The UT Gardens includes plant collections located in Knoxville, Jackson, and Crossville. Designated as the official botanical garden for the state of Tennessee, the collections are part of the UT Institute of Agriculture. The mission of the UT Gardens is to foster appreciation, education, and stewardship of plants through garden displays, educational programs, and research trials. The Gardens are open during all seasons and free to the public.

Director
Sue Hamilton
West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center Director
Bob Hayes
Plateau AgResearch and Education Center Director
Walt Hitch
Assistant Director
James Newburn
Jackson Research Horticulturist
Jason Reeves
UT Extension Western Region Ornamental Horticulture Specialist
Carol Reese
Plant Sciences Faculty Instructor
Andy Pulte
Membership and Volunteer Coordinator
Beth Willis
HGTV-UT Gardens Educator
Derrick Stowell
Horticulturists
Bobby Cook and Ben Cordes
Knoxville Kitchen Garden Manager
Holly Jones
UT Extension Residential and Consumer Horticulture Specialist
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Sevier County Master Gardener Greenhouse
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Beall Family Rose Garden
Makai Edwards and Jacob Yelton
Steve and Ann Bailey Public Horticulture
Alice Kimbrell and Alexandria Smith
Jackson Interns
Hunter Herrin
Editor
April Moore Massengill
Layout and Design
Gabriel Clemons

Special Thanks
The faculty and staff of the UT Gardens would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers, members, and supporters in Jackson, Crossville, and Knoxville who continue to help our UT Gardens grow.
Springtime always conjures thoughts of things being fresh, new, and growing. And that is just what is happening in the UT Gardens across the state. You may have noticed that the cover of our magazine has a new look. In January, the UT Institute of Agriculture, of which the Gardens is a part, unveiled a new brand and graphic identity creating a new look for us. You’ll see us strutting our new logo on signage, plant labels, clothes, and educational materials at each of the Gardens sites across the state.

In Crossville, you’ll find that the new Kinder Garden has been completed. Designed for children ages 3 to 7, this garden supports activities that enhance all aspects of early childhood development and provides an example of what early learning facilities and schools can do to enhance their work with young children. I invite you to join us for the grand opening of this special garden on June 23.

Education is a priority for the Crossville Gardens, and you’ll find an impressive number of classes scheduled this growing season. Be sure to check page 16 for more information.

Plant Sales are big events and greatly anticipated at each UT Gardens site across the state. They also generate important revenue for each. Be sure to check the calendar of events so you don’t miss an opportunity to treat yourself to some choice plants and support the Gardens at the same time.

The highlight of the Jackson Gardens this growing season will be Summer Celebration, and I hope you will join us for this very popular event on July 9. It’s a wonderful opportunity to not only enjoy the beauty of the Gardens but to shop a variety of botanically related vendors, take a special tour of the grounds, and attend a variety of fun and informative educational sessions. Plants for attracting butterflies will be featured. Bring a sample of any plant, pest, or disease you have and the UT Extension specialists on hand can provide a free diagnosis and control.

In Knoxville, phase one of the new hosta and shade garden we’ve named Tranquility—The Cornelia B. Holland Hosta Garden is complete. I invite you to attend the June 7 dedication of this very special garden, which has over 600 hostas in collection and innumerable companion plants to create what I anticipate to be one of the most beautiful and educational Mid-South public shade gardens. We are indebted to Mrs. Holland for gifting her incredible private collection to us and for supporting the construction of this garden so that thousands of visitors may enjoy it for years to come. The space has been designated an American Hosta Society National Display Garden.

In other construction news, the long anticipated completion of our Knoxville children’s garden and treehouse will happen this spring with the dedication tentatively planned for August. I invite you to join us in the celebration of this unique outdoor facility that expands the educational outreach we do in connecting children and youth with nature.

Also in Knoxville, you’ll find an expansion of our plant trial program this summer will include edibles thanks to Natalie Bumgarner, a new faculty member in the Department of Plant Sciences. Learn more about Natalie and her vision for the Extension Master Gardener and residential horticulture work she will be doing for UTIA on page 24.

Our biggest fundraiser for the Knoxville Gardens is our Gardens Gala planned for Friday, May 1; I do hope you will join us this year. The third annual gala, themed “Made in the Shade,” is presented by HGTV HOME with Joe and Sharon Pryse as the honorary chairs. Proceeds support the growing number of staff and intern positions needed to keep the Gardens beautiful.

Thank you for supporting the State Botanical Garden of Tennessee. The research, education, and community outreach we do make us a unique public garden and a wonderful resource for you. I look forward to seeing you in the Gardens.

Happy Gardening,

Sue Hamilton, UT Gardens, director
TRAVEL

“SHADY” TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

By Sue Hamilton, UT Gardens, director

Photos courtesy of Memphis Botanic Garden

With the unveiling of our beautiful new hosta garden in Knoxville coming soon (see page 3), it seems only fitting to highlight two wonderful travel destinations that showcase shade-loving plants. These two public gardens—the South Carolina Botanical Garden and the Memphis Botanic Garden—are model examples of what we want our new Tranquility—The Cornelia B. Holland Hosta Garden to be like when it matures in the next three to five years. These featured destinations are two of only twenty-one gardens recognized by the American Hosta Society (AHS) as “Official AHS Display Gardens,” an honorary status we recently received for our new hosta garden. You can learn more by visiting the AHS website at www.americanhostasociety.org.
Cruickshank. They donated years of time and lots of love turning their passion for hostas into one of the most visited areas of the South Carolina Botanical Garden. The Cruickshank Garden was recognized in 2004 as an official AHS Display Garden. According to AHS, the space includes collections of southern hybridizers Tony Avent, Mary Chastain, and Bob Solberg. You’ll also find that companion plants native to China, Japan, and Korea are emphasized throughout the garden.

Memphis Botanic Garden
750 Cherry Road
Memphis, TN 38117
901-636-4100
www.memphisbotanicgarden.com

The 96-acre Memphis Botanic Garden strives to enhance lives by connecting people with nature and increasing awareness and appreciation of the environment. It includes twenty-eight specialty gardens, which provide an in-depth look into various plant families. Some of my favorites include the conifer garden, children’s garden, and of course the hosta garden. The Hosta Trail Garden was started in 1999 with the donation of plants by members of the Mid-South Hosta Society (MSHS) and the dedication of an expandable hosta area by Memphis Botanic Garden (MBG). The theme of the garden is “Hostas from Around the Globe,” based upon the geographical areas from which each hosta in the garden was developed or discovered. You’ll find the hosta collection in the garden divided into areas labeled northern, southern, eastern, western, international, species, and miniature. Botanically correct signage and labels list the hosta cultivar along with the parentage/sport or species. The collection has grown to more than 600 hostas, with 230 being unique varieties. All are accompanied by shade companion plants such as native azaleas, heucheras, ferns, and sedums. The Hosta Trail Garden was recognized in 2006 as an official AHS Display Garden. A beautiful stone pathway connects the different areas. The MSHS, with the support of the MBG, has established an endowment to provide for the permanent care and lifetime maintenance of this beautiful garden.

Make Your Garden a Shady Destination.
If you are looking to build your own hosta and shade garden collection, in addition to the many wonderful independent garden centers and nurseries in Tennessee, I suggest the following nurseries as sources of high-quality plants with diverse selections. A tip if you want to mail-order hosta: it’s fine to order from any nursery in the fall. If you order hosta in the spring, it is best to order from sources located in the same region where you live to ensure that the plants you order are coming from a similar climate into which they will be planted. A great resource for learning more about hosta is the online Hosta Library website (www.hostalibrary.org). It is one of the largest and most comprehensive information resources for the Genus Hosta.

Mary’s Greenhouse
McMinnville, Tennessee
www.marysgh.com

Bennett’s Nursery
Huntsville, Alabama
www.bennettnurseries.com

Green Hill Farm
Bob Solberg
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
www.hostahosta.com

Naylor Creek Hosta Nursery
Chimacum, Washington
www.naylorcreek.com

Plant Delights Nursery
Tony Avent
Raleigh, North Carolina
www.plantdelights.com

The South Carolina Botanical Garden
150 Discovery Lane (if using a GPS device, you may need to use the address 102 Garden Trail)
Clemson, SC 29634-0174
864-656-3405
www.clemson.edu/public/scbg

The South Carolina Botanical Garden is a place where nature and culture meet. You can explore beautiful display gardens, hike nature trails, visit the Bob Campbell Geology Museum, peruse the Fuller Art Galleries, or just relax and enjoy the 295 acres of natural beauty. But the true gem of this Clemson University garden is the Cruickshank Hosta Garden. In the shaded pathways, not only will you find a quietness and serenity, but you’ll also find over 400 varieties of hostas and companion perennials. The garden design is inspiring with an incredible assortment of shade-loving plants that frame a cascading waterfall and wooden bridge. Though only about two-thirds of an acre in size, this niche garden features outstanding specimen hosta plants, not mass plantings of common cultivars. Established in 1995, this mature garden is named for its visionary developers, Charles and Betty Cruickshank. They donated years of time and lots of love turning their passion for hostas into one of the most visited areas of the South Carolina Botanical Garden. The Cruickshank Garden was recognized in 2004 as an official AHS Display Garden. According to AHS, the space includes collections of southern hybridizers Tony Avent, Mary Chastain, and Bob Solberg. You’ll also find that companion plants native to China, Japan, and Korea are emphasized throughout the garden.
You may remember that part one of this series focused on outstanding trees and shrubs featuring gold-colored leaves. In this second installment, two of the four favorites are long-lived perennials, while the other two are tropical plants that can be overwintered with care. ‘Lime Zinger’ elephant ear will radiate in full sun whereas the others will brighten up a shady spot.

**Hosta ‘Sun Power’**

The brilliant gold foliage of ‘Sun Power’ hosta glows in the shade garden. The leaves have a wavy edge and pointy tips with better than the average hosta substance. It forms an upright, vase-like clump that matures 18-24 inches tall and twice as wide, and in early summer is topped with sturdy 3-foot-tall scapes of light lavender flowers.

‘Sun Power’ prefers moist, well-drained fertile soil. As the name suggests, it tolerates the sun with adequate moisture but in most regions of Tennessee is best in part shade. Morning sun and afternoon shade bring out its best color.

It combines nicely with ferns, heuchera, and other hosta. Other good gold-foliaged hostas include ‘August Moon’, ‘Faith’, ‘Fire Island’, and ‘Cardwell Yellow’.

**Nephrolepis exaltata Rita’s Gold—Boston Fern**

When I discovered this plant in 2001 at a greenhouse in Claxton, Tennessee, I knew it was a winner. I purchased a couple of hanging baskets and brought one to Rita Randolph at Randolph’s Greenhouse where I was working part time. The greenhouse in Claxton soon closed, the owner disappeared, and the rest is history.

The radiant chartreuse fronds of Rita's Gold bring life to the shadows. It is slightly more compact than the typical green Boston fern. It performs best in shade to dappled shade and will quickly bleach out and burn in too much sun.
Rita’s Gold is a must-have for shady pots. It works beautifully in mixed containers and hanging baskets where it adds spikiness as well as spills over the edge. Combining it with a blue trailing torenia, ‘Dragon Wing’ begonia, and a white or red caladium makes for a stunning combination. Other good companion plants include New Guinea impatiens, coleus, variegated basket grass, and other begonias. It can also be used as a bedding plant in any moist, rich, shady location.

It can be overwintered indoors or in a well-insulated garage or crawl space, like any Boston fern.

*Dicentra spectabilis* ‘Gold Heart’—Common Bleeding Heart

Introduced into the country in the late nineties from England, ‘Gold Heart’ added a bright twist to an old-fashioned perennial and has become a beacon of color in the garden. In the spring, its radiant gold foliage appears several weeks ahead of its flowers, forming a mound 18-24 inches tall and wide. It holds its gold color throughout the season.

White inner petals extend from the rosypink, heart-shaped outer petals and dangle from arching racemes. The peach-colored stems are held above the foliage and extend about a foot with flowers opening in succession down the stem for several weeks.

Old-fashioned bleeding heart performs best in rich slightly moist soil in shade to part shade. In all but the coolest areas of Tennessee, this deer-resistant plant goes dormant by midsummer, although supplemental water can extend it for a few weeks. ‘Gold Heart’ combines nicely with other spring ephemerals such as Virginia bluebells and trillium as well as ferns and hosta, which will fill in the void once it goes dormant. Hardy to zone 3.

*Xanthosoma aurea* ‘Lime Zinger’—Elephant ear

As a child I would help my mother plant elephant ears in the garden. I was mystified at how a plant with such majestic leaves could come from a bulb the size of a grapefruit. As I grew older the allure did not wane, and with the introductions of cultivars like ‘Black Beauty’, ‘Lime Zinger’, and ‘Thailand Giant’ they became my favorite group of tropical plants.

‘Lime Zinger’, which is at the top of my list, is right at home in the heat and humidity of Tennessee. It produces arrow-shaped chartreuse leaves that have a slight ruffle to the margin, causing them to flutter in the breeze. The size of the plant varies depending on growing conditions, but it averages 3-5 feet tall and wide with leaves 18-24 inches long.

‘Lime Zinger’ grows well in average garden soil but will be most robust when sited in rich, moist soil. Its leaf color is brightest when grown in full sun to partial shade. In full sun the leaves can scorch if the soil is allowed to totally dry out; too much shade will turn the foliage a limey green.

This plant works well when combined with other tropics, mixed in the perennial border, or used as a focal point. It makes an outstanding feature in large containers when combined with smaller plants and also can be grown in shallow water.

‘Lime Zinger’ is hardy to zone 8 but often comes through the winter in the warmer parts of Tennessee, particularly when planted in protected areas, such as against a building foundation. Plants can be overwintered dormant in a well-insulated enclosed garage or crawl space. An easy method is to dig and pot the plant in slightly moist potting soil. Cut most of the foliage back and allow the stems to dry in the sun a few days before placing in storage. Check the pot about once a month to make sure the soil is not completely drying out. The soil should be slightly moist.
IN THE GARDENS
Intern Alice Kimbrell carries a customer’s azalea to check-out at the Fall Plant Sale. Plant Sales and other fundraising special events account for 21 percent of UT Gardens’ income. (Cameron Rodman)

Bounty from the UT Kitchen Garden is packaged and ready for sale at the UT Farmers Market. The market, which features more than twenty local vendors, is held each Wednesday afternoon from May through October.

Intern Makai Edwards gives the thumbs-up sign after completing a service project with a 4-H Summer Camp group.

Two adorable participants of the Fairy Garden Workshop show off their handiwork. The Gardens host classes for all ages throughout the year.

Alice Kimbrell records and labels hundreds of hosta plants destined for the Tranquility—The Cornelia B. Holland Hosta Garden Education intern and recent master’s graduate Amanda Plante shows the benefits of vermiculture to young gardeners. What kid is not interested in worms?

After new zoysia sod, donated by Palmer’s Turf Nursery, was laid in the heat of August, a celebration ensued.

UT employees from across the Knoxville area gather to enjoy a picnic in the Gardens hosted by UT President Joe DiPietro.

Holly Jones, UT Kitchen Garden manager, stands outside the new produce stand in the Gardens. Customers use the honor system to purchase freshly harvested garden fare.

A herd of Teenage Mutant Teenage Turtles and their mentor Shredder parade in front of the judges’ table during our Howl-o-Ween Pooch Parade and Pet Expo. This new event was a huge success with more than eighty costumed canine entries and 300 onlookers cheering them on along the route. (Tinah Utsman)

Costumed children are rapt with attention as costumed volunteer Elin Johnson reads a story during our Trick-or-Trees Halloween event. (Hurley Co Photography)

Volunteers apply mulch to the newly planted Tranquility—The Cornelia B. Holland Hosta Garden during the initial phase of construction.
The UT Gardens, Crossville, continues to be designed and maintained by Tennessee Master Gardener volunteers. Master Gardeners in Cumberland County documented 2,862 hours on workdays, classes in the gardens, fundraising efforts, educational tapings (aired on local networks), the annual Fall Gardeners’ Festival, and the college internship offered. If you’ve not already been, come visit the passion shared by these incredible gardeners!

A self-guided walking tour brochure is available for daily visitors in the welcome area kiosk. Formal tours, like the one this group from Texas is enjoying, can be arranged by calling the office at 931-484-0034.

Hardscape features within the Kinder Garden have been completed. Designed for children ages three to seven years, this area features activities that will enhance all domains of early childhood development. The grand opening of the Kinder Garden is scheduled for June 23, 2015.

Bordering between warm- and cold-season climates, growing turf is definitely a challenge to homeowners on the Plateau. In addition to the five varieties of common grasses (two warm-season and three cold-season), a blend of tall fescue has been added to the turf garden.

The first plant sale at the UT Gardens, Crossville, was a great success. Two plant sales will be offered in 2015: the spring sale scheduled for May 1 and 2, and a fall sale during the Fall Gardeners’ Festival. Complete plant lists will be available online a month prior to each sale for shoppers’ convenience.

The Sixth Annual Fall Gardeners’ Festival greeted gardeners from seven states and forty-two Tennessee counties. Mark your calendars now! Based upon requests from those attending this year, plans are underway for the seventh annual event scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

In addition to teaching proper food preservation techniques, Garden to Table classes feature seasonal harvests, such as apples. Not just for sauce and pies, cooks in Cumberland County are now serving “Potato Apple Salad with Tarragon,” “Sausage Stuffed Apples,” and “Barley Salad with Apples, Almonds, and Smoked Cheese.” Fifteen Garden to Table classes have been scheduled for 2015.

Garden classes are not just for the classroom! By popular request, Sid Morgan led a tree identification class through the woods where the group identified and discussed twenty-two native trees of Tennessee. Twelve garden-specific classes were offered in 2014, and based upon requests from those attending, fifteen have already been scheduled for 2015.

Erin Fletcher, 2014 Cumberland County Master Gardener Association president, presents Walt Hitch, UT Plateau AgResearch and Education Center director, with a check for $10,000 toward a new outdoor classroom. Once completed, this new facility will include an accessible post and beam structure complete with public restrooms. Not only will this be utilized for classes coordinated by Cumberland County Master Gardeners, it will also be available for local schools, gardening clubs, and others. For more information on the outdoor classroom, contact Walt Hitch at 931-484-0034.
The UT Gardens, Jackson redbud collection is in full bloom in April. See more than forty cultivars in colors ranging from neon pink to rosy magenta.

The Chinese fringetree is another small flowering tree that dazzles Gardens visitors. ‘China Snow’ features white lacy flowers in late spring.

Due to construction, the annual Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale will be moved to the UT Extension Madison County office on May 9. It’s a great opportunity to shop a wide selection of ornamentals and vegetable plants.

The Summer Celebration Lawn and Garden Show features tours, talks, and demonstrations on all things home and garden. Open 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9.

During a Summer Celebration tour, Jason Reeves points out one of UT Gardens, Jackson’s most outstanding performers, Echinacea ‘Glowing Dream’.

Some of the country’s top gardeners present at Summer Celebration 2014, including slow gardening guru Felder Rushing.

Visitors admire one of the many bottle creations that adorn the grounds. Plans are in place to expand the collection, which already features more than 6,000 bottles!

“Diagnostic Tent” – Bring plant grievances to the Summer Celebration Diagnostic Tent. Staffed by UTIA experts, you can get weeds/insects/diseases identified, as well as a pH test for your soil.

Summer Celebration hosts one of the largest plant sales in West Tennessee and features unique and often hard-to-find woody and herbaceous plants. Open 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2015.
The Internet is really and truly a marvel: almost any search, say *kale*, will net a ton of stuff to sift through. I have more than one friend, a sister, and a daughter who are unabashed kale proselytizers, and still I was amazed. A national day devoted to the subject? And a recipe book called *Fifty Shades of Kale*? Help.

The *Book of Kale & Friends: 14 Easy-to-Grow Superfoods* by Sharon Hanna and Carol Pope (Madera Park, B.C., Canada: Douglas and McIntyre, 2014) makes straight the way and hits every mark: The front of the book is how and why to grow kale, pretty much equal parts how and why, followed by two pages on each of its “friends”—arugula, garlic, and eleven culinary herbs—all superfoods. (The super qualities are clearly defined, starting with vitamin C, antioxidants, and forty-five phytonutrients, as are their health benefits.) The back of the book is recipes, so you have a how-to-grow and how-to-eat twofer.

With over twenty pages of information on varieties of kale, advice on seeds and seedlings, crop rotation, garden pests (with what to do about them), bees, container planting, and thirty-four full-color photographs of kale alone, the authors have not missed a trick. There are many features to like: comprehensive coverage; a clear, direct writing style; admirable design; gorgeous, well-placed photos; and more. The tips and suggestions set off in color blocks are a big plus. The layout for each of the other superfoods, primarily herbs, is excellent, too: Planting and Growing, Fast Facts, How to Eat (lots of ideas here), Good for Your Garden, Good for You, and additional blurbs when appropriate. (How to Root Soft Cuttings is one such, for rosemary.)

If you’ve been growing herbs successfully for years, you may want to skip over the other, not-kale superfoods lightly. Don’t. The information isn’t exhaustive, but there will be Eureka! moments, even for experienced herb gardeners.

Six pages of ideas for using the fourteen superfoods serve as a practical introduction to the recipes, which are arranged traditionally—appetizers, soups, etc. As for the recipes, many have color photographs, and all are marked with VG (vegetarian), VE (vegan), and/or GF (gluten free) symbols. Most of the recipes have one or more of the symbols; there are a few recipes with chicken or fish, and one with rabbit. About two-thirds of the recipes include kale, often used in chiffonade (sliced into ribbons). And if you’re not a fan of kale, take warning: Coconut Curried Kale and Butternut Squash or Kale Cornbread with Bacon and Cheese could be an epiphany.

P.S. National Kale Day is held on the first Wednesday in October and is an annual celebration of eating, growing, and sharing kale throughout America.
We continue to see new growth and excitement around the variety of educational programming offered at the UT Gardens, Knoxville. Check out all that the Gardens has to offer and come garden with us!

**Adult Workshops**
These make-and-take workshops will teach you how to create a variety of garden-related projects for your home.

**Garden Sprouts**
Get your youngest ones gardening with our preschool program. These activities are designed for preschool-aged children and at least one adult.

**Growing Together**
Gardening takes a team. Parents, grandparents, and children, come out to the UT Gardens to make memories and learn fun and new gardening ideas.

**Garden Trips/Go Garden**
Did you know schools can visit the Gardens and take part in our educational program called Garden Trips? If your school cannot make it to the Gardens, we offer a traveling program called Go Garden. Cost is $5 per student.

**Home Grown**
Enhance your home-school program with hands-on fun and educational sessions. If you cannot make the scheduled program, contact our garden educator to set up a special session for your group of home-school families.

**Therapeutic Horticulture**
Do you have a group of individuals with disabilities or health issues? Gardening is a powerful therapeutic tool. We can design a custom program to meet the needs and goals of your group. Sessions are scheduled by request.

**Sunday Garden Talks**
Join us once a month for a variety of garden talks. This benefit is free to members and $5 for nonmembers.

**Group Tours**
Take a tour of our Gardens. Tours last about an hour and will give you a look at the history and future of the UT Gardens as well as other gardening knowledge. We ask for a $5 per person donation for group tours. Tours are scheduled by request.

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**KNOXVILLE**

*All programs require preregistration. Contact Derrick Stowell, garden educator, at dstowell@utk.edu or 865-974-7151, or visit utgardens.wildapricot.org/UTGardensEvents to register.

**Books & Blooms**
Every Thursday starting May 14 and ending Aug. 13. Enjoy story time in the Gardens. This free program includes garden stories, music, coloring, and sprinkler time. To sign up for weekly emails contact Derrick Stowell at dstowell@utk.edu. Cost: Free

**Vertical Gardening**
Saturday, June 27, 1-3 p.m. Don't have yard space? Think about growing up, not out. Learn about vertical, or wall, gardening, and create a miniature vertical garden to take home. Cost includes materials. Cost: $20/member, $30/nonmember

**Growing Together:**
- **Landscape Legos**
  - Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-noon
  - Add form and shape in your garden! Children will build Lego models of garden structures while parents hear tips on how to add structure to the home garden. Cost includes materials. Cost: $20/member family, $30/nonmember family

**JULY**

**Growing Together:**
- **Carnivorous Plants**
  - Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m.-noon
  - Beware, these plants bite. Learn how and why carnivorous plants have adapted to catch and eat insects, and take one home with you! Cost: $30/member family, $30/nonmember family

**ADULT WORKSHOP:**
**Growing in the Shade**
Saturday, July 25, 1-3 p.m.
- If you can’t take the heat, get in the shade. Explore our new hosta and renovated shade gardens, and learn how to create and care for your own shady place! You will receive one shade plant to take home.
  - Cost: $30/member, $40/nonmember

**AUGUST**

**Growing Together:**
- **Leaf Castings**
  - Saturday, Aug. 29, 10-11:30 a.m.
  - Artwork in the garden provides an added dimension to your landscape. Learn about leaf castings, which create unique elements in your garden and have many uses, and create one to take home.
  - Cost: $25/member family, $35/nonmember family

**Adult Workshop:**
**Gardening for Butterflies**
Saturday, Aug. 29, 1-3 p.m.
- Want butterflies in your garden? Plant nectar and host plants! Learn about native butterflies and which plants they need to survive, and take home a plant to start your butterfly garden.
  - Cost: $20/member, $30/nonmember

**SEPTEMBER**

**Homegrown:**
**The Physical Garden**
Wednesday, Sept. 2, 1-3 p.m.
- Students perform physical science experiments and discover how things grow in the garden. Find how to power a clock with plants, learn why plants need water, and much more.
  - Cost: $5/student

**Garden Sprouts:**
**Fall Veggies**
Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1-3 p.m.
- Fall is on its way. But don’t let that worry you. You still have time to plant cool-season vegetables. Learn how to grow a fall garden, let your children taste fall vegetables, and learn a few recipes to try at home.
  - Cost: $5/member, $10/nonmember

**Fall Plant Sale**
Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
OCTOBER

Homegrown:
Fall Color
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1-3 p.m.
Ever wonder why leaves change color? Explore light, color, and why we see different colors in the fall. Learn how to preserve leaves and keep those fall colors year-round.
Cost: $5/member, free/nonmember

Sunday Garden Walk
Sunday, Oct. 11, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Enjoy a Sunday walk and see how the Gardens get ready for the winter.
Cost: free/member, $5/nonmember

Garden Sprouts:
Leaf Me Alone
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 10-11:30 a.m.
Enjoy a fall day in the Gardens exploring why some trees lose their leaves and why others don’t. Children will collect several leaves from the Gardens to create natural art masterpiece.
Cost: $5/member, $10/nonmember

Trick or Trees
Saturday, Oct. 24, 1-3 p.m.
Trick or treat at the UT Gardens while learning about Halloween and creepy crawlies.
Cost: $6/child

Howl-o-Ween
Sunday, Oct. 25, 2-5 p.m.
Bring your pups dressed in their best costume for our second annual Howl-o-Ween event in the Gardens.

November

Sunday Garden Talk:
Winter Interest
Sunday, Nov. 8, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Your garden can shine even in the winter! Learn how to plant for winter interest and find ways to add color and texture during the cold, gloomy winter.
Cost: free/member, $5/nonmember

Homegrown:
Pilgrims and Pumpkins
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 1-3 p.m.
Fall brings to mind Thanksgiving, pumpkin pie, and turkey. Learn how early settlers survived the harsh winters, and discover how they used vegetables like pumpkins.
Cost: $5/student

Garden Sprouts:
Take a Hike
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 10-11:30 a.m.
Celebrate National Take a Hike day at the UT Gardens. We will take a hike through the Gardens, discover what is happening to plants and animals during the fall, and make a craft and a snack to enjoy.
Cost: $5/member, $10/nonmember

Growing Together:
Gingerbread Men & Natural Ornaments
Saturday, Nov. 21, 10-11:30 a.m.
Looking for some great gift ideas? Learn how to create ornaments out of natural materials.
Cost: $15/member family, $25/nonmember family

Adult Workshop:
Indoor Edibles
Saturday, Nov. 21, 1-3 p.m.
It may be getting cold outside, but don’t let that stop you from getting fresh greens and herbs. Learn how to grow micro greens and herbs in containers, then plant some to grow at home.
Cost: $25/member, $35/nonmember

December

Growing Together:
Winter Coats
Saturday, Dec. 5, 10-11:30 a.m.
Plants and animals have all adapted to survive the cold weather. Explore the Gardens and find out why some trees keep their leaves all winter and others don’t. Go on a scavenger hunt and find what “coat” plants and garden animals put on to stay warm.
Cost: $5/member family, $10/nonmember family

Adult Workshop:
Wreath Making
Saturday, Dec. 5, 1-3 p.m.
One of our most popular offerings. Learn how to take fresh greenery and create your own holiday wreath to display in your home. Cost of the program includes materials.
Cost: $25/member, $35/nonmember

Homegrown:
Tree ID
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1-3 p.m.
Identifying trees in the winter can be a challenge. Get an introduction to tree identification/classification and explore the scientific names of several trees. Then we will test your skills on a Gardens scavenger hunt.
Cost: $5/student

Garden Sprouts:
Gingerbread
Tuesday, Dec. 15, 10-11:30 a.m.
Learn how a root can made a tasty treat! Decorate one gingerbread cookie to take home as an ornament and one to eat as a snack.
Cost: $5/member, $10/nonmember

Special Events

Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, May 9

Summer Celebration
Lawn & Garden Show
Thursday, July 9, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
A one-day adventure for gardening enthusiasts. More than a dozen lawn and garden talks, amazing plant sale, cooking demonstration, and free diagnostic center.
Admission: $5

Cotton Tour
Wednesday, Sept. 2

Landscape Review
Thursday, Sept. 3, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Commercial ornamental horticulture field day. Includes informative presentations that will earn you pesticide certification points.
Admission: $10

Pumpkin Field Day
Thursday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Learn all about pumpkin production, from seed to market. Lunch included. Preregistration required.
Admission: Free

Pumpkin Harvest Display
Pumpkins, gourds, and squash, oh my! These fall fruits make for a beautiful work of art. Stroll through and spot your favorite cucurbits or use as a family photo background.
Admission: Free

Fall Plant Sale
Oct. 7-8
In addition to a large plant sale featuring a wide selection of trees, shrubs, perennials and pansies, Autumn Fest will also offer special garden presentations.

For more information on all events, visit west.tennessee.edu or call 731-424-1643. All event start times are listed in Central Time.
UT Gardens, Crossville, classes and events are held at the UT Plateau AgResearch and Education Center, 320 Experiment Station Road, Crossville, Tennessee. Crossville is in the Central Time Zone and all class start times are listed accordingly.

Classes are added throughout the calendar year. Visit regularly for an updated list, or, notify Bev at ccmgnews@gmail.com to be added to the email update list.

Registration is required for all classes. Registration fees (if any) are required at the time of registration. You are not considered registered until payment has been received. You may register in person at the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center office, or by contacting Jennifer Burns at 931-484-0034 or jburns35@utk.edu.

A waiting list will be taken for all classes once the limit has been reached. When a cancellation is received, the first person on the waiting list will be given the opportunity to attend. Registration fees will be refunded only if a cancellation is received 72 hours prior to class.

Berries
Saturday, April 11, 9-11:30 a.m.
Straw, blue, black, rasp . . . which ones grow best on the Plateau? And what steps are needed for a successful harvest?
Fee: None Limit: 70

Annuals
Saturday, April 18, 9-10:30 a.m.
Add bold or subtle color to your landscape this year.
Fee: None Limit: 70

Canning
Thursday, April 23, 9-11 a.m.
Be ready for those garden harvests! Learn the basics of pressure and water bath canning. (Free pressure gauge testing.)
Fee: $10 Limit: 50

Day Ahead Plant Sale for Friends of the Gardens
Friday, May 1, 3-6 p.m.
Friends of the UT Gardens may shop early for the best variety of plants. Must have proof of membership to enter.

Plant Sale
Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Open to all. Plant list will be available mid-April at www.ccmga.org.

Tomatoes
Saturday, May 9, 9-11:30 a.m.
Heirloom versus hybrid, seeds and seedlings, planting and fertilizing, watering and mulching, pinching suckers, common problems and solutions . . . everything you need to know about growing tomatoes will be shared.
Fee: None Limit: 70

Native Plants
Friday, May 15, 9-11 a.m.
What are “native” plants and what are the benefits of including them in the home landscape? What varieties are native to this area? What type of care do native plants require?
Fee: None Limit: 70

Options for Controlling Garden Pests
Saturday, May 23, 9-10:30 a.m.
Manage garden pests without using harsh chemicals.
Fee: None Limit: 70

Herbs
Thursday, May 28, 9-11 a.m.
Cooks realize most recipes require herbs and spices as ingredients to flavor dishes. Learn how to preserve and then use herbs to enhance food flavor.
Fee: $10 Limit: 50

Identifying Garden Pests and Diseases
Tuesday, June 2, 10 a.m.-noon
Identifying the garden challenge is key to appropriate action. Learn how to identify pests and diseases commonly found in the garden.
Fee: None Limit: 70

Springs Rolls
Thursday, June 4, 1-3 p.m.
Registration for this class will begin two to three weeks before the class date. An email with a class description will be sent out before the class indicating registration for the class has opened.
Fee: $10 Limit: 20

Treating Garden Pests and Diseases
Tuesday, June 9, 10 a.m.-noon
Effective and environmentally sensitive approaches to gardening rely on a combination of common-sense practices. Learn about synthetic pest and disease treatment options available to homeowners and how to properly utilize them with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.
Fee: None Limit: 70

Grand Opening: Kinder Garden
Tuesday, June 23, 10 a.m. (Rain date: Wednesday, June 24)

Fresh from the Garden: Salads and Salad Dressings
Thursday, June 25, 9-11 a.m.
Bright, bold, and delicious garden produce flavor salad recipes for appetizers, main dishes, and sides.
Fee: $10 Limit: 50

Jams
Thursday, July 9, 1-3 p.m.
Registration for this class will begin two to three weeks before the class date. An email with a class description will be sent out before the class indicating registration for the class has opened.
Fee: $10 Limit: 20

How to Construct a Rain Barrel
Thursday, Aug. 13, 9:30-11 a.m.
Using a rain barrel can save a significant amount of money in a season. Learn how to make a rain barrel—inexpensively—in just a couple of hours.
Fee: None Limit: 70

Sauerkraut
Thursday, Aug. 27, 9-11 a.m.
Sauerkraut made at home has no peer in a can at a deli counter. Learn how to make homemade sauerkraut of your own!
Fee: $10 Limit: 50

Healthy Cooking
Thursday, Sept. 24, 9-11 a.m.
Heart healthy and diabetic cooking will be discussed.
Fee: $10 Limit: 50

Beets
Thursday, Oct. 1, 1-3 p.m.
Registration for this class will begin two to three weeks before the class date. An email with a class description will be sent out before the class indicating registration for the class has opened.
Fee: $10 Limit: 20

Gourds
Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-noon
Growing, harvesting, and drying techniques. Hands-on opportunity to create and take home a gourd birdhouse.
Fee: $10 Limit: 30

Holiday Foods and Gifts
Thursday, Oct. 29, 9-11 a.m.
Fun foods to prepare and share during the holidays that will liven up the table and entertain guests.
Fee: $10 Limit: 50
**EVENT & EDUCATION CALENDAR**

**GARDEN DISCOVERY CAMPS AT THE UT GARDENS, KNOXVILLE**

**LIL’ GARDENERS**  
4- to 5-year-olds

**Pirates & Fairies**  
May 25, 9 a.m.-noon  
Ahoi meyeys! Learn about tasty fruits that keep sailors healthy while on the high seas. Find where the lost boys hide away from a pirate captain. Make your own pirate or fairy garden to take home.  
Cost: $10/member, $15/nonmember

**Edible Gardening**  
August 12, 9 a.m.-noon  
Gardening can be tasty! Learn how to grow your own fruits and vegetables, and make a few garden-fresh snacks from what is growing in the Gardens.  
Cost: $10/member, $15/nonmember

**GRANDS & ME**  
Grandparents and grandchildren

**Peter Rabbit’s Escape**  
May 27, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Peter Rabbit often gets in trouble sneaking around Mr. McGregor’s garden. Come and enjoy some garden stories and learn about Peter and other garden creatures. Learn ways to keep unwanted critters out of your home garden.  
Cost: $15/member family, $20/nonmember family

**It’s All about the Seed**  
July 20-24, 9 a.m.-noon  
Explore how tiny seeds can grow into mighty oaks, learn about different seeds from small to large, and take a daily seed hunt through the Gardens. Then take home a few seeds to sow!  
Cost: $50/member, $60/nonmember

**Insect Safari**  
June 16, 9 a.m.-noon  
Learn about insects and how they help gardens. Explore the life cycles of some common insects and go on an adventure safari in our Gardens. Make your own discoveries and share them in your garden journal.  
Cost: $10/member, $15/nonmember

**Pollination Nation**  
July 17, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Bring your grandchild and learn how pollination makes the world go round. Explore how vital pollinators are for our food supply. Campers will discover native pollinators and make a native pollinator house to take home.  
Cost: $15/member family, $20/nonmember family

**Garden Sleuth**  
Aug. 11, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Help us discover the great garden mystery! Put the clues together to see how plants and animals live in the Gardens.  
Cost: $15/member family, $20/nonmember family

**Seed Savers**  
Aug. 3-7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Without seeds, life could not continue. Take a closer look at seeds and discover how they can change the world. Explore different seeds and the plants that they grow into.  
Cost: $70/member, $95/nonmember

**Garden Explorers**  
6- to 12-year-olds

**Garden Explorer Camp**  
June 2-5, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. each day  
Grow into a gardener from the ground up at this fun-filled camp hosted by UT Extension, Tennessee Extension Master Gardeners, and the UT Gardens. Sow your own seeds to take home. Learn about soils, composting, harvesting, and photosynthesis, while exploring the sights, sounds, and tastes of the Gardens in a hands-on environment.  
Cost: $35/member, $45/member

**Food Allergy Friendly Session**  
July 27-29, 9 a.m.-noon  
If you have food allergies, this is an opportunity to attend a food allergy friendly camp at the UT Gardens. If you do not have food allergies, this camp will give you an opportunity to learn about food allergies and meet some new friends who have food allergies. We will also spend time learning about plants and having fun in the Gardens.  
Cost: free

**Pollination Nation**  
Aug. 3-7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Without seeds, life could not continue. Take a closer look at seeds and discover how they can change the world. Explore different seeds and the plants that they grow into.  
Cost: $70/member, $95/nonmember

**CAMP CULTIVATE**  
6- to 12-year-olds (Children under 6 may attend with a parent.)

**Camp Cultivate** offers a unique opportunity to cultivate awareness among children. This program offers camps that focus on children who have specific medical issues and also invites children with non-medical issues to attend. Gardening is used to develop an understanding of each other while having fun at the same time.

**Garden Senses: Open Session**  
July 6-8, 9 a.m.-noon  
If you have a child with a special need and are looking for a day camp program, this is it. Our sessions will focus on nature, gardening, and tons of fun and games. Camp cultivate offers opportunities for children to learn from each other.  
Cost: free
The wintery weather delayed — but did not dampen spirits — at the UT Gardens, Knoxville 2015 Volunteer Appreciation and Kickoff reception held on Tuesday, March 3, in Hollingsworth Auditorium on the UTIA campus. sixty-eight people, new and veteran volunteers as well as Gardens staff and student interns, were in attendance as we recapped the accomplishments of 2014 and anticipated the opportunities of the 2015 volunteer season.

The event also allowed the Gardens to recognize three outstanding volunteers. Judy Klassen was recognized as the 2014 Volunteer of the Year for her cheerful and consistent help at weekly volunteer sessions and many of our special events. Dan Steinhoff was recognized as the Special Projects Volunteer of the Year for his efforts toward the construction of the Children’s Garden Treehouse as consulting project manager, highlighting his engineering expertise. And finally, the Gardens was thrilled to honor longtime volunteer Liz Etnier as the recipient of the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award, designed to honor an individual who, through volunteer service, has contributed greatly to the UT Gardens over the course of many years. Liz has been involved with the Gardens for quite some time, albeit typically behind the scenes.

If you’re interested, it’s not too late to get involved with the volunteer program this year. Volunteers play a vital role in the UT Gardens, and we invite you to join this fun and dedicated team. No particular gardening experience is required; in fact, volunteering is a great way to learn new skills. Opportunities range from our weekly sessions in the Gardens or greenhouse to special events and assistance with educational programming.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the UT Gardens in Knoxville contact Beth Willis, volunteer coordinator, at 865-974-2712 or ewillis2@utk.edu.

Volunteer Report

In 2014, 125 volunteers contributed 2,343 hours. That translates to a value of $52,800 to the Gardens (according to Independent Sector’s valuation of volunteer time to nonprofit organizations). From help with plant sales and special events, to assistance with educational programming, to pitching in each week in the greenhouses and Gardens, our volunteers are an invaluable resource. We would not be able to accomplish everything we do without the generous contributions of their time, expertise, and energy.

Member Benefit: Better Homes & Gardens Subscription

Through the UT Gardens’ membership in the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), we are excited to extend the offer of a complimentary one-year subscription to Better Homes & Gardens magazine to anyone joining or renewing a Gardens’ membership through September 2015. You will receive a BHG subscription card with your UT Gardens membership card. To claim your subscription, fill out and mail the postage-paid card to BHG. Current subscribers will have the option to extend their subscription.
THROUGH THE LENS
BOTANICAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF ALAN S. HEILMAN

MCCLUNG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY & CULTURE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
TINY.UTK.EDU/THROUGHTHELENS
2014
BEST & BEAUTIFUL PLANTS

PREPARED BY:

Susan Hamilton
UT Gardens director

Beth Willis
Trials coordinator

James Newburn
UT Gardens assistant director

Holly Jones
Kitchen Garden manager

Jason Reeves
UT Gardens, Jackson curator

Carol Reese
UT Extension ornamental horticulture specialist

Andy Pulte
Department of Plant Sciences faculty instructor

Information is also posted on:
UT Gardens website at utgardens.tennessee.edu
UT Gardens, Crossville at plateau.tennessee.edu
UT Gardens, Jackson at west.tennessee.edu/ornamentals
Top Annuals of 2014
Best in Show—Canna Cannova series
Best New Variety—Cuphea Vermillionaire
Best Repeat Variety—Celosia ‘Arrabona’

Top Twenty Annuals
Angelonia Archangel Dark Rose
Begonia Pegasus
Calibrachoa Superbells Cherry Red Improved
Capsicum ‘NuMex Easter’
Catharanthus (Vinca) ‘Titan Lavender Blue Halo’, ‘Titan Rose Halo’
Catharanthus (Vinca) ‘Vitesse Lavender Morn’, ‘Vitesse Rose Morn’
Cleome Pequeña Rosalita
Coreopsis ‘Sunshine Suzy’
Fragaria ‘Toscana’
Lobularia Dark Knight
Impatiens Big Bounce, Bounce series
Passiflora Aphrodites Purple Nightie
Pelargonium (Geranium) ‘Pinto Premium White to Rose’
Penisetum Graceful Grasses ‘Sky Rocket’
Petunia Supertunia Indigo Charm
Petunia Supertunia Morning Glory Charm
Portulaca RioGrande series
Salvia Ablazin series
Salvia ‘Mystic Spires Blue’
Scabiosa Pink Wonder
Solenostemon (Coleus) Color Blaze Lime Time
Solenostemon (Coleus) Kong Lime Sprite
Verbena EnduraScape series
Zinnia ‘Profusion Double Hot Cherry’

Promising Perennials
Echinacea ‘Glowing Dream’
Echinacea ‘Colorburst Orange’
Echinacea ‘Secret Glow’
Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii ‘Little Goldstar’
Tetrapanax papyrifer ‘Steroidal Giant’

Incredible Edibles
Tomato ‘Juliet’
Brazelberries ‘Peach Sorbet’ Blueberry
Mizuna Mustard, Brassica rapa japonica ‘Prevail’ Bush Bean

Tremendous Trees and Shrubs
Ilex x ‘Whoa Nellie’—Gold Nellie R. Stevens Holly
Cercis canadensis ‘Little Woody’—Little Woody Eastern Redbud
Betula nigra ‘Little King’—Little King River Birch
Juniperus chinensis ‘Angelica Blue’—Angelica Blue Juniper
Hydrangea paniculata ‘Silver Dollar’—Silver Dollar Hydrangea
Caryopteris ‘Snow Fairy’, Sunshine Blue—Blue Mist Shrub

Remarkable Roses
Cinco de Mayo ‘Good As Gold’
Pumpkin Patch
Vavoom
Love and Peace
Tahitian Treasure
Has anyone offered to bring you a southern magnolia that “just came up” from seed in their landscape? Politely decline.

Free is tempting, and what’s to lose, since it cost nothing. Years later, you might be asking your hort agent why your magnolia won’t bloom, though it’s ideally sited in great soil with plentiful sunlight.

It could be that it has not reached sexual maturity, which can easily take up to fifteen years, perhaps more. Even if it begins blooming at an early age, there is no guarantee it will be a handsome tree. You’ve surely noticed there can be much variation from one southern magnolia to another. Some demonstrate symmetry and dense glossy foliage, while others can be patchy and unkempt.

Any seed-grown magnolia is a gamble. Remember your basic genetics? Offspring may look like the parents, or look like other members of the family tree (pun intended) that are downright homely.

So you now have years invested in this tree and realize it’s a loser in the gene game. It’s taking up space in your landscape, and you are faced with years of looking at the disappointing plant or removing it, costing time, sweat equity, possibly money. How free does that tree feel now? If you’d spent a little money on a named cultivar those many years ago, you’d be enjoying a lovely tree.

Cultivars are selections from the species with exceptional characteristics, so exceptional that they warrant preserving and earn their own name. The gardener can plant them with confidence, knowing exactly what to expect from these exemplary forms in the landscape.

A good illustration of cultivars can be found at the grocery store. A discerning shopper doesn’t buy just apples, he will buy the apples that appeal most to his tastes, such as ‘Fuji’, ‘Granny Smith’, or ‘Pink Lady’. They are all apples, but each cultivar is distinctly different in it shape, color, and flavor.

In the landscape world, cultivars may be exceptionally beautiful, or more hardy, or plants that vary widely from the “normal” form of the species. These unusual variants may
include strikingly different growth habits, such as weeping, columnar, or dwarf. They may have burgundy, variegated or golden foliage, or the blooms may be exceptionally large, numerous, or of an unusual color. With rare exception, they must be vegetatively propagated, and are clones, not progeny of the original plant, in order to preserve the desirable characteristics. This way, the buyer will know exactly how the plant should look and perform.

Sometimes the cultivar name is inspired by the plant’s characteristics. *Carpinus betulifolia* ‘Pendula’ is a weeping form of European hornbeam. An eastern redbud tree with leomy foliage is botanically known as *Cercis canadensis* ‘Hearts of Gold’. A form of monkey grass with golden foliage is whimsically named ‘Peedee Ingot’.

Other times the cultivar name may be drawn from a region of origin, such as *Juniperus virginiana* ‘Platte River’. Sometimes they are named after the person that found it, or bred it. Sometimes that person may name it after another person he or she wishes to honor. An example might be the bigleaf hydrangea that Michael Dirr named ‘Dooley’ after the famous coach at the University of Georgia.

As shown, the formally recognized cultivar name is properly designated as such by being capitalized and framed with single quotes. Sometimes a plant is marketed under another name, perhaps one that may help it sell better, and that marketing name may be trademarked, which has certain legal implications. For example, ‘Ogon’ is a golden form of *Spiraea thunbergii* that is being marketed under the trademarked name Mellow Yellow®. The plant can be sold all day long by any propagator as ‘Ogon’, as this is a cultivar that is not patented, but only Hines Nursery or people who grow and market these plants with legal permission from Hines are allowed to use the name Mellow Yellow.

Plants that are newly bred or discovered are often patented, and only the person who owns the patent, or the nurseries legally licensed, are allowed to propagate the plant. These patents last for twenty years and a little money from the sale of each plant goes back to the person who owns the patent, so often this cost is passed on to the customer. Even when a cultivar is not patented, it is usually more expensive than the ordinary species because it must be acquired from reputable sources and specially propagated by cuttings, grafting, or tissue culture.

On most species the extra money is well spent! While most of our shade trees need not be clones—for example, the acorns of most of our native oaks will develop into fine specimens of similar vigor and habit—that is not true of many other plants. Getting the right cultivar for the job is imperative with magnolia, crape myrtle, holly, butterfly bush, and rose of sharon, just to name a few. Don’t waste years on an unknown entity that turns out to be a loser. Plants that earned cultivar status did so because they were winners and you want the winners.
“As I look back on the horticultural journey that led me here to the UT Institute of Agriculture, I really think it all began with popcorn.”

By Natalie Bumgarner, UT Extension Residential and Consumer Horticulture Specialist

Photo by Gabriel Clemons, UTIA
To provide a bit of context, I was born and raised in western West Virginia on a beef cattle operation, where I represented the fifth generation on the family farm. Agriculture was always an integral part of our family and lives. For me, though, it wasn't until I became engaged in horticulture that my agriculture gene was fully expressed. And that brings us back to popcorn.

Vegetable gardening was a required, but not entirely enjoyable, part of childhood until I signed up for a 4-H home gardening project. The exhibit was a home garden plot that even required an inspection by our county Extension agent. My view of agriculture changed forever that summer when directly in the center of the large family garden, I grew my very first crop of miniature Indian popcorn.

From that first small, multicolored harvest, I was addicted. An afterschool job at a wholesale/retail greenhouse led me to horticulture at West Virginia University where I received my bachelor's and focused on ornamental greenhouse production. Until that point, I assumed that I would end up as a greenhouse manager. However, a greenhouse production internship in my last semester convinced me that it wasn't just plants, but rather the link between people and plants that had attracted me to horticulture. With this understanding in hand, I remained at WVU for a master's with the career goal of working in the plant—people interface of Extension. I was able to reengage with food crops because my research focused on season extension for small-scale organic vegetable crops. That work led me to Ohio State University for a PhD where I studied the impact of growing systems on yield and crop quality in leafy vegetables.

During graduate school, I was able to work alongside several great Extension educators. This time spent directing research and education toward end user needs was for me the most rewarding part of grad school. The unique way that Extension fills these two important roles confirmed my earlier aspirations. Following completion of graduate work, I was able to work in Extension outreach in vegetable grafting and in investigating crops to target international nutrition needs at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. I later became the horticulturist and research director for CropKing, Inc. in Lodi, Ohio, for two years where I focused on education and research that addressed greenhouse vegetable producer needs.

Last fall, I was given the opportunity to return to Extension and become a faculty member in the UT Department of Plant Sciences. I am thrilled to be in Knoxville and a member of the UT Extension team focusing on residential and consumer horticulture and coordinating the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program. The opportunities this position provides to engage in other areas of horticulture and collaborate with UT personnel in many disciplines is one of the best facets. I look forward to building partnerships not only with Plant Sciences and UT Gardens personnel but also with personnel in Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Entomology and Plant Pathology, among others.

While plans for residential and consumer horticulture are currently being developed, there are several areas that will certainly play a role in the future. Educational materials on topics of selection, installation, and maintenance of ornamental and food plants in residential areas will be an early focus to support county Extension personnel and Master Gardener volunteers across Tennessee. In the coming years, I plan to use my background in small-scale vegetable production to address residential food production questions. For example, this year I will have the opportunity to collaborate with the UT Gardens team to expand their All-America Selections ornamental plant trials to also include vegetables. These cultivar trials along with demonstration plots will support the education of both longtime gardeners and newcomers to residential horticulture.

UTIA's work in residential and consumer horticulture should also recognize and address impacts beyond the borders of our lawns and landscapes. As many of our communities become progressively more urban, stewardship of resources in residential areas will be increasingly important for us all. Soil, water, and plant interactions in residential and urban spaces are becoming the form of agriculture that is most accessible to many Tennessee residents. Numbers of those engaged in small-scale horticulture continue to grow. This presents a great opportunity to connect residents and consumers with education in environmental stewardship to enhance economic and human health for our state in the coming years. The future is exciting for residential and consumer horticulture, and I am so glad to be on board.
Tranquility has been designated an American Hosta Society National Display Garden.
With much excitement and fanfare, friends will gather on the grounds of the UT Gardens, Knoxville, on Sunday, June 7, to dedicate a tremendously special new addition to the Gardens’ collection. On that day Tranquility—The Cornelia B. Holland Hosta Garden opens to the public.

It’s highly fitting that students, scientists, and the public will be among those gathered for the garden’s opening because they figure prominently in Holland’s decision to give her collection to the University of Tennessee. “The UT Gardens presented a vision, space, and commitment to develop a new hosta garden,” Holland says. “The garden will not only preserve a collection, but will also provide a venue for the public to learn more about the Genus Hosta and a living laboratory for education and research.”

Tranquility lives up to its name. It is a space of peace, quiet, and reflection. Enter the garden through a graceful moon gate; stroll across an expanse of lush, tended green lawn; pass by an Asian platform and there, banked beside flagstone paths, you’ll find an incredible collection of over 500 hosta including species, and Asian, European and U.S. cultivars. Large, small, miniature, and giant. Green, variegated, yellow, and blue. Watch for some with white beneath their leaves or spot those with red petioles and scapes. Framing them all is a setting of breathtaking beauty formed of assorted ferns and azaleas, camellias and Japanese maples, rockwork and large oaks, tulip poplars, dogwoods, Stewartias, and Japanese pines. Accenting the plantings are garden statuary and water fountains, all Asian-inspired. These offer the eye an opportunity to linger amid the lush surroundings. Tucked among the hosta—and not to be missed—is an expansive collection of Rohdea, also known as the Japanese Sacred Lily. These rare plants will provide year-round greenery in the garden. They, much of the statuary and the companion plants, came to Tranquility from Holland’s garden.

Holland says the story of her hosta collection, which is one of the largest in the Southeast, dates back twenty years to the day she noticed a page devoted to fragrant hosta in a Wayside Garden catalog. She ordered. She planted, and she was hooked. Her collection grew steadily over the years through catalog orders and plant exchanges, hosta society memberships and convention auctions—and, throughout it all, meticulous research—the hallmark of a serious collector.

UT Gardens Director Sue Hamilton and UT plant sciences master’s student Benjamin Lee Ford wanted to see a garden well-matched to the importance of Holland’s collection. They began meeting with her in the fall of 2013 to explore her interests and preferences: always the first step in garden design. From there, they and Holland collected images of gardens and design elements that interested them and then spent an afternoon selecting out the “must haves” for the UT Tranquility Garden. Then Ford developed a database to catalog the collection, both for the Gardens use and to facilitate university research and study. This spring, UT art students came on board, developing ideas for Tranquility’s moon gate. The Gardens have formed a committee to review and select the winning design which will be fabricated this spring.

The research purposes that Tranquility will serve include scientific studies led by Parwinder Grewal, head of the UT Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology. The American Hosta Society funds Grewal’s investigations of suppression and control of foliar nematodes, a serious hosta threat. With access to the collection at Tranquility, his work and many other new studies will be accelerated. UT horticultural and landscape design studies will also be enhanced. As will the many photography, drawing, and painting, and other classes that the UT Gardens offers the public throughout the year.

Tom Looney, director of advancement for the UT Institute of Agriculture, assisted Holland on designating the gift that established Tranquility, along with an endowment that will help sustain the garden through Holland’s estate. “Cornelia wanted to establish the garden during her lifetime, to see it take place. From an archival perspective, this is tremendous. The garden is a living library for our students, our scientists, and everyone, both for the present and for the years ahead.”

Hosta are known as the Friendship Plant, and it is from her own garden in Franklin, Tennessee, that Cornelia Holland gave the plant collection that established Tranquility—The Cornelia B. Holland Hosta Garden at the UT Gardens, Knoxville.

Shown here and on the previous page, Holland’s own garden is named Tranquility and is full of shaded and sun-dappled paths and enchanting views.
Food

Rosemary Pineapple Punch & Crispy Kale Chips

By Margot Emery, UTIA

Photo by Andrew Scottow (tiny.utk.edu/rosemary)

With sunshiny, breezy days and gentle nights, spring is a time for festivities and gatherings, and what could be better than having recipes on hand for a lively punch and quick and easy—and nutritious!—kale chips?

The rosemary pineapple punch recipe comes to us from the Memphis Herb Society, whose members are busy planting and tending their gardens. The punch is an opportunity to show off your garnishing skills. Add slices of orange and lemon for color and tuck in sprigs of rosemary. If your violas are still in flower, freeze blossoms in your ice cubes for truly a lovely presentation.

Preparing the kale chips is a breeze. But first time around, be sure to watch closely as they bake because you may need to adjust both the oven temperature and the cooking time to find the sweet spot. Also bear in mind that the chips are best eaten straight from the oven or at least the same day they’re made, so only prepare what you can eat. Take this on faith: you won’t like the limp results tomorrow!


Rosemary Pineapple Punch

46-ounce can pineapple juice
½ cup sugar
5 teaspoons fresh rosemary or 2 ½ teaspoons dried
1 ½ cups lemon juice
2 cups water
1-liter bottle pale dry ginger ale

Bring 1 cup of pineapple juice, sugar, and rosemary to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for five minutes. Strain and cool. To serve, add concentrate to remaining pineapple juice, lemon juice, and water. Pour into punch bowl over ice and add ginger ale. Garnish with lemon slices and rosemary sprigs. Makes approximately 12 cups.

Crispy Kale Chips

Cooking spray
1 small bunch kale (about 1/2 pound)
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
pinch of salt

Preheat the oven to 350 F. (See notes in column regarding temperature and time.)

Spray two baking trays with cooking spray. Remove the center rib and stems from each kale leaf and discard. Tear or cut the leaves into bite-size pieces, about 2 to 3 inches wide. Wash the kale and dry it well.

Place kale in a large bowl. Drizzle oil and sprinkle garlic powder and salt, and massage oil and seasonings into kale with your hands to distribute evenly. Place kale in a single layer on the baking sheet, and bake until crisp and the edges are slightly browned, stirring midway through. Total bake time, 15 minutes. Experiment with other spice blends—salt and vinegar, red pepper, taco seasonings, baked parmesan, pizza toppings...truly the sky is the limit when it comes to these tasty and nutritious treats!
Gardening is a way of life for Knoxville native Henry W. McIlwaine Jr. that began with his father, so it is perfectly fitting that the McIlwaine legacy will live on in the form of a garden pavilion at the UT Gardens.

“I don’t have a garden anymore,” McIlwaine said. “So [the UT Gardens] are my only garden now.”

McIlwaine recently gave $100,000 to the UT Foundation in support of the UT Gardens. The unmarked gift was perfect for a project that Sue Hamilton, director of the UT Gardens, had been planning: a pavilion in the center of the Gardens on the Institute of Agriculture campus in Knoxville to serve as an outdoor classroom, event site, and gathering place.

“The McIlwaines’ gift made this significant addition possible,” said Hamilton. “There is no facility on the UT campus quite like this. This will give our faculty and students a wonderful outdoor educational venue. Financially, this will provide a valuable revenue stream to the Gardens in its event venue capacity. And this will be a wonderful welcoming place for the public to engage with and enjoy the UT Gardens.”

The McIlwaine family is already firmly rooted in Knoxville’s past. His grandfather, W. W. Carson was a civil engineering professor on the UT Knoxville campus. McIlwaine’s father, Whiting H. McIlwaine, was instrumental in the creation of the first dogwood trail in Knoxville in 1955. Mr. and Mrs. McIlwaine had the honor to suggest the route of the first trail in Sequoyah Hills, where they resided on Towanda Trail. And in 1956 the McIlwaines joined the first group of Sequoyah residents to light the trees along the trail for a night spectacle that rivaled any in the country.

The history of the Dogwood Trails is familiar to most in the Knoxville region as well as the annual Dogwood Arts Festival, which grew naturally from the area’s renewed fascination of the beauty of the dogwood blooms. It is also quite a legacy for a man who grew up amidst the dogwoods and wildflowers of Towanda Trail.

When McIlwaine ventured to his own home nearly fifty years ago, he transplanted many of his father’s wildflowers and slowly transformed the gardenless lot into an oasis of paths, wildflowers, and garden terraces.

“Other than my wife, three children, and seven grandchildren, the garden was my labor of love in my backyard,” McIlwaine said. “I wanted other people to enjoy it and get as much out of it as I do.”

His passion for gardening extended to partnering with the UT Gardens, where he was a founding member of the Friends of the UT Gardens Board of Directors. In 2006, he spearheaded the effort to create an entrance to the UT Gardens with a $10,000 grant. Combined with other gifts, the Friendship Plaza was formally dedicated in 2008 and provides a handicap-accessible entrance to the Gardens and a space for staging events and programs.

He was a Master Gardener for twenty-five years. McIlwaine said he enjoyed participating in the program because it gave him opportunity to meet other people interested in gardening and help others improve their own homes.

McIlwaine readily attributes his passion for roots and blooms to his father’s own horticultural life. “I grew up loving gardens.”

Today, that passion is the foundation for countless others to better enjoy the flora of the UT Gardens in Knoxville.
The following friends donated, joined, or renewed their membership during the period from July 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014.

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