



Tipton County Master Gardener's **Garden Gazette**

From our President

It's August and it's hot! This is a great month to put together a talk to give to your fellow gardeners at one of our meetings or to an organization that requests a speaker. I have a few pointers for you!

1. First and foremost, **DO NOT BE AFRAID or INTIMIDATED.** Other than Sun, Soil and Water, Gardening is very subjective. There is no real right and wrong if you have the 3 important things covered. (Sun soil and Water) Sure, there are better tried and true ways of cutting roses, pruning trees and so forth, but basically your ideas are just fine!

2. Realize people are really interested in your point of view. It is different and worth telling. Incorporate personal stories with your point of view and you'll hit a home run.

3. Choose a subject that you are really passionate about. Right now I'm passionate about people planting gardens that **THEY** like. I think folks should not try to please anyone else but themselves (as long as the Sun, Soil and Water requirements are correct) IF you LOVE yard art, then talk about it. How about daylilies? What do you love? Your passion will spill out into your talk and it will be great! Give your talk as though you are having a conversation with one or two other people. Relax, smile and enjoy your time on the floor!

Once you begin public speaking, you'll get addicted to sharing your gardening opinions with others. IT doesn't matter if anyone follows your advice or not. What matters

is that fresh, new and different ideas got out there. Who knows who you are inspiring or entertaining. Either way, it can be FUN!

One more thing, congratulations our new Master Gardeners! We are lucky you have joined our group!

Thank you!

Beverly Moranville

You can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf!



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In my garden there is a large place for sentiment. My garden of flowers is also my garden of thoughts and dreams. The thoughts grow as freely as the flowers, and the dreams are as beautiful. ~Abram L. Urban

Earthworms by: Davis w. Busby

. Several years ago a group of Memphis musicians known as "Booker T. & the MGs" had several hit records but the one I remember most was "Green Onions." Tipton County has its own Booker T. and the MGs. This group is not musicians, but a group of master gardeners that can tell you how to grow bigger and better green onions. Booker T. of Tipton County is Booker T. Leigh, MA, Extension Agent and the County Director of Adult Agriculture of The University of Tennessee. The MGs are master gardeners who have completed several months of class room studies and they donate their time to help others grow better gardens (vegetable, flowers, herbs, and organic), vineyards, orchards, lawns and

many other plants and trees. One of my interests is organic gardening. I plan to do several articles on this. This leads me to the lowly earth worms. When planting your garden you should plant your earth worms at the same time; that's right, plant your earth worms. Earth worms ingest organic material, aerate the soil and create burrows to improve water infiltration and reduce run off. Using worms in a 5 acre test plot, soil that normally yielded 159 -179 bushels per acre of corn, now produce 200 bushels per acre, thus greatly reducing the dependency on costly commercial fertilizer.

Vermi Pod, Inc. raises "Encapsulated Earth Worm Cocoons", (Vermi Pods).

Vermi Pods are available with 5 different worm species, suited for different soil conditions and types. The cocoons are the size of a soybean seed and each contains 1-10 worm eggs. There is no minimum number of Vermi Pods to plant per acre. For more information visit the Vermi Pod, Inc. website www.Vermipd.com; or contact Bill Kreitzer as follows:

Bill Kreitzer Vermi Pod, Inc.,
P.O. Box1,
104 West Market Street.,
Elliotte, Ill. 60933.
Telephone: 217-781-4367.

Until next time,

Master Gardener, David W. Busby

August Gardening Tips

August Garden Tasks

July has been incredible this year with record-breaking, cooler temperatures and abundant rainfall, so many gardens are still looking great. Don't get complacent with watering if the dry, hot weather returns.

Early this month

Most trees and evergreen shrubs can be cut for shaping now.

It is now too late to prune azaleas or camellias because you will cut off the blossoms for next year.

You should have already mulched your trees and shrubs with at least two inches to retain moisture.

Raise your mower blade a little higher in hot, dry conditions. Warm season grasses like Bermuda and Zoysia should be cut at 2 ½ to 3 inches, and fescue should be cut about a ½ inch higher.

Fertilize warm season lawns with a balanced fertilizer.

Roses are heavy feeders, so continue your fertilizing program once a month with a good complete balanced fertilizer.

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Plant of the Month — Coral Bells 'Southern Comfort'



Finally, a good shade plant adapted to the heat and humidity of the south. The *Heuchera villosa* hybrid, 'Southern Comfort', is perfect for a mixed shade garden or as a specimen plant. The coppery pink foliage will brighten up those dark areas of your garden.

Growth Habit: Southern Comfort can grow to be 2


feet tall by 2 feet wide. The leaves start out red and eventually turn to a coppery pink color. Late in the summer they have white flowers. They can be used in a massing, mixed in with a shade garden, or as a specimen plant.

Landscape Use and Merit: Valued for their foliage color. Southern Comfort gives an outstanding splash of color to an otherwise drab shady area. This plant is great for tolerating the heat and humidity of south-eastern gardens.

Growing Conditions: They prefer full shade to partial shade, and can tolerate morning sun. They can be planted in soil with just average moisture.

Care: 'Southern Comfort' Heuchera is a relatively low maintenance plant. It requires very little pruning so just mulch it well and water as needed.

Extension Highlights



2010
MID-SOUTH NATIVE PLANT
CONFERENCE

NATIVES & BEYOND:
SUSTAINABLE PLANTS,
GARDENS & COMMUNITIES

DIXON
GALLERY & GARDENS

OCTOBER 8 - 10, 2010

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SPEAKERS:

DR. PETER H. RAVEN
C. COLSTON BURRELL
ANN ENGLISH
RICK LEWANDOWSKI
DON SHADOW
AND
FELDER RUSHING

PLANT AND LOCAL CRAFT VENDORS
GARDEN AND NATURE TOURS

July Gardening Tips (cont.)

Hybrid tea growers should continue their fungicide spray regime every week to ten days, depending on the product used, to control black spot. At the Dixon they are trying a new greener product called Messenger on their roses. Monitor your boxwood for tiny red spider mites, often found in hot, dry weather, and spray with a product listed for mites if necessary.

Middle of the month

Look for yellowing leaves. azaleas, hollies, and camellias that are showing yellow leaves with the veins still green usually indicates that the soil needs to be acidified. Take a soil sample and

have it tested to see how much iron sulfate or another sulfur compound is needed to correct your problem.

Watch for aphids, thrips and other insects, and spray as needed. Thrips make holes in the flower petals, leaving the blossoms unsightly. Check azaleas for lace bugs. Whitish, speckled-looking foliage is an indication, so if found, treat with an appropriate insecticide making sure you hit the underside of the leaves.

End of the month

Removing the seed pods from young tree-form crape myrtles may be needed to keep them from breaking after heavy rains; if the limbs are strong enough to support the pods, it is okay to leave

them for the birds to eat. Prepare beds for planting cabbage, kale and turnip greens.

Anytime this month

Container plantings need to be watered almost daily in typical August heat. Continue to harvest warm season veggies. Deadhead spent flower blossoms and stake plants to prevent flopping. Roses need lots of water, but try not to water the foliage. Don't forget to water your lawn if we experience dry spells because an active, vigorous, growing lawn helps to keep weeds from taking hold. A good rule of thumb is to water at least 1 inch per week.

Sanctioned Projects

TITLE	LOCATIONS	TIME	DATE	PROJECT MANAGER	CONTACT INFO
Covington	Various Locations			Sherl Rose	earthguardian56@aol.com
Court House	Court Square			Brenda Carroll	kcarrolltn@aol.com
Museum	TC Museum			Sherl Rose Lynda Carter	earthguardian56@aol.com bigorange63@aol.com
Ext Office Assistant	UT Ext Office			Booker T Leigh	bleigh1@utk.edu

My Garden Spot

Educational Opportunities

May 29,30	8:30am	Anthony's Herb Festival (Sanc.)	Anthony's Herb Garden
June 8	6:30pm	Composting Bob Miller	Baker Community Center
June 10-12	all day	Mississippi MG Conference	Southaven Arena
8-Jul	10:00am	Summer Celebration (Ceus)	UT Jackson
July 17	8:00am	Northwest TN Horticultural & Garden Expo	Dyer County High School Newbern, TN
August 6-8	All Day	Southern Home & Garden Expo	Shelby County Agricenter
24-Aug	6:00pm	Intern Graduation	Chamber Center
Sept.30-Nov.28		8th Annual Pumpkin Harvest Display	UT Exp. Station Jackson
October 7	3:00pm	UT Plant Sale and MG Meeting	UT Exp. Station Jackson

Garden Funnies

My Wife the Gardener

~ Peter (poem found in old magazine)

She dug the plot on Monday – the soil was rich and fine,
She forgot to thaw out dinner – so we went out to dine...
She planted roses Tuesday – she says they are a must,
They really are quite lovely but she quite forgot to dust.
On Wednesday it was daisies – they opened up with sun,
All whites and pinks and yellows – but the laundry wasn't done...
The poppies came on Thursday – a bright and cherry red,
I guess she really was engrossed – she never made the bed...
It was violets on Friday – in colours she adores,
It never bothered her at all – all crumbs upon the floors
I hired a maid on Saturday – my week is now complete,
My wife can garden all she wants – the house will still be neat!
It's nearly lunchtime Sunday – and I cannot find the maid,
Oh no! I don't believe it! She's out there WITH THE SPADE!

A farmer purchased an old, run-down, abandoned farm with plans to turn it into a thriving enterprise. The fields were grown over with weeds, the farmhouse was falling apart, and the fences were broken down. During his first day of work, the town preacher stops by to bless the man's work, saying, "May you and God work together to make this the farm of your dreams!" A few months later, the preacher stops by again to call on the farmer. Lo and behold, it's a completely different place. The farm house is completely rebuilt and in excellent condition, there is plenty of cattle and other livestock happily munching on feed in well-fenced pens, and the fields are filled with crops planted in neat rows.

"Amazing!" the preacher says. "Look what God and you have accomplished together!" "Yes, reverend," says the farmer, "but remember what the farm was like when God was working it alone!"

The Happy Gardener

If there is one thing gardeners like more than new plants, it's gardening friends, and what better place to find gardening friends than through the Master Gardeners' Program. Not everyone you meet (or friends and family for that matter) is interested in hearing you talk about composting, soil temperature, or deadheading. But, you can always find a Master Gardener who is not only interested in talking with you, but probably has good advice to offer on any number of gardening subjects. Where else can you go to a meeting that teaches you how to raise worms or attract more butterflies to your garden?

As this year's class of Master Gardener interns prepares for graduation, they have a lot to look forward to. It's nice to know you have accomplished the training and passed the tests, but it's even nicer to know you have made new gardening friends. What you have probably learned this past year is that you are now among not only avid gardening enthusiasts, but some folks who are obsessed with gardening. See if any of these characteristics apply to you—or the gardeners you know. If you answer yes to seven or more out of these characteristics, you are indeed addicted to gardening.

- 1) You browse the gardening center of any store you visit and would rather shop for plants than shoes.
- 2) You keep a big plastic tarp in your car so you can haul anything without blinking an eye.
- 3) There is a shovel, clippers, and old newspapers in your trunk—in case something needs to be rescued.
- 4) You ask the local coffee shop if you can have their coffee grounds for your compost.
- 5) You have a ceramic compost container on your kitchen cabinet.
- 6) People driving down your street expect to see you in your pajamas having morning coffee and watering plants.
- 7) Your spouse and children give you gardening tools for birthdays and Christmas.
- 8) You aren't squeamish about handpicking worms and bugs off your plants.
- 9) Colleagues at work offer you their shredded paper for earthworm food.
- 10) Try as you might, you can't stop being the plant police when co-workers neglect their office plants.
- 11) You can't discard when you thin seedlings.
- 12) The best garden tool is your bare hands. You love to feel your soil and plants.
- 13) You love saying the names of some plants because the sound of them makes you smile: melapodium, jewels of opar, pachysandra, euphorbia.
- 14) You can identify the flowers in centerpieces and funeral sprays—and actually find yourself doing just that.
- 15) You buy markdown plants not because you need them, but because you know you can save them.
- 16) You have a separate category in your Quicken account for "gardening." You have more photographs of your plants and flowerbeds than you do of grandchildren.
- 17) You keep your garden journals by your bedside for relaxing reading.
- 18) You can't throw away back issues of your gardening magazines.
- 19) You know there's always "room for one more plant."

Linda Weeks

The Happy Gardener

Mark your Calendar

Family Gardening Series (Memphis Botanical Garden)

August 14 & 28
(2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Who can take the heat? Garden issues in a Southern Summer

Learn all you ever wanted to know to have a successful Family Garden! Adults will have Garden Talk and Q&A with a gardening expert, while children participate in hands on learning and activities with a Garden PAL (Play and Learn instructor).

Pick and choose which programs are right for you or attend the whole series and learn it all!

Additional dates:

August 14 & 28
September 11

MBG members-Adults: \$4, Children: \$2
Non-members: Adults: \$8, Children: \$4

Call 636-4126 for reservations.

Horticultural Therapy Workshop (Memphis Botanical Garden)

Jul 23, 2010

Dr. Douglas Airhart will be the featured speaker at this annual event designed for those interested in using horticultural methods to achieve therapeutic results. Workshop includes a basic overview of horticultural therapy, evaluation and assessment information basic education in horticulture, demonstrations, and funding ideas.

\$25 includes lunch and Garden admission
Call 636-4128 to register.

Family Gardening Series (Memphis Botanical Garden)

August 14 & 28
(2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Garden Bounty-What to do with all of those tomatoes, cucumbers and squash!

Learn all you ever wanted to know to have a successful Family Garden! Adults will have Garden Talk and Q&A with a gardening expert, while children participate in hands on learning and activities with a Garden PAL (Play and Learn instructor).

Pick and choose which programs are right for you or attend the whole series and learn it all!

Additional dates:

August 14 & 28
September 11

MBG members-Adults: \$4, Children: \$2
Non-members: Adults: \$8, Children: \$4

Call 636-4126 for reservations.

Brown Bag Lunch and Learn (Memphis Botanical Garden)

Aug 11, 2010
(12:00 PM)

Whimsical Garden Wonders with Paul Little

Paul Little treats us to a visual tour of fairy houses, playful plantings, and other fantastical creations for spaces large and small...an hour full of ideas for your own garden designs and inspiration for the child in all of us! Bring your lunch or enjoy a box lunch from Fratelli's at the garden.

Members FREE
Non-members \$5

Call 636-4100 for information.
No reservations required.

Family Gardening Series (Memphis Botanical Garden)

Aug 14, 2010
(2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Wiping the slate clean-Preparing the garden for fall planting

Learn all you ever wanted to know to have a successful Family Garden! Adults will have Garden Talk and Q&A with a gardening expert, while children participate in hands on learning and activities with a Garden PAL (Play and Learn instructor). Pick and choose which programs are right for you or attend the whole series and learn it all!

Additional dates:
August 28
September 11

MBG members-Adults: \$4, Children: \$2
Non-members: Adults: \$8, Children: \$4

Call 636-4126 for reservations.

Family Gardening Series (Memphis Botanical Garden)

Aug 28, 2010
(2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Cooling Off-Cool weather crops for the south

Learn all you ever wanted to know to have a successful Family Garden! Adults will have Garden Talk and Q&A with a gardening expert, while children participate in hands on learning and activities with a Garden PAL (Play and Learn instructor).

Pick and choose which programs are right for you or attend the whole series and learn it all!

Additional dates:
September 11

MBG members-Adults: \$4, Children: \$2
Non-members: Adults: \$8, Children: \$4

Call 636-4126 for reservations.

Dixon Gardening School

Saturday, August 14
2010, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Dixon Gardening School is designed as a once-a-month series to help the novice gardener gain knowledge and confidence that will translate into better gardens. The two-hour sessions cover elements of design and theory, hands-on techniques of planting and maintaining a garden, plant selection, and the tools used to create gardens. Get recommendations about particular varieties of plants that Dale Skaggs and the Gardens staff maintain here at the Dixon. Learn which plants thrive in full sun and which do well in shade, which can tolerate drought, and which ones need frequent moisture.

August 14

We will focus upon drought-tolerant plants as well as spring-flowering bulbs to plant in the fall. In the garden we will demonstrate shearing plants for hedges and deadheading flowers to encourage re-blooming. During the design segment we will discuss the benefit of grouping plants with similar water requirements.

September 11

At the September session we will discuss and demonstrate the process of over-seeding cool season lawns. In addition to reviewing

what to do when bringing tender tropical plants inside for the winter, we will talk about the benefits and techniques of planting seeds of biennials in the fall for a show of spring flowers as well as cover fall garden-cleanup chores.

Saturdays: 10:30-12:30, Winegardner Auditorium

Reservations required

Members Fee: \$10 per session

Non-Member Fee: \$20 per session

Mid-South Native Plant Conference

From Friday, October 08 2010

To Sunday, October 10 2010

Every day

After a 13-year hiatus, the Mid-South Native Plant Conference returns to Memphis October 8 through October 10, 2010. With the theme “Natives and Beyond: Sustainable Plants, Gardens and Communities” the conference brings a world-class roster of nationally acclaimed horticulturalists, botanists, and other environmental experts to Memphis. The conference is hosted by Dixon Gallery and Gardens, 4339 Park Ave., Memphis, TN.

The purpose of the 2010 native plant conference is to promote awareness of the use of plant choices, horticultural practices and garden designs that work with nature and have a positive environmental impact. Attendees will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in sessions with world-class speakers who will provide the tools necessary for safe and ecological gardening to increase their own sustainability.

An optional guided field trip through Overton Park’s Old Forest and private garden tours will be offered on Sunday, October 10. Cost is \$100 with registration prior to September 1, 2010 and \$125 after includes light evening refreshments, continental breakfast, box lunch and on-site vendor access.

To register, call (901) 761-5250