

Sequatchie Valley Master Gardeners

A Program of the University of Tennessee Extension Sequatchie and Bledsoe Counties

August 2024

Gardening News and Notes

Your input needed

We are starting plans for the 2025 Program Year and would like your help. You will find a survey asking about your interest and what you would like to see as a program for 2025 at <https://forms.gle/sKRF4HTd8L4Xtzc7>

2024 Calendar

- August 10, 2024, 4-H Poultry Show and Sale details to come
- August 10-17, 2024 Sequatchie County Fair
- August 27, 2024, Fall Gardener's Festival – 8 a.m. CDT, Plateau AgResearch and Education Center at Crossville
- September 21, 2024, Annual SVMG Picnic, TBD
- November 2, 2024, Quarterly SVMG Meeting, Pikeville

Garden Cover Crops

August 20, 2024 – 6:00 PM Central,
Sequatchie County Fair Building, 103 Heard St, Dunlap
RSVP email sdbarker@utk.edu, call 949-2611 or
online @ <https://forms.gle/JEn3a3HYjGDaSa9r7>
Free!

Reminder

Don't forget to record your hours, especially Valley Fest Hours!

The Extension Master Gardener
Program is a program of the
University of Tennessee
Extension

Sheldon Barker

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[UT Extension Sequatchie County
web page](#)

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The University of Tennessee is an
equal opportunity provider.

2024 Fall Gardeners' Festival is Scheduled for August 27

Home and Commercial Gardeners Are Invited to Attend This Annual Event



The Fall Gardeners' Festival features a variety of presentations, educational workshops, exhibits, wagon tours, garden vendors and opportunities to Ask-the-Expert. Photo courtesy UTIA.

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is excited to provide information throughout the year to make gardening a success for many home gardeners. UT Gardens, Crossville, in collaboration with UT Extension's Cumberland County Master Gardeners, will host the annual Fall Gardeners' Festival at the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center. The event is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT, with registration beginning at 8 a.m., for those not pre-registered.

"We are expecting another great event this year with 15 scheduled presentations," said Shalena Durkot, garden coordinator at the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center. "Topics range from lawn alternatives and biodiversity to herbs, trees, pruning, seed collecting, organic gardening, lawn care, and everything in between. Requests from last year's evaluations were considered, and we are excited to deliver! Come ready to shop from garden vendors, eat delicious food, and learn from the best across the state."

Featured at the event are a variety of presentations, educational workshops, exhibits, wagon tours, garden vendors and opportunities to Ask-the-Expert. Entomologists and plant pathologists will once again be available to answer questions. Specifically, Nar Ranabhat, UT assistant professor of plant pathology, whose expertise focuses on key disease challenges in ornamentals, nursery plants, and turf, will be demonstrating how to diagnose rose disease.

The Fall Gardeners' Festival is free to attend, and food is available for purchase. The Plateau AgResearch and Education Center is located at 320 Experiment Station Road in Crossville, and you can visit plateau.tennessee.edu to learn more about the center's work and field day events. Online registration for the event is encouraged but not required. To register, visit tiny.utk.edu/fallgardeners2024.

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is comprised of the Herbert College of Agriculture, UT College of Veterinary Medicine, UT AgResearch, and UT Extension. Through its land-grant mission of teaching, research and outreach, the Institute touches lives and provides Real. Life. Solutions. to Tennesseans and beyond. utia.tennessee.edu.



UT Gardens Plant of the Month

August

Grow Some Sunshine in Your Garden with a New Calylophus

Submitted by Jason Reeves, horticulturist at the UT Gardens, Jackson



The bright yellow flowers of Ladybird® Sunglow Calylophus provide a bright spot all summer long whether adorning the front of a border or spilling over a container. Photo by J. Reeves, courtesy UTIA.

It is not often a new genus goes mainstream. In 2021, we received Ladybird® Sunglow Calylophus as a trail plant from Proven Winners, and it quickly rose to the top as a winner.

The pure bright yellow flowers of Ladybird® Sunglow Calylophus provide an effortless splash of sunshine to the garden all summer long. The four petaled, two-inch wide flowers float among soft feathery green foliage. As the flowers fade, they turn a deep yellow to apricot color, adding to the appeal. They are self-cleaning and bloom vigorously all summer without any deadheading. It is a great pollinator plant, attracting bees, birds and butterflies to the garden.

The soft needle-like foliage of Ladybird® Sunglow provides an interesting texture, growing four to eight inches tall and mounding 12 to 25 inches wide. The common name “Texas Primrose” comes from the genus Calylophus, which is native to Texas. It is in the same family as our native Oenotheras and shares many of the same characteristics. While not a true primrose, plants in the genus Oenotheras are commonly called primroses. Native to the Southwest, Calylophus grows in the wild in areas with low humidity and periods of drought, but Ladybird® Sunglow doesn’t skip a beat in the humidity of Tennessee.

Ladybird® Sunglow works great planted in the ground at the front of a border or spilling over the edge of a container. They grow best with six or more hours of sunlight and well-drained average to lean garden soil. Heat tolerant, drought tolerant, and deer resistant, they are generally largely pest and problem free.

In container plantings and beds, they mix beautifully with other low water consuming plants, such as Soiree Kawaii® Vinca, ‘Crystal White’ Mexican Zinnia, and Augusta™ Lavender Heliotrope. Once established in the landscape, they are generally carefree. When growing them in pots, treat them as you would most others that do not require much water. Apply one dose of slow-release plant food at planting time and a water-soluble fertilizer once or twice during the growing season to keep them blooming all summer long.

Listed as hardy to zone 8 (10-15°F), the original planting at the UT Gardens Jackson (zone 7) has come back each spring since it was planted in 2021, even with temperatures that dipped below 0°F. Good draining soil is crucial for overwintering this plant, particularly in marginal areas. Add Ladybird® Sunglow to your garden, and it will brighten your summer. This plant also is found in the UT Gardens, Knoxville, while the similar Ladybird® Lemonade can be found in the UT Gardens, Crossville.



Gardening Tips

"Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration."

Lou Erickson

September

- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide on your lawn to control cool-season weeds such as chickweed, henbit, dead nettle and annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*).
- Fall is a pleasant time (if there is such a thing) to work with stone.
- Keep an eye out for pests on your pumpkins, gourds, squash and melons. Cucumber beetles and squash bugs can be controlled with Sevin. Harvest your pumpkins when their color deepens and skin yields very little to pressure. Wash the fruits in a weak bleach solution and store them in a cool, dry location until you are ready to display them.
- To ensure proper maturity, hard-shelled gourds such as dipper, birdhouse and swan should be left on the vine until the vine starts to die back.
- Divide and re-pot any tropicals you have outdoors to prepare them for their winter home. Hose off or wash plants with soapy water and inspect them for insects. If needed, treat them with an appropriate insecticide. Imidacloprid, the active ingredient in many of the new insecticides, is a good systemic for insect control. It can be mixed with water and poured on the soil and the plant will take it up.
- Collect seed heads and pods on plants like okra, sumac, cotton, coneflower, rose hips and other suitable materials for dried arrangements. Air-dry in a dark, well-ventilated, cool location.
- If you have had disease problem with any of the vegetables in your garden, remove and dispose of the plant materials properly. Do not add these to the compost pile. Many diseases will over-winter on infected leaves, stems and fruit. This tip is especially important with tomatoes.
- Allow plants to finish the summer growth cycle in a normal manner. Never encourage new growth with heavy applications of fertilizer or excessive pruning this late in the season. Plants will not properly harden off and new growth can be injured by an early freeze.
- Avoid the temptation to plant seasonal pot mums in your landscape. Even if they establish themselves, they rarely live up to your expectations the following year. It is best to just toss them onto the compost pile after they fade. Chrysanthemum 'Clara Curtis' and 'Sheffield Pink' are good, reliable cultivars that will be around for years to come.
- Order or purchase bulbs by October 1 for the availability of the best selections. Store them in a cool, dry location until you plant them. Colchicum and fall blooming crocus should be planted as soon as they arrive.
- Keep deadheading plants such as zinnia and cosmos to ensure that they continue to flower. Continue collecting annual and perennial seeds that you wish to sow next year. Freshly collected seed is best stored in a paper bag or envelope until thoroughly dried.
- Begin planting cabbage, kale and pansies in the latter part of the month.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs for 2024

Wildlife Food Plots

September 24, 2024 – 6:00 PM Central,
Sequatchie County Fair Building, 103 Heard St, Dunlap
RSVP email sdbarker@utk.edu, call 949-2611 or
online @ <https://forms.gle/rVUQuts1wLWcPC749>
Free!

Composting

November 19, 2024 – 6:00 PM Central,
Sequatchie County Fair Building, 103 Heard St, Dunlap
RSVP email sdbarker@utk.edu, call 949-2611 or
online @ <https://forms.gle/7UZonuFuXudKiykH8>
Free!

Winter Bird Feeding

December 17, 2024 — 6:00 PM Central,
Sequatchie County Fair Building, 103 Heard St, Dunlap
RSVP email sdbarker@utk.edu, call 949-2611 or
online @ <https://forms.gle/AnZHBBztgVtdrrpy5>
Free!
