



Garden Gazette

From our President

New Gardeners, New Friends

With a triumphant show of perseverance and knowledge, all of our interns passed their final exam the evening of April 20, 2010. Tipton County is blessed and downright lucky to have such a wonderful group of new Master Gardeners dedicated to helping make Tipton County a horticulturally more beautiful place to be. Both the community and the environment will benefit from these fine folks.

However, in the midst of all this, I have truly benefited and feel quite lucky

on a personal level. Each and every new Master Gardener is a unique and exceptional individual who has brought something special to our organization and to me. With the failing economy, I, like everyone else, am struggling to stay afloat with most of my attention being given to that goal. All of our new Master Gardeners have broken through my distractions and wiggled their way into my heart. I can truly, honestly and confidently say I have made a Garden Cart full of new friends. I will be forever grateful to them for having stuck with the course and for becoming a part of my life as well.



Someone once said, "A single rose can be my garden . . . a single friend, my world."

Welcome to the Tipton County Master Gardeners.

Beverly Moranville
President

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Extension Highlight

The Master Gardener racked up some impressive figures for 2009: We have 26 Master Gardeners and 15 Interns that donated 2,294 volunteer hours in 2009. The dollar value for a trained volunteer is \$20.25 per hour in Tennessee. Our Master Gardeners donated \$46,454 dol-

lars with their time in Tipton County. Way to go gang!!

The Tipton County Extension Staff made over 5,070 contacts to the residents of Tipton County:

- 238 clients visited the Extension Office for information dealing with horticulture, home

economics, crops and other agriculture related information.

- 1,310 clients called the Extension Office for information.
- The Extension staff had 247 group meetings that reached over 2,900 clients.

How to Choose Your Landscape Shrubs

Choosing the right shrub can make intriguing and interesting gardens and landscapes. Shrubs can literally define a green space and as they continue to grow, they can continually re-define the area. The variation in blooms and foliage as well as bark and berries can be amazing and spectacular.

Shrubs can be grown for their natural beauty or used to help screen for privacy or to hide objectionable views. If done right, you can have the screening and the beauty. Used as a focal point, the right shrub can grow more interesting from season to season and from year to year.

Viburnum is a genus that contains close to 150 species.

The viburnums that grow best in Illinois are deciduous. Some have fragrant blooms. Some have long-lasting, bright, red fruit for winter effect. Viburnums need well-drained soil and light shade to full sun.

The cultivar 'Mohawk' grows up to seven feet tall. Its fall leaf

color turns shades of orange, red, and reddish-purple that hang on in mild winters. In mild winters, the reddish flower buds survive to produce five-pointed white stars forming an abundance of domes.



The flowers are fragrant and can be smelled as far as 30 feet away.

Butterfly bush attracts butterflies. It often freezes to the ground but re-grows rapidly from its roots. In mild winters, there is very little if any die-back. The cultivar 'Argentea' has foot-long, trumpet-like flowers. Butterfly bushes tend to bloom most of the summer. The leaves are slender,

willow-like, and gray-green with a silver sheen. The plant needs a sunny, fertile, and well-drained spot.

Mock orange is a fast-growing shrub that reaches a height of 10 feet in just a few years after planting. When only half-grown, the plant will start producing white flowers that smell like orange blossoms.

Once established, this plant needs yearly pruning of the largest stems. Stems need to be cut between one and three inches above the soil line. 'Silver Showers' is a smaller-growing mock orange. 'Virginal' has probably the most intense fragrance, and 'Minnesota Snowflakes' probably produces the greatest number of blooms.

*James Schuster,
Horticulture Educator
University of Illinois Extension*

Extension Highlights (cont'd)

- The agents made over 103 on site visits that reached over 622 clients.
- The Extension agents also contributed 79 news articles and 60 T.V. programs to the local media.

The Extension Agents and Master Gardeners will diagnose plant problems from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Munford Park and Recreation center, 63 South College Street, Munford, TN.

Come and get all your questions answered about your trees, garden shrubs, lawn, etc.

The dates are June 10, June 24, July 22, and August 12.

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Plant of the Month — Peony

Fall for Peonies

One joy of May is the blooming peony. They are the backbone of the garden and require very little care. Single, double, semi-double and Japanese peonies are available in many colors.

Garden or herbaceous peonies have full, bushy stems 2-4 feet tall and die to the ground every year. Tree peonies grow taller and have a woody stem that remains above ground all year. Tree peonies produce many flowers on a shrub-like plant. A new addition is the fern leaf peony which has finely divided foliage that resembles a fern and single, deep red flowers.

Peonies do well in full sun to light shade. Choose a well drained location and try to find their permanent

home the first time around. The garden peony will live happily in the same spot for many years. They also rarely need dividing.

Cut back garden peony foliage in the fall at ground level to reduce the spread of *Botrytis* and *Phytophthora*. Tree peonies are never divided and never cut them back. They will benefit from mulching.

Fertilize in the spring when the flowers are about the size of a pea. Choose a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10.

Martha Smith, Horticulture Educator

University of Illinois Extension



**“Life is like a rose . . . More exquisite and precious,
When shared with others.”
- Jane Oechsle Lauer**

May Gardening Tips

* Plant gladioli bulbs in late May.

*Set out marigold, petunia, ageratum and fibrous begonia transplants. All are good border plants.

*To grow annuals in containers on the patio, use a light weight soil mixture. Keep the plants well-watered, because the soil dries out fast. Apply a water soluble fertilizer according to package directions every two weeks.

*Watering roses with soaker hoses or drip irrigation will reduce the spread of black spot disease.

*Plant ground covers under shade trees that do not allow enough sunlight to grow grass. Vinca minor or English ivy are ground cover plants that grow well in shade.

*Mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs. This practice reduces weeds, controls fluctuations in soil temperature, retains moisture, prevents damage from lawn mowers and looks attractive.

*When you visit botanical gardens and arboretums, take your camera and note pad with you. Plan now for changes you will make in your landscape.

*For maximum landscape interest in a small, vertical space, try annual vines. They can disguise ugly walls and fences. When trellised, they can create shade and privacy while hiding undesirable views. Try morning glory, nasturtium vine and scarlet runner bean.

*Plan a landscaping project on paper first. Do not over plant. Be sure you know the mature size of each plant and allow for growth.

*Lawns maintained at the correct height are less likely to have disease and weed infestation. Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue should be mowed at two or three inches in height. Mow frequently, removing no more than one third of the blade at each cutting.

*Cabbage loopers and imported cabbage worms are green worms. They leave large holes in the leaves of plants in the cabbage family. For control, caterpillars can be picked off by hand or sprayed with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a natural, non-toxic preparation available by various trade names.

May Gardening Tips (cont.)

*Newly transplanted vegetable plants should be protected from cutworms with collars. Cut strips of cardboard two inches wide by eight inches long, staple them into circles and place them around the plants. Press the collar about one inch into the soil. These collars will fence out the cutworms and protect the stems of the vegetable plants.

*Stay out of the garden when the vegetable plant leaves are wet.

Walking through a wet garden spreads disease from one plant to another.

* Four or five layers of newspaper will serve as an effective mulch in the garden. Cover it with compost or straw to prevent it from blowing away.

*Put tools away at the end of the day. Clean them and hang them up so they are ready to use and

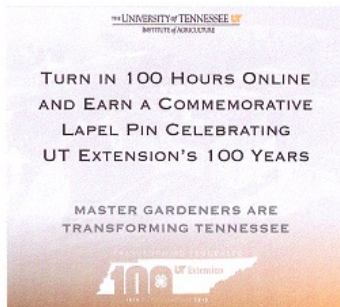
easy to find when you need them.

*To better evaluate your gardening successes, keep weather records along with garden records. The most important items to report are daily minimum and maximum temperatures, precipitation, cloud cover and frost occurrences.

LET'S CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING TENNESSEE!



The Tennessee Master Gardener program is marking this milestone by offering each Master Gardener (Certified or Intern) who turns in 100 hours or more ONLINE a commemorative UT Extension Lapel pin.



The only conditions are:

1. The approved hours must be served during the 2010 (or for 2010 certification/recertification) the Centennial Year of UT Extension.
2. Lapel pins should be ordered by Extension staff only. Staff should email ebabbit@utk.edu Subject: Centennial Pins with the number of pins needed, the county name and shipping address.



My Garden Spot



Before ~ May 2002



Today May 2010

Our front entry area is my favorite garden spot. When we first moved in we did a little landscaping without thought of what things would look like years later. But eventually the bushes we planted in front of the door and windows grew big enough that they blocked the view out and the view from the street. We also found ourselves cutting across the lawn when unloading groceries from the car.

To fix this, I pulled up the bush by the front door, pruned the bush in front of the bedroom window, put in a arched walkway from the area of the back of the car is when parked to the front door. We put in some miniature hollies along the outside of the walkway and near the doorway also added some irises, and rose bushes.

The area inside the arched walkway made a nice area for a flowerbed, so I dug out the existing clay and put in a French drain under the sidewalk to ensure good drainage. We filled the bed with "garden mix" soil from Nature's Earth and mixed in lots of compost. Then we started planting. In the center is a Japanese Maple, surrounded by three barberry bushes. Then around those we planted dianthus "Firewitch", Mediterranean white heather, Happy returns daylily, Kim's knee high coneflower, artemesia "silver mound", and put Big Blue liriopse around the edges.

These changes have created a more inviting front entrance, that is beautiful as well as more functional for us.

Educational Opportunities

May 11	6:30pm	Lawn Care Booker T Leigh	Baker Community Center
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
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 Pumkin Harvest Display	UT Exp. Station Jackson
October 7	3:00pm	UT Plant Sale and MG Meeting	UT Exp. Station Jackson

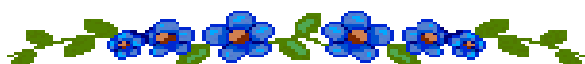
Sanctioned Projects

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

Garden Funnies

12 Rules for Gardeners

Expanded by
shirleyt@craftsayings.com

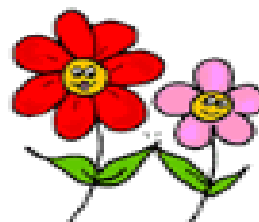


If it's pretty ... plant it.
 If it's measly ... mulch it.
 If it wilts ... water it.
 If it sunburns ... shade it.



If it grows ... prune it.
 If it's a friend ... protect it.
 If it's a pest ... swat it.
 If it's a weed ... pull it.

If it's a fungus ... spray it.
 If it's dead ... compost it.
 If it tastes good ... pick it.
 If it flowers ... flaunt it.



You know you are a serious gardener when:

- You can remember the date to plant the potatoes better than you can remember your own birthday.
- You suffer from zone envy. No matter what winter hardiness zone you live in, you will insist on growing plants from the next warmest zone.
- You're running out of places to garden, but under your fingernails looks promising.
- You don't hesitate to book an extra moving van just to move your plants.
- You would rather share your toothbrush than your hand pruners.
- You carry more photos of your garden in your wallet than photos of the kids.
- In the middle of winter you start cultivating the mold in the refrigerator just to see something grow.
- On vacation your car automatically turns into every garden center and botanic garden along the way.
- Instead of throwing out the sprouting potatoes in your vegetable bin, you plant them.
- You know far too much about manure and you insist on sharing that information with your friends during dinner parties.
- You never have dinner before sunset during the summer – ever.
- You delight in the harvest of the first carrot. The \$25 and 20 hours of work to produce it seems irrelevant.
- You wonder if your weirdly shaped potatoes look more like Meryl Streep or Jodie Foster.
- It's common for you to find seeds in your pockets as you prepare your laundry for washing. Trouble is you often can't remember where the seeds came from.
- You quickly go from despair over a dead plant to glee over buying a new one.
- Your neighbors don't recognize your face because that's usually not the end they see.
- You hesitate when your spouse says there's not enough room in the house for both her/him and the houseplants.
- A new chipper/shredder as a wedding anniversary gift is not considered immediate grounds for divorce.
- Your houseguests are afraid to stay in the guest bedroom because the philodendron looks hungry.
- In your will it states your final resting place will be a companion planting with your spouse in the garden.
- You insist on saving all 225 tomato seedlings even though you only need 6.
- Your hands retain furrows deep enough to plant bean seeds.
- You have to kill a certain plant at least three times in three different places before it occurs to you that maybe you should quit trying.
- You know exactly how to run the leaf shredder, but you haven't quite figured out how to get the DVD clock to quit flashing.
- Your idea of winter fun is sticking your hand in the compost pile to feel if it's hot.
- While you are waiting in the doctor's office, you find yourself removing dead leaves from the houseplants.
- Your criteria for a quality doctor include the health of the waiting room plants.
- Your children have names like Hyacinth, Iris, Flora Bunda, Lon Moore, and Phil O'Dendron.

If the above signs apply to you, but it doesn't cause you to run screaming into traffic, then you know you are a seriously mad gardener. Happy Holly Days!

Tipton County Master Gardeners

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Grow Better
Communities***