

Cumberland County Master Gardeners 2025 Classes in the Garden (Events included)

NOTE: Speaker Confirmed dates and speakers shown in blue. All dates are tentative until approved by UT PREC staff.



All classes are held at the UT Plateau Research and Education Center's Plateau Discovery Garden indoor classroom, except as otherwise indicated. Please register early. If fewer than five people are registered one week prior, the class may be canceled.





denotes a child friendly class

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| <p>Wednesday, Feb. 26 1-3 pm</p> | <p>Turfs Up - Weeds Down <i>Gregg Upchurch, UT Extension Agent Cumberland County</i> Join us for a discussion of selection, planting, and maintenance of your lawn. Learn best practices to control weeds in your turf. This is the time to fix your lawn issues!</p> |
| <p>Saturday, March 29 9-11am</p> | <p>Vegetable Gardening 101 <i>Fred Mullen & Sid Morgan, Master Gardeners</i> For the vegetable garden of your dreams, get Master Gardener advice on how to plant, grow and harvest.</p> |
| <p>Thursday, April 3 1-3 pm</p> | <p>Home Grown Blackberries <i>Gregg Upchurch, UT Extension Agent</i> Learn how to grow plateau-proven blackberry varieties in your garden. Get UT science-based advice on planting, care, disease control, pruning and harvesting. Don't miss this new class!</p> |
| <p>Thursday, April 10 10 am - noon</p> | <p>TWRA, The Good Guys Wear Green <i>Mime Barnes, TWRA Region 3 Wildlife Info. & Education Officer</i> The Tennessee Wildlife and Resources Agency often finds itself taking the lonely path and doing what's best for wildlife. This isn't always the popular route. Find out why wildlife laws exist and why this agency utilizes scientific knowledge and holds tight to its mission to conserve, preserve, and protect. Discussion of your wildlife questions should be lively!</p> |
| <p>Saturday, April 19 9-11 am</p> | <p>Now THAT'S a TOMATO! <i>Fred Mullen, Master Gardener</i> Get juicy suggestions for the best varieties--heirloom or hybrid. From seeds or seedlings, learn how to grow the best. Mulch, pinch, water and fertilize on time. Solve those tomato woes!</p> |

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| <p>Monday, April 21 9–11 am</p> | <p>Grow Native, Go Wild <i>Bill Morgan, Obed Watershed Community Association & Master Gardener</i> From aesthetic beauty, low-maintenance, biodiversity, pollinator support and erosion control, learn why you should add native plants to your gardening and landscaping plans. Bill Morgan shares photos and deep knowledge of the many advantages of native plants.</p> |
| <p>Fri-Sat, April 25-26 Fri. 9 am–5 pm Sat. 9 am–3 pm Cumberland Co. Comm. Complex 1398 Livingston Rd</p> | <p>Flower, Lawn, and Garden Festival <i>Entry fee: \$5.00 good for both days, 18 & under free</i> Join the Cumberland County Master Gardeners for a fun day, celebrating spring with vendors, classes, demonstrations, food trucks and music. Get your gardening season off to a great start.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, May 3 9 am–3 pm Held in the PDG Outdoor Pavilion</p> | <p>Spring Plant Sale – By Popular Demand! Shop our most exciting selection ever of new, unusual, and award-winning plants! You will find annuals, perennials, shrubs, native plants and pollinator favorites. Pre-order opportunity for garden members through Feb. 28th. Don't miss out on the plants you want. Join NOW at https://utgardens.tennessee.edu/support/membership/ and remember to select Crossville. Members receive 10% off. Proceeds benefit the Plateau Discovery Garden.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, May 10 9 am–noon Held in the PDG</p> | <p>Straw Bale Gardening and Composting <i>Vicki May, Master Gardener</i> Straw bales make a great growing medium when properly prepared. Create an instant raised bed to grow herbs, vegetables, and ornamental plants. You'll have control over where you grow your garden—sun, shade, hillside, or on top of hard surfaces. Also, learn the basics of composting to repurpose plant/organic materials to create awesome soil.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, May 10 10 am -noon Held in the PDG Outdoor Pavilion</p>  | <p>Kids' Tin Can Planters (Mother's Day Gift) <i>Susan Maruska, Master Gardener</i> <i>Limit 20</i> Just in time for Mother's Day, sweet young ones will create a tin can planter complete with an herb or flowering plant. Materials will be provided to decorate this treasure but feel free to bring a photocopy of a picture for an especially personalized gift (Max. size 3"x3"). Parent or guardian must also attend.</p> |

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| <p>Friday, May 16 9:30–11 am Held in the PDG</p> | <p>Plateau Discovery Garden Tour – Magnificent May <i>Shalena Durkot, Garden Coordinator</i> <i>Limit 20</i> Join us for a guided tour of the spring-blooming Gardens. Learn about the history of its creation, how it has evolved, and, of course, all about the beautiful plants within it.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, May 24 10 am–noon</p>  | <p>Birds and Bees of Wildflowers <i>Kris Light, Science Outreach Educator</i> Learn about different pollinators (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, flies, wasps and the wind) and how flowers attract pollinators with their shape, color, scent and patterns. After the program, we will go into the gardens to look for pollinators and determine how their flower attract them! Dress appropriately for the garden. Children’s parent or guardian must also attend.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, June 7 10 am-noon</p>  | <p>Frog Went a Courtin <i>Stephen Lyn Bales, Naturalist, Author and Educator</i> This class is geared for children and adults interested in frogs. Male frogs and toads must sing or make loud croaks to attract the attention of the females. Each of the 14 species that live in East Tennessee makes a different sound. Let’s learn how to imitate them! Children’s parent or guardian must also attend.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, June 14 2-4 pm Held in the PDG Outdoor Pavilion</p> | <p>Tea in the Gardens – Honey Bee Tea <i>Limit: 32 with Pre-Paid Reservations: \$25 per person + 10%ticket fee. On-line ticket sales open March 15, 2025.</i> We’ll be buzzing in the garden to bring you a delightful tea with sweet and savory treats. Enjoy a short presentation on honey production and join a guided stroll through the gardens to visit the honeybees’ favorite flowers. Finery and hats encouraged. Teas sell out quickly so don’t miss this honey!</p> |
| <p>Saturday, June 28 10 am – 1 pm Fee: \$10 1267 Sawmill RD Crossville, TN 38555 (Near Cumberland Mtn State Park)</p> | <p>Hydrangea Propagation Workshop <i>Linda Klingerman, Garden enthusiast</i> <i>Limit 20, pre-registration required, Fee: \$10 payable at class.</i> Join us at the Klingerman Farm to learn about many varieties of hydrangeas and their care. Learn 3 ways of propagating hydrangeas and how to increase their success. Make and take home a propagation. Bring a sack lunch, drinks, material fee, garden gloves, and any tools, and kneeling pad that may help you. Soil and pots provided.</p> |

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| <p>Saturday, July 5 10 am – noon</p>  | <p>Kids Dragonfly Class and Craft Activity <i>Michelle Cole, Master Gardener</i> <i>Limit 20</i> Dragonflies...Oh My! They aren't dragons nor flies. What are they and how are they important? Discover their life cycle, characteristics and facts about these charming flying insects. We will make a dragonfly craft and stroll through the garden to see our new dragonfly habitat. Let's go see them in action. Parent or guardian must also attend</p> |
| <p>Saturday, July 12 10 am–noon</p> | <p>Lavender Wand Making <i>Linda Klingerman, Garden enthusiast</i> <i>Limit 20</i> Learn to make a "Lavender Wand". In this project, we will weave ribbon with lavender stems to create a "wand" that is both decorative and useful. Perfect as a gift!</p> |
| <p>Friday, July 18, 9:30–11 am Held in the PDG</p> | <p>Plateau Discovery Garden Tour – Jewels of July Shalena Durkot, Garden Coordinator <i>Limit 20</i> Join us for a guided summer tour of the Gardens. Learn about the history of its creation, how it has evolved, and of course, all about the beautiful plants within it.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, July 19 9–11 am</p>  | <p>Backyard Birding for Beginners <i>Pam Barrett, Master Gardener</i> Learn the basics of how to attract birds as well as how to feed and identify some of our feathered friends. Many photos included to familiarize you with some of the more common species. Intended for beginners.</p> |
| <p>Monday, July 21 9–11 am</p> | <p>Invasive Plants on the Plateau <i>Bill Morgan, Obed Watershed Community Assoc. & Master Gardener</i> The Plateau is under attack! Which non-native plants sold in garden centers should NEVER be in your garden? There are better alternatives. Learn to identify, avoid, and help eradicate extremely aggressive invasive plants that threaten our native species and our environment. You won't want to miss this one!</p> |
| <p>Saturday, August 2 9–11 am</p> | <p>Fall Veggies - Cool! <i>Fred Mullen, Master Gardener</i> Now is the time to prepare for a cool season vegetable garden with discussion on the best varieties and tips for successful growing.</p> |

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| <p>Saturday, August 9 10 am - noon</p> | <p>Practical Landscapes <i>Erin Clymer and Erica Lewis, Landscape Solutions</i> So many decisions go into effective landscape design that the process can feel overwhelming. Our local experts will walk you through the process of understanding your existing landscape so that you can start planning! Learn tips to help turn your yard into a functional, blooming paradise, while avoiding common planting and design pitfalls. We will discuss some favorite, tried and tested plateau approved plants, selecting companion plants for design, privacy concerns and so much more!</p> |
| <p>Saturday, Aug. 16 1 pm-3 pm</p> | <p>Creating Stable Meadows without Chemicals or Tractors <i>Andy Linville, Obed Forest Gardens</i> Learn how to naturally trick weeds into wearing themselves out and dying before you establish your meadow. This soil building technique will create the infrastructure using dense plantings and/or seeds. Then you step back and let it stabilize on its own. Next year, you may expand or move on to another patch destined to become more meadow.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, Aug 26 9 am–3 pm Held Outdoors at the PDG</p> | <p>Fall Gardeners’ Festival <i>Pre-Registration encouraged.</i> Check website for link utgardens.tennessee.edu/locations/crossville/ This fun, educational and FREE event is a day packed with information for the gardener! Enjoy fabulous gardening workshops, exhibits, Ask-the-Experts, wagon tours and garden vendors. On-site registration begins at 8:00am.</p> |
| <p>Monday, Sept. 1 9–11 am</p> | <p>Improve Water Quality – Plant Natives! <i>Bill Morgan, Master Gardener</i> Our streams and rivers are threatened by industrial and residential pollutants as well as sediments from stormwater run-off. Learn how you can improve water quality, hold soil, and battle water pollution by planting deep-rooted native plants. Be ready to take notes from our fascinating and esteemed local watershed expert, Bill Morgan.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, Sept. 13 2–4 pm Held in the PDG Outdoor Pavilion</p> | <p>Tea in the Gardens – Cranberry Orange Tea <i>Limit: 32 with Pre-Paid Reservations: \$25 per person + 10% ticket fee. On-line ticket sales open March 15, 2025.</i> This fall we will host our Cranberry Orange tea in the gardens. We will serve sweet and savory treats, and your choice of tea. Grab your garden hat and wear your Tennessee orange to join us for a charming tea in the garden.</p> |

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| <p>Friday, Sept. 19 9:30–11 am Held in the PDG</p> | <p>Plateau Discovery Garden Tour – September Splendor Shalena Durkot, Garden Coordinator Limit 20 Join us for a fall tour of the Gardens. Learn about the history of its creation, how it has evolved, and of course, all about the beautiful plants within it.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, Oct. 18 9–11 am</p> | <p>So, You Want a Greenhouse? <i>Fred Mullen, Master Gardener</i> If you’ve been thinking about building a greenhouse, join us to learn about foundations, ventilation, water needs, and electrical and water systems. We will cover both kits and do-it-yourself, four-season greenhouses. Costs? Get your project off to a good start with early planning!</p> |
| <p>Friday, Oct. 24 9–11:30 am</p> | <p>Stumped? Name that Tree! <i>Lee Rumble, UT Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent Knox County</i> Limit 24 Take wagon ride and an easy guided walk through the woody area near Plateau Discovery Gardens to identify and discuss the native trees common on the Plateau. You will be given a pocket field guide to our common trees. Dates depend on Mother Nature. Check websites or call for updates. Dress appropriately for weather and walking.</p> |