

Garden Notes

July 2025



Lavender Woes

We all love Lavender but many types of lavender don't like the Gulf Coast weather. Our humidity and rainfall quickly killed our English lavender. Your best luck may be with Spanish selections or Phenomenal™. Make sure plants have good air flow and well drained soils. Some years will be better than others for the herb.



Nature's Cleaners

Tree bark cleaners are back. You may notice these groups of insects on a crape myrtle or oak tree. The psocids or bark lice feed on molds, algae, decaying plant material, and fungi. Although called lice, they are not parasitic. You may see the webbing they spin covering the bark. No management is needed.

Cigar Flower

One of the perennials adapted to the heat of July is Cigar flower, *Cuphea ignea*. The bright orange tubular flowers are a favorite of zooming hummingbirds. Individual plants fill a smaller space, reaching about 3 feet in height and spread. In North Florida, plants will grow well in full sun or with a little shade. If you don't have room in the ground, consider adding Cigar flower to a large mixed container. Most plants will return after the winter to offer bright summer color for many years.