



Our Mission

The Bradley County Master Gardeners promote environmental stewardship through a network of volunteers who provide research-based information and education to Tennessee communities in home gardening and related areas. As part of our mission, the program supports continued education and development for committed volunteers.

2015 Officers

Bradley County Extension Agent
Kim Frady

kfrady1@utk.edu

Agricultural Extension Agent
Patrick Sweatt

psweatt@utk.edu

President, Faith Sharp

ofm@ooltewahnursery.com

Vice President, Julie Halsey

djhalsey2008@att.net

Co-VP, Nancy Hoffman

nancyhoffman49@yahoo.com

Secretary, Linda Merritt

clanofmany@aol.com

Treasurer, Steve Humberd

Membership Administrator

Johnnie Arnett

jarnett68@charter.net

Project Coordinators,

Bruce and Phyllis Tilden

phyllis@uncommonink.com

Historian, Ricky Tallent

ricky.tallent.bcjc@gmail.com

Next meeting: August 6

BCMGs talk about the Junior Master Gardener program with their Hamilton County counterparts



On June 18, Bradley County Master Gardeners Deb Flower, Leslie Humberd and Ricky Tallent shared the nuts and bolts of our highly successful Junior Master Gardener program at the monthly meeting of the Master Gardeners of Hamilton County. Several others from Bradley County also attended.



Patrick Says **Water, water, everywhere**

The week-long flooding event has left a lot of gardeners with saturated soils, standing water and muddy boots! One question that I would imagine Master Gardeners might get would be in relation to flooding. If plants are standing in flooded groundwater, then they are often still safe to eat. However, if a garden is subjected to flooding surface water (such as if a creek jumps its banks and floods your watermelons) then they are deemed unsaleable by the FDA and we recommend that you don't eat them. So what can you do to help in the case of a flood event? I recommend garden practices that increase soil organic matter, grass buffers around gardens, or the use of swales to corral sheeting surface water.

Patrick Sweatt,
Agricultural Extension Agent



Volunteer and CEU Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ **Mondays, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Greenway Table**
Barring bad weather, you can help educate the community, plus weed, water and more for rest of season. Contact Patrick Sweatt at psweatt@utk.edu
- ◆ **August 25 Junior Master Gardener classes begin**
The JMG program is an alternative sentencing option for youth between the ages of 13 and 17 who find themselves in trouble with the court system. The goals of this project are to teach the students many facets of gardening while providing positive learning with hands-on experiences.
Classes are held every Tuesday evening starting August 25, from 5:30 - 7:30 at the Juvenile Court House on Johnson Ave. For more information, contact Leslie Humberd at lhumberdpersonal@gmail.com.
- ◆ **Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m. Cowpea Festival**
A great opportunity to help festival attendees with their gardening questions and conundrums. The festival is held at Charleston City Park, Charleston, TN.

Continuing Education Opportunities

- ◆ **Outdoor classes—Greenway Table**
Learn about sprayers, nonchemical weed control and other advanced techniques. To reserve your spot, print the registration form on page 3 and return to Extension office asap.
- ◆ **Upcoming classes—Ooltewah Nursery & Landscape Co., Inc./ 5829 Main Street/ Ooltewah, TN 37363**
Contact: 423-238-9775

Build a Kitty Garden

Saturday, June 18, 10:00 a.m.

Attracting Pollinators

Thursday, June 30, 3:30 p.m.

Cooking with Pete

Thursday, August 20, 3:30 p.m.

Fall Gardening

Thursday, August 27, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 29, 10:00 a.m.



Interested in perennials? Here's a suggested reading:
Essential Perennials, by Ruth Rogers Clausen and Thomas Christopher

"*Essential Perennials* helps you decide exactly which plants will bring you the beauty you want and will thrive in the conditions you can provide." An extensive reference.



Jerry and Ernie Eppinga get set to help educate people on the health benefits of growing food and working outside in the garden. The BCMG booth was part of the Medical Center Pharmacy health fair held on June 18.

Facts from Faith: Fall Garden Prep

Time to start thinking and planning for your fall garden. Prepare space, start seedlings. Till in cover crops, soil test, adding to correct pH or deficiencies in soil. Water vegetable gardens when indicator plant wilts, usually squash or cucumber plant, on soil not plants. Mow Fescue lawn at higher height to reduce stress. Deadhead flowers to promote growth and flowering. Trim perennials that are tired or spent. Cracked fruit like tomatoes is caused from lack of water followed by excess water, hard to control with pop up storms we have had. Stay hydrated and work smarter not harder!

Faith Sharp, President, BCMG, Master Gardener

Bearded Iris is one of the South's most popular perennials. If you are a beginner with iris, these 5 steps will help you grow healthy plants that produce quality blooms.

**Kim's
Corner**

1. Choose soil with good drainage in a sunny spot. Iris may bloom in light shade for a year or two, but they thrive and flower much better in full sun.

2. Prepare soil thoroughly two to three weeks before planting. Soil test to see what your soil actually needs. Clay or compacted soil need some well-rotted organic matter.

3. Plant rhizomes shallow. Don't plant deeper than 3/4 to 1 inch. The best time to plant is from mid-July through September, as soon as plants go dormant after blooming. Water if and when the soil dries out.

4. Keep your iris beds free of weeds and grass. Iris do not need much fertilizer if the soil was fertilized appropriately when planted.

5. When plants get too crowded, take up plants, divide rhizomes, trim back leaves and reset. This is usually every 3 to 5 years, but you can reset every couple of years for a greater increase in rhizomes.

Kim Frady, Bradley County Extension Agent

Hands On in the Garden

This summer, we're taking it **outside** to learn about the technical side of gardening and small vegetable production in an approachable **hands-on** format.

We will be covering and working with **sprayers, non-chemical weed control, cover crops, season extension** and other advanced gardening techniques.



Classes will be held at the UT/TSU Extension Demonstration Garden located next to Mayfield Elementary School in Cleveland on **August 4 and 11 and September 15 and 22** from 5:30-7pm.



Please cut and detach this form and mail to the UT/TSU Extension Office (95 Church St SE, Cleveland, TN 37311) with \$10 to hold your spot.

Checks can be made out to **UT Extension Bradley County**.

Name _____

Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Email _____

What is **one topic** that you would especially like to see covered?