

UT Extension Sequatchie Co. Horticulture and Gardening Monthly News & Notes

July 2022

Fall Gardeners' Festival is Scheduled for August 30

Save the Date for 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 by Shalena Durkot courtesy UTIA.

CROSSVILLE, Tenn. – Gardening throughout the different seasons is important for many home gardeners, and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is excited to provide information throughout the year to make gardening a success. The annual Fall Gardeners' Festival, hosted at the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center in Crossville, Tennessee, is scheduled for August 30, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT. This in-person event gives gardeners the opportunity to receive valuable information to help their gardens flourish.

"We are extremely excited to once again host an in-person event," says Walt Hitch, director of the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center. "The Fall Gardeners' Festival is a favorite event for anyone interested in ornamental horticulture and the program is packed with excellent presenters."

The day-long event features a variety of presentations, educational workshops, exhibits, wagon tours, garden vendors, and opportunities to Ask-the-Expert. One expert that attendees can speak with is Jeff Harvey, president of the American Conifer Society.

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.

More information on the Fall Gardeners' Festival presentations will be available closer to the event date.

Through its land-grant mission of research, teaching and extension, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture touches lives and provides Real. Life. Solutions. utia.tennessee.edu.

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UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

UT Gardens Plant of the Month

Sun-loving Lantana Can Be Hardy in Tennessee When Conditions Are Right

Submitted by James Newburn, Interim Director, UT Gardens, Knoxville



drought tolerant once established, very heat resistant,

\ Vivid Lantana, like this yellow 'Chapel Hill' cultivar, thrive at the UT Gardens, Knoxville, and Jackson. In each location, some Lantana varieties have proven hardy, surviving winter temperatures to thrive again. That's not the case at the cooler, and higher elevation UT Gardens, Crossville, where Lantana are true summer annuals.

Photo courtesy of UTIA.

As a child, I was always fascinated with Lantana and its blooms. All those tiny individual florets forming one substantial flower cluster was a wonder to me. I used to pick the little flower heads apart and see how many single flowers I could get. The color of the flower head also captivated me. I remember how the separate flowers slowly faded or darkened to other shades as they aged. Then there were the bicolors that would have contrasting colors on the outer rings of the cluster (or umbel inflorescence as I learned later). These, too, transitioned as they aged. How cool was it that a flower could change colors!

As an adult gardener, I became aware of just how valuable Lantana (*Lantana camara*) is in the landscape. It is and provides season-long color, even tolerating a light frost before succumbing to winter freezes. It is a semi-woody shrub that can get up to 2 to 4 feet tall and wide or larger, so one specimen can make a big splash in a garden bed. Newer varieties are more compact and are ideal for mixed containers or as a landscape border. Throughout Tennessee, we treat them as annual bedding plant for the most part.

There are a few cultivars, however, that have been shown to be hardy in some parts of the state and will regrow each year. It all depends on how low the temperature gets in the winter. 'Miss Huff' is perhaps the most reliably hardy, widely available and popular cultivar in Tennessee. Established plants can withstand 0° F. With showy pink, yellow and orange florets this selection is standout. Jason Reeves at UT Gardens, Jackson, related that he has plants there that have been coming back for 15 years now. It is a vigorous grower and his reaches in the 4- foot range though they can get taller.

Another Lantana that has shown to be hardy in many areas of Tennessee is 'Ham and Eggs'. This variety has a rather richer, deeper bicolor inflorescence pattern with the outside flowers shaded a bright, deep pink (ham) and the inside flowers being yellow (eggs). It also can grow to be rather large, and Jason indicates it has been hardy in Jackson.

'Chapel Hill Yellow' has proved hardy for us in Knoxville and has come back for about four years. Somewhat smaller than 'Miss Huff' or 'Ham and Eggs', it usually tops out about 18 to 24 inches. It has a spreading habit that makes it ideal for the front or mid-border. Its solid yellow color brightens up any full-sun location where all Lantanas thrive.

When we are dealing with "hardy" or "perennial" Lantana those terms can be relative in Tennessee as we are in a transition zone of their hardiness range. Depending on your particular micro-climate, one cultivar may be hardy for you but not your neighbor. Shalena Durkot at the UT Gardens, Crossville, has said she has had no luck with any of them, however, Jason and I have had success in Jackson and Knoxville. My advice is to try any of these varieties and see how you fare. Lantanas are beautiful, low maintenance, pollinator-attractors whether they last one season or many.

A variety of Lantana can be found at the UT Gardens, Jackson, and Knoxville.



Gardening Tips

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

Lou Erickson

August Tips

August is peak time for backyard gardeners. There’s an abundance to harvest and plenty to do.

Tips for August include:

- Begin collecting seeds of annuals and perennials for next year's garden. Cut seed heads and place them in brown paper bags to dry, labeling each bag with the name of the plant.
- Sow pansies, ornamental kale and cabbage, and Swiss chard seed in a good quality potting medium. After seedlings develop true leaves, transplant them into individual cell packs or pots. Feed with a water-soluble fertilizer. By late September or early October, they should be ready to transplant into the garden.
- For late crops of beets, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, spinach, turnips, mustard, and radish, sow seeds before the middle of the month. Transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and onions can be planted in mid to late August.
- Stop watering amaryllis bulbs late this month and place them in a dry location. After leaves turn yellow, remove the foliage and store bulbs in a cool, dry, and dark site for about two months. If need be, repot bulbs so that the top one-half to two-thirds of each is above the soil. Water and place indoors in a well-lit area. The bulbs should bloom in six to eight weeks.
- Divide and transplant iris during August. Cut back the foliage by two-thirds, dig and divide rhizomes, removing any dead portions. Check for iris borers and replant in a sunny, well-drained location with one-third of the rhizome above the existing soil level. Water well.
- August is also a good time to dig and divide daylilies, using a sharp shovel to split the clumps into desirable sizes. Cut back foliage to five inches and replant in a sunny location.
- During dry spells, continue to mow the lawn on the high-level setting.
- Avoid pruning trees and shrubs starting in late August. Particularly hedging plants such as boxwood, hemlock, and hollies — since doing so this late in the season can stimulate new growth that will not harden off before frost. If spring-flowering shrubs are pruned now you will be sacrificing next year's flowers. Delay pruning any tree or shrub until the plant is dormant. Any major pruning should be done in late winter.
- August is a dry month so water properly – most vegetables need the equivalent of an inch of rain per week.
- And most important as the mercury continues to climb this month, sit back and enjoy the bounty from the garden.



2022 Dates

Sequatchie County Fair

Dates for the 2022 Sequatchie County Fair will be September 10-17, 2022 more details to come.

Publications of Interest

[Raising Your Own Backyard Chickens in Tennessee](#)

Read about the basics of raising your backyard chickens, which include breed selection, disease prevention, feeding, and other useful information.

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/D168.pdf>

Cover Crops and Green Manures

With fall just around the corner and as the summer harvest comes to an end a cover crop or green manure might be something to consider here are some publications to help you plan a cover crop to meet your needs.

- Cover Crops and Green Manures <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W235-G.pdf>
- The Backyard Series Backyard Vegetables - Stewardship in Soil Management W 346-G
<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W346-G.pdf>

Also

- <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W417.pdf>
- <https://www.familyplotgarden.com/winter-cover-crops.html>
<https://www.familyplotgarden.com/ga---what-cover-crop-should-i-use-in-winter-and-summer.html>