Greetings Gardeners!!!

Spring is officially in the air...robbins have been spotted traipsing around in search of worms, trees are starting to swell their buds, cole crop plants and onion sets are on sale at the local garden centers, daffodils are edging through winter’s tough exterior, and glorious sunshine has brought forth respite from a long, hard winter (which hopefully is soon over...).

Along with the welcome of spring comes a gardener’s favorite time of year...a time of renewal and nature’s fresh bounty. Longer days bring extended time outdoors cleaning up and preparing for the seasons ahead. Venture inside this newsletter for a look at some exciting gardening opportunities coming up across the county and state in the coming weeks, and check out some of the latest gardening news before you start your journey to the garden this spring!

Following are a few points to keep in mind as warmer weather approaches. Although, spring is on the way, we could still experience some frosts/freezes before warm weather is here to stay...

The last frost for this area (Tri-Cities) is around May 15th. Planting vegetables and summer annuals too soon can subject them to late killing frosts. Setting plants out before the soil is sufficiently warm has proven to cause delayed growth and in fact, plants set out later after the soil has warmed up have grown better than those set out earlier, despite their later planting date.

With that in mind, remember now is the time to start planting those cool–season veggies, such as cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli.

Fertilizing certain shrubs, trees and warm season turf grasses with high nitrogen can cause early tender growths that can be damaged in late frosts and will inhibit bountiful flowers or fruits later this year or brown out your lawn in April...so be patient.

Mid-March is a good time to start most plants from seeds indoors so you plant them in mid to late April in your gardens. You will need plant lights or a south-facing window once the seeds germinate.

Most late spring or summer flowering/fruited shrubs and trees that blossom on new growth need to be pruned by now or very soon.

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Parsley is rich in vitamins A and C. Start some seed indoor now for later transplanting to a sunny corner of the vegetable garden. Pick a permanent spot for herbs in the garden. Many of them will come up year after year.

A good, salt substitute for anyone who wants to restrict sodium intake is a blend of equal parts dried basil, dill, lemon balm, marjoram, mint, parsley, rosemary, thyme, and a few dashes of Hungarian paprika. The mixture will keep indefinitely in a dark glass or ceramic container.
March Gardening Tips:

- When setting out transplants in peat pots, be careful not to allow the rim of the pot to protrude above the soil level. It will act as a wick and draw moisture up from the plant. Break away the upper rim of the pot before planting, and make sure none of the peat shows above the soil.

- A simple way to propagate many shrub plants is to anchor a low growing branch in the soil. You can do this with many plants including Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Camellias, Forsythias, Caroline Jasmine, ferns, Clematis, etc. Just gently bend a low branch and bury it in ½ inch of soil. Use a rock or brick to hold the branch in place. In about 2 or 3 months, check the branch for roots. If rooted, just cut and transplant.

- Be careful if planting pansies in the same area as vinca, as the same fungal disease will kill both plants.

- If weeds occur in bulb beds, do not remove them by cultivation. Pull them by hand so the bulbs and roots will not be disturbed.

- Rejuvenate your liriope by using a lawn mower to cut back the old foliage to a height of 2 to 3 inches. Avoid mowing too close and damaging the crown of the plant since that is where the new growth emerges.

- Divide and transplant perennials (astilbe, ajuga, aster, bleeding heart, coral bells, daylilies, phlox, liriope, oxalis, and shasta daisies). Perennials perform best in well-drained soil with plenty of humus. Astilbe, hosta, and bleeding heart will bloom in the shade. Rework beds before planting, adding organic matter and fertilizer. Hostas, liriope, daylilies, dicentra, Shasta daisies, and coral bells are some perennials that can be divided before growth starts in spring.

- Buy some new perennials for your flower border. Spring is a good time to renew and add variety to your landscape. Visit a local garden center or secure catalogs from your favorite nursery.

- Cannas for early flowering can be started in boxes or large pots in a warm cellar or enclosed porch.

- Cut canna rhizomes into pieces, each containing two or three points or "eyes". Plant in a soil mixture containing adequate sand for good drainage. The developing plants are sensitive to cold and should be set in the garden about a week after the average date of the last frost in your area.

- Many annual flowers are very frost hardy when plants are small, including alyssum, California poppy, candytuft, larkspur, pansy, viola, phlox, pinks, Shirley poppy, snapdragon, stock, and sweet pea. Seeds can be sown as soon as the soil has thawed.

- When the leaves of spring-flowering bulbs emerge, apply a complete fertilizer to ensure quality blooms next year. Remove the bulb foliage only after it dies naturally. This will occur in 6 to 8 weeks after the plant’s bloom fade.

- Crocuses and gladioli are not true bulbs, but are corms. The main difference between bulbs and corms is the method of storing food. In corms, the food is stored in an enlarged basal plate or stem. In bulbs, food is stored in meaty scales. Corms are smaller and tend to be flatter than bulbs.

- For more compact pyracanthas without the risk of losing berries, pinch back new growth now.

- Once new growth begins on trees and shrubs, cut back winterkilled twigs to living, green wood.
March Gardening Tips continued...

- Boxwood should be pruned by thinning the outer foliage of the plant and cutting back the branches to retain desired height.

- Plant roses and bare-root shrubs while they are still dormant, about four weeks before the average date of the last frost.

- Complete the pruning of shrubs and ornamental trees before new growth starts, except for spring-flowering shrubs. Prune those in the spring after they finish flowering.

- A good rule of thumb for planting rhododendrons is: the smaller the leaf (i.e., R. carolinianum, R. laetivirens), the more tolerant it is of winter sunlight. Large leaved rhododendrons, such as R. catawbienese or R. maximum, have more winter injury when planted in bright locations.

**BUTTERFLY BUSHES and ROSE OF SHARON:** The time to trim is now. You can hard-prune these bushes anytime now through March, but the best time to trim them is after mid February. Only disbud or lightly trim to shape after March. Cut bushes 18 inches to waist high above the ground. Flowers grow on NEW growth. After blooms fade, prune off old flowers and new blooms will emerge. You can do this until August. The butterflies will love you for this.

**ROSES:** After February 14th (Valentines Day) but before mid March, you need to prune your roses. Remove all dead and old canes. Small twiggy growth should be removed from the center of the shrub. If there are many canes, they should be reduced to 5 or 6 of the strongest and newest canes. If you have only 3 or 4 healthy canes, that is sufficient to get a bush off to a new start for the new season. Canes should be shortened to 15 to 24 inches. The larger the diameter of the cane, the longer you can leave the cane. Make sure the pith (interior) of the cane is white or a greenish white. If on the first cut, you find the pith of the cane to be dark or tan, continue to cut back to the next node. Cut just above a node and at a 30 to 45 degree angle pointing outward. Don’t let the bush intimidate you, and don’t be afraid you will harm it if you cut it back aggressively. Rose bushes thrive on being pruned and this process stimulates new growth. Around mid March, you will need to start applying a high nitrogen (36-6-6) water-soluble solution. Spring blooming climbers should not be pruned until they have finished blooming.

**CREPE MYRTLE:** Ideal to trim January-March. Although some people like to top these hearty shrubs, commonly referred to as “Crepe Myrder”, this is not a recommended pruning technique. When you top these plants you cause the plant to generate weak branches leading to stubby knots on the end of the branches. They can split and severely damage the plant. Just trim and shape Crepe Myrtles. Remove old seedpods and crossing branches. Remove many of the interior branches to allow new growth and flowers a place to grow. Remove new growth at base of shrub often. This will promote better flowering later. Flowers grow on NEW growth.
Remember … a weed is nothing more than a plant growing in the wrong spot. It is NOT recommend that you apply any weed killers now. This should have been done November or December. If you do have ‘winter’ weeds, they will disappear in spring. If you are going to apply a broad-leaf weed killer to control summer annual weeds then you can apply it in late March (after the forsythias finish blooming). It would be better to wait until April or May. Weed seeds germinate based upon ground temperatures. The forsythia is just a gauge. Weed killers to control broad leaf weeds are ‘systemic’ solutions and are absorbed by the leaf and not the roots of the plant. As such, you need to wait for the weeds to germinate and grow before applying these pesticides (2,4-D with Dicamba and/or MCPP). Applying these pesticides too early is a waste of money and damages the environment. Broad leaf weed killers are not for all types of turf grasses, so remember to always read the label and strictly adhere to instructions before applying any pesticide in your yard.

On the other hand, to control Crabgrass you need to apply ‘pre-emergent’ products, pesticide or organic. The pesticides work on the seed (all seeds) and won’t allow them to germinate. These products typically will not control already existing crabgrass. There are many crabgrass control pesticides and only a few are safe for ‘all’ lawns.

Read the label carefully!
- Applying crabgrass control too late is a waste of money and damages the environment.
- There are several products out there for ‘Pre-Emergent’ Crab Grass control. The pesticides last 2 - 6 months depending on product, so you will have to apply crabgrass controls several times over the growing season.
- Apply crabgrass ‘Pre-emergent’ controls before the forsythias finish blooming (or by mid-March), and then reapply according to your products label. Crab grass starts germinating and growing when the soil temperature reaches 60°.
- Application timing is critical for success in using these expensive products. The best home crabgrass eradication is to dig and remove the plant and overseed the area.
- A healthy, properly fertilized, and watered lawn will prevent weeds and crabgrass from growing in your yard.
- There are several new products now available to the public that can be used after germinations but the effectiveness is limited based upon the number of tillers (blade/branches) of the crabgrass.
- Application timing is critical for success in using these expensive products. The best home crabgrass eradication is to dig and remove the plant and overseed the area. A healthy, properly fertilized, and watered lawn will prevent weeds and crabgrass from growing in your yard.

**Cool Season Grasses (Fescue):** Do nothing. If you fertilized properly your lawn should be getting greener. If you did not fertilize 3 times last fall/winter then you can apply ½ lbs of Nitrogen fertilizer per 1000 square feet of lawn. Cut as necessary.

**Cutting Height:** 2 ½ inch minimum. 4 inch optimum.

**Warm Season Grasses (Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine):** Do nothing. Due to the winter, your lawn may be dormant or semi-dormant at this time, light brown (straw) in color.

**Establishing or Over-seeding:** The best time to establish and overseed these types of lawns is May through July.

**Fertilizing:** Do nothing. Your lawn should be brown. You will be applying fertilizer starting in May. Feeding too soon can cause stress to the turf grass and may result in fungal diseases.
Spotted Wing Drosophila by Karla Addesso and Jason Oliver

The spotted wing drosophila (SWD) is an invasive pest of small fruits that has become established in Tennessee. The fly lays eggs in fruits and the resulting maggot infestation causes premature fruit drop that renders the crop unsuitable for human consumption. It has been found in most Northeast Tennessee Counties, but is likely to be present elsewhere in Tennessee.

Identifying Spotted Wing Drosophila

• SWD attacks strawberry, blueberry, blackberry, cherry, and other fruits to a lesser extent.

• SWD are about 1/8 inch long, have red eyes, yellow bodies with black stripes on the abdomen and a single pair of wings. Only males have a black spot on the front tip of their wings. Females have a dark, serrated egg laying organ at the tip of the abdomen that allows them to cut into fruit.

Managing Spotted Wing Drosophila

• Harvest fruit as soon as they ripen and destroy fallen fruit.

• Monitor for SWD using a clear, red or yellow drinking cup with a lid. Punch 10 holes the diameter of a pencil around the top of the cup and fill with a few ounces of apple cider vinegar. Hang the trap near susceptible crops before fruit begins to ripen. Flies will be attracted to the apple cider vinegar and drown in the cup. Replace bait and check traps weekly.

• Males are the easiest to identify with a hand lens. Suspect flies can be identified at your local county extension office. If SWD is confirmed by trap catches, current recommendations are to apply a pesticide when fruit begins to color. Make sure the product label says it can be safely applied on fruits close to harvest.

• Conventional and organic pesticide trials are ongoing. Currently, malathion, zeta-cypermethrin, beta-cyfluthrin, beta-cyfluthrin, spinosad and spinetoram showed the best control in field trials.

• Contact your county extension agent for additional information.

*Always follow pesticide label instructions.*

Visit www.tnstate.edu/agriculture for additional information.

The fly affects ALL small fruits!!!
Congratulations to the 2014 Master Gardener class! Ten new students were selected to participate in the class after submitting an application late last year. Participants will attend fourteen training courses, each class being 3 hours in length focused on all aspects of horticulture. Upon completion of their initial 40 hours of classroom training, the group will continue their Master Gardener certification with 40 hours of community service hours. The 2014 class participants are: Sharon Barger, Neil Burgner, Laura Eryasa, Martha Fluharty, Jeff Gilliland, Jeanie Jackson, Carol Jernigan, Mickey Sizemore, Wolf Spendel, and Teresa Uhls. Good luck to our new “Bud Sprouts!!!”

We look forward to many fun, innovative, and unique opportunities and activities in the upcoming year!

The Big Spring Master Gardener Association is currently involved with several project throughout the county. They include:

- Boys and Girls Club Demonstration Garden and Hoop House
- Tabernacle Soup Kitchen Demonstration Garden
- New Hope Cemetery Restoration Project
- Food Bank Edible Landscape Project
- Nathanael Green Museum Landscape

We will be hosting a Spring Plant Sale just in time for Mother’s Day at the Greene County Fairgrounds Commercial Building on Saturday, May 3rd! There will be various varieties of heirloom tomatoes for sale, as well as herbs, flowers, and hanging baskets!

Mark your calendars now...Our 2nd annual “Sustainability Fare” event will be held on Saturday, September 13th! Plan on coming to learn how to live and thrive sustainably! Many demonstrators will be on-site throughout the day. See our website for more details! www.bsmga.com. Congratulations to the BSMGA for winning the “Search for Excellence” Award in 2013 for their involvement in the “Boys and Girls Club Demonstration Garden” project! Several hours were devoted to this project in 2013 with the hard work, dedication and vision of the BSMGA B&G Team! Special thanks to Virginia Williams, Beth Hembree, and Sandee Cook!

 Winners of the 2013 Tennessee Master Gardener Search for Excellence Awards in 5 of the 7 categories were:

**Community Service:**
Hawkins County
Church Hill Senior Center Garden

**Demonstration Garden:**
Sullivan County
Harvest of Hope Community Garden

**Youth:**
Greene County
Boys and Girls Club Demonstration Garden

**Innovative:**
Cumberland County
REAP (Realizing Economic Agricultural Potential) Vegetable Garden Kit

**Workshop/Presentation:**
Putnam County
Putnam county Fair Enchanted Garden

These awards are sponsored by the Tennessee Master Gardener Endowment and the Tennessee Master Gardener Advocacy Board, the Tennessee Search For Excellence (SFE) program recognizes outstanding Master Gardener projects throughout the State of Tennessee.

While all work done by volunteer Master Gardeners is significant to the community, not all work done by Master Gardeners qualifies for this honor.

All projects submitted for consideration of a SFE Award must demonstrate a high level of learning and outreach that carries on the mission by Master Gardeners to the general public.

**Mission**
Promotes environmental stewardship through a network of volunteers who provide information and education to Tennessee communities in home gardening and related areas. As part of its mission, the program supports continued education and development for committed volunteers.

**Vision**
To provide innovative, research-based, progressive home horticulture education to all Tennessee communities.

**Values**
- Providing home horticulture education in a responsive and timely manner.
- Collaborating with local nonprofit and municipal groups to offer educational leadership for better gardening practices in area communities.
- Fostering a learning environment for volunteers who promote environmental stewardship while representing the University of Tennessee.
- Encouraging continued education and the recruitment and training of new Master Gardener Volunteers.
- Offering information and education to Tennessee citizens through innovative programs with creative and new approaches.

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Looking for Fresh and Local?

Visit the “Pick Tennessee Products” Web site directory! By clicking on the pictures, or on the menu, you can access directories for all sorts of foods and fun available at Tennessee farms, farmers markets and other retail outlets. Useful pages that list nurseries and greenhouses will help you find plants that can thrive in Tennessee—because they’ve been locally grown. From Christmas trees to country hams, and from wineries to watermelons, you can find it on a Tennessee farm!

http://www.picktnproducts.org/index.html

Tennessee Farm Fresh, is a specialized program whose purpose is to help connect you, the consumer, directly to where your food comes from, the farm! It seems more and more people are becoming interested in where their food comes from, how it was grown, who produced it and supporting their local economy. Tennessee Farm Fresh helps you find local farmers in your area who supply the highest quality nutritious and delicious farm fresh products throughout the year, be it fresh fruits and vegetables in the spring and summer, the perfect Christmas tree in the winter, beautiful landscaping anytime, specialized products for gifts like jams, jellies, breads, etc. or a great place to discover what life on the farm is all about! We currently have around 100 producers located across this great state ready and waiting to provide you a product straight from the farm gate, so explore our site, friend us on Facebook for current news and deals, and thank you for not only supporting your local economy, but for helping keep agriculture viable!

http://www.tnfarmfresh.com/
GAP Connections, a nonprofit aiming to create awareness and cultivate positive environmental and social impact through good agricultural practices in the tobacco industry, has announced the launch of a new website and online Grower ID system. The website provides a resource for tobacco farmers and other interested parties to learn about the organization’s initiatives, as well as a way for farmers to sign up for the Grower ID System. GAP Connections offers a streamlined approach to free farmers from overlapping their efforts through the U.S. Tobacco GAP Program, supplying them with simple procedures that are coordinated with industry buyers and manufacturers. The Grower ID System provides a secure and easy way for tobacco farmers to document and share their good agricultural practices training associated with the U.S. Tobacco GAP Program. Through the Grower ID System, growers will be assigned a unique Grower ID number that will be used to track GAP training attendance and generate an electronic record of that attendance that can be shared with companies that purchase their tobacco and need to verify that the crop was grown using good agricultural practices. Use of the Grower ID System to document training will greatly simplify documentation of training compared to the former system of paper certificates kept by the farmer.

When growers register online in the ID system, they will receive their unique grower ID number and Grower ID card. The Grower ID card will be scanned at training meetings starting this year. This system will provide an immediate record of their training that, with the permission of the farmers, will be made available to participating companies that buy their tobacco. Registered farmers can also use their Grower ID number to log into the Grower ID System at www.gapconnections.com to view and print their training records at any time.

Tobacco farmers benefit from registering for the Grower ID System in several ways, including the following:
- Online access to their grower profile and GAP training history
- Grower ID card to scan at GAP trainings to track attendance
- Easy sharing of GAP efforts with one or multiple member companies

In addition to access to the Grower ID system the website provides numerous resources aimed at helping tobacco farmers follow the guidelines of the U.S. Tobacco GAP Program, including a downloadable copy of the existing program’s guidelines and recordkeeping checklist and templates.

GAP Connections is funded by tobacco purchasing groups and others with interest in the production of U.S. tobacco. Programs promoting Good Agricultural Practices are delivered through partnerships between GAP Connections and university Extension services in most of the tobacco-producing states. GAP Connections centers on facilitating educational opportunities to tobacco farmers about crop production, managing land use, protecting the environment, maintaining a safe environment for their laborers, and more.

Greene County GAP training: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Greene County Clyde Austin 4-H Center, Greeneville, TN 37743.
If you have questions, please contact Melody Rose at the Greene County UT Extension Office (423-798-1710) or Craig Easterly at Burley Stabilization Corporation (423-638-4239).
GAPs Online Produce Safety Course

About this course:
Implementing Good Agricultural Practices is a 3-week web-based course offered through the National GAPs Program. Class size is limited to 25 people on a first come, first serve basis. A minimum of 10 participants must be registered for us to offer the course. Special arrangements can be made for large groups to ensure everyone is in the same class together.

Time Commitment:
Once the course opens, it is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for 3 weeks so you will be able to complete the course when time permits in your schedule. There are no required hours of participation. There is an instructor. The instructor may schedule office hours but you are not required to attend these hours. You will be able to email your instructor at all times during the course and they will respond in a timely manner. All course requirements must be completed within the 3 week window. Do communicate any problems you are having to your instructor or to the eCornell help desk so that we can provide assistance and guidance.

Within the three weeks you are expected to:
- Complete a pre and post test
- Read all course materials
- Turn in 4 assignments for evaluation
- Complete 2 self-tests
- Contribute to the discussion boards.
- Complete Course Evaluation

Most students spend 15 to 20 hours on this course, but depending on your knowledge, more or less time may be required. If this is more than you can manage at the moment, we hope that you will not take the course at this time, but sign up at a later date when you have the time to complete the program.

Module One: Welcome to Implementing GAPs: A Key to Produce Safety
1.0.0 Module Home Page
1.1.0 About This Course
Module Two: Shared Responsibility in Food Safety
2.0.0 Module Home Page
2.1.0 Reasons for Engagement
2.2.0 Module Wrap-Up
Module Three: Good Agricultural Practices
3.0.0 Module Home Page
3.1.0 Worker Training, Hygiene, and Health
3.2.0 Water Use
3.3.0 Postharvest Water Use
3.4.0 Soil Amendments
3.5.0 Cleaning and Sanitation
3.6.0 Traceability and Recall
3.7.0 Crisis Management
3.8.0 Other Important Practices
3.9.0 Module Wrap-Up
Module Four: Implementing Change
4.0.0 Module Home Page
4.1.0 Education and Training in Food Safety
4.2.0 Building the Plan
4.3.0 Module Wrap-Up
Module Five: Course Conclusion
5.0.0 Module Home Page
5.1.0 Concluding Activities

Development of this course and its content has been a collaborative effort between professionals in government, academia, and industry with funding from the USDA, so we hope you enjoy the course and increase your produce food safety knowledge!

If after reading the information provided you would like to enroll, please complete the enrollment information and submit a $190 payment for the course at www.ecornell.com/gaps (If the direct link from this letter does not work, please type it directly in as a web address). When registering for the course, you will be asked to enter a “Group Number”. Enter: G000107 for the Group Number. (Please note that these are zeros and not the letter “O”).

If you have any questions about any of this information, please contact Elizabeth A. Bihn, Ph.D., National GAPs Program

CLASSES OFFERED:
March 5—25, 2014!
Direct Farm Marketing for Success VII  
Using Advertising to Your Farm’s Advantage  
Workshops for Tennessee farmers directly marketing specialty crops to consumers.

TAEP Eligibility – This workshop qualifies as one course toward the educational requirements to receive 50% TAEP cost share for ONLY: Agritourism, Fruits and Vegetables, and Value-Added diversification sectors.

Sessions
• Buying Advertising that Works to Your Farm’s Advantage
• Designing Advertising that Works to Your Farm’s Advantage
• Creating Signage that Sells
• Working the Wonders of Word-of-Mouth Advertising
• TAEP Producer Diversification Cost-Share Update and Tips for Submitting a Strong Application

Times (Local to workshop location.)
8:30 am Registration, Refreshments & Networking
9:00 am Sessions Begin
11:45 am Lunch (provided) & Networking
3:45 pm Adjourn

March 4 – Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center – Spring Hill, TN
March 6 – AgResearch and Education Center at Milan – Milan, TN
March 11 – Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center – White Pine, TN
March 12 – Athens Regional Park – Athens, TN
March 13 – Hyder-Burks Agriculture Pavilion – Cookeville, TN

Pre-registration is required and must be received at least 5 business days prior to the workshop date.  
Early Registration Fee - $15 per person
Register online with a credit card at: https://ag.tennessee.edu/cpa
(Space is limited. Workshops not having adequate registration by early registration deadline may be cancelled.)

Questions? Contact Megan Bruch at the Center for Profitable Agriculture at mlbruch@utk.edu or 931-486-2777.

Food for Profit
Workshops for growers interested in adding value to fruits and vegetables through a food processing enterprise

Food for Profit takes you step by step through the information necessary to start and run a small food product business by adding value to fruits and vegetables. The workshop provides information that you will be able to use immediately to ensure that your business starts out and grows in a way that matches your vision and goals.

TAEP Eligibility
This workshop qualifies as one course toward the educational requirements to receive 50% TAEP cost share for ONLY: Fruits and Vegetables and Value-Added diversification sectors.

Topics
• Getting Started A discussion of the challenges and advantages of owning a food business.
• Legally Speaking Learn about licensing and inspection requirements.
• Developing a Game Plan Is your business idea do-able, marketable, and profitable?
• Niche Marketing The importance of accurately targeting your “first and best customer”; using the four P’s of price, product, placement, and promotion.
• Safe Food Handling Make your product safe, reduce liability and extend the shelf life.
• Packaging your Product Select the right packaging – materials, labels and information provided.
• Financing your Business A discussion about effective pricing, self-financing, loans and grants.

A Tennessee food manufacturer will also share some of the Realities of a Food Business.

Workshop Dates, Times & Locations
• April 8 – RJ’s Courtyard Grille – Maryville, TN
• April 9 – Hamilton County Extension Office – Chattanooga, TN
• April 10 – Agri-Park – Murfreesboro, TN

Sessions begin at 9am and end at 4pm local time.

Pre-registration required. Must be received by April 2.  
Registration fee of $30 per person. Register online with a credit card at https://ag.tennessee.edu/cpa
(Space is limited. Workshops not having adequate registration by early registration deadline may be cancelled.)

The Gardener’s Toolshed Lunch-time gardening workshops—UT Extension - Greene County Office, 204 North Cutler Street, Downstairs in the County Courthouse Annex. Take production resources and recipes home with you to keep! Cost is only $3.00 each session. Space is limited, so register soon! (Register by the Monday prior to class date). Call 798-1710 for more information.

- Strawberries with a Purpose - Thursday, April 24, 2014 - Noon - 1:00 P.M.
- Root of the Problem - (tuberous root crops) - Thursday, May 15, 2014 - Noon - 1:00 P.M.
- Crazy About Container Gardening...Growing A Little Salsa - Thursday, May 22, 2014 - Noon - 1:00 P.M.
- Three Sisters Gardening - (corn, beans, potatoes) - Thursday, June 5, 2014 - Noon - 1:00 P.M.
- Vertical Vines - (cucumbers, squash, zucchini) - Thursday, June 19, 2014 - Noon - 1:00 P.M.
Apple Growers Meeting
A Commercial Apple Growers Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11. The meeting will be held at Erwin Town Hall at 211 N. Main Avenue in Erwin, TN beginning at 6:30 pm. The topic will be “Apple Production Considerations” and it will include updates on a variety of topics including insect and disease control. Dr. David Lockwood, University of Tennessee Extension Fruit Specialist, will be making the presentation and also plans to discuss apple varieties, rootstock selection, fertilization, pollination, and post-harvest storage. The meeting is free and pre-registration is not required. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
For more information, contact Ty Petty, Agriculture Extension Agent, at The University of Tennessee Extension office in Unicoi County at 423-735-1637.

Commercial Fruit & Vegetable Grower Update
This workshop will be geared toward small to mid-sized growers, especially those direct marketing to consumers. Topics discussed will include seed varietal selections and new introductions, pests and diseases to watch for, and current control recommendations for pests and diseases.
Thursday, March 13, 3-6pm
Lane Agri-Park Community Center, 315 John R. Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Topics:
• New vegetable crop offerings that will set you apart at the market
• Insect Awareness and Control for Direct-Marketing Growers
• Disease Control for the Small-Scale Producer
Program will begin at 3 p.m. and is free, however, preregistration is requested.
Call Janie Becker at 615-898-7710 or email jbecker8@utk.edu to sign-up.

2nd Annual Sustainability Fare
Saturday, September 13, 2014
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Greene County Fairgrounds
Commercial Bldg.
123 Fairgrounds Circle
Greeneville, TN 37745
• Garden, Cooking, and Food Presentations and Demonstrations
• Unique Sustainability Related Vendors
• “Ask a Master Gardener” Information Booth
• Master Gardener Project Exhibits
• Educational Exhibits by local artisans and speakers
• Sandwich wraps and water available for purchase

Annual Spring Plant & Heirlooms Sale
Saturday, May 3, 2014
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Greene County Fairgrounds
Commercial Bldg.
123 Fairgrounds Circle
Greeneville, TN 37745
• Unique supply of extraordinary plants.
• Grown locally by Greene County garden experts.
• Tips on growing your new plants successfully.
• Master Gardeners available to answer questions.
• Have an insect, weed or disease you need identified? Bring it by and a Master Gardener will help you identify it!

Sustainability Fare and Plant Sale
Sponsored by:
Big Spring Master Gardener Association
For additional information visit www.bsmg.com

UT Extension Sullivan County will conduct two grafting workshops on Tuesday, March 25, 2014. The classes will be held at 1:30 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. at the Outdoorsman Clubhouse in Blountville located at 4535 Hwy. 11W, Blountville, TN. There will be grafting knives available for you to use. The fee for rootstock will be as follows:
• 7 rootstock = $20
• Additional apple and cherry rootstock = $1.35 each; pear and plum = $1.60 each.
• Includes tree tags for each tree, grafting tape, and a variety of scion wood.
Space is limited. Call UT Extension Sullivan County at (423) 279-2723 for information.
**Online Publications & Interesting Links:**

Fruit and Nut Spray Guides: Disease & Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings  

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification in Tennessee  
https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/SP746-B.pdf

Introduction to Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Practices: Defining the Terms  

Farmer’s Market Reports  
http://economics.ag.utk.edu/farmersmarket.html

Tennessee Farm Fresh  
http://www.tnfarmfresh.com/

Drosophila Fly Information  
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in998  
http://ipmsouthnews.com/tag/spotted-wing-drosophila/

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