



Wasps

Summer months in Mississippi bring many insects and pests. Some of the most problematic insects are our various wasp species.

Types of paper wasps in Mississippi:

Guinea wasps (*Polistes exclamans*): These wasps are small brown and yellow paper wasps. They are often mistaken for yellow jackets; unlike guinea wasps, yellow jackets make their nests in the ground.

Carolina paper wasps (*Polistes carolina*): Carolina paper wasps are large with black wings and orange in color. These are more aggressive than most other wasps.

Red wasps (*Polistes metricus* and *Polistes annularis*): Red wasps have black wings with dark red thoraxes and darker red, almost black colored abdomens. These paper wasps tend to have larger nests than Guinea wasps.

These insects build nests in empty areas and hidden spaces. When outdoors, you should always check areas such as doorways, fences and gates, under eaves, storage sheds, chairs and other outdoor furniture, and cooking grills.

Wasps can be problematic around the home, but they also have their benefits. They pollinate native plants and flowers. Wasps are also predators of pest insects such as caterpillars and spiders.

Did you know Mississippi is home to wingless wasps? This species commonly known as the “cow ant” or “cow killer ant” is actually not an ant at all; they are wasps. These Eastern velvet ants are large and are red and black in color. The female wasps do not have wings, but the males have wings and can fly. These wasps are known to have extremely painful stings, but thankfully they are usually not aggressive.



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Muscadines

Muscadine grapes are native to the southeastern United States and are well adapted to Mississippi's warm, humid climate. They grow best in full sun and prefer fertile, well-drained sandy loam soils with good water retention. Before planting, it's important to conduct a soil test and adjust the pH to around 6.5, often by incorporating dolomitic limestone. Avoid planting in areas prone to poor drainage or hardpans, and choose elevated sites with good air movement to help reduce disease pressure and the risk of late spring frost damage.

Dormant vines, whether bare-root or container-grown, are best planted between November and February. After planting, firm the soil around the roots and water thoroughly. Prune the newly planted vine to a single stem with two to four buds, which helps develop a strong trunk.

Training the vine begins by tying one healthy shoot to a stake and guiding it upward to a horizontal trellis wire, typically placed about 5.5 feet above the ground. Once the shoot reaches the wire, pinch back the tip to encourage branching. Two lateral shoots are selected to grow along the wire, forming the permanent cordons. In the first winter after establishing the cordons, lateral shoots along the cordons should be pruned to form spurs spaced every 6 inches, leaving two to four buds per spur for fruit production.

Annual pruning is crucial to maintain vine productivity. During the dormant season, typically December through February, remove the previous year's growth by cutting back to short spurs, while eliminating excess shoots and crowded areas along the cordons. This allows for good air circulation and strong new growth that will produce fruit.

Fertilizer should be applied carefully. In the first year, use about 3 ounces of 10-10-10 fertilizer per vine in a small circle around the plant, keeping it at least 6 inches from the base. Repeat this every six weeks until mid-summer. In the second year, double the amount and widen the application area. By the third year, mature vines should receive about 2 pounds of 8-8-8 fertilizer in March and another pound in May. Fully established vines may require 3 to 5 pounds of 8-8-8 in early spring, followed by a light nitrogen application after fruit set. A soil test will help determine if magnesium is needed, often supplied by dolomitic lime.

While muscadines are relatively drought-tolerant once established, supplemental irrigation is important during dry periods, especially during bloom and early fruit development. In dry weather, vines benefit from 8 to 16 gallons of water per plant two to three times a week. A drip irrigation system is a good investment, especially during establishment, as it helps maintain consistent moisture levels.

Like any fruit crop, muscadines can be affected by pests and diseases. Common problems include black rot, powdery mildew, angular leaf spot, grape rootworms, Japanese beetles, thrips, and leafminers. Angular leaf spot is particularly problematic in wet, warm springs and can lead to fruit loss. Good cultural practices, such as annual pruning, proper spacing, and removing diseased material, go a long way toward reducing pest and disease pressure.

Harvest typically begins in late August and can run through October, depending on the variety and location. Unlike bunch grapes, muscadines are harvested as individual berries when fully ripe. For large plantings, mechanical harvesters may be used, but hand harvesting is common for small-scale growers. Fruit should be picked in the morning and cooled as soon as possible to preserve quality. Full production typically begins in the third to fifth year, with yields of 3 to 4 tons per acre for fresh-market cultivars and 8 to 10 tons per acre for processing varieties.



Garden Calendar: August

Prepare

- Plan beds for bulbs. Order Tulips, Hyacinths, Dutch Iris, Daffodils, Narcissus, and Amaryllis.
- Prepare beds for October planting by adding compost or leaf mold.

Plant

- Plant Daylilies in a sunny location. They will be well established before winter.
- Divide and transplant Louisiana Iris, Easter Lily, Canna, Liriope, Ajuga, and Shasta Daisy.
- Plant cool season vegetables: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Spinach, Potatoes, Lettuce, Carrots, Beets, Radishes, and English Peas. Plant warm season grasses: Buffalo, Bermuda, and St. Augustine.
- Mums should be planted for September bloom and fall color.
- Marigolds, Asters, Zinnias, and Celosia can be planted to replace faded annuals.
- Plant seeds of Calendula, Columbine, English Daisy, Forget-me-not, Pansy, Sweet William, and Violet.



Fertilize

- If acid loving plants including Azaleas, Camellias, and Gardenia show signs of chlorosis (yellowing of leaves), a treatment of Iron Chelate should cause leaves to regain their green color.
- Feed mums with a complete fertilizer every two weeks and water thoroughly until buds show color.

Prune

- Cut back annuals, such as Impatiens and Vinca to encourage fall blooms.
- Disbud Camellias, Dahlias, and Chrysanthemums to produce specimen blooms.
- Continue to remove dead heads in the garden to stimulate blooming.
- Cut back rose canes to 24-30 inches from ground for autumn blooms.
- Remove dead and damaged wood from trees and shrubs.



Water

- Water garden deeply, but infrequently throughout the month.
- Water early in the morning or in late afternoon. Water on leaves during the heat of the day can cause the sun to burn leaves.
- Potted plants and hanging baskets need to be watered daily.
- Make sure Azaleas and Camellias stay well watered, because they are forming flower buds for next year.

Miscellaneous

- Mow weekly and leave clippings on the lawn.
- Turn compost pile.
- Feed the birds.



In Bloom

- Ageratum, Angel's Trumpet, Balsam, Begonia, Browallia, Caladium, Canna, Celosia, Clematis, Dahlia, Four-o'clock, Funkia, Gladiolus, Lily, Hosta, Impatiens, Marigold, Periwinkle, Phlox, Portulaca, Rattle Box, Salvia, Snow-on-the-Mountain, Torenia, Vinca, Pink Zephyranthes Lily, Zinnia, Althea, Butterfly Bush, Crape Myrtle, Hydrangea, Oleander, Roses, and Tamarisk.



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Citrus Leafminers

I'm often asked about leaves curling up on citrus trees, and most often, this is caused by leafminers. Citrus leafminers are a relatively new pest of citrus trees, which are often grown as landscape trees in the southern portion of the state. Originating in Asia, the citrus leafminer was first discovered in Florida in 1993. These small moths rapidly became a significant pest, with infestation rates of up to 90% in some areas in Florida being observed within the year of introduction. By 1995, the citrus leafminer was discovered in Texas, Central America, western Mexico, Caribbean islands and by 2000, it arrived in southern California.

Citrus leafminers are the larvae of small moths. They cause long, winding mines or trails in the leaves of many types of citrus trees. Because this insect is newly introduced, it has few natural enemies, and infestations are often heavy. Leafminers are one-fourth inch long or less. The term leafminer describes any insect that completes at least a portion of its life by living and feeding inside plant leaves.

Damage is caused by the larvae. In most cases, the larvae feed on the leaf tissue between the upper and lower epidermis of the leaf. It destroys leaf tissue by mining in the leaf, reducing leaf area and interfering with nutrient translocation. Extremely heavy infestations can result in enough loss of leaf area to adversely affect plant vigor and health. Fortunately, this is not common, and most leafminer infestations do not seriously affect plant health and may not require treatment. However, even light leafminer infestations can cause plants to be unsightly, and damage may persist. This aesthetic injury is the primary damage leafminers cause.

Because the larvae live in a protected location inside the leaves, leafminers can be difficult to control. Systemic insecticides work best to control leafminers. Products containing the active ingredient Spinosad are especially useful against citrus leafminers, as well as other larval-type insects. Some formulations of Spinosad are specifically labeled for use on home-grown citrus and approved for organic use. Insecticide products containing Acephate or Imidacloprid are normally most effective on leafminers in the landscape and more specifically on boxwoods, hollies, and azaleas, although many Spinosad products carry this label as well. Because citrus trees are grown both as landscape plants and food crops, it is important to be sure any insecticides are specifically labeled for that use. Please read and follow all label directions.



Adult citrus leafminer moth,
Phyllocnistis citrella





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Fall Weed Control for Winter Weeds

Control of Winter annual weeds begins towards the end of Summer and beginning of Fall.

Preemergence herbicides should be applied beginning in late-August to early September to prevent these annual winter weeds from becoming an issue. To be effective, pre-emergence herbicides must be applied before weeds emerge. To be effective, they must be applied before weed seed germination. These herbicides require 0.25 to 0.5 inches of rainfall or irrigation for activation so try to time the application within a day or two of expected rainfall, but not a torrential downpour where all of the product ends up being washed away. All of the herbicides in this list can be used on established, southern turfgrasses.

READ, and FOLLOW, THE LABEL completely to make sure you can use it in your situation. A partial list of common (active ingredient) and trade names of preemergence weed control in home lawns for homeowners can be found below. Just as with an application of fertilizer, going in two different directions that total the labeled rate will provide a more consistent barrier to emerging weeds rather than an application in one single direction.

Depending upon label directions and application restrictions for the particular product you purchase, reapplication may be beneficial in 6-8 weeks. It is not recommended you use a product that contains a fertilizer carrier at this time as the turf is getting prepared for winter dormancy and encouraging a flush of growth can be detrimental.

Common Name – Trade Name (partial list)

- Dithiopyr - Sta-Green Crab Ex; Green Light Crabgrass Preventer; Vigoro Preemergent Crabgrass and Weed Preventer
- Pendimethalin - Scotts Halts Crabgrass Preventer
- Oryzalin - Southern Ag. Surflan A.S.
- Isoxaben - Portrait Broadleaf Weed Preventer
- Benefin + oryzalin - Green Light Amaze Grass and Weed Preventer; XL 2G
- Benefin + trifluralin - Hi-Yield Crabgrass Preventer; Southern Ag. Team 2 G
- Corn gluten meal - Concern All Natural Weed Pre-venter Plus; Nature's Guide Corn Gluten Meal





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Azalea Lace Bug

The Azalea Lace Bug is the most common pest of azaleas. Heavy infestations of this insect can result in extensive damage to the plants. Damage to plants is caused by feeding of both adults and immature insects.

The azalea lace bug feeds on the plant by sucking sap using piercing/sucking mouthparts. Initial damage to the plant gives leaves a stippled appearance. This stippled appearance may be mistaken for damage caused by spider mites; however, looking on the underside of leaves will allow the true problem to be identified.



Adult azalea lace bugs are approximately 1/8 inch long with white wings and dark markings. The immatures are smaller, darker in color and covered with spines. Cast off skins and excrement from the azalea lace bug can accumulate on the underside of leaves and can also be used as a way to diagnose damage from the azalea lace bug if the insect is not present. Azalea lace bugs prefer plants growing in sunny locations and these are more prone to attack than plants growing in shade.

Lace bugs overwinter as eggs, and heavy infestations can build by early summer. This insect can go through several generations in a year with populations increasing through the year. Recovery from damage by azalea lace bugs can take a significant amount of time even after the insects are controlled. Due to this, plants should be checked for insects regularly, and treatments applied if lace bugs are observed in significant numbers. Control of azalea lace bug is best achieved through the use of systemic insecticides. Products containing the active ingredient imidacloprid are particularly effective.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
August 2nd	<p style="text-align: center;">Pearl River County Beekeepers Association Meeting</p> <p>The Pearl River County Beekeepers Association meeting will be held at the Pearl River County Extension office beginning at 7:00 PM. See flyer on page 8 for more details.</p>
August 2nd	<p style="text-align: center;">Botany Field Walk</p> <p>Crosby Arboretum: 9:30—11:00 AM. Retired ecologist Dr. Janet Wright will teach you identification tricks for native perennials, grasses, and sedges that will make your field walks richer. Includes a small 10X hand lens that you can take home. Best suited to ages 14 and up. Members \$4, non-members \$8.</p> <p>*To register for all events at the Crosby Arboretum, visit https://crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/events-page. Space may be limited on some events so register early.</p>
August 9th	<p style="text-align: center;">All About Hummingbirds</p> <p>Crosby Arboretum: 9:30—10:30 AM or 11:00 AM—Noon. Hummingbird bander James Bell will reveal how you can fill your yard with hummingbirds! Learn what is going on in the hummingbird's life, how they feed, why they fight so much, and simple tips and tricks to attract them, giving you a chance to enjoy the beauty of one of nature's most dazzling creations. Members \$3, non-members \$6.</p>
August 13th	<p style="text-align: center;">Carnivorous Plants: How to Grow Beastly Beauties in Your Bog Garden</p> <p>Crosby Arboretum: 10:30—11:30 AM. Did you know that you can grow a diverse array of species like sundews, pitcher plants, and butterworts on your own backyard? MSU Extension Agent Jessie Tisdale will teach you more about the fascinating world of carnivorous plants. Registration required. Members FREE; non-members \$5.</p>
August 13th	<p style="text-align: center;">Master Gardener Program Registration Begins</p> <p>Registration for the Master Gardener Program begins August 13th through September 10th with online classes beginning October 1st. This is a self-paced online program that ends December 3rd. \$175 per individual. For more information or to register, visit msuext.ms/mg. See flyer on page 10 for more details and options.</p>
August 14th	<p style="text-align: center;">Private Applicator Certification Training</p> <p>9:00 AM—4:00 PM: Hancock County Extension office located at 17304 Hwy 603, Kiln. \$60 per individual: Check or money order only! Lunch provided. For more information or to register for the training, please call the Hancock County Extension office at 228-467-5456. This certification is for applying pesticides on land owned or rented for agricultural purposes.</p>
August 19th	<p style="text-align: center;">MS Smart Landscapes</p> <p>This program is FREE via Zoom with Dr. Eddie Smith and Pat Drackett: 10:00 AM—Noon</p> <p>“Common Mississippi Butterflies & Their Host Plants” - Dr. Eddie M. L. Smith</p> <p>“Create an Edible Legacy: Make Your Own Food Forest Garden” - Patricia R. Drackett</p> <p>Patricia R. Drackett</p> <p>See flyer on page 9 for more information.</p> <p>To register: https://reg.extension.msstate.edu/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0081-0004-b118cfbca74f44c6a6f9561fde45fb14</p>
August 27th	<p style="text-align: center;">All About Houseplants</p> <p>Crosby Arboretum: 10:30 AM—11:30 AM. Beat the heat and bring your love of gardening inside this August as we feature an expert, MSU Associate Extension Professor, Dr. James DelPrince on the topic of houseplants. Dr. DelPrince is a specialist in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, so don't miss this opportunity to learn from the best! Registration required. Members \$3; non-members \$8.</p>
August 28th	<p style="text-align: center;">Annual Muscadine Field Day</p> <p>Mississippi State University McNeill Unit: 9:00 AM—11:00 AM. 7 Ben Gill Road, Carriere, MS. No pre-registration necessary and no cost to attend.</p>



Pearl River County Beekeeping Association

Saturday, August 2, 2025
7:00 p.m.

MSU PRC Extension Office
835 Highway 26 West, Poplarville, MS



Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a
time of friendship & fellowship

Speaker: We will have
a Mystery Guest

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

Topic: Mystery Topic

For more information, contact Dr. Eddle M. L. Smith
at 601-403-2280 or eddie.smith@msstate.edu

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ZOOM WEBINARS

August 19, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Create an Edible Legacy: Make Your Own Food Forest Garden

Patricia R. Drackett

**Director, The Crosby Arboretum, Mississippi State University Associate
Extension Professor of Landscape Architecture**

Common Mississippi Butterflies and Their Host Plants

Dr. Eddie M. L. Smith

**Extension Agent IV, County Coordinator for Pearl River County, &
Southern Gardening Host**

Use this link to register: https://reg.extension.msstate.edu/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0081-0004-b118cfbca74f44c6a6f9561fde45fb14

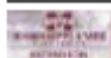
For more Smart Landscapes info and media, be sure to visit

1. **Mississippi Smart Landscapes website available at**
<http://extension.msstate.edu/smartlandscapes>



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2. **Our Facebook page at**
<https://www.facebook.com/smartlandscapesmsu/>



Mississippi Smart Landscapes media

Mississippi State University Extension will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities or special needs. Please contact our office (601-403-2280) prior to a program or event to request reasonable accommodation.



BECOME A *Master Gardener*

TRAINING IS SELF-PACED AND
COMPLETELY ONLINE!

msuext.ms/mg

Register online from
August 13 – September 10

- 1 Master Gardener Course
Volunteer Option **\$175**
- 2 Home Gardening Course
Non-Volunteer Option **\$225**
- 3 Individual Classes *
\$35 per class

*available year round

COURSES OPEN ON **OCTOBER 1** AND MUST BE
COMPLETED BY **DECEMBER 3**.



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
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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. Volunteers help extend the educational arm of the university to the public by providing horticultural information based on university research and recommendations.

Through the Master Gardener Volunteer program, individuals are trained and certified in consumer horticulture and related areas. In exchange for 40 hours of educational training, individuals are required to return 40 hours of volunteer service within one year of their training. This service should help county Extension offices with horticulture projects that benefit their local communities. After the first year, volunteers are required to return 20 hours of volunteer service and to attend 12 hours of educational training to remain certified as Master Gardeners.



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

Mississippi Pesticide Safety Education Program

Extension delivers new, EPA-mandated training for private pesticide applicators

Applicators who use restricted-use pesticides are **required** to complete a new training to **renew or obtain** certification.

In-person and online trainings are available. Applicators must pay \$60 and score at least **70%** on the 55-question competency exam.

5 hours of video modules will introduce new

- safety procedures.
- environmental protection requirements.
- pesticide application methods.

Scan here
or visit <http://msuext.ms/dkp8h> to sign up for
in-person training or to begin online training.



Online training requires a laptop or desktop computer with a camera, microphone, and valid photo ID. Neither the modules nor the exam is available on mobile devices.

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Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation on the in-person courses, contact the local Extension office. A list of contact information for each office is online at <http://extension.msstate.edu/county-offices>. For accommodation with the online courses, contact the MSU Extension Center for Technology Outreach at 662-325-3226.