



Sequatchie Valley MASTER GARDENERS

April 2019 Issue

In this issue

Valley Fest.....	1
UT Gardens Field Trip	1
Dates for 2019	2
Area Happenings	2
Iris	3
May Garden Tips.....	4
<i>Short Rows</i>	5

Valley Fest

Valley Fest will be May 4-5, 2019 in Dunlap, TN. Each year the SVMGs set up a booth for information and a fundraiser. For a donation one can receive a plant. We will need people to be at the booth Saturday and Sunday, and help setting up. More information will be coming soon about scheduling. Also, if you have plants, maybe you divided the iris, or started tomatoes and have extra, you can donate them for the fundraiser, again more details coming.

UT Gardens Field Trip

April 27, 2019

April 27th trip to UT Gardens in Knoxville will be combined with our next quarterly meeting. Bring your own brown bag picnic lunch, during our lunch break there will be a short business meeting.

If you plan to eat breakfast with the group, meet at @ 7:00 AM Central/8:00 AM Eastern at the Cracker Barrel in Athens (Travel time from Dunlap to Athens 1 hr 10 minutes, from Pikeville 1hr)

If you do not wish to eat breakfast meet at the Cracker Barrel at 8:00 AM Central/ 9:00 AM Eastern.

Athens TN Cracker Barrel 110 Burkett L Witt Boulevard, Athens, TN 37303 (off Hwy 30 before I-75)

UT Gardens 2518 Jacob Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996. (From Athens to UT Gardens 1 Hr.)

Dates for 2019

- **Quarterly Meeting**, April 27, 2019, UT Gardens Tour! Details are on page 1
- **Eastern Region Conference** May 21, 2019 hosted by Blount County in Townsend, TN
- **Central Region Conference** June 20, 2019 hosted by Sumner County in Gallatin, TN
- **Quarterly Meeting**, July 20, 2019, Dunlap, Mountain Valley Bank Summit Room
- **Steak and Potato Field Day** August 6, 2019, 8:00AM Crossville, Plateau Research & Education Center
- **11th Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival** August 27, 2019, UT Gardens Crossville, Plateau Research & Education Center
- **Quarterly Meeting** November 2, 2019, Pikeville
- **Western Region** Conference October 11 and 12, 2019 hosted by Hardeman County at Lone Oaks in Middleton, TN

Area Happenings

Hamilton County MG 3rd Saturday Classes

The Education Committee of the MGHC offers classes on varying topics on the third Saturday morning each month from February through November. These classes are open to the public and are generally free. Classes are at AG Center, 6183 Adamson Circle, Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming classes:

- May 19, "Gardening on Slopes – It can be Done"
- June 15, "Worm Composting"
- July 20, "Camelias"
- August 17, "History of Plant Names"
- September 21, "Hosta and Other Shade Loving Plants"
- October 29, "Edible Landscaping"
- November 16, "Wreath Making Class"

Visit <http://mghc.org/education-committee-classes/> for more details and to register

The 7th Annual 'Master Your Garden' Garden Expo

Saturday April 13 – Sunday April 14, 2019

Master Gardeners of Hamilton County

Camp Jordan Arena, East Ridge TN

Details at <http://mghc.org/garden-expo/>

Cumberland County Master Gardeners Association

Crossville, TN

The 2019 Classes in the Garden Series has 3 to 4 classes per month throughout the year. Check out the full list along with times and fees at: <https://www.ccmga.org/> or for a program flyer

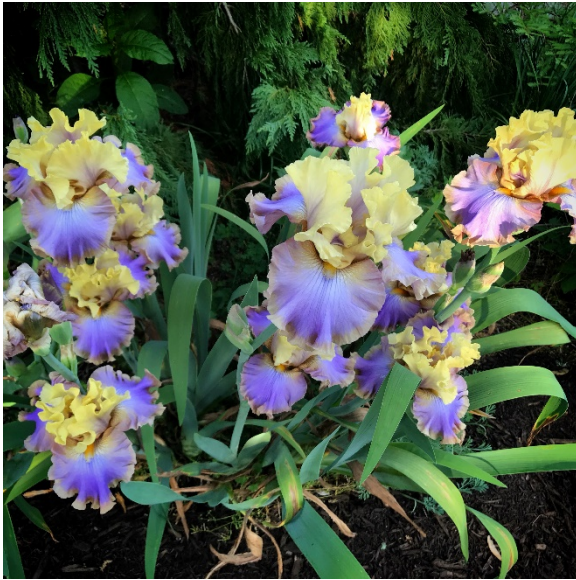
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/975cb3_864a7bb11e6242a191e552f9101a0006.pdf



UT Gardens Plant of the Month

Iris

Tennessee's Official Cultivated Flower, Iris Brings a Rainbow of Colors to Spring Landscapes



The blooms of the iris bring a rainbow of color to our landscape in the spring. This official cultivated flower of the State of Tennessee is popular across all the regions.

Photo by A. Pulte, courtesy UTIA.

Submitted by Andy Pulte, UT Department of Plant Sciences

In Greek mythology, Iris was the goddess of the rainbow; she was a messenger who brought an arc of color to the sky. In our gardens, the blooms of the iris bring a rainbow of color to our landscape. It doesn't matter if you live on a country road or on a downtown street; iris are plants that catch your eye when in bloom. For most of Tennessee and the Mid-South this begins in April and persists through May with other iris blooming later in the season. By mid-April, the largest flush of bearded iris flowers are what is taking center stage in most gardens.

There are 200-plus species of iris including some North American natives. Species are separated into two main groups - rhizomatous and bulbous. Bulbous irises form a more typical bulb and include Persian, reticulate and many dwarf irises. Rhizomes are underground stems that grow horizontally and are used as storage for the plant. Bearded iris falls into this group as do both the Japanese and Siberian iris.

The Iris, genus *Iridaceae*, is the official state cultivated flower of Tennessee. While iris come in several different colors, and the act naming the iris as the state flower did not name a particular color. However, by common acceptance, the purple iris is considered the state cultivated flower.

If you love and enjoy iris you may consider having a secession of iris bloom in your garden comprised of several different species. This could begin with *Iris reticulata* a small bulbous iris, followed by a dwarf bearded iris like 'little sighs.' Next, add classic tall bearded iris to your garden. There are many to choose from, 'Team Player' and 'Gypsy Lord' are two of my favorites. Follow this up with a Siberian iris like 'Caesar's Brother' and *Iris tectorum*, the Japanese roof iris.

If you like iris, why not get involved with one of the many iris societies we have right here in Tennessee? These can be great ways to meet new gardening friends, share knowledge and gain insight into gardening in your specific region of the state. There are iris societies in neighboring states as well. To get more information, simply search the internet for any of these iris gardening groups, or visit the website of the American Iris Society at www.irises.org.

Gardening Tips

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

Lou Erickson



May Garden Tips

May is an important month to get your summer garden established. It is an ideal month to plant everything you want in your garden before hot temperatures set in. Following are some suggestions for your May garden.

- Keep an eye on watering everything which is newly planted. It doesn't take much for new little transplants to dry out and die before they have a chance to get established. Check every day for adequate moisture until plants take-off and start to grow.
- Be sure to mow you lawn at the correct height. For turf-type fescues and bluegrass, have your mowing height to 2 ½ ". The higher you cut your lawn the deeper the roots will grow helping it survive dry spells. Do not lime or fertilize your fescue or bluegrass lawns until late summer.
- Deadhead or prune back spent flowers on your perennials. This will manicure your garden and can stimulate reblooming of delphinium and columbine as well as other perennials.
- You can selectively prune spring-flowering shrubs such as azalea, forsythia, weigela, lilac, beautybush, and mockorange to control their growth or improve their shape as well as increase their bloom next year.
- May is strawberry-picking month. Stock up on ice cream and whipped cream.
- Fertilize strawberry plants after their fruit has been harvested with 2 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft.
- Spray fruit trees and grapes early in the month with preventative fungicides. Do not use insecticides until all blooms have disappeared so not to harm the natural bee population.
- May is the month for iris and peonies. Enjoy their cut flowers in vases in your home.
- Thin (pick off) excess fruits from apple, pear and peach trees to a ratio of one fruit per 6-8 inches of branch.
- Stake tall growing perennials such as foxglove and true lilies to prevent them from lodging.
- If your peonies fail to flower this month, it could be that they are planted too deep. They should be planted 2" deep and receive at least 6 hrs. of sunlight.
- Direct seed sunflowers in your garden and stagger their planting by every week or two through July so you have flowers until frost.
- As the days get hotter and your pansies show stress, remove them and replace with summer annuals.
- When planting summer annuals, consider pinching and removing the flowers to stimulate branching and the production of many more flowers.
- Be sure to train new vines onto trellis or posts with the aid of twine. Plastic twine should be used to support the weight of the vine throughout the growing season.
- Don't forget to apply pre-emergent herbicides such as Preen to newly planted flower and vegetable gardens to prevent weeds. Be sure to follow label directions.
- Stalks of bearded, Siberian, and Japanese iris should be removed as flower fade.
- If you have had a grub problem or other insects in your lawn, now is an ideal time to apply either a grub-controlling insecticide or one labeled for the insects you want to control.

Short Rows

I found this list of “Books Our Botanists Use USFS” on the US Forest Service website thought it might be of interest to some of you:

- *A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs*. 2nd edition. 1986. George A. Petrides. (Peterson Field Guide Series) Houghton Mifflin company.
- *A Field Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of the Southern Appalachians*. 1994. R.E. Swanson Johns Hopkins University Press.
- *A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina*. 2002. Richard D. Porcher and Douglas A. Rayner. University of South Carolina Press.
- *Appalachian Wildflowers*. 2000. Thomas E. Hemmerly. University of Georgia Press.
- *All About Tennessee Wildflowers*. 1999. Sweetwater Press.
- *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Southeastern United States, Monocotyledons*. 1979. Robert K. Godfrey and J.W. Wooten. University of Georgia Press.
- *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Southeastern United States, Dicotyledons*. 1981. Robert K. Godfrey and J.W. Wooten. University of Georgia Press.
- *Autumn Leaves and Winter Berries in Arkansas*. 2000. Carl G. Hunter. Ozark Society Foundation.
- *Ferns of the Smokies*. 2005. M. Evans. Great Smoky Mountains Association.
- *Field Guide to Coastal Wetland Plants of the Southeastern United States*. 1993. Ralph W. Tiner. University of Massachusetts Press.
- *Field Guide to the Ferns and other Pteridophytes of Georgia*. 1986. L.H. Snyder, Jr. & J.G. Bruce. University of GA Press.
- [Flora of North America North of Mexico \[online\]](#). Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+. 16+ vols. New York and Oxford. Vol. 1, 1993; vol. 27, 2007. [Flora of North America website](#).
- *Flora of Virginia*. 2012. C. Ritchie Bell and Bryan J. Taylor. Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project Inc. and Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press.
- *Guide to the Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Tennessee*. 2002 B.E. Wofford & E.W. Chester. University of TN Press.
- *Guide to the Vascular Plants of the Blue Ridge*. 1989. B.E Wofford. University of GA Press.
- *Keys to the Flora of Arkansas*. 1994. Edwin B. Smith. University of Arkansas Press.
- *Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas*. 1968. Albert E. Radford, H.E. Ahles, C.R. Bell. University North Carolina Press.
- *Native Orchids of the Southern Appalachian Mountains*. 2000. S. Bentley. University of North Carolina Press.
- *Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of the Southeast*. 1989. by Leonard E. Foote & Samuel B. Jones. Timber Press
- *Plant Life of Kentucky: An Illustrated guide to the Vascular Flora*. 2005. by Ronald L. Jones. University of Kentucky Press.
- *Rare Wildflowers of Kentucky*. 2008. Thomas G. Barnes, Deborah White and Marc Evans. University of Kentucky Press.
- *Southern Appalachian Wildflowers (A Falcon Guide)*. 2002. B. Medina & V. Medina. The Globe Pequot Press.
- *Rare Wildflowers of Kentucky*. 2008. Thomas G. Barnes, Deborah White and Marc Evans. University of Kentucky Press.
- *Southern Appalachian Wildflowers (A Falcon Guide)*. 2002. B. Medina & V. Medina. The Globe Pequot Press.

Continued on next page

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

For more information contact:

Sheldon Barker
Extension Agent
Sequatchie Co.
170 Church St
Dunlap, TN 37327
423-949-2611

Sequatchie.tennessee.edu
facebook.com/UTExtension.Sequatchie

J. C. Rains
Extension Agent
Bledsoe Co.
PO Box 289
Pikeville, TN 37367
423-447-2451

Bledsoe.tennessee.edu
facebook.com/utbledsoecounty

Useful links

Tennessee Extension Master Gardening Program
<https://extension.tennessee.edu/MasterGardener>

Reporting hours On-line
<https://temg.tennessee.edu>

TMG Volunteer Handbook
<https://extension.tennessee.edu/MasterGardener/Documents/W099-%20Volunteer.%20November.pdf>

Short Rows continued

- *Rare Wildflowers of Kentucky*. 2008. Thomas G. Barnes, Deborah White and Marc Evans. University of Kentucky Press.
- *Southern Appalachian Wildflowers (A Falcon Guide)*. 2002. B. Medina & V. Medina. The Globe Pequot Press.
- *Wildflowers of Arkansas*. 1984. by Carl G. Hunter. Ozark Society Foundation
- *Wildflowers of North Carolina*. 2nd edition. C. Ritchie Bell, William S. Justice, and Anne Lindsey. University of North Carolina Press.
- *Wildflowers of Tennessee*. 2001. J.B Carman. Highland Rim Press.
- *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians*. 2005. D. Horn & T. Cathcart. Lone Star Publishing.
- *Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail*. 2nd ed. 2006. Leonard Adkins. Menasha Ridge Press.
- *Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains*. 2005. Leonard Adkins. Menasha Ridge Press.
- *Wildflowers of the Eastern United States*. 1999. Wilbur H. Duncan and Marion B. Duncan. University of Georgia Press.
- *Wildflowers of the Southern Mountains*. 1998. R.M. Smith. University of TN Press.

Source:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/features/books/index.shtml>

