



GARDENING ON THE PLATEAU



Alan Baker
UT Master Gardener

Cumberland County
Master Gardeners

www.ccmga.org

What's a Master Gardener?

- A volunteer to help the County Agriculture Agent with Residential Clients
- Trained and Certified by UT
 - 40 hours of classroom training + labs
- 25 Hours Community Service per year
- 8 hours continuing education per year

Gardening on the Plateau is a Challenge

What Challenges?

- **Geology**
- **Climate**
- **Pests**
- **Local Knowledge**

Geological Challenges

- **Thin Sandy Soils**
 - Low in pH and in fertility
- **Rocky terrain**
- **Not much level land**
- **Drainage**

Climate Challenges

- **Elevation**
 - Crossville is about 1850' | Highest Peak is 4,200' Sparta = 922'
- **Average Rainfall 56"**
 - June/July
 - Drainage

Climate

- Four Seasons
- Average Last Frost Date = May 10th
- Average First Frost Date = October 10th
- = 5 Month Growing Season
 - Poor for fruit / Nut Trees
 - Poor for multiple Crops
- Humidity

Cold Hardiness Zones



Also
Micro
Climates

Pink = Zone 6a
Orange = Zone 6b
Green = Zone 7

Pests that Challenge Us

- Beetles
- Borers
- Caterpillars
- Aphids

Diseases that Challenge Us

- Bacterial
- Fungal
- Viral
- Rot

Yes, it's a Challenge!!

...But there is help

Local Help

- **UT Knoxville – Institute of Agriculture**
 - **Academics**
 - **Research**
 - **Outreach**
 - **UT Extension**
 - **Tennessee Master Gardeners**

UT in Cumberland County

- **Extension Office @ Fairgrounds**
 - Ag Agent – Commercial / Farming
 - 4H
 - Family and Consumer Services
 - Master Gardeners – Residential
- **Research and Education Centers**

Master Gardeners Resources

- Ask a Master Gardener Desk
- Classes at the Gardens
- Spring Flower, Lawn and Garden Show
- Fall Gardeners Festival
- Gardening Almanac for the Plateau
- Favorite Plants for the Plateau Flash Drive
- Website

CCMGA.ORG

www.ccmga.org



Cumberland County Master Gardeners Crossville, TN

Crossville

+40°F

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
+56°	+60°	+38°	+45°



An IRS 501(c)3 educational organization



HOME

About CCMG

Resources

Media

Our Mission

In cooperation with The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's UT Extension service, we promote residential

Current Items of Special Interest
(click a link below)

Our Calendar

UT Plateau Research and Education Center

- Highway 70 North
- Animal Research
- Agricultural and Horticultural Research
- Community Education
 - UT Gardens – Crossville | “Plateau Discovery Garden”
 - Classes in the Garden



Outdoor Classroom





Kindergarden

**Seems Like
Gardening on the Plateau
Takes**

Seems Like Gardening on the Plateau Takes

- Knowledge
- Wisdom
- Prayer



QUESTIONS?