

UT Extension Sequatchie Co.

Horticulture and Gardening Monthly News & Notes

October 2023

Pest Alert



Photo credit: Dr. Frank Hale, UT Extension

Spotted Lanternfly Detected in Middle Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) has confirmed the detection of spotted lanternfly (SLF) in Davidson County. Tennessee is the 16th state to detect SLF since it was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014.

If you see SLF or an egg mass, take photos, then complete the form on the Protect Tennessee Forests website at

www.tn.gov/content/tn/protecttnforests/resources/report-a-pest.html.

Full media release at:

[https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/news/2023/9/28/spotted-lanternfly-detected-in-middle-](https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/news/2023/9/28/spotted-lanternfly-detected-in-middle-tennessee.html?fbclid=IwAR2Z1KiLGO9GctshL5SMFFgAzk5SIQ7Zaj-QiDLDEq641SnIzvPr2A3vZJM)

[tennessee.html?fbclid=IwAR2Z1KiLGO9GctshL5SMFFgAzk5SIQ7Zaj-QiDLDEq641SnIzvPr2A3vZJM](https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/news/2023/9/28/spotted-lanternfly-detected-in-middle-tennessee.html?fbclid=IwAR2Z1KiLGO9GctshL5SMFFgAzk5SIQ7Zaj-QiDLDEq641SnIzvPr2A3vZJM) For more on the spotted lanternfly see the Tennessee Department of Ag's page at:

- <https://www.tn.gov/protecttnforests/emerging-threats/spotted-lantern-fly.html>
- <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W1032.pdf>.

UT Field Days 2023 Dates

- October 19, 2023, 7 a.m. EDT - Woods and Wildlife – Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center at UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge

Publications of interest

- "Seed Grown Flowers for the Home Garden" <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/D139.pdf>
- "Butterfly Gardening" <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1636.pdf>
- "Hummingbird Gardening in Tennessee" <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W305.pdf>
- Selecting Plants for the Landscape Links UThort.com has collected several publications related to plant selection in one place find the list at <https://www.uthort.com/selecting-plants-for-the-landscape-links-in-welcome-home/>

Videos to consider

- Collecting and Saving Vegetable Seeds video <https://www.familyplotgarden.com/collecting-and-saving-vegetable-seeds.html>
- Collecting Wind-Blown Seeds video <https://www.familyplotgarden.com/twig---collecting-wind-blown-seeds.html>
- Preparing Vegetable Seeds for Storage: Fleshy Vegetables <https://www.familyplotgarden.com/twig---preparing-vegetable-seeds-for-storage-fleshy-vegetables.html>

Sheldon D. Barker • 423.949.2611 • sdbarker@utk.edu • Sequatchie County

[Facebook](#) • [YouTube](#) • [Instagram](#) • [website](#)

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University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



UT Gardens Plant of the Month

October Plant of the Month

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: Garlic

Submitted by Lucas Holman, Extension Agent and Director, UT/TSU Extension Wilson County



look for 'Music', 'Purple Glazer', or 'Chesnok Red'.

Garlic is fun and easy to grow in Tennessee. Photo courtesy of Lucas Holman.

Since I have started planting garlic, I have had zero vampire encounters in my garden. That's not hearsay, that's scientific fact. Garlic is one of those unique crops because you plant it in the fall and harvest it in the early part of summer. It prefers loose, well-drained soil and will not tolerate "wet feet." If the soil does not drain, root rot can occur and your crop will fail during the winter. Most small growers prefer placing a layer of straw down after the garlic is planted to aid in weed prevention.

There are two main types of garlic – softneck and hardneck. Typically, softneck varieties prefer warmer climates, and hardnecks need colder climates. The main difference is that hardneck varieties form a flowering stalk and softneck varieties do not flower. If you see a beautiful braid of garlic, it is softneck. You cannot braid hardneck garlic because of its hard, flowering stem. It's a good practice to break off the flowers after the first curl from the hardneck varieties to send all that energy to the bulb.

Tennessee is a great growing environment for both hard- and softneck garlic. If you are looking for softneck cultivars, try 'Inchelium Red', or 'California White'. For those interested in hardneck cultivars,

When planting garlic, plant individual cloves instead of planting the entire bulb. When you break up each bulb, most bulbs will yield anywhere from seven to 14 cloves. Each clove needs to be spaced 6 inches apart and planted 2 inches deep. When planting use a low nitrogen fertilizer to encourage root growth instead of leaf growth. In the springtime it's best to use a higher nitrogen fertilizer about the first week of April.

Everyone has their own way to determine when garlic is ready to harvest. I like to harvest my hardnecks when the bottom two to three leaves have completely turned brown. The rest of the leaves are green and still growing. Each green leaf represents a paper shell around the bulb, and you need six to seven shells around the garlic to help with the storage process. Softneck garlic should be harvested when the top bends over at the neck, much like an onion.

Once harvested, garlic heads need to cure in an area with good air flow that is out of direct sunlight. I like to hang mine from the rafters in my barn. A carport also will work. Just make sure the sun does not hit the garlic. Allow two to four weeks for the heads to cure. This curing process will help the bulbs last anywhere from six to seven months.

With the diversity of cultivars of garlic, be sure and experiment with a few different ones and you might just find a new favorite for your garden! For more information please check out *Garlic for the Tennessee Vegetable Garden* (UT Extension publication D75) found online at uthort.com. Simply enter "garlic" in the search box.



Gardening Tips

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

November

- Now is a good time to plant trees and shrubs since dormant plants will be under less stress. Newly installed deciduous plants require almost no watering during the winter months but don't forget a thorough initial watering, which is paramount. Monitor newly planted evergreens such as junipers, hollies, and arborvitae for watering needs if rain is sparse. Even in winter, a plant with leaves on it will transpire. Winter wind drying can hurt an evergreen tree that lacks sufficient moisture.
- October is a good time for you "yardeners" to control broadleaf weeds such as white clover and wild garlic. Check with your county's UT Extension office for specific recommendations.
- To make leaf removal less of a chore, rake them before they accumulate deeply. If you have a fescue lawn or moss garden, keeping the leaves off is even more important. Compost or use them as mulch in your beds. You can also till them into your soil, and they will be composted by spring. Leaves on the lawn can be chopped with the lawnmower and left in place if not too deep.
- Remember that seasonal mums are more valuable as compost than as "keep around plants" after they've faded. Don't be tempted to plant them because even if they establish themselves, they rarely live up to your expectations the following year. Chrysanthemum "Clara Curtis," "Ryan's Yellow" and "Sheffield Pink" are good, reliable perennial cultivars that perform well and make good additions to the landscape.
- October is the preferred time to plant ornamental kale, Swiss chard, and pansies. These are lovely additions to the fall and winter landscape, as well as being edible. Look for the winterbor and Russian kales as they are more reliable in cold weather than the kales known commonly as "flowering cabbage."
- Don't forget to bring in your tropical plants and houseplants before frost. Many plants don't like it when the temps drop into the 40's.
- Wash your pumpkins, gourds, and winter squash in a mild bleach solution before displaying or storing to help prevent rot.

And most important, Reeves says, is to take time to sit back and enjoy the beauty of the season as temperatures cool and fall colors dazzle.

Groundcovers and Lawns:

- Cool season lawns, like fescues, grow most in cooler temperatures. They will benefit from an application of 1 pound of Nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. this October.

Vegetables and Herbs:

- What are you going to do with all your leaves this fall? Good gardeners know that composting makes sense. One way that takes minimal time and helps you gain maximum benefit is to apply your leaves to the garden. A layer about 2 to 4 inches deep can be spread over your garden and tilled in this fall. As the leaves decompose, they add enriching organic matter to the soil, increase aeration, and help hold moisture. This method also limits the amount of work required when composting in bins.
- Even if you don't till in leaves into your garden you should till under your vegetable debris. Dead plants left in the garden can become reservoirs on which many common garden pests, such as the cutworm, can continue to develop or overwinter. Overseeding your garden plot with Crimson Clover, Red Clover or rye can help provide additional nitrogen and organic matter. In the spring, this cover crop can be tilled into the soil.
- For more on cover crops check out these UT Extension publications
 - [Fall Cover Crop Selection and Planting Dates in Tennessee](#)
 - [Cover Crops Quick Facts](#)
 - [Cover Crops and Green Manures](#)
 - [Building Healthy Soils](#)
 - [Soil Preparation for Vegetable Gardens](#)