



June 29, 2011

Tipton County Master Gardener's

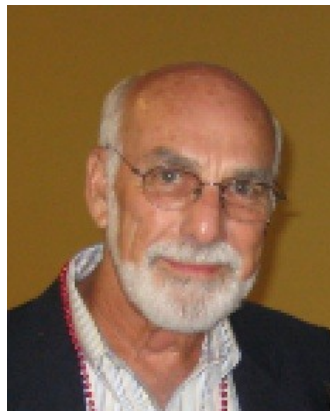
Volume 2, Issue 7

Garden Gazette

From Our President

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Today is the first day of summer and the temperature was much better than the last days of spring. The rains came late but has done wonders for our lawns and gar-

dens, now I have to deal with the grass in the garden.

Alma and I certainly enjoyed having the June meeting in our backyard. Wish more could have attended but we had a good group. Thanks for all the side dishes and desserts you brought, everything was delicious.

Thank you Beverly for coming and reporting on the progress for the

trip in September. And, thank you Master Gardeners for voting to share part of the bus expense. Beverly has put together a great trip.

July 7th will be our regular monthly meeting. Hope to see you there at 6:00 p.m.

Vernon Pairmore
President

Please start turning in your volunteer hour sheets to Booker. Thank you!

I look upon the pleasure which we take in a garden as one of the most innocent delights in human life. *Cicero*

Extension Highlights

With the hot weather we are having now, here are some things we can do to keep our plants looking good and keep us safe while working in the yard:

- 1) Do as much gardening work as possible early in the morning when it's cool. Also a good time to work in the yard is late in the evening as the sun

sets, but before it gets dark.

- 2) If you decide to work in your garden, wait until the dew gets off of your vegetables.

- 3) Take lots of breaks while working in the yard during hot weather and drink lots of water or some other type of thirst drink. (No alcohol when

working in the yard).

- 4) Wear some type of sun screen to protect your skin from heat rash.

- 5) Early morning is the ideal time to water your plants. When you water in the morning you have less wind, milder temperatures and adequate water pressure. The water has time to soak to the roots before

Extension Highlights (continued)



it starts evaporating.

6) Harvest vegetables as soon as they are ripe.

7) Remove plants from the garden when they have finished producing. This will stop the plants from using water and fertilizer. Also this will help cut down on diseases and insects from getting in your garden.

8) Reduce the amount of fertilizer you put on your plants during hot and dry weather, especially nitrogen fertilizer. This can put your plant under more

stress because it is trying to put on new growth.

9) To keep your roses looking good all summer, fertilize plants every six to eight weeks with a fertilizer such as 6-12-12, 10-10-10, or 13-13-13. Keep granular fertilizer off the stems and leaves. A weekly application of fungicide will help control powdery mildew and black spot. Roses require about an inch of water per week per bush, early morning is the best time to water. Keep the water off

the foliage. Remove dead blooms to keep plants blooming and to encourage new growth. Prune dead and diseased canes anytime, but do not prune severely in the summer. Keep newly planted trees and shrubs well watered during hot weather. Apply generous amounts of water and allow it to soak deeply into the ground. Watering in small amounts encourages shallow root growth, which can kill the plant over time.

July Garden Tasks

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever.

Richard Briers

Even though this year June has been very hot, July is normally the beginning of the hot and dry period for the Mid-South. The key to garden survival this month is ample water and mulch. Do not plant trees and shrubs during July, if you must be prepared to stay on top of the watering.

Early this month

Cut back asters, chrysanthemums, and other fall bloomers until about the 15th of this month. This keeps them compact, increases flower numbers, and pushes the bloom time a little later into the fall.

Mulch your trees and shrubs to retain moisture with at least 2 inches of mulch if you haven't already.

Lightly prune roses to encourage more flowers if you are not producing roses for show.

It is not too late to start or over seed a warm season lawn.

Fertilize your warm season lawn grasses with a complete fertilizer that contains a slow release nitrogen

Raise your mower blade a little higher in the hot dry conditions.

Watch for broadleaf weeds in your lawn, and treat with a post emergent broad leaf herbicide if needed.

Middle of the month

Slugs eat plants and are active on warm summer nights in well watered gardens. Watch for these nocturnal gastropods, and bait for them with non-toxic iron phosphate. Don't use products containing toxic metaldehyde baits if pets will be around. A dish of beer, if monitored daily, will attract and drown them.

End of the month

This month is the last call for planting summer annuals like impatiens, coleus, begonias, and caladiums.

Anytime this month

Water your lawn during dry spells because an active vigorous growing grass helps to keep weeds from taking hold

Dead head and stake your perennials.

Mulch your garden with 1 to 2 inches of organic material to thwart weeds and prepare for the dry summer. It is best to weed first, and then apply fertilizer or lime if needed before mulching.

Annual flowers that are leggy can be cut back to encourage bushiness and blooms



Tomato Plant Folklore Can Be Wrong

Last Updated: June 03, 2011

Released May 26, 2011

HUTCHINSON, Kan. – Sometimes oft-repeated gardening lore is folk wisdom. Sometimes it's just plain wrong. A case in point is the common advice to plant tomato transplants deep – up to the first leaf, covering about 75 percent of the stem, said Pam Paulsen, horticulturist with K-State Research and Extension. “Tomatoes actually will develop roots along planted sections of stem. But, those adventitious roots take a long time to form and begin to function. That's contrary to the main goal in all transplanting: to get plants to re-establish their root system as quickly as possible,” Paulsen said. Researchers have seen no evidence that planting tomatoes deeply results in a larger, stronger or more efficient total root system, she added. Several studies, however, have identified why deeply planted tomatoes adjust so slowly. “It's common-sense botany. Because the transplant's roots and part of its stem end up deeper in the soil than they were in the container, they're where the soil has less oxygen and the temperature is cooler. If tomato plants liked those conditions, we could plant them earlier in spring,” Paulsen said. Gardeners who buy large, overgrown tomato transplants sometimes set them in deeply enough to keep the vines from whipping around in the wind. “That's mostly a ‘making the best of a bad situation’ practice,” Paulsen said. “As always, the best transplants are the short, stout ones – not the big ones with roots trailing out of their container's drainage hole. In fact, studies have found that throughout the entire life of tomato transplants, the large plants will never reach the productivity of the smaller ones.”



Quilt Garden Blankets Capital Plaza Grounds

By Carol Spence
LEXINGTON, Ky., (Jun 16, 2010)



Quilts are part of Kentucky's heritage, so when members of the Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners Association were looking for a community service project, the idea of a quilt garden seemed like a perfect fit. The group recently spent the better part of a day planting a modified windmill quilt pattern in a 39-by-10-foot

bed overlooked by the Capital Plaza Tower in Frankfort.

The idea, like any good garden, took some planning. They found inspiration by touring quilt gardens in other Kentucky counties, including many of Fleming County's gardens, and also explored the Internet for ideas. That was where they ran across a group of counties in northern Indiana, which is heavily populated by Amish, where quilt gardens abound, attracting a great number of visitors to the area. "A lot of things came together to make this happen-us being here in the state capital, the World Equestrian Games coming (in the fall), and there being a beautification commit-

tee here in Frankfort," said Kim Cowherd, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension horticulture agent in Franklin County. "We know the folks that do the grounds here, just because it's a small community. And the manager of the grounds approached them (the Master Gardeners) about doing a bed or some maintenance on beds or some education. So it just kind of evolved from there." "We looked at a lot of designs and did a lot of discussion," said Judy Bradley, quilt garden committee chairperson. "We got in contact with Jud Browning at the state greenhouse, and he was wonderful. He gave us all the plants and got the bed ready."

"Most people don't see the sun, soil, bugs, seeds plants, moon, water, clouds and wind, the way gardeners do".

Jamie Jobb





Master Gardener Terry Parker drew the chosen design to scale, and Sue Van Patten, secretary of the Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners Association, calculated the number of plants they would need to fill the bed. The final quilt garden has four squares with two different color combinations alternating between squares.

The gardeners used five different varieties of alternanthera, a foliage plant. Cowherd said alternanthera is a versatile plant for beds with graphic designs, such as a quilt pattern. It has an assortment of varieties, each one with a different leaf color. It's the plant that is often used to create the floral clock on the grounds of the state Capitol.

Using this foliage plant has its advantages, as it will stay compact, is easily trimmed to retain its shape, and the gardeners won't have to worry about deadheading spent blooms. Extension Master Gardeners is a program offered through UK Cooperative Extension. Though the Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners Association is based in the Franklin County Extension office, members came from Franklin, Anderson, Woodford, Mercer and Boyle counties to take the Master Gardener course, which provides participants with technical horticultural training. "It's a new program here in our county, so they wanted to stay together as a group and represent this whole area. Hence the name,"

Cowherd said. In Franklin County, the Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners have participated in Reforest Frankfort, answered questions at the farmers market and recently organized a plant sale. They also help Cowherd answer gardening questions from people who call or come by the extension office. They will help with Cooperative Extension's Farm/City Field Day in July. "Of course, we can do anything. We're Master Gardeners," Bradley said. "And Kim has our back," she added with a smile.

For more information about the Extension Master Gardening program, contact the local Cooperative Extension county office.

Contact: *Kim Cowherd*, 502-695-9035

Plant of the Month **Crococsmia X**

Growing a garden and staying out in the fresh air after office hours seems to give me the strength to meet all problems with greater courage.

Jim G. Brown



Crocospmia 'Lucifer' can reach heights of up to 4 feet and is one of the most popular crocospmia cultivars in America. (Photo by A. Pulte.)

When June transitions into July and the coolness of spring is a distant memory, crocospmia enters as a bright spot in the garden. *Crocospmia X* refers to any hybrid or cross of the seven known species of plants in the genus *Crocospmia*. In my experience most gardeners simply refer to the plant as crocospmia, however those in the floral industry tend to refer to it as Montbretia. This name is derived from the French botanist and plant collector Antoine Fran-

çois Ernest Coquebert de Montbret (1781-1801). He apparently hung out with Napoleon in Egypt. If you type his name into a search engine you may want to have a French - English dictionary handy to wade through his life story. The genus and common name crocospmia is derived from two Greek words - *krokos* (saffron) and *osme* (smell), pointing out the fact that when dried and rubbed, crocospmia leaves have a fragrance similar to saffron. When not in bloom crocospmia adds great texture to the garden with its sword-like foliage pointing in every direction. In fact, there are cultivars available that are arguably valued the most for their foliage. *Crocospmia 'Solfaterre'* is a plant that has more traditional iris-like foliage that boasts a chocolate copper tone. This paired with the plant's soft yellow-orange flowers makes it a treat for garden designers. My first experience with cro-

cosmia came with the devilishly named cultivar 'Lucifer.' This is without a doubt the most popular cultivar in America. Lucifer's deep orange-red flowers born on graceful sprays extend high above the perennial border. Like other cultivars of this plant, the flowers are as equally attractive in bud as they are in their fully open state. *Crocospmia* is a cormous perennial native to the grassland in South Africa, so those wishing to be successful with this plant should recognize that "wet feet" are not an option. Well-drained soil is highly preferred. Additionally, after a few years the plants will become crowded and need to be divided and shared. Overcrowding will lead to lack-luster flowering. For the best blooms, plant crocospmia in full-sun. If you have not yet added this plant to your garden, this month is one of the best to identify the right one for your landscape.



Getting to Know Our Master Gardeners



Name: Brenda Carroll

Birth Place: Covington at Witherington Clinic

Gardening background: I grew up on Walton Loop. We grew strawberries, purple hull peas, corn for sale and a vegetable garden. My grandmother had a rose bush that we cut roses from for Sunday dinner. My aunts all have a piece of this rose bush now. Grandma grew everything we ate right there in the garden. When the garden was growing, I would go out with her to pick everything to help her make lunch every day. She always had a pot of soup on the stove and all the leftovers would go into that pot. By the end of the week, it was so good. That was the best soup you could ever eat with a piece of cornbread. In the winter she would just send my down to the cellar to get the jars of vegetables. I don't think our kids understand FRESH food like we did.

How did you get your start in gardening? When I built my house I began getting plants from my mother and my grandmother's best friend (Ms. Taylor) who could grow anything. She got a piece of a plant from everyone she knew and she always shared. She had a story about most of her plants. Ms. Taylor said to make a start from a bush, put it next to the mama plant until it got a good start and then you could move it. As I got older and spent more time at home, I realized I enjoyed being outside and planting and watching things grow.

How long have you been gardening? Since 1975 when I built my house, I started getting plants from everyone to bring to the house.

Favorite Gardening activity and why (i.e. flower gardening, vegetable gardening, butterflies, wildlife, etc.): I like water gardening and vegetable gardening (small size). When my brother married his wife, she had a Koi pond in her living room. Several years later they helped me build a Koi pond outside. I love to grow my own tomatoes and herbs.

What is your favorite plant? I have a bush that I got a piece of after Ms Taylor died. She called it a beauty bush. It has bright orange flowers that look like a tangerine before they bloom. I am not even sure what it is. The closest picture I have found is a pomegranate. It is beautiful in bloom. I have violet and yellow four-o'clocks that to me make a great show of color for months and are so enjoyable around the edges of the yard. Besides that I love my hostas. I have some giant ones.

What is your favorite gardening tool? Clippers

What is a plant/flower that you would recommend to other gardeners? Any hardy Hosta - for shady areas they don't require much and give a lot in return.

What is a plant/flower you would tell them to avoid? Any invasive ground cover – I have something I got from someone that literally took over my whole back yard. It was so pretty but man it will choke out just about any plant or grass. If it is everywhere – don't bring it to your house.

What is your best gardening tip? Do one bed at a time and don't put in more than you can keep up with.

How long have you been a Master Gardener? 5 years

How did you find out about the Master Gardener Program? I went to a lawn and garden show in Jackson with 2 of my sister-in-laws and they signed me up. Two of us took the Tipton County class in 2005 and one took the class in Fayette County in 2008.

Anything else you would like to share about yourself and gardening? It is a great way to relax and to have fun. Just like the Master Gardeners. My goal is to have fun and enjoy whatever I am doing. My son said if you are doing something for fun and it becomes too much work then you need to take a look at yourself. He is right so I am trying to pull my plants into spaces together instead of having them spread out everywhere.

Garden Recipes



GARDEN VEGETABLE RELISH

- 3 lbs. tomatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 lbs. sm. zucchini, chopped
- 2 medium green peppers, seeded and diced
- 1 1/2 c. sliced green onions
- 1 c. sliced celery
- 1/4 c. canning salt
- Ice
- 2 c. cider vinegar
- 1 1/4 c. sugar
- 1 tbsp. mustard seed
- 1 tsp. each turmeric, celery seed

Combine tomatoes, zucchini, green pepper, green onion, and celery in a large bowl. Stir in salt, make sure vegetables are well coated. Cover with ice. Refrigerate 2 to 3 hours. Drain vegetables. Prepare home canning jars and lids according to manufacturer's directions.

Combine vinegar, sugar, mustard seed, turmeric, and celery seed in a large sauce pot. Bring to a boil. Add drained vegetables and return to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer about 30 minutes. Carefully ladle into hot jars, leaving 1/4 inch head space. Adjust caps. Process 15 minutes in a boiling water bath canner. Makes about eight (8 ounce) jars.

Mark Your Calendar

Diagnostic clinics at Munford Recreation Center, 63 Munford Street

Wednesday July, 6, July 20, July 27, August 3, and August 17

3:00 to 5:30 PM

Memphis Botanic Garden

Brown Bag Lunch and Learn

Jul 13, 2011 (12:00 PM)

Ornamental Grasses with Chris Cosby.

The Garden's own Chris Cosby will talk about grasses and how they work in our environment. Many ornamental grasses are drought tolerant, will handle difficult soils, and are a great way to add visual interest to your yard or garden. 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.

Memphis Botanic Garden

The Natural Areas of West Tennessee

Jul 26, 2011 (6:30 PM)

TDEC Stewardship Ecologist Allan Trently will share beautiful photographs of our West Tennessee State Natural Areas and discuss what makes each one special and worthy of a visit. Part of the 4th Annual Naturalist's Guide to the Mid-South Summer Lecture Series, sponsored by the Wolf River Conservancy and Memphis Botanic Garden.

Free to WRC & MBG members/non-members \$4.

Call 452-6500 or 636-4116 for more information, or visit www.wolfriver.org.

Memphis Botanic Garden

Flower Arranging 101 with Rick Pudwell

Aug 26, 2011 (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

Learn to make a basic centerpiece in this 2-hour workshop. All floral supplies are provided, and each participant will take home a centerpiece at the end of class. Participants should bring their own bowl at least 1 ½ deep and approximately 7" round. Containers will be available for an additional fee.

MBG members \$25/non-members \$30.

Call 636-4128 to register by August 22.

Mark Your Calendar

Memphis Botanic Garden

Arborist Certification Prep Course

Sep 6, 2011 - Dec 13, 2011 (6:00 PM - 8:00 PM)

This course is for students who wish to enhance their knowledge of tree identification, function, evaluation, and maintenance. This course also provides preparatory information and/or review for students who wish to take the "Certified Arborist Examination" designated by the International Society of Arboriculture's certification program. Some of the topics to be covered are tree biology, soil properties, water management, nutrition and fertilization, tree pruning, selection, disease and problem diagnosis. Required Text: "Certified Arborist Study Guide" 2010 edition, available through the I.S.A. bookstore. Website: www.isa-arbor.com.

The Certified Arborist exam must be approved thru the I.S.A. and will be administered after the course is complete. Applications and proper payment for the exam must be received only in the I.S.A. office no later than twelve working days before a scheduled exam. NO LATE PAYMENTS ACCEPTED. Exam fee separate from class fee. Anyone applying for the exam must also show at least three years involvement in the field of arboriculture.

Instructor: Wes Hopper

Fee: \$375

Call 636-4128 to register.

Dixon Gallery and Garden

Munch and Learn: The Baroque Landscape: French Influence upon Garden Design

Wednesday, July 20, 2011 - 12 pm

During this slide presentation, Director of Horticulture Dale Skaggs will discuss the history and relationships of several key French gardens and the impact of French styles and techniques upon the world of horticulture.

Non-Member Fee: Regular Admission

Dixon Gallery and Garden

Munch and Learn: Water in the Garden

Wednesday, August 24, 2011 - 12 pm

The sound of moving water, a flash of darting fish and dragonflies, and the beauty of a water lily are simple pleasures that can make any garden a special place to be. Join Jesse Howley, Manager of Grounds Horticulture, to discuss the basics of water gardens and how to care for them.

Non-Member Fee: Regular Admission

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Sunday,

Mark Your Calendar

Dixon Gallery and Garden

Symphony in the Gardens

Sunday, September 25, 2011 - 5 pm

Enjoy the abundance of the Dixon Gardens while taking in the sounds of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

Dixon Gallery and Garden

Munch and Learn: Butterfly Gardens

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 - 12 pm

Kristin Lamberson, the Interpretive Garden Specialist who maintains the native plant garden at the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, will tell us how to attract butterflies to our gardens.

Non-Member Fee: Regular Admission

UT Jackson West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center

Summer Celebration Lawn & Garden Show

July 14, 2011

Admission: \$5.00

UT Jackson Field Days

For more information about field days and special events, including start times and locations, contact your county Extension office or visit UT AgResearch online at http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/news/Field_Days.

August 2 — Steak and Potatoes

August 30 — Fall Gardeners' Festival

September 7 — Cotton Tour

September 15 — Turf grass

September 27 — Forest Resources

September 29 — Pumpkin

October 13 — Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo Special Events

October 8 — Heritage Festival

October 15 — Fall Folklore Jamboree

Celebrate Munford

Saturday, September 17, 2011

Downtown Munford, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Covington Heritage Festival

Saturday, September 25, 2010 · 9:00am - 5:00pm

Location On the Square in Covington, TN

Master Gardener Trip to Mobile, Alabama

September 29 to October 2

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We're on the Web:

TiptonCountyMasterGardeners.com

FaceBook

<https://utextension.tennessee.edu/tipton/Pages/default.aspx>



The Tipton County Master Gardener Program trains and maintains horticulture volunteers for the University of Tennessee (UT) Extension Office. The goals of this program shall be to increase the availability of horticultural information for their members and the community at large and to improve the quality of life for the residents of Tipton County through horticulture volunteer activities.

2011 Garden Book Awards Announced

Alexandria, VA (March 22, 2011). Each year, the American Horticultural Society (AHS) recognizes outstanding gardening books published in North America with its annual Book Award. Books are judged by the AHS Book Award Committee on qualities such as writing style, authority, originality, accuracy, and design quality. This year's four recipients, published in 2010, are:

Armitage's Vines and Climbers by Allan M. Armitage (Timber Press)

Edible Landscaping by Rosalind Creasy (Sierra Club Books)

From Art to Landscape by W. Gary Smith (Timber Press)

Gardening for a Lifetime by Sydney Eddison (Timber Press)

The 2011 Book Award Committee was chaired by Scott Calhoun, a garden designer and author based in Tucson, Arizona. Other committee members were Brandy Kuhl, head librarian at the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture in San Francisco, California; Doug Green, a garden writer and online media entrepreneur based in Stella, Ontario; Susan Appleget Hurst, a garden communicator in Winterset,

Iowa; Greg Williams, producer of *HortIdeas* newsletter in Gravel Switch, Kentucky; Irene Virag, a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist, formerly with *Newsday*, who lives in Fort Salonga, New York; and William Welch, a professor and Extension specialist at Texas A&M University in College Station and author of several garden books.