The Hancock & Pearl River County Extension Service staff wishes your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2017 Master Gardener Training

The Mississippi State University Extension Service will be providing Master Gardener training classes for anyone wanting to become a Master Gardener. The Master Gardener volunteer program is a great way to gain horticultural expertise at a low cost, meet other avid gardeners, share gardening experiences, get connected to the community, and belong to a well-respected and educational organization.

It is an educational exchange program offered through county offices of the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Through this program, individuals are trained and certified in horticulture and related areas.

In exchange for educational training, individuals are asked to volunteer their time to help county Extension offices with horticulture projects that benefit the local community. Master Gardeners help extend the educational arm of the university to the public by providing horticultural information based on university research and recommendations.

The classes will start in late February 2018. There is a $100.00 fee to pay for the material used during the training. You can get a training schedule and more information about the Master Gardener program by contacting your local county Extension office.
## Upcoming Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Pearl River County Master Gardener Meeting</strong> — 12:30 p.m. at the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune.</td>
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<td>5 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Pearl River County Cattlemen's Association Meeting</strong> — 6:00 p.m. at Poplarville Middle School Cafeteria. There is a $10.00 fee per person attending the meeting (Kids 12 &amp; under free). Please call the Extension office (601-403-2280) and RSVP for the meeting by December 1 so we can have a head count for the steak dinner.</td>
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<td>7 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Annual Holiday Floral Design</strong> — 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. Presenter: Lynette McDougald, Instructor, Plant and Soil Sciences. Description: The holidays are upon us and the to-do list is long… Cards to mail, menus to plan, decorations to be hung, and the list goes on. Join us as Lynette inspires us with great holiday designs! Call your local Extension office to RSVP.</td>
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<td>8 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Private Pesticide Application Training</strong> — 9:00 a.m. Hancock County Extension Service office. Call to register for the training. $20.00 fee payable by check or money order. (For producers of agriculture crops for sale)</td>
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<td>12 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Holiday Houseplants</strong> — 6:30 p.m. Bay St. Louis Public Library. This program will include information on the selection and care of traditional holiday plants including Christmas trees, amaryllis, kalanchoe, poinsettias, and more. The presenter for this program is Hancock County Extension Agent, Christian Stephenson.</td>
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<td>13 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Hancock County Master Gardener Meeting</strong> — 11:00 a.m. at the Hancock County Extension Service Office.</td>
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<td>14 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Life Skills: What to Say When, or Not…</strong> — 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. Presenter: Lisa Stewart, Extension Agent IV, Webster County. Description: As we prepare for the holidays, we may be seeing family and friends that might be hurting or going thru tough times. Lisa will share some ideas how we can best communicate as we navigate thru the holiday gatherings. Call your local Extension office to RSVP.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Home Pests</strong> — 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The Senior Center of South Pearl River County. Presenter: Alex Shook, Pearl River County Extension Agent. Learn how to control unwanted pests in your home. No RSVP required.</td>
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- **10 a.m. every Wednesday:** Homegrown Show on WQRZ 103.5 FM. Tune in to WQRZ to hear about programs offered through MSU Extension as well as information on gardening in coastal Mississippi.
- **9 a.m. every Friday:** Extension Highlights on WRJW 1320 AM. Tune in to WRJW to hear about programs offered through MSU Extension as well as information on gardening in coastal Mississippi.

Please help us save money and paper by switching to our e-mail newsletter list. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, send a request to eddie.smith@msstate.edu.

MSU Extension will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities or special needs. Please contact your local Extension office prior to a program or event to request reasonable accommodation.
Garden Calendar: December

Now is the time of year that Cabin Fever and garden catalogs in our mailboxes get us dreaming about getting out into the garden.

**Planning**
- Start plans on paper for changes or improvements in the garden.
- Order seed for early planting.

**Equipment**
- Repair and sharpen mowers and tools. Order new pots and markers.
- Check condition of sprayers.

**Planting**
- Set out trees and shrubs.
- Plant Sweet Peas, Poppies, and Larkspur.

**Fertilizing**
- January - March is the proper time to fertilize trees and shrubs.
- Apply lime to lawns if needed.

**Pest Control**
- Scale on broad-leaf evergreens should be sprayed with dormant oil for control.

**Pruning**
- Trim Nandinas.

**Mulch**
- Mulch Lilies with compost.
- Protect tender plants during periods of extreme cold.

**Miscellaneous**
- Keep bird feeders stocked. Provide water for birds.
- After freeze, check to make sure plants have not heaved out of the ground.

**In Bloom**
- Camellia, Winter Honeysuckle, Winter Jasmine, and in mild winters Flowering Quince

Chinese Privet

Now considered one of Mississippi's 10 worst weeds, Chinese privet, *Ligustrum sinense*, was first introduced into the United States in 1852 as an ornamental shrub. It has been widely used as for hedges and mass plantings as well as for single specimens for its foliage and white flowers. Since its introduction has naturalized throughout the Southeastern United States. Its escape from cultivation was first noted in Louisiana in the 1930s. By the 1950s it had become widespread throughout the Southeast.

Chinese privet may grow to as much as 30 feet tall, though it is more typical for plants to be 5 to 12 feet in height. The leaves of Chinese privet are evergreen and oppositely arranged along the stem, usually spaced less than one inch apart. The plant branches abundantly with the branches often arching downwards. Flowers of Chinese privet are white, occurring in branching clusters 2 to 4 inches long. Blossoms are very aromatic, with an unpleasant odor, and profusely cover the shrub. The flower matures into a blue-black berrylike fruit.

Chinese privet grows under a wide range of soil and light conditions. Frequently, plantings persist on abandoned home sites and invades lots or farmland forming impenetrable thickets. Chinese privet is also often seen along fencerows and the margins of streams, bayous, and forests. Chinese privet reproduced both vegetatively and by seed. Seeds are spread by birds and will establish plants in areas disturbed by construction or forest clearing. Natural tree falls, erosion, and animal excavation also provide opportunities for establishment of Chinese privet. The plant will also produce a large number of root suckers leading to very dense stands.

Due to its adaption to a variety of habitats and ability to reproduce and grow quickly, Chinese privet may disrupt ecosystems by displacing native species. Chinese privet also presents a nuisance to humans. Fruit of the Chinese privet are toxic, and, in areas of dense stands, floral odors may result in respiratory irritation.

Chinese privet seedlings may be removed by hand pulling, though this can be difficult as many plants are sprouts from lateral roots. Large and dense stands are best removed with the use of a brush mulcher. However, brush mulching will not affect the root system and so resprouting will occur. An application of glyphosate (Roundup) herbicide to newly sprouting plants is effective. Foliar herbicide treatments are best applied from November through January. Larger plants can be removed using a cut stump herbicide treatment. Privet stems should be cut close to the ground and the remaining stump sprayed or painted with the herbicide. The herbicide triclopyr (Ortho Brush Killer) is frequently used for cut stump treatments, though glyphosate may also be used.