners.....	19, 21
A Warm Welcome to the New USDA Hardiness Zone Map	22-23
Landscape Professional Education Day: Baton Rouge Recap.....	25
Native Sedges in Louisiana Landscapes	29
Landscape Design Sketchbook.....	31-32
Nursery Value Select Program Opens for Louisiana Nurseries.....	32
Gardening Trends to Watch in 2024	34-35
LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens - Sustainable Landscape.....	35-36
Rainwater Harvesting for Small Nurseries and Home Gardens	37
Upgrading St. Augustine Grass Lawns: Consider Newer Cultivars.....	39
Smart Irrigation: Making Watering Smarter.....	41
Board Meeting Minutes	43
Member Application	47
Directory	48-70



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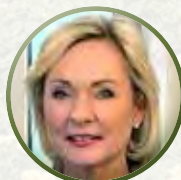
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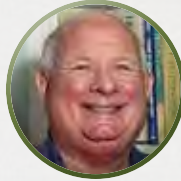
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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your President of Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association. Over the course of my involvement on the LNLA board I have seen a tremendous positive change not only in our industry but also in this organization. Over the past few years we have weathered the ups and downs of a pandemic that included unprecedented plant demand but also introduced us all to the term "supply chain issues". Severe weather patterns brought hurricanes, tornadoes, snow and ice storms as well as record-setting heat and droughts. Our industry has become stronger as a result of enduring these situations.

Our board has also adapted and evolved during this time. We have continued to build upon the solid foundation laid by all the past-presidents and board members prior to us. While there is wisdom in following proven paths, differentiating ourselves by adapting and refining these approaches to our unique contexts is crucial. The journey to success is both about learning from others and daring to diverge. Peter Kauffman wrote "If you do what everyone else is doing, you shouldn't be surprised to get the same results everyone else is getting." We are shifting away from a narrow, win-lose mindset to embracing the journey of continuous improvement and long-term growth. Focusing on the process and the journey rather than fixating on a finite end goal will ultimately lead to success and lasting progress in everything we do.

Under the tutelage of Toby Massengale our executive committee has been training and implementing EOS (Entrepreneurial Operating System) into our board structure. As of this moment we have had three training sessions with a fourth scheduled for May 1. Thus far we have created a 'Core Focus' statement, created an accountability chart, streamlined and empowered our committees, and fostered an environment where everyone on the boat is sitting in the correct seat and we are all rowing in the same direction.

2024 looks to be another successful year for LNLA and its membership as we continue to 'Promote, Educate and Advocate' for our industry. Wishing you all a very successful spring season!

Thank you,
Michael Roe





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In Memorandum

Peter Wesley Newton



Peter Wesley Newton passed away suddenly on Sunday morning October 1, 2023 with Carol, the love of his life, by his side. He was 68 years old. Pete is survived by Carol Manning Newton, his wife of 44 years; son Greyson Manning Newton; two grandchildren, Riley (8) and Jackson (6); and son Garrett Charles Newton, spouse Leslie Carter. He is also survived by his brother Charles Newton, spouse Donna Newton, of South Carolina; sister Elaine Miller, spouse Randy Miller, of Northwest Arkansas; brother Bruce Newton of Florida; sister Robin Bizjack, spouse Steve Bizjack, of Florida; and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his mother, Clara Arnet Newton, and father, Charles B Newton, of Arkansas.

Pete was born in Aurora, Colorado and spent most of his childhood in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He graduated from the University of Arkansas with a bachelor's degree in horticulture, and then Louisiana State University with a Master of Landscape Architecture. Pete and Carol settled in Baton Rouge following their graduations from LSU.

Pete was a skilled plantsman and talented landscape architect. He found fulfillment in helping others realize the potential and beauty of the outdoors. In 1990 he founded Newton Landscape Group (NLG), a design-build landscape architecture firm in Baton Rouge with a distinctive pineapple logo, a symbol of welcomeness and hospitality. Everyone who knew him knew of his unmatched work ethic. He was deeply respected by his peers and collaborators, dozens of past and present employees at NLG, and hundreds of clients throughout the Baton Rouge area.

Pete was generous with his time and contributed to numerous professional organizations including Hilltop Arboretum and the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association (LNLA). He was also active within his church community, Our Lady of Mercy.

Pete had a wonderful sense of humor and will be remembered by all for his fun-loving nature with a joke for every occasion. His favorite place in the world was on a boat with a grandkid on his lap. Pete was a strong and driven individual who spent his life making the world a more beautiful place. He was loved and will be dearly missed.



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Warm Season Bedding Plants

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- Angelonia – Serena Series
- Angelonia 'Serenita Raspberry'
- Begonia – BabyWing series
- Buddleia 'Flutterby Tutti Frutti'
- Celosia 'Intenz Classic'
- Cleome 'Senorita Rosalita'
- Coleus 'Henna'
- Coleus – Flamethrower series
- Evolvulus '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
- Salvia farinacea 'Evolution'

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

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'
- 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*)
- Southern Magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
- Southern Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

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Congratulations to our newest CNLP recipients!

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Elizabeth Louque
Justin Phillips
Whitney Briggs
Bradon Bonadona
Kelly Dupont
John Holloway

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Certification is not required to conduct business as a landscaper however a Landscape Horticulture license issued by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) is. The CNLP manual review is a great study guide for those looking to obtain this license.

Our next manual review and certification exam will be July 30-31 at Ira Nelson Hort Center in Lafayette. For more information visit LNLA.org.

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2024 JAMES FORET AWARD

Mr. Albert Earl Durio, Sr.

In his fifty plus years of studying and working with plants, Albert has amassed a stunning wealth of plant knowledge that Albert freely shares.

Albert's journey into the realm of plants began as a young sapling at the age of 7, when he started working alongside his father, Ken Durio, who some of you may have known as Mr. Neka. In Opelousas, Louisiana, the Durio family turned 50 acres into their family home and Louisiana Nursery, an industry landmark beginning in 1950. It was a childhood curiosity and commitment to the family heirloom business that bloomed into Albert graduating from the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a degree in Horticulture in 1984 and cultivated a lifelong commitment to the field.

His devotion to horticultural research is exemplified by his role as President from 2013 to 2017 and his ongoing position as a board member of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research. Albert's influence extends outwardly, as evidenced by his membership in esteemed organizations such as the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association, the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research, and the South Region of Plant Propagators Society.

As a Lifetime Member of the Louisiana State Horticulture Society, Albert has not only committed himself to the field but has also earned recognition for his contributions. He has bestowed the names "Patio Jewel" upon the dahoon holly and "Nellette" upon the dwarfed version of Nellie R. Steven's holly, showcasing his expertise in hybridization and nomenclature.

As the ninth of ten children, Albert's roots in the nursery business run so deep that plants and family are inseparable. Today, we stand witness to the profound impact that being well-planted has had on his own family, as the father of five children, four of whom are present here today. I hear that there was rarely a family vacation when his kids were younger that didn't also involve picking up some obscure cuttings along the way to cultivate back home. Now in this stage of life, it should come as no surprise that he's planted trees for all of his 7 grandchildren, in continuation of the family-planting legacy.

In Albert's story, we find a victory garden of dedication, inspiration, and a lifelong commitment to nurturing both plants and people. He credits his father and Dr. Ellis Fletcher for the inspiration that has fueled his remarkable journey. Today, we celebrate not just an individual but a living testament to the beauty that grows from an unwavering faith in horticulture.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD 2022

Kevin Taylor

The definition of distinguished is to make oneself prominent and worthy of respect through one's behavior or achievements. The definition of service is to selflessly give of oneself without gain. Please take a moment to understand what an honor it is to receive this award. It is not an easy task to earn the respect of your peers and it is truly difficult to selflessly give of your time to service without gain. The recipient of this award has earned our respect and has graciously served our industry well.

Kevin grew up in Kenner. In 1987, he earned a Bachelors Degree from LSU in Horticulture. He has worked in the industry since graduating for a number of class A companies in Horticulture. He worked for Charvet's, Landscape Images, and Mike Levy Horticultural Services before opening his own business in 1993. Southern Accent Landscaping and Lawn Care, Inc specializes in commercial and residential Landscaping.

He has selflessly given back to our industry as President of New Orleans Horticultural Society for 18 plus years, President Of Metro Area Horticultural Foundation for the last 10 Years, he is a long standing member of Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, and he finds the time for Mardi Gras Krewe Thoth for the last 15 years.

His passion has given him the opportunity to build his Southern Living Dream home in Marrero in 2019. He is continuing to cultivate his 3 acres of land into the cherished gardens he has always wanted.



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Kellie Alford

Kellie graduated from Tara High School in Baton Rouge in 1993 and has been married to Scott Alford for 25 years. She is a proud mother of three children and a beloved Gammi of two grandchildren.

In 2008, Alford's Landscaping became a reality. She was tasked with setting up the office structure to include all the policies and procedures for the business to succeed. She focused on making sure to find ways to advance their employees' lives with benefits and insurance. When company sales leveled out, she began contacting other companies to open doors for the business and doubled their sales in the last 3 years.

She is involved in the local Chamber of Commerce, and their company was awarded The Small Business Award in 2019. In 2023 she became a graduate of the Livingston Leadership Training Academy. Their business supports and donates to many community projects under her direction.

2024 PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Mike Callecod

The Professional of the Year Award is an accolade reserved for individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to the world of landscaping and nursery industry.

Mike's journey in the green field has been nothing short of remarkable, from his early days working as a lawn specialist to his current role where he procures all green materials for a 130 million company.

One of the qualities that set Mike apart is his unwavering commitment to honesty, integrity, and going the extra mile. His dedication to his craft goes beyond the professional realm. Family holds a special place in Mike's heart, and whenever he speaks about his wife Angie, you can see the admiration that fills the room. Their journey together, from welcoming their son David into their lives has been an inspiration.

Mike's roots trace back to Terre Haute, Indiana, where he grew up as the oldest of three siblings. His early career in landscaping with Chemlawn eventually led him to Jacksonville, Florida, where he founded his own landscape and irrigation business. In addition to his green thumb, Mike is a multi-talented individual who, at one point, ventured into ballroom dancing and even won several world championships in the United Country Western Dance Council. This side of him speaks volumes about his dedication and ability to excel in various aspects of life.

Mike's boss, Jodi Corey, Senior Vice President of Operations - Construction / Partner, who has known Mike for about 15 years, praises Mike not only for his exceptional work ethic but also for his integrity, honesty, and the pivotal role he plays in sourcing top-quality "green" materials for RCI. Mike's ability to find any plant or tree, no matter how obscure, has contributed significantly to RCI's success in the landscaping industry.

Mike Callecod is not just a professional; he is an exemplary individual who embodies the spirit of this award. His contributions to our industry, coupled with his commitment to family and community, make him a deserving recipient of the Professional of the Year Award.

2024 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Matt Knick

Our young professional of the year has 12 years of experience working in the landscape industry.

He leads his company of 7 years from start up to over 20 employees. His leadership style is to instill integrity, passion and service. He leads by example and takes pride in his work and strives for excellence. He is committed to doing what is right no matter the cost.

With a servant's heart, he is actively giving back to his community through various volunteerism opportunities. He works closely with LSU Hammond Research Station to advocate for good landscaping practices and is active in promoting LNLA and its efforts. He is committed to serving his industry, his community and his team.

He has been featured in national trade magazines, voted Northshore's best landscaping company for the last 3 years. His company was awarded Top Places to Work - a national award.

He loves mentoring men in a positive direction. He is a devoted husband and father of three and a foster parent. He is immersed in local and global missions work. Partnering with organizations that make lasting impacts. His local missions have included Autism Awareness, Miracle League- Northshore, St. Tammany Project Christmas. Globally he has gone to Mexico and to Africa.



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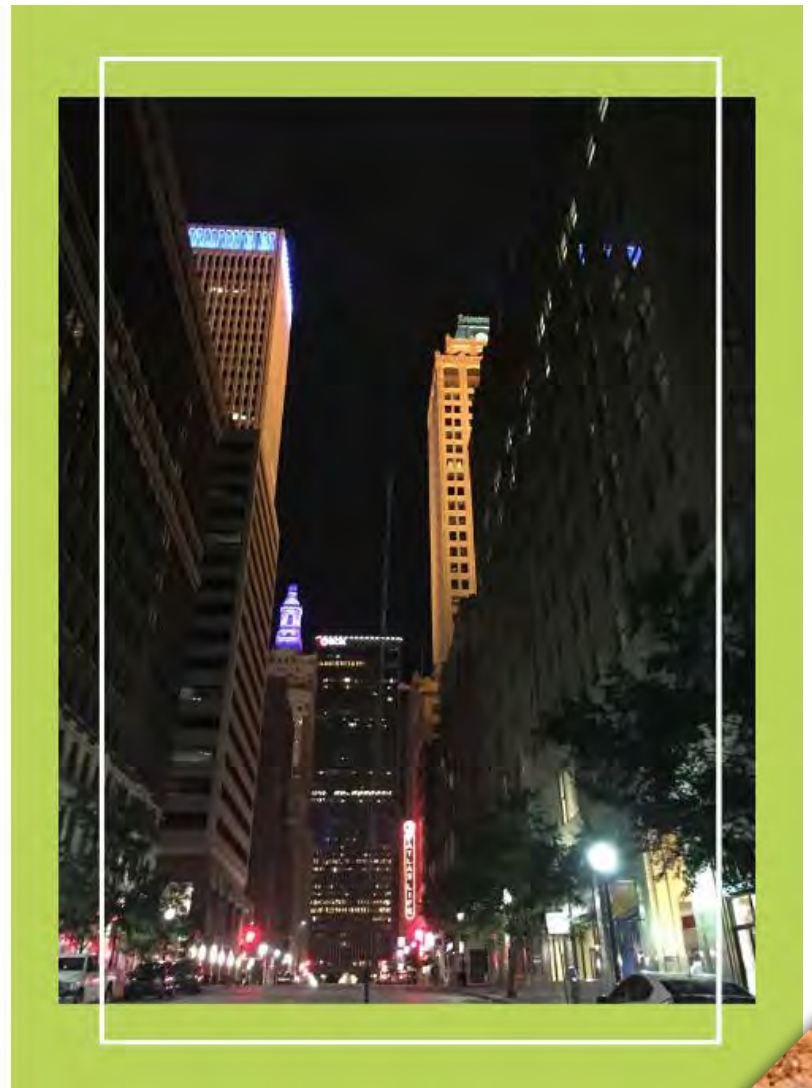
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2024 LNLFR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

We had a record high number of scholarship applications this year, and the foundation board members dedicated their time for the review process. We selected the following 6 scholarship winners but wish all applicants a bright future with the ever dynamic and energetic green industry.

MARGIE JENKINS SCHOLARSHIP

Melissa Blakemore Rucker

Melissa is from MO and is currently studying at Louisiana State University, majoring in Plant and Soil Systems. She is passionate about the impact of plants on the environment and human health, particularly Medicinal Plants. She aims to use native medicinal plants in landscaping and gardening for Louisiana, ecologically and economically. Melissa helps maintain a plant collection on LSU campus for teaching horticultural classes, and provided note-taking services through Disability Services at LSU, supporting students with disabilities.



SAM PERINO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Amanda N. Mizell

Amanda, a Hammond, LA native, earned her Bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2021 and is currently pursuing her Master's degree at Louisiana State University. Based at the Hammond Research Station, her thesis focuses on using wood fiber from various tree species as an alternative to peat moss, emphasizing biological stability. Amanda aims to contribute to both the horticultural industry and the conservation of peat bogs. Beyond horticulture, she aspires to produce plants for environmental benefits, including native plants and those for coastal restoration. Amanda is a member of IPPS and the LSU Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists.



LOUISIANA IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Cecil Z. Chapman

Cecil, originally from Sacramento and raised in North Louisiana, graduated from the Louisiana School of Math, Science, and the Arts in 2006. Now residing in New Orleans, she earned her bachelor's degree from Tulane University in 2022 and is currently pursuing a master's degree in landscape architecture at LSU. Passionate about the ecological systems of the Gulf South, coastal resilience, and ecological restoration, Cecil actively seeks hands-on experience in environmental stewardship. These efforts include a recent service term through AmeriCorps Vista at the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL). Cecil is an active member of two LSU student organizations: the Student Chapter of ASLA and the Society of Wetland Scientists, demonstrating leadership and practical skills.



LNLFSR SCHOLARSHIP

Aris Williams

Aris is a Baton Rouge native and a junior in Plant and Soil Systems at LSU. She is deeply passionate about horticulture. She excels as an undergraduate research assistant in various programs within the School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, showcasing excellent communication and problem-solving skills. Actively involved in horticulture organizations, Aris received the LSU Black Faculty & Staff Caucus Black Scholars Award in Spring 2023. She is a member of the Horticulture Club and LSU MANRRS, and also contributes articles for the Entertainment Column of the campus student newspaper, the Reveille.



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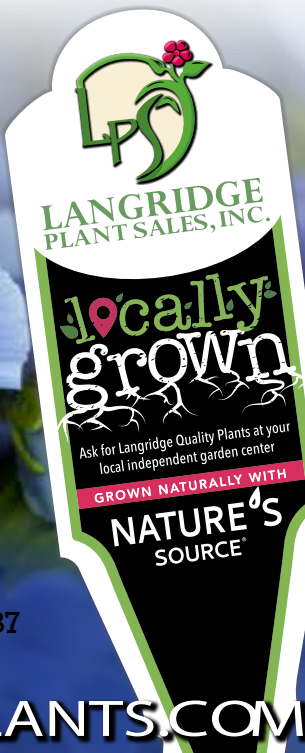
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IRA NELSON SCHOLARSHIP

Kenneth A. DeSpain Jr.

Kenneth, a Lafayette, LA native, holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Soil and Water Concentration, with a minor in Geology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Currently a Master's degree student and will be pursuing a Ph.D. degree in the fall at ULL, he is a passionate advocate for native plants, demonstrating Cajun Prairie on his property, and contributing to research on native trees and soils in Louisiana. Kenny is involved in the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society, the Acadiana Native Plant Project, and serves as secretary for the Western Gulf Plains Chapter of Wild One's. A veteran, he also volunteers in the Conservation Club at Moncus Park, aiming to make a positive impact on Louisiana through his education and research.

FORET/MEADOES/OWINGS SCHOLARSHIP

Aaliyah Royston

Aaliyah, Opelousas, LA native, graduated from Opelousas Senior High School in 2017 and holds a bachelor's degree from Southern University. She's currently pursuing a master's degree in urban forestry. Her research focuses on managing the invasive shrub Coral ardisia in the BREC park system. Passionate about community service, Aaliyah volunteers at BR Food Bank and Baton Rouge Roots. She served as the president of the Society of American Foresters in 2021 and received the Lyndon Johnson Fellowship (2019-2021) from the Louisiana Forestry Association. As an outstanding student, she was named student of the year by the Louisiana Society of American Foresters.



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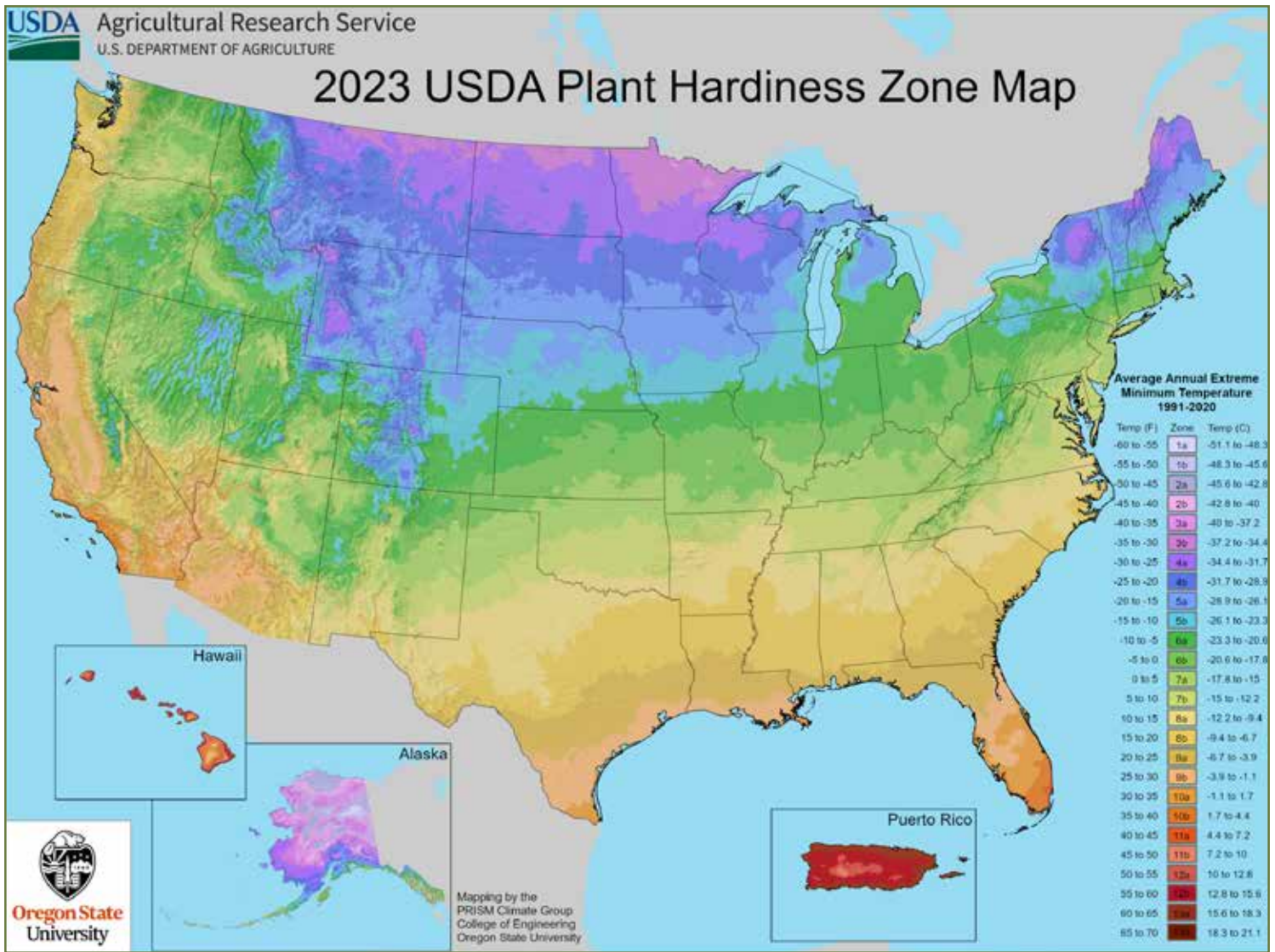
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A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW USDA HARDINESS ZONE MAP

By Dr. Jeb Fields and Dr. Damon E. Abdi



A couple months ago, the USDA released an updated Plant Hardiness Zone Map - the first time it has been updated since 2012. These maps are based on 30-year averages of the lowest annual winter temperatures in specific locations, with data collected from 13,412 weather stations - nearly double as many as the 7,983 that were used for the last version. The addition of these weather stations provides more robust data, including more information from stations located in remote areas. This assists in providing greater data resolution (i.e. increased data density) across many areas. For example, Alaska received a major increase in resolution as the updated map has a 0.25 square mile resolution compared to the previous 6.25 square miles - a nearly 25x increase. While not to that extent, we did see an increase in resolution in Louisiana, with some additional weather stations being added to the state.

As anyone in this industry knows, we use hardiness zone fairly regularly. I would wager many of you mention hardiness of a plant on a daily basis - at least I know we do at Hammond. These hardiness maps to determine the suitability of various crops to survive in different regions. This change is a big deal for a few reasons. Primarily, no industry relies on hardiness zone for decision making more than ornamental horticulture, with literally hundreds to thousands of different taxa in our trade that span a spectrum of different hardiness requirements. So changes to the map literally mean changes to the viability of plant materials we can work with in our businesses.

Side note, the USDA hardiness map indicates the average lowest temperature for an area, as opposed to the Heat Zone Map put out by the American Horticultural Society which

continued >

Volume 86

A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW USDA HARDINESS ZONE MAP

continued >

represents the average number of days above 86 F annually (while the zone numbers are indeed very similar; we have encountered many students who mistake the meaning of the two maps). Be sure not to confuse the two!



There are 13 hardiness zones (zones 1-13, with high numbers indicating warmer temperatures) represented in the U.S., with each zone split into two sub-zones (i.e. A or B). A hardiness zone represents 10 F, while a half zone represents 5 F - simple enough to follow. Many of our Louisiana residents may not notice a difference in this new

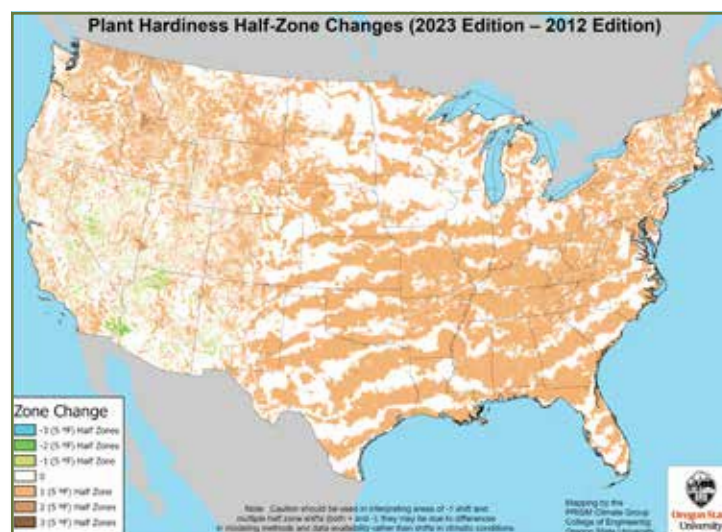
map; however, the gradual shifts are reflected in the half-step increases for North Louisiana (moving up to 8b) and the southernmost portions of the state (moving up to 10a way down by Port Sulphur). Similar shifts were observed for many areas throughout the state, including right here in Hammond, where we increased from 8B to 9A.

This trend is not localized to Louisiana, where approximately half of the U.S. remained in the same hardiness zone while the other half saw an adjustment (typically moving up a half zone warmer). The map confirmed what many of us have physically felt with each successive summer, as heat records have been set in several cities throughout Louisiana (and the country at large). Armed with the knowledge that our communities are indeed getting warmer; we can use the new hardiness zone map to make more informed decisions in our plant selection.

The importance of understanding what the lowest annual temperature is in a particular area is essential to selecting our perennial plant material. Perennial plants go dormant over winter, where cold temperatures are necessary to spur the flower blooms we cherish in our landscapes. However, if temperatures get too cold, those plants may not awaken for the next season (a gentler way to describe their mortality in the landscape). Selecting plants that can reliably be revitalized following winter's chill is necessary to the long-term success of many of our herbaceous perennials, shrubs, and trees. On the other end of the spectrum, understanding that our average temperatures are becoming warmer can guide us to selecting plant material that can handle temperature extremes during summertime.

Landscape contractors and nursery growers can work together to devise an updated palette of plants that can beat the heat and shoulder the colder temperatures. Many plants that we have reliably grown may be less adaptable in the not-too-distant future, as the increasing temperatures

may prove too much to take for these selections. Conversely, plant taxa from climates traditionally warmer than ours (sometimes, this is hard to imagine) may become competitive in the market as the increase in average warmer temperatures may signal suitability for these plants here in Louisiana. While none of this is exciting (I don't know anyone who is happier about hotter weather), this is a small silver lining would be the opportunity to trial newer materials in our landscapes. However, don't get too excited for the tropical plants, warmer averages does not mean fewer extremes. We will still experience stronger and stronger hard freezes in the winter, they will just likely be shorter as intermittent warm winter weather becomes the norm. This is something we are also dealing with first hand, sunny February days in the 80's means much more plant damage in March freezes, something that is becoming increasingly normal recently, and we fear may be the new norm.



While we all feel the heat, we can make sure our businesses aren't "stressed" by the pressure of a warming climate. Through selecting plants that are site-appropriate for our current and future climate, we can use this as an opportunity to utilize new plants in our landscapes and shift away from material that just can't take the heat anymore. As weather patterns will continue to become more erratic, we can leverage a range of resources (such as USDA Hardiness Zone maps) to keep Louisiana's green industry blooming.

Maps and map resources are available for download at the USDA Plant Hardiness website: <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/pages/map-downloads>

Jeb Fields and Damon Abdi are Assistant Professors at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station. They support the nursery and landscape industry across the state of Louisiana. Jeb can be reached at JFields@agcenter.lsu.edu and Damon can be reached at DAbdi@agcenter.lsu.edu.

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LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION DAY: BATON ROUGE RECAP

Damon E. Abdi, PhD, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station
Jeb S. Fields, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Assistant Research Coordinator, LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station



On March 1st, 2024, green industry professionals spanning the greater Baton Rouge area gathered at Burden Museum & Gardens in Baton Rouge, LA, for a day of educational seminars and networking. This event was a continuation of the "Landscape Professional Education Day" series, an LSU AgCenter/LNLA collaborative effort that brings research and extension resources to different areas of the state, providing information that is most relevant to the concerns of stakeholders in the host region. Carrying forward the success of the prior "Landscape Professional Education Day" events held in the north (Ruston) and west (Lake Charles), and southeast (New Orleans) this event focused on challenges landscape professionals face in the capital of the state - emphasizing solutions to create more sustainable landscapes in one of our major metropolitan markets.

The event was held in the comfort of the conference room at Burden, where >60 registrants prepared for a day full of wide-ranging topics. Dr. Jeff Kuehny, Director of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, welcomed the crowd and then it was off to the races with a hard-hitting presentation by Dr. Damon Abdi where terms like "sustainable landscaping" were put into contexts that affect our stakeholders - chiefly, supporting the bottom line of landscape businesses through improved management practices. Following which, AgCenter entomologist Dr. Aaron Ashbrook gave a much-needed presentation on how to protect ourselves in the field from mosquitos. Dr. Eric DeBoer discussed several common weeds in turfgrasses - just in time, as our warm-season turfgrasses wake up from winter. Dr. Raj Singh enlightened the crowd about some common diseases in the landscape to carry us to the mid-day lunch break.

Right as lunch (sponsored by the LNLA) was served, Dr. Jeb Fields presented to the in-person crowd as well as online attendees for the "Margie Jenkins Lecture Series", discussing substrate science and research at the Hammond Research Station. The afternoon continued with a presentation from Dr. Anna Paltseva from University of Louisiana Lafayette, where she discussed soil contamination challenges in urban areas. LNLA board member Jeff Reid provided some valuable information as to current and pending legal matters that directly affect our stakeholder community. To close out the education day, Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard and Dr. Jeff Kuehny discussed and led a tour of the new sustainable landscape installation within Burden Gardens.

Of course, education is just one part of what the Landscape Professional Education days offer. Amidst the educational seminars, an open (and at times, impassioned) discussion between all the attendees allowed individuals to introduce themselves and network. Ideas, insights, and observations were shared amongst the crowd, fostering camaraderie and perhaps even some subcontracting connections. The event was a resounding success that was made possible by the sponsorship of the LNLA, allowing this event to be free for attending stakeholders.

The "Landscape Professional Education" series has been successful in bringing education and support to our industry professionals across different areas of Louisiana, with an emphasis on delivering content that is most relevant and actionable for the region we are serving for that event. Thank you to all our presenters, organizers, sponsors, attendees, and supporters of Louisiana's green industry. We look forward to seeing you at our next event in this series - this fall in Bossier.



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NATIVE SEDGES IN LOUISIANA LANDSCAPES

By Tammany Baumgarten

Ornamental grasses and grass-like plants are important components of landscape design. The blade-like leaves give textural contrast to other shrubby and leafy plants in the garden. We often use Agapanthus, Irises, Dianella, Liriope, and Mondo Grass to provide this element. Plants in the genus Carex are gaining in popularity with landscape designers, the lawn-less crowd and those just wanting to expand the range of their grassy foliage options. You may already know sedges like 'Evergold', 'Everillo' and other Asian species, but many of our Louisiana native sedges have proven quite garden-worthy and notable in temperment and adaptability.

There are over 300 species of Carex native to Louisiana, many untried as landscape plants, but several stand out as extremely utilitarian. Despite their reputation as wetland plants, I have found several that proved themselves in 2023 as very drought tolerant and tough, enough even to be used as hell strip plantings in that unforgiving space between the sidewalk and the street. Lots of sedges, especially those adapted to very wet situations, of which there are a great many, exceed 24" in height, but the most versatile for the average garden or landscape stay within 12-18", making them appropriate for a variety of situations. Here are just a few that I have had success with.

Carex flaccosperma doesn't roll off the tongue very easily, but this Blue Wood Sedge is sun and drought tolerant and produces beautiful low clumps of blue-green foliage that can stand alone as specimen tufts or planted more tightly as a groundcover.

Carex leavenworthii, also called Lawn sedge, has a very fine texture and grows to 10-12". It creates a draping, loose fountain of a plant that when installed with a spacing similar to mondo grass, quickly grows together to form a lush groundcover that can replace small lawn areas or just soothe the spirit in a dense understory planting.

Carex cherokeensis - Cherokee sedge is a dark green, narrow bladed plant similar in appearance to Mondo grass or a thin liriope. Versatile in terms of soil moisture, it can take some sun, but is happiest with some shade.

Carex amphibola, Creek sedge – again, think Mondo grass or thin liriope – this clumping sedge has performed well for me in pretty harsh sun, but I think is happiest with some late afternoon shade. Moisture does not seem to be an issue. Carex blanda is very similar in habit and appearance.

For now, contractors may find these plants readily available for shipping as reasonably-priced landscape plugs from sources like North Creek Nursery and Prairie Moon. They are not difficult to grow from seed or plugs. It is to be hoped that we might someday soon have good sources for locally produced Louisiana ecotypes of these useful sedges for landscaping. For more information on native sedges for the landscape, the Mt. Cuba Center's Carex trials produced some valuable information and great descriptions of various species that is worth learning from as long as you keep in mind the context of the trial location – Delaware.



Carex leavenworthii planted in mass at the New Orleans City Park Sculpture Garden creates a soothing, flowing effect as a ground cover



Blue Wood Sedge has a thick creased blade and clumping habit that withstands full sun. The color really stands out.



Cherokee sedge (foreground) is a suitable native replacement for Liriope or Mondo Grass in part shade, average gardens



Lawn sedge lives up to its name here being used as a lawn substitute



Carex leavenworthii, in flower here in February, shows good tolerance to full sun and hell strip conditions in this NOLA Midcity landscape



Carex amphibola has a taller profile than some others, a nice clumping habit and is doing well in this full sun situation



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Prof. Buck Abbey, Landscape Architect, Abbey Associates Inc., The Green Laws Organization, New Orleans

Rebuilding Urban Forests

It is a little understood fact that urban forests are disappearing in the State of Louisiana. They are being removed tree by tree in a slow removal process that many people do not recognize. They are being removed by development where acres of forest are removed to provide home sites for ever expanding population.



Many people who live in urban areas also remove trees. They will remove them if they show signs of aging or if they need to remove a tree to expand their home, add a swimming pool or pave more of their lot for other uses. Sadly however, many people remove trees simply because they do not like trees, do not want to rake leaves, and people are known to worry about insects that may fall from the tree. Some people even remove trees to get more sunlight into their yards



Air view of the neighborhood

The City of New Orleans lost at least 200,000 trees in their tightly built up city where trees were a rarity even before the recent hurricanes.

Unfortunately this destructive natural phenomenon known as a hurricane leaves our urban forests in temporary ruin. The urban forests of our coastal cities remain populated with broken leaning trees, truncated branches and fractured Thousands of standing trees have died from an onslaught of post-storm systemic stresses. Stresses such as salt water intrusion, standing water, sedimentation and equipment damage caused by cleanup operations. Apart from past hurricane structural wind damage and the "great drought of 2023" we find the urban forest with even more trees to be removed.

The fact that we have lost much of the trees left standing after development losses, hurricanes, insect infestations and drought means cities, towns and suburban neighborhood must pick up steam to rebuild our urban forests.

Why you ask? Think of the values that urban forests bring to our cities, homes and personal lives. There are many reasons that span the range of reasons from simple urban or home beauty to the many environmental improvements that urban trees and the urban forest canopy contributes to quality of life in Louisiana. Just having a tree canopy over your home or in your neighborhood modifies local climate, reduces urban heat, and purifies air quality. Ask a forth grader why trees are important. They will tell you we all need the oxygen they produce and the deadly carbon they sequester.



A well canopied neighborhood in Mandeville

Slashing hurricane winds and surging saltwater tides also remove trees. Natural areas near our coast lines can regenerate new populations of trees, shrubs and understory vegetation which rebuilds the coastal forest. But this does not happen in cities.

However in rural coastal areas this process takes a generation. St. Tammany Parish arguably suffered the most extensive damage to forested areas many of which will re-establish themselves naturally in time.

Tree Loss In Our Cities

Estimates vary somewhat, but by most documented accounts some seventy (70) percent of the pre-storm forest is gone in the Mandeville, Covington and Slidell area as a result of Katrina in 2005 and later Ida in 2009.

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LANDSCAPE DESIGN SKETCHBOOK

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If you want more reasons why people benefit from trees in their urban forest it is recommended that you read a report prepared by the US Forest Service. (Forestry Report R*-FR 71) This reports mentions 76 benefits of urban trees. They think of tree benefits as the “green infrastructure” of a city. This is similar to other city systems such a streets, sewers, water supply, electric systems, health, fire, and public safety. They all make life in Louisiana better.

Green Infrastructure in the City

Think about this. From a landscape architecture perspective the green infrastructure of the forest canopy over our neighborhood is the single most important system in the city. Without the tree canopy in the city, we find life not to be better, but worse.

In the city reforestation of the urban forest is undertaken in a very different manner. The replacement forest must be planted by citizens and public agencies. Home owners should do their part and public agencies must distribute trees to the public and plant trees along streets and in their parks.

In fact it is critical for private property owners to plant trees since that is where 90% of the available land is located. It is critical that the City Mayors, Parish councils, elected officials and private organizations address this important quality of life issue in Louisiana.

It is important that the green industry bring attention to the fact that hurricanes, development and drought have inflicted great damage to the urban forest canopy of our cities. The green industry can assist in rebuilding our urban forests through public education and information distribution that will encourage the replanting of the boulevards, parks, open spaces of our cities. Rebuilding the tree canopy provides so many services and benefits to our southern way of life.

NURSERY VALUE SELECT PROGRAM OPENS FOR LOUISIANA NURSERIES

Jeb S. Fields and Kristopher Criscione

In recent years, we Louisianians have endured a litany of harsh weather and natural disasters that have adversely effected our lives, and the nursery industry was not immune. A recent press release announced that the USDA has developed opportunities for nursery owners to pursue federal crop insurance through the Nursery Value Select (NVS) program. The NVS program was a trial program available to growers in just a few states until this past February, when the program went live across the country.

The Nursery Value Select is a trial program enabling nursery growers to ensure their crops with flexibility in choosing a coverage that is tailored to their risk management needs. Fortunately, the USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) is moving forward to support a wider range of agriculturists, now including specialty crop producers in every state and county.

The USDA Risk Management Agency has published a fact sheet that you can use for more information about the Nursery Value Select Insurance Program. The fact sheet can be found by scanning the QR code in this article. Briefly, it is required to obtain insurance that you as the stakeholder have (i) a share in your nursery operation, (ii) at minimum 40% of your gross income is derived from plants sold via wholesale marketing, (iii) plants are produced in an appropriate substrate, (iv) plants are sold with an intact root system, and of course (v) that all requirements for insurability are met.

There are also criteria that justify reasons for loss of nursery stock, namely adverse weather conditions [wind damage, hurricanes, freeze (required that cold protection measures are prepared), drought, fire (considering that weed control is occurred), wildlife, etc.]. Possible reasons that you may not be eligible for insurance or situations that are not covered by the program can be found at the link above.

It is very important to note that your nursery **must be inspected and approved** as acceptable before insurance coverage can begin. For more details and information, please visit the USDA RMA website or find a crop insurance agent for further evaluation.

Important dates to consider (for Atlantic Coastal states, Gulf Coast states, and West Virginia), the sales closing date for the 2025 crop year is May 1st, the insurance period begins June 1st, 2024, and contract change date is January 31st.



NATIVE PLANTS, MOON GARDENS, GOTH GARDENS AND CYBER LIME GARDENING TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2024

Heather Kirk-Ballard - LSU AgCenter Horticulturist

Every year, a series of gardening surveys is conducted to determine evolving trends in home gardening, consumer interests, perspectives and the types of information they value. The title of Garden Media's 2024 Garden Trends Report, "Eco-optimism," speaks volumes about the ecological consciousness of home gardeners.

Some interesting findings from the survey: About 67% of Americans aged 18 to 23 report experiencing "eco-anxiety," described by a persistent fear of environmental catastrophes fueled by the 50% increase in the frequency of climate-related disasters since 2000. Last year ranked among the top 10 warmest years on record, and in the South, we had some record-breaking droughts.

Recent studies suggest that more than 25,000 species are currently at risk of extinction due to climate change. By 2050, 200 million people could be displaced due to climate. For these reasons, gardeners want to do more with their landscapes and gardens, recognizing they can make an impact with their gardening practices. The report pointed out that 68% of people ages 15 to 24 – 1.2 billion people – want to make positive climate impacts.

Native plants are all around us – but they are not always easy to find on the shelf. The National Gardening Survey reported that the number of people purchasing native plants has almost doubled since 2019. In addition, they reported a 10% increase year over year in people planting for bees, butterflies and birds. Way to go for ecosystem services!



The National Gardening Survey reported that the number of people purchasing native plants has almost doubled since 2019

And what about carbon sequestration? More and more gardeners are thinking about this as we continue to face elevated levels of carbon in the atmosphere. Gardeners trying to help capture carbon should plant fast-growing native trees, native grasses and herbaceous perennials. Every decision counts.

Do you love sci-fi? Well, if you do, sci-fi landscape design trends are in this year. They include closed ecosystem terrariums, survivalist gardens and night gardens that shine in starlight, also known as moon gardens.

Moon gardens are enjoyed at night and defined by the type of plants that they include – typically, plants with white or cool-colored flowers in addition to silver or variegated foliage that can be seen in the reflected light of the moon.



Cool colors such as light blue, bright yellow, chartreuse and lavenders in addition to white flowers and gray and silver foliage can be more easily seen at nighttime in the garden. Moon gardens also can include flowers with heavy evening fragrance, light-colored hardscapes and accessories that enhance the garden at night. By incorporating more whites and silvers in the garden that reflect moonlight, you can give your landscape a cool evening vibe.

Survivalist gardens typically focus on growing a variety of plants that are nutritious, easy to grow and have a long shelf life. Common crops in survivalist gardens include vegetables, fruits, herbs and medicinal plants that can be preserved through canning, drying and other storage methods.

Survivalist gardens often prioritize resilience and sustainability, employing techniques such as companion planting, crop rotation and organic gardening practices to maximize yields and minimize dependency on chemical inputs.

In addition, neons, bright variegation and "alien" plants like unusual succulents and star-flecked or silver-hued plants are great additions to the sci-fi garden. Cyber lime is the color for the garden this year, according to the Garden Media survey. It's a vibrant, almost fluorescent shade that invigorates both body and mind. This intense green symbolizes the dynamic synergy of nature and technology.

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GARDENING TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2024

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Dark delights such as pottery and statuary are features of the new gothic gardening trends.

Things are getting a little creepy in the garden. One of the newer trends is our society's fascination with the occult and the exploration of darkness retreats and decaying spaces. On social media platforms, hashtags such as #Gothgardening, #VictorianGardens, #Halloweengardens, #Steampunk, and #Tombstonetourism are thriving, amassing over 430k posts collectively. In 2024, our fixation with the macabre extends to the afterlife.

The concept of grave gardening has evolved significantly. Cradle graves in early modern cemeteries, gravestones served as planters, creating striking landscapes in the heart of burgeoning cities. Being referred to as the third space,

cemeteries are now embraced as recreational spaces, offering activities like movies, yoga, and horticultural therapy. What's being referred to as goth gardening has taken off. This includes memorial gardens to commemorate friends and family. Educate individuals on suitable plants for grave gardens and guide them in creating memorial gardens or planting trees in memory of loved ones.

Goth gardens celebrate dark hued plants including the 'Black Prince' Snapdragon, Blood Red Sunflower, and Black Peony Poppy from Park Seed, and Black Cherry Floribunda Rose & Hellebores 'Pine Knots Select Strain' from Jackson & Perkins. Flowerbulbs.com recommends black tulips.

Dark delights such as pottery and statuary, consider up-lighting trees for evening ambiance, and allow plants to take on a slightly untidy appearance. Withered plants and faded blooms contribute to the thematic experience, and dying plants can be repurposed for merchandising rather than discarded.

Lime complements a wide spectrum of colors. It pairs beautifully with fuchsia, vibrant oranges, yellows and various shades of pink and purple, creating a vibrant and energetic palette. Lime also contrasts strikingly with black and blends harmoniously with most other hues.

These are just some of the trends in gardening. Environmentally friendly and sustainable gardening practices are here to stay. The beginning of the new year is a great time to think about the changes you want to make in the garden. With the droughts of the past summer, you likely have space to grow and try new things.



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LSU AGCENTER BOTANIC GARDENS

∞ SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE ∞

Heather Kirk-Ballard - LSU AgCenter Horticulturist

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens now showcases an exciting addition for visitors: the sustainable landscape demonstration gardens. Sustainable landscaping is an approach to landscape design and management that prioritizes environmental responsibility, resource efficiency, and long-term viability. It involves practices such as using native and drought-resistant plants, minimizing water usage, reducing chemical inputs, promoting biodiversity, and enhancing soil health. Sustainable landscaping aims to create attractive, functional outdoor spaces that minimize negative environmental impacts, conserve resources, and support ecosystem health.



*Sustainable landscapes funded by LNLA grant proposal
written by Dr.'s Kirk-Ballard and Kuehny*

Spanning 4,000 square feet, the demonstration garden sits between the herb garden and the composting demonstration area at the main entrance of the gardens. Dr. Heather Kirk Ballard, Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist, spearheaded the project alongside Dr. Kuehny, the Botanic Garden's director, with generous funding from the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association.

This project worked with fourth year Landscape Architect students from the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture enrolled in LA 4301 - Landscape Technology IV. Under the guidance of Kathleen Bogaski, a professional in residence and instructor in the school, students submitted landscape designs and were randomly assigned to the three different landscape goals of low, medium, and high input landscapes. Four designs were chosen to be implemented from those submitted by students. The students who's designs were chosen were Colin Tran -high input, Jackson Hartley - medium input, Travis Braud and Claire Samaha - low input.

In crafting the low-input landscape, a deliberate selection of plants that demand minimal maintenance is important. This encompasses species that are either native or adapted to the local environment, possess compact growth habits necessitating less pruning, and exhibit resilience to drought conditions, thereby reducing water requirements. Additionally, emphasis is placed on choosing plants that display resistance to insects and diseases, thereby mitigating the need for frequent spraying. The integration of annuals and turfgrass is limited, while pathways are fashioned from water-permeable materials to promote efficient drainage. Weed control is facilitated through the strategic use of groundcovers and mulches.

In contrast, the medium-input landscape juxtaposes aesthetically pleasing plant varieties that demand more attention with native and adapted species. Meanwhile, the high-input landscape showcases meticulously cultivated plant selections that demand extensive care. Here, the primary focus is on aesthetic appeal, disregarding the ongoing necessity for maintenance tasks such as pruning, pesticide application, and frequent replanting due to pest pressures. The area is organized into three zones (all full sun) based on environmental impact, going from low to high.

The low impact area is about two thousand square feet of low maintenance, drought tolerant, disease resistant plants that require little fertilization. The medium input area is about one thousand square feet of very commonly found local landscape plants that require average care compared to the low and high input area. The high input area is also about one thousand square feet, but with two types of plantings within. One half will show traditional boxwoods, along with some boxwood alternatives, bordering a mass planting of high maintenance annuals. The other half will be planted as a tropical garden with a small pond (about four square feet). Each zone will have a "mini house" to give a better perspective of how the landscape would look in a residential setting. In addition to each zone demonstrating plant options, there will also be educational signage to demonstrate types of irrigation used and how it impacts water efficiency.

continued >

LSU AGCENTER BOTANIC GARDENS - SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE

continued >



Participants of the March 1st Landscape Professional Education Day Series learned about the installation of the sustainable landscapes located at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

The ongoing goal of the project is to assess the interest of consumers and landscape professionals in sustainable landscape practices by observing their opinions of the demonstration plots. Supporting sustainable landscape practices is increasingly important due to the rising environmental and economic concerns. Sustainable landscape design is based on providing an attractive landscape that is both economically sustainable and has minimal negative environmental impact.

Josh Zito of Earth Works Pro, LLC, and Joe King from Landscape King significantly contributed to the project by providing their expertise in irrigation systems and

landscaping. Charbel Harb also played a crucial role by donating and installing a water feature. Additionally, Dr. Allen Owings, Bracy's Nursery, Clegg's, Color Division, and Windmill Nursery generously donated plant materials. Their collective efforts highlight the importance of local community contributions to the project's success.

By integrating principles of sustainability into landscape design and management, it seeks to balance the needs of people with those of the environment, fostering healthier and more resilient landscapes for both present and future generations.



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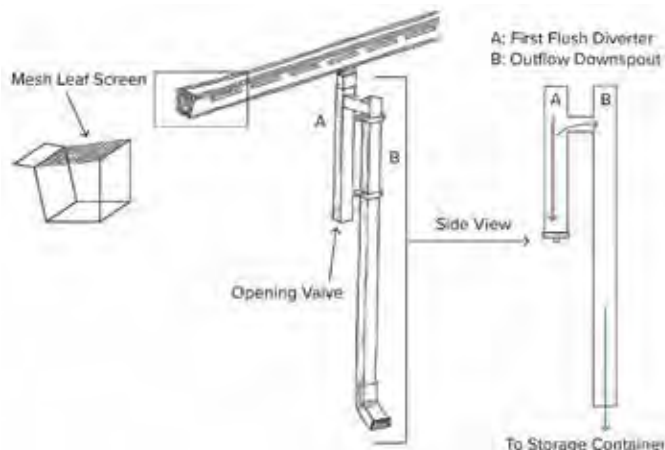
RAINWATER HARVESTING FOR SMALL NURSERIES AND HOME GARDENS

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

With spring fast approaching, water resources are a focus on to help mitigate issues seen from last year's drought. Harvesting rainwater is a conservation technique to combat increased water demand, water quality issues, and scarcity of water resources. This water can be used for non-potable purposes, such as irrigation, washing or flushing, and is especially useful under drought conditions. The primary components of planning and implementing harvest designs include rainfall-capturing systems, vessels for water storage and dedicated end-use for the water.



First, assess the surface area you have for collecting rainwater. For instance, rooftop collection areas can modify existing gutters or drainage systems to divert water directly to a storage tank for use. All types of roofs can be used to collect water, but one should pay attention to debris that may come from asphalt and shingles compared to other materials like metal roofs. Leaf screens can be placed on gutter systems to prevent clogs and large debris from reaching the storage container reducing seasonal maintenance. Steep roofs will have a quick first flush of possible contaminants that will be alleviated by the diverter before entering the storage tank. If the roof is flatter, it may have a more delayed flushing of contaminants and make removal more difficult.



The first flush diverter routes the initial flow of water off the roof to a catchment pipe. Smaller contaminants (rocks, bird feces, dirt, moss, etc.) will be collected and kept from

entering the storage tank. It is a best practice to open the valve after each large rain event to remove concentrated contaminants and small debris. The water is then directed to the primary filter system. Most first flush devices have 30-micron filters associated with the unit, but homemade filters can also be crafted from air and dust vent filter material. Additionally, types of filters on the market include string and paper sediment filters, pores per inch (PPI) foam filters, and charcoal carbon block filter. The filter system should be positioned before the storage tank to ensure contaminants do not reach the final rainwater used for irrigation. In general, regular quarterly inspections of filters will help gauge maintenance needs, with design and local factors influencing the schedule



Final stage is water storage and delivery systems. There are many different products or recycled materials that can be used for water storage and should be selected based on anticipated volume of rainfall. If the water storage container is elevated higher than the watered area, gravity-fed pipes offer an easy design and low energy opportunity. The alternative is self-priming pumps dedicated for to rainwater harvesting. When deciding the size pump to fit your needs, take into consideration elevation, irrigation (sprinkler, hose, etc.), length of water movement and power capacity. Smaller solar panels can be used to provide energy to low-horsepower pumps for easy use in rainwater collection systems.

For additional pictures and best practice information check out LSU AgCenter's Rainwater Harvesting extension publication.



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UPGRADING ST. AUGUSTINE GRASS LAWNS: CONSIDER NEWER CULTIVARS

Eric DeBoer, PhD - Louisiana State University AgCenter

The summer of 2023 will go down in infamy in the state of Louisiana. The LSU AgCenter Ben-Hur weather station recorded 5.41 inches of rain from July 1st through September 30th, with 1.71 inches falling in one day. That total for the 3-month period is even below what would be typical for just the month of July in most years. Crawfish and St. Augustinegrass alike did not appreciate the lack of moisture that was common throughout the state. Many unirrigated lawns took a significant hit.

The summer of 2023 also happened to be my first summer living in Louisiana. All I had heard about was how normally the issue is too much water and what to do with it. So, I was surprised to watch the summer unfold like it did. Even with our most sophisticated forecasting technology, predicting long-term drought can be difficult, making preparation difficult. What we can prepare for, however, is the likelihood of these drought events increasing in frequency and severity as climate change continues to disrupt "weather norms" across the globe.

Among other pursuits, the need to reduce water consumption and the increasing frequency of drought has led to the breeding and selection of St. Augustinegrass cultivars that perform better than their predecessors under reduced irrigation or drought. Although it may feel reactionary, now is the time to convert or renovate yards from older or unknown St. Augustinegrass cultivars to newer, improved cultivars, or dare I say it, to a different grass altogether (zoysiagrass). Think of it as preparing for the next stretch of abnormally dry weather rather than thinking of it as a "knee-jerk reaction."

Be on the lookout for these newer St. Augustinegrass cultivars if establishing, converting, or renovating a site.

ProVista

ProVista™ was developed by ScottsMiracle-Gro and was not specifically chosen for drought tolerance. Research is limited on its performance under reduced irrigation. However, it does boast glyphosate resistance, increased shade tolerance, reduced mowing, and a dark green color. Imagine a grass that is permanently treated with trinexapac-ethyl and allows you to spray glyphosate over top of actively growing turf for weed control. Remember, the slow growth rate can be a double-edged sword, resulting in reduced mowing requirements, but recovery from damage may take longer than expected. Consider this for shaded and irrigated environments.

Cobalt

In 2022, the Texas A&M AgriLife Research program and turfgrass breeder Dr. Ambika Chandra released Cobalt™ Hybrid St. Augustinegrass. Cobalt features excellent

drought resistance, very good shade tolerance, is tolerant of disease, has a good establishment rate and is winter hardy (USDA cold hardiness zone of 8a). Cobalt ranked as one of the top entries in the 2015 USDA-SCRI warm-season grass research group for drought resistance, where it was evaluated across five states (TX, FL, GA, NC, and OK). Likewise, Cobalt was evaluated across seven universities (eight environments) through the 2016 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) and was ranked in the top statistical group suggesting wide-range adaptation. Dr. Chandra considers Cobalt one of the most drought-resistant St. Augustinegrasses ever developed. Cobalt also claims to produce less thatch than other cultivars.

Source: TPI Turf News March/April 2022 & Turfgrass Producers of Florida

Sola

Sola™ is considered to be the next generation of 'Raleigh'. Sola has improved drought and shade tolerance, rapid damage recovery, and superior sod strength. Its cold tolerance is comparable to Raleigh, but it has improved resistance to gray leaf spot and chinch bugs. An online resource highlighting Sola's performance in research trials is available below:

Other Improved Cultivars:

TamStar

Drought-tolerant release from Texas A&M in 2015

CitraBlue

Released by the University of Florida. Vibrant blue-green color with improved disease resistance.

Just remember when renovating or selecting a St. Augustinegrass that there are other options than 'Raleigh', 'Floritam', and 'Palmetto'. Paying a little more upfront for improved genetics will save you money and headaches down the road.



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LOUISIANA IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION

SMART IRRIGATION: MAKING WATERING SMARTER

Hello Everyone,

As we gear up for another season of caring for our landscapes, let's talk about how we water them. Water is super important, and using it wisely not only helps our environment but also saves us money. Today, I want to chat about why it's smart to use technology to water our yards better.

Smart irrigation is like upgrading from an old flip phone to the latest smartphone. It's a big improvement in how we water our plants. Instead of guessing or using old-school timers, smart irrigation uses technology to make our watering systems work better.

One big perk of smart irrigation is that it can change based on the weather. Imagine if your sprinklers could check the weather forecast and adjust when they water accordingly. That's what smart irrigation does. It helps us avoid watering too much when it's rainy or not enough when it's dry, so our plants get just the right amount of water.

Another cool thing about smart irrigation is that you can control it from anywhere. With apps on your phone or websites on your computer, you can check and change your watering schedule no matter where you are. It's like having a remote control for your sprinklers!

Let's talk about a few smart irrigation gadgets you might find in your yard:

1. **Soil Moisture Sensors:** These gadgets measure how wet the soil is. They tell your sprinklers to water only when the soil is dry, which helps save water and keeps your plants healthy.

2. **Smart Controllers:** These are like the brains of your irrigation system. They use weather info to decide when and how much to water. By knowing what the weather's doing, smart controllers make sure you're not wasting water when you don't need to.

3. **Drip Irrigation Systems:** Instead of spraying water everywhere, drip systems deliver it right to the plants' roots. They're super efficient and work great with smart controllers to give each plant just the right amount of water.

I'm excited to tell you about two upcoming classes the Louisiana Irrigation Association is hosting and you can register at <https://geauxlia.org/events>.

Virtual Irrigation Recertification Class: On April 4th, 2024, we're hosting a virtual class to help pros like you stay on top of the latest irrigation techniques and earn credits.

In-Person Irrigation Basics Class: Join us in New Orleans on April 24th and 25th, 2024, for a two-day course on irrigation basics. It's hands-on and perfect for anyone who wants to learn more about watering their yard the right way.

In short, smart irrigation is like having a superpower for your sprinklers. It helps our plants stay healthy, saves water, and makes life easier for us. So let's embrace the tech and make our landscapes even more beautiful!

Take care,

Dan Johnson
Executive Director
Louisiana Irrigation Association



THE NEW ORLEANS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The NOHS is a non-profit organization that began in 1885, the second oldest of its kind in the United States. It's a place where like-minded professionals in the green industry can meet and talk about the trade and attend lectures and activities that promote all aspects of the landscape profession. The group is comprised of licensed horticulturists, florists, nurserymen, garden center operators, pesticide applicators, landscape contractors and architects, arborists, and those in allied trades. Our meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of every month unless an event or holiday changes the day.

We meet at the City Park Garden Study Building which is set among the beautiful New Orleans Botanical Gardens.

We are always ready to welcome new members as the green industry continues to grow in our area. Meetings typically last two hours and refreshments are provided before the guest speaker takes over. For up-to-date information, please contact us at NOHS1885@gmail.com to request to be added to our email mailing list and newsletter.



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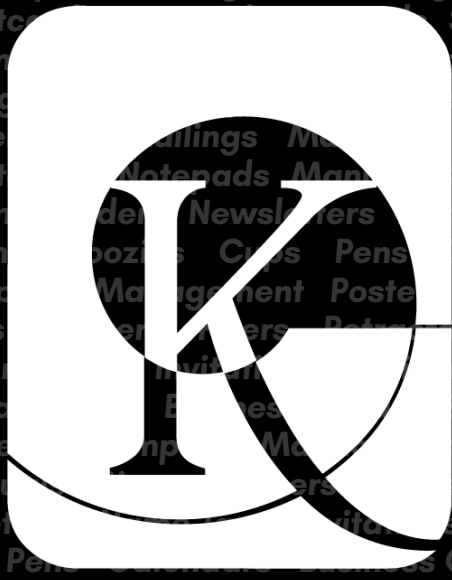
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LNLA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 26, 2024

The LNLA Board of Directors met Friday, January 26, 2024 in a private room at the Mobile Convention Center during GSHE. The breakfast, business meeting started at 7am.

New LNLA President, Michael Roe asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of allegiance and a prayer. Each board member around the room introduced themselves and the businesses they represent. All board members were in attendance. Kellie Alford was attending the meeting via zoom. Everyone signed in and signed off on the conflict of interest policy. JoAnne O'Neal with the USDA was our guest.

Matt Fennell Motioned to accept minutes from the last board meeting, Tony Carter second and all were in favor.

Brian Bridges, the LNLA Treasurer had no changes to the financials from those given at the LNLA Annual Membership Meeting and Breakfast the day before. Brian did inform the board that one CD just matured and the other will mature soon ... interest is 5%. There were several questions after the membership breakfast meeting from the day before about why we only budgeted \$60K - Brian explained that the last quarter expenditures are a shot in the dark because we just cannot predict what membership participation will be like for that specific period.

Michael informed the board about dates for 2024 board meetings:

March 18 at the WaterMark Hotel in Baton Rouge 4:30pm

July 19 at Hammond Research Station during HRS Field Day

October 9 somewhere in Forest Hill

December 4th at Mike Anderson's In Baton Rouge

- Michael asked each board member to give a person goal or a goal they may have for LNLA for 2024.
- Matt Knick - figure out ways for new membership sales and have more of a strategy as it relates to raffle and income.
- Dr. Damon Abdi - continue success with state wide education. March 1 at Burden and then back north in October. New opportunities for education
- Reuben Mitchell - Membership in the north
- Debbie Head - customer base if they are members and work close with Rep. Rhonda Butler and powers that be legislatively
- Jeff Reid - LEAF act with Troy Romero and driver's license for foreign labor is too expensive and working on that too ... goals to see through on the legislative side. EOS
- Lisa Loup - overall working to pull agriculture together as a whole. Support in anyway implementing EOS... Cari Jane's backbone.
- Michael Roe - Working on raffle and cover sales. Being a leader in molding the future of LNLA
- CJ - Beat Cancer!
- Brandon Adams - Remember the history of LAN
- Matt Fennell - 700 membership!
- Tony Carter - EOS, grow as a mentor
- Brian Bridges - support board members and try to make as many events as possible, EOS
- Jennifer McGimsey - networking and getting to know more people, more growers. Look forward to all.

February 2 - Monthly Networking Zoom Call and Margie Jenkins Lecture Series.

February 20-21 - CNLP at HRS

March 1 - Landscape Education Day at Burden in BR

March 19 - Breakfast at Lt. Gov and Plants Make a Difference Day at Capitol

June 28 - LNLFSR Gala XIV at City Park in NOLA

July 30-31 - CNLP at Ira Nelson in Lafayette

Michael briefly introduced the board to EOS (Entrepreneurial Operating System) and the new LNLA Accountability Chart. More information to come!

Tony Carter motioned to adjourn the meeting, Brandon Adams second and all were in favor.

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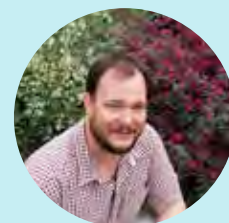
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Dr. Jeb Fields, LSU AgCenter's Commercial Horticulturist, is the instructor for the manual review/training session.

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.

July 30-31, 2024

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- RETIREE MEMBER (Non-Voting) - \$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) - FREE**
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3

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Does your company provide residential services

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4

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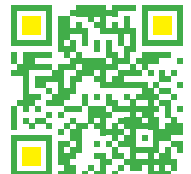
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A photograph of a woman and a young girl smiling in a garden filled with various flowers. The woman is wearing a red and black plaid shirt, and the girl is wearing a light blue dress. A monarch butterfly is perched on a flower in the foreground. The background is a lush garden with many different types of plants and flowers.

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