

Presentations include:

- **Feeding the Veggies that Feed Us** (Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, UT Professor & Extension Specialist) – This session will focus on understanding the water and nutrient needs of vegetables in our home gardens, raised beds, and containers. Learn practical steps to provide what garden vegetables need for productive and tasty success!
- **Butterflies: “Flying Flowers” in the Garden** (Kris Light, Science Outreach Educator) – Learn about the common butterflies of Tennessee and how to attract them to your garden.
- **Bloom After Bloom: The Art of Seasonal Succession** (Celeste Scott, UT Extension Specialist, Western Region) – Learn how to create nonstop flower power in the home landscape and cutting garden by expanding the plant palette and harnessing the power of both succession PLANTING and PLANNING.
- **Conifer Care Walk and Talk** (Dr. Andy Pulte, UT Professor) – This walk and talk session will explore a variety of conifers well-suited to Tennessee’s climate and growing conditions. Learn which species and cultivars perform best in our region, how to select the right conifer for your landscape, and key care practices that will help them thrive for years to come.
- **Creative Culinary Companions** (Melody Rose, Interim Director UT Extension, Sullivan County) – Learn the valuable attributes of various herbs grown in and around the home vegetable garden and landscape as companion plants for both attracting beneficial insects and pollinators and serving as flavorful options for human consumption (a small sampling of unique options will be included in this session).
- **Bog Gardening with Pitcher Plants** (Jason Reeves, Horticulturist, TN Dept. of Agriculture) – Discover the fascinating world of carnivorous plants in this talk on growing and caring for pitcher plants and other bog-loving species. Whether you’re a beginner or experienced gardener, you’ll learn just how simple and rewarding it can be to cultivate these unique plants at home.
- **Garden Pest Control** (Seth Whitehouse, Director, Anderson County Extension) Garden pests reduce yields and lower the quality of harvest during the growing season. Learn how to identify plant injuries and some of our common insects found in East TN. Follow recommendations through a combination of cultural practices and timely applications to control garden pests for a successful harvest.
- **Fruit Tree Pruning and Care** (Dr. Annie Vogel, Assist. Professor/Fruit Specialist) – Dormant pruning can be a daunting task. Learning the basic principles will simplify this task and improve fruit quality, yield, and disease management.
- **Social Media and Gardening Trends** (Lucas Holman, Director UT Extension, Wilson County) – Learn about the gardening trends that are popping up all over social media.
- **Tennessee Naturescapes: Crafting a Biodiverse Landscape** (Justin Stefanski, UT Extension Agent, Rutherford County) – Discover how thoughtful and intentional practices can transform your yard into a thriving, resilient ecosystem that supports pollinators, wildlife, and overall environmental health.
- **Tennessee Lawns and Their Alternatives** (Dr. Becky Grubbs Bowling, Assist. Professor and Extension Specialist) – Tennessee’s transition-zone climate presents unique opportunities and challenges for residential lawns, making informed turfgrass selection more important than ever. Learn about updated UT turfgrass selection resources, recent research, and emerging science on turf alternatives to help homeowners and professionals make informed decisions.
- **To Bee or Not to Bee** (Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, Assist. Professor and Apiculture Specialist) – Think you might be interested in beekeeping? Or just want to learn more about the wonderful world of a honeybee? This talk will go over the ins and outs getting started in beekeeping – challenges, rewards, and all!
- **Managing Disease in Home Fruit and Vegetables** (Dr. Jensen Hayter, Assist. Professor/Extension Specialist) – Tips for both cultural and chemical (organic and conventional) control of common pathogens in backyard fruit and vegetables.

- **No Soil, No Problem: Home Hydroponics for Everyone** (Taylor Reeder, UT Extension Agent, Williamson County) – Discover the basics of growing in a home hydroponic system. Explore how hydroponics works, discuss the benefits of soilless gardening, and review several popular setups for home growers and other beginner-friendly designs.
- **Defects and Dysfunction in Trees: When to Call an Arborist** (Lee Rumble, UT Extension Agent/Certified Arborist) – Learn the various aspects related to tree defects and dysfunction that lead to stress, loss of vigor, and ultimately early tree death. From leaning trees to cavity-ridden trunks, this talk will provide education on the most common defects and dysfunction that we see in our landscaped trees.