



Planting a Fall Garden

If you haven't tried a fall garden, consider putting one in now because it can be the best garden you have. Many vegetables are well adapted to planting in the summer for fall harvest, which will extend the gardening season so you can continue to harvest fresh produce after earlier crops have finished producing.



Growing a productive fall vegetable garden requires thoughtful planning and good cultural practices. August and September are the main planting times for a fall garden. Depending on your specific location, you may need to adjust the planting dates. For a more accurate planting schedule, determine the average date of the first killing frost in the fall, and then count backward from the frost date, using the number of days to maturity to determine the best time to plant in your area.

Many cool-season vegetables, such as carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts, produce their best flavor and quality when they mature during cool weather. In Mississippi, the spring temperatures often heat up quickly making vegetables such as lettuce and spinach bolt or develop a bitter flavor when they mature during hot summer weather.

It is not uncommon for insects and diseases to be more abundant in the fall, mostly as a result of a buildup in their populations during the spring and summer. You may be able to keep these pests at tolerable levels, if you follow a few strategies. Strive to keep fall vegetables healthy and actively growing because healthy plants are less susceptible to insects and diseases. Check the plants frequently for insect and disease damage. If significant damage is detected, use an approved pesticide. Certain vegetables, such as squash, corn, and cucumbers, are especially insect- and disease-prone during late summer and fall.



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Swallowtail Butterflies

Swallowtails are some of the largest butterflies in Mississippi. These beautiful insects have a number of distinctive features. They get their common name from the forked appearance of their hindwings when at rest. Swallowtail caterpillars also have a defensive organ called an osmetrium which produces an odor that is repellant to many predators. The genus name for swallowtail butterflies is *Papilio*, which is Latin for butterfly. Species names within the genus use the names of Greek heroes.

Giant Swallowtail

The giant swallowtail, *Papilio cresphontes*, is a frequent visitor to gardens in Mississippi. It's natural range extends throughout the Eastern United States. Adult giant swallowtails are large butterflies, with a wingspan of up to 7 inches. The forewing surfaces of the butterfly are black with a diagonal bar of yellow. Adults feed on nectar of many plants including azaleas, bougainvillea, Japanese honeysuckle, and swamp milkweed. Adult males are often seen patrolling pine woods searching for females. Adult butterflies sip nectar from many flowers including azalea, bougainvillea, Japanese honeysuckle, goldenrod, and swamp milkweed. Caterpillars of the giant swallowtail are minor pests of citrus, as they feed on the leaves.



Giant swallowtail

Tiger Swallowtail

The tiger swallowtail, *Papilio glaucus*, is another large butterfly species, only slightly smaller on average than the giant swallowtail. Adults are yellow with four black bands on the front wings. Some female tiger swallowtails are black with powdery blue bands on the hindwings. Males can often be seen patrolling at treetop level with females flying lower. Adults will feed on a wide variety of flowers and will sip water and minerals from mud. Sweet bay, tulip tree, and black cherry are common plant hosts of tiger swallowtail caterpillars.



Tiger swallowtail



Tiger swallowtail caterpillar showing osmetria



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Continued: Swallowtail Butterflies

Spicebush Swallowtail

The spicebush swallowtail butterfly, *Papilio Troilus*, is common in gardens throughout the eastern and mid-western United States. The upper surface of the forewings, which have an average spread of just over 4 inches, is black with a narrow rows of light yellowish spots. The upper surfaces of the hind wings have rows of light green spots. The middle of the hind wings are dusted with blue in females and blue-green to green in males.

As with the tiger swallowtail, adults can often be seen sipping on water and minerals from wet soil. Spicebush swallowtail caterpillars feed on plants belonging to the family Lauraceae such as red bay, spicebush and sassafras. There are many plants that are valuable as nectar sources for butterflies. The long proboscis of spicebush swallowtail adults allow them to feed at tubular flowers that are not accessible to many butterflies.



Spicebush swallowtail

Hancock/Harrison County Forestry & Wildlife Association



Timber Tax Basis: (Re)Setting the Table for Your Timber Investment

Due to Covid-19, this will be computer-based program using ZOOM software.

When: Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Where: Computer-based via ZOOM

Time: 6:00 PM

No Preregistration or Fee Required

To Join the Zoom Meeting: Download ZOOM software onto your computer or mobile device, then copy the link below or type in the ID number when prompted. For more information or need assistance, contact Tim Ray, Harrison County Extension at 228-731-8567 or email at tim.ray@msstate.edu.

<https://msstateextension.zoom.us/j/95010231420>
Meeting ID: 950 1023 1420

If you have any questions about ZOOM or difficulty with connecting, please call the number above before the program begins.

Speaker

Dr. Shaun Tanger
Forestry Economics Specialist
Mississippi State University Extension
Coastal Research & Extension Center

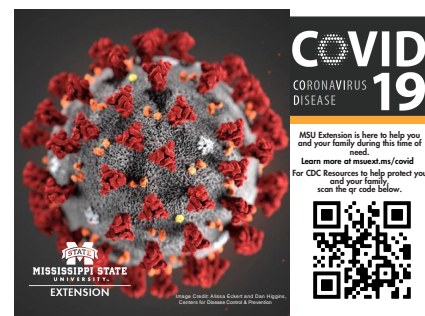


Please mark you calendars for August 11, 2020 for a program hosted by Hancock/Harrison CFWA and presented by Dr. Shaun Tanger, Forestry Economics Specialist with MSU Extension. Dr. Tanger will present "Timber Tax Basis: (Re)setting the Table for your Timber Investment". The program will begin at 6:00 PM.

The reason basis is so valuable is it can be utilized to minimize taxable income when you have a timber sale (or sell the property) or allow you to recoup some losses when timber is damaged. Maybe most important are the consequences of inheritance on basis when your heirs assume ownership of the property or you sell the property to someone.

In the presentation Shaun will discuss the following topics:

- What is Basis and why should I care about it?
- How to determine Basis at the time of initial acquisition
- What changes occur to Basis over time?
- What do I do if I don't know my timber Basis?



Being Counted Matters

Participating in the U.S. Census is important for our community and our state. Representation in government and funding for services are based on Census numbers.



**STAND UP FOR MISSISSIPPI
AND BE COUNTED!**



Tim Ray, C.A., Extension Agent

MSU-ES Harrison County

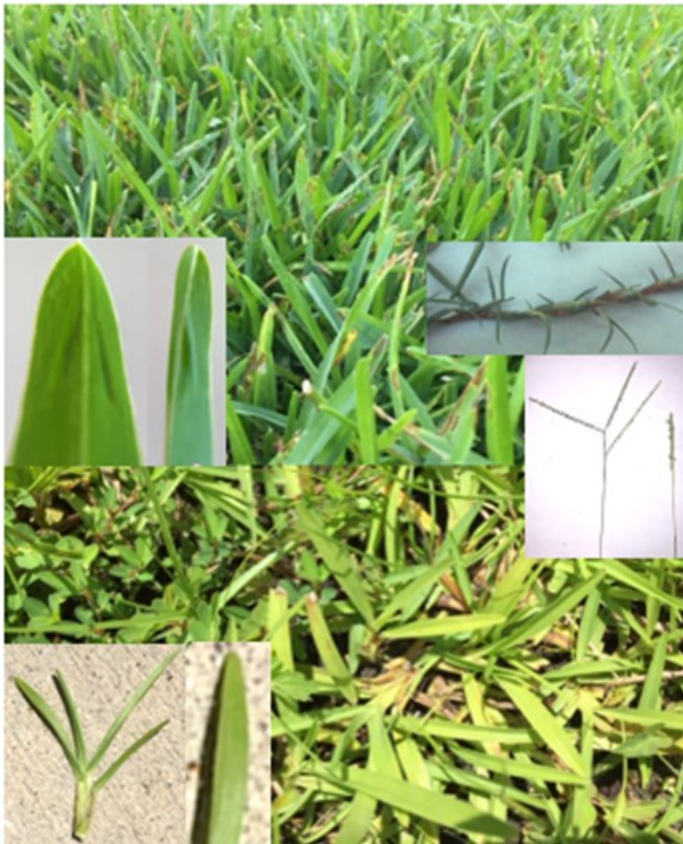
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What Grass Type Do You Have for Your Lawn?

I know, that seems like an odd question for a title, right? But you'd be surprised how many clients to whom I ask that question do not know. And that's ok if all you want to do is mow it. Realistically, however, I'm never called to look at a lawn just to help a client determine where to set the proper mowing height. They want to know the best management practices for their lawn: fertilizing, mowing, watering, weed control, etc. Because of this, you **NEED** to know what grass type you have. Each one requires different management practices for optimum growth and when it comes to weed control, there are label recommendations for different grass types. To be honest, I've seen everything from Bermudagrass to Zoysia and in between. I've also seen a mixture of grass types which is not ideal from a management standpoint. Let's look at descriptions of each and, hopefully, you can get an identification for your grass type. But, before we do, there are a couple of terms to be familiar with.

Stolon – a stolon is a creeping horizontal plant stem or runner growing above ground that takes root at points along its length to form new plants; **Rhizome** – a rhizome is a continuously growing horizontal underground stem which puts out lateral shoots and adventitious roots at intervals. Knowing these two terms, in addition to other visual details, can help you determine your grass type.



Centipede (top) and Carpetgrass (bottom). These two grass types are very similar in appearance and one may not realize, if you have centipede, chances are you will also have some Carpetgrass. Both like a low pH, both have the same mowing height, low fertility requirements, etc. However, there are some very distinct differences. Note the “boat-shaped” tip of Centipede compared to the flat tip of Carpetgrass as well as the seed head comparison between Carpetgrass (left) and Centipede (right). Both grass types produce stolons but not rhizomes. It's important to note that while these grasses are similar in many ways, herbicide options are limited with Carpetgrass. Some herbicides, such as Metsulfuron methyl (ex. MSM Turf) will control Carpetgrass but not harm Centipede when used as directed. If you question whether you have Carpetgrass, let the lawn grow enough to produce seed heads.

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Continued: What Grass Type Do You Have for Your Lawn?



St. Augustine is the most shade-tolerant of the warm season grasses. It has medium fertility requirements and likes a pH of 6 – 7.5, which is quite the opposite of the more acid-loving Centipede. Like Centipede, it also produces only stolons. Unlike the other grass types, you cannot get St. Augustine seed, only sod, although it will produce a seed head (top right). One thing to note: a distinct feature of St. Augustine is the leaf blade looks like it had a string tied around it and tightened (noted by the arrow). It has poor cold tolerance, so it is not a good turf choice for far north Mississippi.



I'll admit, Zoysia is one of my favorite grass types for a lawn. However, it's expensive and slow to establish, but you can get both sod and seeded varieties. Zoysia has a pointed leaf blade when compared to other grass types and a very distinct seed head (top right). It produces both stolons and rhizomes (bottom left). It has medium to high fertility requirements and moderate shade tolerance.



Bermuda grass isn't as heavily grown for a lawn on the coast as it is in many other places in the South, but you do see it most often on ball fields or parks. These are generally hybrid types developed specifically for athletic fields and ...well, lawns. Like other grass types, Bermuda also has a distinct seed head (bottom left and middle). Note the hybrid seed head on the far left compared to the more pronounced common Bermuda in the middle. Bermuda has a high fertility requirement, so it loves nitrogen. It is easy to establish and has a high recovery rate. It produces both stolons and rhizomes (bottom right). Bermuda is the most aggressive of the grass types so high maintenance is required.

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Chamberbitter

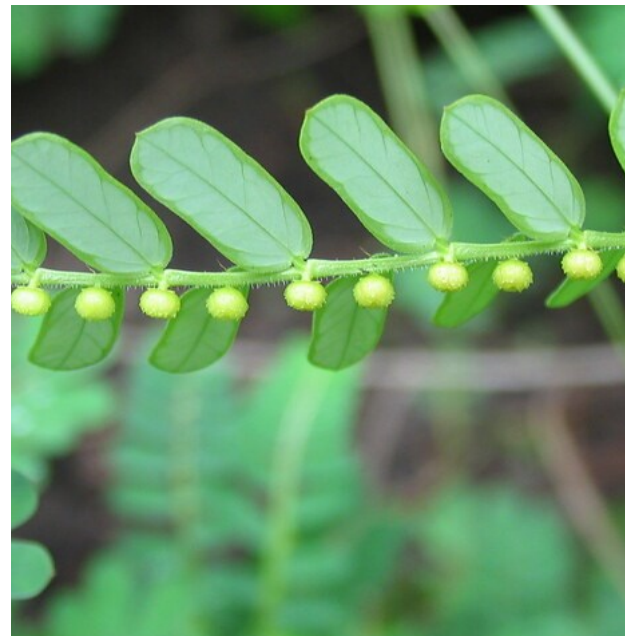
Chamberbitter, also known as gripweed and little mimosa, is a common lawn weed that can be difficult to control. This plant looks like a seedling mimosa with two alternating rows of leaves. An easy identifier of this plant is the seeds located on the underside of the leaves. This pesky weed often evades early attempts at weed control because the seeds tend to germinate later in the season after pre-emergent herbicides have broken down. Additionally, this plant is drought tolerant, fast growing, and a prolific seed producer that has the ability to spread easily. Lawns or flowerbeds that have had this plant in the past will likely see more in following years.

Flowerbeds are one of the more common areas this troublesome weed will try to take over. While herbicides can help in these situations, it is important to consider that many of the plants in the flowerbed will be susceptible to the chemical. As such, contact between the herbicide and desired plants should be avoided. In many cases a crowded bed means that hand pulling is the best way to eradicate the weed. Additionally, if you have had the weed in the past, you can put down a thick layer of mulch at the beginning of the season. This will help block light and make it difficult for germination. However, thin spots in mulch or areas where it may get kicked up could provide enough light for the weed to take root.

Lawns are the other place you are likely to see chamberbitter growing. Many times, this weed will first appear in a bare spot or along edges and cracks of a sidewalk. Early on hand removal may be a good option, but once it has dispersed seed and become more widespread, chemical control is the most effective tool. Products containing Atrazine are an effective pre-emergent option if it can be applied later in the spring to target chamberbitter. Once the weed has emerged, auxin products like Trimecc (a three-way blend containing 2,4-d/dicamba/mecoprop) work well. As always, make sure to follow the labeled application rates and instructions when handling pesticides.



Chamberbitter



Chamberbitter seeds



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Saving Seed from Annuals

Seed saving is a frequent area of interest when it comes to vegetables, but seed can also be easily saved from some of your favorite annual flowers. As with vegetables, seed harvested from a hybrid plant will not be true to seed, so you may choose open-pollinated varieties. Or, plant several types of the same flower and enjoy a surprise variety the following year. A lot of the newer flower cultivars are hybrids, but many traditional garden annuals or wildflowers will have seed that grows into plants closely resembling the parent plants. Plants such as cosmos, zinnias, and sunflowers are easy to collect seed from.



Sunflower seeds

If you have been deadheading your annuals you want to collect seed from, make sure to leave some spent flowers and allow them to develop seed. Once the petals drop, the seeds or seed head will be exposed. When the seeds or seed heads are mature and dry and turn brown, carefully remove them from the plant and place them into a labeled paper bag. Bring the seed indoors where humidity levels are lower and allow them to completely dry out. It may take several weeks for the seeds to dry, but it is important that they are given time to dry before they are stored, as wet seeds will mold and likely not be viable the next year.



Allow seed heads to dry on the plant before harvesting.

Once your seeds are dry, clean and remove as much chaff and leaf litter as possible from the seeds. Put them into labeled airtight, water-resistant containers. Store seeds in a cool, dry and dark place and avoid storing in areas with temperature fluctuations and high humidity. Saved seed should remain viable for several years but remember the germination rate will decrease each year.

While seed is usually not expensive, it can be a fun project to collect your own to share with your gardening friends or to use in your garden the following year.

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.