



2026 Classes in the Garden

& Other Master Gardener Events

General Information

Class Location: Classes are held in the indoor classroom at the UT Plateau Research and Education Center at 320 Experiment Station Rd., Crossville. (unless otherwise stated) Follow the sign to the rear of the brick building.

Tea in the Gardens registration: links will become active March 15. Mark your calendar. These go very quickly!

- Note some classes require a small fee to cover supplies.

How to Register for Events?

Class registration is important. Please note some classes have a size limit. Also, should fewer than five people register, the class may be canceled so please register all members of your party early. *As a courtesy to the class presenter and those on the waiting list, always notify us if you cannot attend. We are looking forward to you joining us!*

It's easy to register! Go to [ccmga.org](https://www.ccmga.org) and visit our calendar of events!

<https://www.ccmga.org/classesinthegarden>

February 25
Wednesday, 9-11 am

TURF'S UP-WEEDS DOWN

Gregg Upchurch, UT Extension Agent, Cumberland County



Join us for a discussion about the selection, planting and maintenance of your lawn in our challenging Cumberland Plateau conditions. Learn best practices to control weeds. Weather permitting, we will step out to view the turf test plots at the UT Gardens, Crossville. Gregg, our local all-things-ag expert, holds vast knowledge of what succeeds on the Cumberland Plateau, and what doesn't.

February 28
Saturday, 10-12 noon

SPRING EPHEMERAL WILDFLOWERS

Kristi DuBois, TN Certified Naturalist & Master Gardener
David Clark, TN Certified Naturalist & Nature Photographer.



What are those early spring flowers you'll find in the woods that are here today and gone tomorrow? Ephemerals of course. Come see original photos of beautiful ephemerals and other perennial wildflowers that grow here on the Plateau. Learn about their preferred habitats, and which wildflowers you might be able to grow in your own woodland.

February 28
Saturday 1-3 pm

PROPAGATION BY SEED & CUTTINGS

Margo Carroll, Master Gardener



Learn how to start vegetables, flowers, and native plants from seed, plus propagate houseplants and garden plants from cuttings. In this practical class, we'll cover timing, light, temperature, soil, trusted seed sources, saving your own seeds. Don't miss Margo's tips on varieties that grow well on the Cumberland Plateau.

March 4
Wednesday 1-3 pm

ALL ABOUT PRUNING!

Gregg Upchurch, UT Extension Agent, Cumberland County



Learn when and how to prune common shrubs and trees. When shouldn't you prune? When should you cut off ornamental grasses? Do your hydrangeas never bloom? Did you prune a conifer, and it died? Should you seal cuts? If you have questions on pruning, this class is for you.

March 12

Thursday, 10 am -12 noon

HOME-GROWN STRAWBERRIES!

Seth Whitehouse, UT Extension Agent, Anderson County



Harvest strawberries at their very sweet peak of ripeness, right from your own garden or containers! Seth will cover the best varieties to grow in our area and discuss their soil, light, water requirements and more. And what do you do with all those stringy little baby plants? If you have questions about insect pests, Seth is your guy.

Do not miss this one!

March 14

Saturday, 9-11 am

VEGETABLE GARDENING 101

Fred Mullen & Sid Morgan, Master Gardeners



For the vegetable garden of your dreams, get Master Gardener advice on how to plant, grow, and harvest. Take notes on varieties best suited to the Plateau, important steps to take for vigorous, productive plants, and just soak in the astounding accumulation of knowledge these presenters bring.

March 28

Saturday, 10-11:30 am

FROGGY WENT A COURTIN'

Stephen Lyn Bales, Naturalist, Educator

*child friendly**



Frog fans of all ages will be educated and entertained in this fun class. In the spring male frogs croon to attract female frogs. East Tennessee has 14 species of frogs and toads that are active at different times in spring. Local naturalist, author, and speaker Stephen Lyn Bales will teach our group how to tell the frog calls apart. Did you know frogs cannot live or mate in polluted waters? Be ready to learn and to laugh.

***Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.**

April 11

Saturday, 9-11 am

Now THAT'S a TOMATO!

Fred Mullen, Master Gardener & tomato guru



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! We are fortunate to have our area's most esteemed tomato expert.

April 18
Saturday, 10 am -12 noon
RAISED BED & CONTAINER GARDENING
Ron Drechnik, Master Gardener



Do you have limited space or mobility but want to grow flowers or vegetables? Learn how to choose the right plants, the right container, and the right location. What is different from growing in the garden to growing in a raised bed or container?

April 20
Monday 9-11 am
GROW NATIVE, GO WILD!
Dr. Bill Morgan, Master Gardener



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.

April 24 & 25
Friday & Saturday 9 am -3 pm

Cumberland County Master Gardeners' Flower, Lawn & Garden Festival



1398 Livingston Rd., Crossville (fairgrounds)
\$5 good for both days - Children 18 & under free!

Celebrate SPRING with the Cumberland County Master Gardeners! Fun, vendors, food trucks, classes, yard art, demonstrations & music. Get your gardening season off to a great start!

May 2
Saturday 9 am -3 pm

Spring Plant Sale - By Popular Demand!



UT Gardens -Crossville – The Outdoor Pavillion
Plateau Discovery Garden – 320 Experiment Station Rd

Shop our most exciting selection ever of new, unusual, and award-winning annual, perennial, shrub, native and pollinator favorites. Get a 10% discount with a UT Gardens membership. Your purchase supports the Plateau Discovery Gardens, UT Botanical Gardens, Crossville.

Join NOW at <https://utgardens.tennessee.edu/support/membership/> and remember to select “Crossville”.

May 15

Friday 9:30 – 11 am

UT GARDENS, Crossville TOUR – IT'S SPRING!

Plateau Discovery Garden – 320 Experiment Station

Shalena Durkot, Garden Coordinator



Join us for a guided tour of the spring-blooming Gardens. Did you know that the UT Gardens, Crossville is a State of Tennessee Botanical Garden? Learn about the history of its creation, how it has evolved, and, of course, all about the beautiful plants within it. Be prepared for walking on uneven paths.

May 30

Saturday 9-11 am

A MOTH-er's NIGHT OUT – Pollinators

Kris Light, Science Outreach Educator

*child friendly**



Learn how moths are helpful in pollination and their differences from butterflies. We will discuss how they protect themselves as caterpillars and adults. Participants will also learn how to attract and photograph these fascinating insects.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

June 13

Saturday, 2-4 pm Limit 32

Tea in the Gardens

" A Summer Garden Tea"



Join us to celebrate summer featuring strawberries, butterflies and flowers. Have a delightful tea with savory and sweet treats. Includes a short presentation and stroll through the gardens. Finery and hats encouraged. Teas sell out quickly, so don't delay! Tickets go on sale March 15.

Outdoor Pavilion of UT Gardens, Crossville

Advanced pre-paid registration \$25+10% ticket fee.

June 25

Thursday 10 am – 12 noon

POLLINATORS and BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Seth Whitehouse, UT Extension Agent, Anderson County



Meet the tiny heroes of the garden and the world! As they go about their business, they pollinate plants, control insect pests, scavenge waste and help your garden grow and produce. Learn how to identify and protect them then let them do their work!

June 27

Saturday, 10 am – 12 noon

BACKYARD BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

Pam Barrett, Master Gardener

*child friendly**



Learn the basics of how to identify birds by their shape, size, habitat, and habits. Many photos are included in this presentation to familiarize you with some of the more common species in our area. A birder for many years, Pam Barrett will share her wisdom on how to safely attract and feed our feathered friends. Intended for beginners. ****Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.***

July 11

Saturday 10 – 11:30 am

TENNESSEE SMART YARDS

Mike Barron, Master Gardener



You don't have to be an expert gardener to create a Tennessee Smart yard. Learn the nine principles of stewardship as well as practices to apply in outdoor spaces to create healthier, more ecologically-sound landscape. Work with nature and create a functional landscape benefiting you and nature. Learn why a smart yard is right for you!

July 17

Friday 9:30 – 11 am

Limit 20

UT GARDEN TOUR – July Jewels

Plateau Discovery Garden – 320 Experiment Station Rd

Shalena Durkot, Garden Coordinator



Join us for a guided summer tour of the Gardens when they are in their absolute glory. Did you know that the UT Gardens, Crossville is a State of Tennessee Botanical Garden? Learn about the history of the PDG's creation, how it has evolved, and of course, all about the beautiful plants within it. Shelena's tour groups are small enough to allow time to answer everyone's questions. Be prepared to walk on uneven paths.

Did You Know?

You can become a Master Gardener volunteer. UT-TSU Extension offers annual training for adults who enjoy gardening and want to serve their community through education and volunteer service. If you love plants and helping others, this program may be for you.

For more information visit: <https://www.ccmga.org/about-5-7>

July 25

Saturday 10 am – 12 noon

Limit 12

\$10 materials fee + 10% registration fee

**COOKING with CLASS - Too Much Zucchini?
Chef Sandi Edwards**



Sandi will demonstrate how to make three delicious dishes from all of that extra Zucchini in your garden. We will get a chance to taste her creations and go home with recipes!

Appetizer or Side: Zucchini Fritters w/ Sour Cream Herb Sauce

Appetizer or Main: Vegetable Frittata w/Tomato Jam

Salad: Tomato, Onion & Basil Salad

August 1

Saturday, 9-11 am

FALL VEGGIES TO PLANT NOW!

Fred Mullen, Master Gardener



Now is the time to prepare for a cool season vegetable garden. Fred will recommend the best varieties and share tips for successful growing. What plants can be planted now and harvested before the freeze? What crops can over-winter and be harvested in cold weather or next year? All this and more will be revealed.

August 12

Wednesday, 10 am – 12 noon

PRACTICAL LANDSCAPES – OH SO PRETTY!

Erin Clymer and Erica Lewis, Landscape Solutions



So many decisions go into effective landscape design that it can be 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!

August 25

Tuesday, 9 am – 3 pm

Fall Gardeners' Festival



Free! But please pre-register.

This fun and educational event is a day packed with information for the gardener. Enjoy fabulous gardening workshops, exhibits, ask-the-expert, wagon tours as well as garden and food vendors.

On-site registration begins at 8 am.

August 29
Saturday, 9 – 11 am

*child friendly**

PITCHER PLANTS & VENUS FLYTRAPS

Kristi DuBois, TN Certified Naturalist & Master Gardener David Clark, TN Certified Naturalist & Nature Photographer.



Did you know that pitcher plants and Venus flytraps are native to the Southeast? Discover the intriguing dietary habits of these and other carnivorous plants, like sundews and butterworts, and where they prefer to live. See these fascinating plants up close and personal and find out how to grow them on a sunny deck or patio. If you follow a few simple rules, it's easier than you think!

****Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.***

September 4
Thursday, 10 am – 12 noon

YOUR LOCAL MUSHROOMS

Keren Barbina, TWRA Naturalist



Learn about mushrooms in your ecosystem. As an experienced forager, field identifier, outdoor educator, and Master Naturalist, Keren will show you some basics on how she finds these woodland treasures. This class will also cover how to cultivate mushrooms at home. **Note: Never consume fungi that has not been identified as safe with absolute certainty.**

September 12
Saturday, 2-4 pm
Limit 32

Tea in the Gardens "A Maple Tea"



This fall we will host “A Maple Tea” in the gardens. We will serve sweet and savory treats, and your choice of tea. Grab your hat and join us for a charming tea in the garden. Teas sell out quickly, so don't delay. Tickets go on sale March 15.

Outdoor Pavilion of UT Gardens, Crossville

Advanced pre-paid registration \$25+10% ticket fee.

September 14
Monday, 9 – 11 am

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY – Plant Natives!

Dr. Bill Morgan, Master Gardener



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.

September 18

Friday, 9:30 – 11 am *Limit 20*

UT GARDEN TOUR- Fall Beauty

Plateau Discovery Garden – 320 Experiment Station Rd

Shalena Durkot, Garden Coordinator



Join us for a fall tour of the Gardens for ideas on how to extend garden color and interest all year long. Did you know that the UT Gardens, Crossville is a State of Tennessee Botanical Garden? Learn about the history of its creation, how it has evolved, and of course, all about the beautiful plants within it. Shalena gives a lively interpretation and excels at answering your gardening questions. Be prepared to walk on uneven paths.

September 19

Saturday, 9 – 11 am

GROW YOUR OWN NATIVE POLLINATOR PLANTS FROM SEED!

Janet Dowlen, Cumberland County Soil Conservation District

Plateau Natives & Specialty Nursery



Through trial and error, Janet has learned what works and doesn't work for growing seeds collected on outdoor explorations, especially how to successfully overwinter native seeds that need cold stratification. Get tips for collecting, cleaning, sowing and growing seeds of native plants in this interactive class. You will wander the Plateau Discovery Garden, collect seeds and learn how to nurture them into plants. Come with your questions!

October 3

Saturday, 10 am – 12 noon

NATIVE SHRUBS & UNDERSTORY TREES

“Paris is for Lovers and Fall is for Planting Native Shrubs and Understory trees!” Brad Fox, Obed Water Community Association



In this presentation we will explore outstanding native shrubs and understory trees for yards, landscapes and those who want their plantings to support the local ecosystem. We will identify the benefits of natives, the damage from invasives, and specific plants that you may not already be familiar with. We'll also discuss local sources for plants, resources to help identify if a plant is native to your area, and best practices for successful integration of natives in your yard.

Did You Know?

Master Gardener volunteers are taught and trained by the University of Tennessee Extension professionals using research-based information tailored to Tennessee and local growing conditions. This ensures you learn reliable, practical gardening practices you can trust

Want to receive news from Master Gardeners? Send us an email to sign up!
ccmgnews@gmail.com.

October 10

Saturday, 10 am – 12 noon

WATER GARDENS – What, Why & How

Alan Baker, Master Gardener



Alan Baker has been a very active Master Gardener for 23 years with a particular interest in garden design. Water gardens come in many sizes, shapes and descriptions from a modest container with a bamboo drip to a large residential pond. They soothe the soul, and support wildlife. In this class you will learn about different types of water gardens, how to construct them, and why you need different plants for balance. Then it's all about how to maintain them. Let this be the year to make your water garden dream come true!

October 16

Friday, 9 – 11:30

Limit 24

TENNESSEE TREES

Lee Rumble, Extension Agent, Knox Co.



Trees boring? Not if you attend Lee Rumble's session! Take an easy guided walk through the UT Garden trees and then a wagon ride to a woody area nearby to identify and discuss the native trees common on the Plateau. You will be given a pocket field guide to our common trees. Be prepared for weather and walking. ***This class is weather-dependent. Any weather cancellation will be listed on our website and registrants will be notified by email.***



YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED

The Cumberland County Master Gardeners is a nonprofit organization. Donations support UT Gardens Crossville, also known as the Plateau Discovery Gardens, and help fund the educational outreach efforts of the Cumberland County Master Gardeners.

Your support helps offset program costs such as educational materials, printing, and guest presenter stipends. Master Gardener volunteers provide their time and expertise at no cost, allowing donations to directly support learning opportunities for the community.

To Support the gardens visit our link: <https://utgardens.tennessee.edu/support/>