A program of the University of Tennessee Extension

CONTACT:
Sheldon Barker
Extension Agent
Sequatchie Co.
170 Church St
Dunlap, TN 37327
423-949-2611
facebook.com/UTExtension.Sequatchie

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

IN THIS ISSUE
What is it?
2017 Dates
Short Rows- What is an heirloom?
Garden Tips
Plant of the Month - Stevia rebaudiana

What is it?
Lima beans, found mid-August. Effected one end of the row. Note it has been a wet spring and summer. Answer on page 5

Hours to date
Hours recorded - 264.85
Valued at $6,393.48 at $24.14/hour
Total value of all goods and services to date $6,429.65
2017 Dates

- **Quarterly Meeting**, November 4, 2017, Pikeville

Tentative dates for 2018

- **Sequatchie County Library Work Day** January 15, 2018
- **SVMG Quarterly Meeting** February 3, 2018, 9:00 AM, Dunlap
- **March** Spring Workshop – Tree Fruits as topic
- **SVMG Quarterly Meeting** April 28, 2018, 9:00 AM, Pikeville moved to avoid Valley Fest
- **Valley Fest** May 5-6, 2018, Dunlap TN
- **Steak and Potatoes Field Day** – August 7, 2018, 8:00AM Crossville
- **SVMG Quarterly Meeting and Tomato Tasting** August 11, 2018, 9:00 AM – meeting 10:00 AM, Tasting Pikeville (moved to avoid Yard Sale)
- **10th Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival** August 28th, 2018 UT Gardens Crossville, Plateau Research & Education Center
- **SVMG Quarterly Meeting** November 3, 2018, 9:00 AM Dunlap

2017 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series

- October 6, 2017 - **New Invasive Ants to Know About** - Presented by Dr. Timothy Davis, University of Georgia Extension, Moderated by Tim Crow, Eric Schavey
- November 3, 2017 - **Pantry Pests, Carpet Beetles, and Clothes Moths** - Presented by Dr. Eric Benson, Clemson University, Moderated by Lucy Edwards, Rhonda Britton
- December 1, 2017 - **Don’t Let Bed Bugs Hamper Your Vacation Plans!** - Presented by Alan Brown, ABC Home & Commercial Services, Austin, TX Moderated by Taylor Vandiver, Marcus Garner

Short Rows

**What is an heirloom?**

The term heirloom is defined in many ways. One definition is a vegetable cultivar that has been grown for a certain length of time. For others an heirloom is passed down by a family or group preserving them for future use. Since the seed are passed down and kept from year to year heirlooms are always open-pollinated. Hybrid seed cannot be kept in this fashion and do not reproduce true from seed.

**Why Grow Heirlooms?**

One reason for many gardeners, saving an heirloom cultivar is nostalgic. Others consider heirlooms to have a superior flavor. The most important reason to preserve heirlooms is to keep their genetic traits for future use.

Check out the source publication for more information.

**Source**

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/vegetables/gardening/hgic1255.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/vegetables/gardening/hgic1255.html)


New Publications, Website updates and etc.

- **PB 1690 2017 Insect and Plant Disease Control Manual**
  [https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1690.pdf](https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1690.pdf) this is a comprehensive collection of all of UT’s recommendations for insect and disease control from row crops and forages to vegetable gardens and landscapes, this manual has it all. You can find an interactive version of these recommendations at [https://ag.tennessee.edu/EPP/Pages/Redbook.aspx](https://ag.tennessee.edu/EPP/Pages/Redbook.aspx)
- **W 417 Cover Crops Quick Facts** - The revision of this web-only publication is now complete and is available on the Extension publications site at [https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W417.pdf](https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W417.pdf). Please note that it is available online only. This publication focuses on using cover crops in production agriculture but if you are interested in cover crops this is a good review of key facts.
October Garden Tips

October is typically the driest month in Tennessee so be sure to keep your garden watered. Here are some tips from the University of Tennessee Institute Of Agriculture for fall garden maintenance:

**Shrubs and trees**
- You’ll find a good supply of trees and shrubs at local suppliers and October is just the beginning of the ideal season to install such plants in your garden. If you do plant in October, definitely water plants well until rainfall picks up in November and December.

**Perennials, annuals, and bulbs**
- One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter. Any weed which you can eliminate from the garden this fall will possibly prevent thousands of weed seeds from sprouting in the garden next spring!
- Garden centers and nurseries are well stocked with spring flowering bulbs and late October and early November is the ideal time to get them planted.
- Collect and save seeds of wildflowers to sow either right now allowing the seeds to over-winter in your garden or wait and sow early next spring.
- Now is an ideal time to plant winter annuals in your garden for a great show of color from now until spring. Great plants to include in your winter garden are pansies, violas, snapdragons, and Dianthus. They can be planted in mass for a major splash of color in your landscape or use them in containers to add color in different strategic spots. Such winter hardy herbs as parsley, thyme, and rosemary make great container companions with winter annuals. Also, consider interplanting your winter annuals with bulbs of daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths. Planting bulbs between such hardy annuals will bring a surprise burst of color in the spring. And when the fading bulb’s foliage begins to wither, the winter annuals are so colorful that one barely notices the bulbs’ yellowing foliage.
- It’s a good time to spruce up your garden by cutting-back withering perennial blooms and adding a fresh layer of mulch. If you do add new mulch, be sure to follow-up with a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent an invasion of winter weeds.
- Mums are here. A variety of sizes and colors await your garden. Some people grow mums as year-round perennials, often enjoying two seasons of blooms—a light display in late spring, and another show in the fall. Others opt for treating them as fall annuals, sinking pots in the ground or among their other garden plants. Either way, mums are a great way to add extra color to the fall garden.
- Keep your garden and lawn raked clean of a heavy layer of leaves and debris. Fallen leaves, old plant parts and grass clippings should be added to the compost pile.

**Lawn care**
- Fall is an ideal time to renew tall fescue lawns that have suffered during hot, dry summer months. Fertilizing with nitrogen-containing fertilizers will speed lawn grass growth, thicken the lawn and improve its’ color.
- Seeding and mulching bare areas will provide erosion control and reduce the potential for weed problems.
- Core aerifying will help water and nutrients move into hard soils. If your lawn is weak and thin and you intend to seed, a power rake can be used to lift thatch and expose soil before planting. Now may be the time to introduce a new, improved variety or tall fescue blend. It is best to be done with seeding your lawn by mid-October but fertilizer can be applied as late as mid-December.
- It is not too late to prepare your bermudagrass or Zoysia lawn for winter this fall. By increasing the cutting height now, you can help buffer these lawn grasses from extreme low temperatures in winter. The application of a potassium-containing fertilizer may also improve your lawns’ low temperature hardiness and drought tolerance. Several fertilizers are specially formulated to help “winterize” bermudagrass and Zoysia. Some may

"Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration.” Lou Erickson
also contain a pre-emergence herbicide to prevent seeds of annual bluegrass and other winter annual weeds from germinating and competing with lawn grasses for light, nutrients and water.

**Fruits and veggies**

- Pumpkins, summer squashes, and gourds to be stored should be harvested before the first frost. Pumpkins that have begun showing color will continue to ripen after harvest. Use great care not to nick the rind during harvest since this will lead to more rapid deterioration.
- Dig and divide congested clumps of rhubarb.
- Apple varieties are showing up at fresh markets and roadside stands. Seek out some new varieties to eat fresh or create delicious desserts with. Apple trees can be planted now, too. Select disease resistant ones such as Redfree, Prima, Priscilla, Jonafree, Nova Easygro, and Liberty.
- Keep harvesting second plantings of the cool season vegetables including radishes, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, chard, spinach, broccoli, and the other cole crops. Some such as parsnips, Brussels sprouts, and kale actually have enhanced flavor after a frost.
- Plant individual cloves of garlic now for a crop of garlic bulbs next summer. Select very large cloves to produce the largest bulbs. Plant them 6" deep and at least 6" apart. Mulch them after the ground freezes for winter protection.
- Some root crops, such as carrots, onions, and parsnips can be left in the ground and dug up as needed. Apply enough mulch to keep the ground from freezing, and the crop will be kept fresh until it is needed.
- If diseases or insects wiped out your peach or other fruit crop this year, cleanup is definitely called for. Destroy any fallen fruit from under your trees, and remove any that have mummified on the tree. These fruits will be loaded with problems, and cause an early attack next year. Consider getting a home fruit spray schedule from your local extension office now, so you are prepared next year.
- After you have finished harvesting your summer vegetables, plant a cover crop of clovers, cow peas, soybeans, or vetches for the purpose of plowing under next spring. These nitrogen producing plants will provide good organic matter and food for your garden crops next year, as well as helping to control weeds over the winter.

**Odds and ends**

- Now is a great time to do fall decorating in your garden which works well all season long, from
- The first hint of cool air and autumn color to late November and Thanksgiving. The key is making displays that use the traditional icons of fall - hay bales, scarecrows, corn stalks - as supporting cast for the lead players - pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, garden or pot mums, fall pansies, asters, ornamental kale and other blooming plants. Hay bales are especially useful “benches” for building versatile displays, while corn stalks add height and definition. Such displays can add a festive touch to a front porch or the landscape in strategic places like a light post or the entrance to a driveway or walk.
- Place amaryllis in storage for a 2 month rest before re-flowering. Select a cool (40 _ 50 degree) spot and stop all watering. Plan to begin watering again 9 _ 12 weeks before you want it to flower.
- Thanksgiving and Christmas cactus should be placed in an east or north window, watered and fertilized one last time. Start letting them dry out more between waterings. This plus cooler night temperatures will stimulate blossom production.
- Compost has been compared to black gold, and will made quite a difference in your soil. Fall is the ideal time to start a compost pile, since there is such a ready supply of materials—from falling leaves, to the gleanings from our vegetable and flower gardens. Your local extension office has loads of material on composting, from building the compost structure, to how to compost.
- The birds will soon begin their winter migrations so give them a helping hand by providing them with some food for their long journey. You might persuade a few of them to stick around for the winter, if they know they have a reliable food source!
What is it? Answered

UT Dianostic Lab... “May be ... common blight (Xanthomonas campestris). This bacterial disease appears during warm, wet weather. It comes from infected seed and is spread by moisture. Avoid overhead watering of the plants and handling the plants when wet. Bacteria can live in the soil 2 years on plant debris. Plow under plants after harvest. Rotate to non-beans areas for 2 years. Use new clean seed every year. Spray fixed copper every 7 days when seen. Use resistant varieties of beans.”

Various strains of Xanthomonas campestris cause a variety of diseases that affect crops. Other than beans here are three common problems caused by X. Campestris:

- Xanthomonas campestris pv. vesicatora causes bacterial leaf spot (BLS) on peppers and tomatoes
  - [https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/SP277-W.pdf](https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/SP277-W.pdf)
- Xanthomonas campestris pv. graminis Bacterial wilt of turfgrass
- Xanthomonas campestris pv. campestris Black rot affecting all cultivated varieties of brassicas
  - [https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W273.pdf](https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W273.pdf)

An excellent online publication Home Vegetable Garden Disease Control found at [https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W316.pdf](https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W316.pdf) discusses an IMP (Integrated Pest Management) approach to disease control in the garden. Here is a quick review of the recommendations:

**Cultural Practices**
- Garden site selection
- Provide optimal growing conditions
- Use of resistant varieties
- Crop rotation
- Sanitation
- Disease-free seed and transplants
- Seed disinfestation
- Planting date
- Mulching
- Organic amendments and soil treatments
- Staking or trellising
- Watering practices

**Protection Products**
- Seed or foliar treatments
September: *Stevia rebaudiana*

*A Sweet Addition to Any Garden*

Submitted by Holly S. Jones, Manager of the Kitchen Garden, UT Gardens, Knoxville

Native to the mountainous regions of Brazil and Paraguay, *Stevia rebaudiana* is a tropical perennial herb that has gained wide popularity in recent years as an alternative sweetener. Stevia contains compounds that taste sweet but have almost no calories and do not affect insulin levels the same way that simple sugars do. Though it has a long history of use in South America and many other regions, the FDA only recently approved it as a “Generally Recognized as Safe” substance here in the United States. When that designation was granted in 2008, food manufacturers were able to begin adding to it to their products and since then it’s become more common. You can find liquid or powdered versions in the grocery store or, better yet, you can grow and preserve it yourself.

Best planted in rich, well-drained soil with full sun exposure, stevia matures to about two to three feet tall and wide and is generally pest and disease free. Though perennial in its native land, it is only hardy to about 15 degrees Fahrenheit and rarely survives Tennessee winters. It is readily propagated by semi-ripe cuttings, which can be overwintered in a sunny window indoors. You can also pick up a replacement at your local garden center each spring.

Like many herbs, the flavors intensify later in the season as temperatures increase. Leaves harvested in mid-June will have a less bitter aftertaste. A plant that was set out in late April should have a nice crop of leaves by early summer, and these can be preserved either by drying or by making a liquid extract. The glycosides that give stevia its sweet flavor are quite potent, and you will need to experiment with how much to add for your taste.

At UT Gardens in Knoxville, you will find this sweet herb growing in the perennial beds in the kitchen garden. The UT Gardens includes plant collections located in Knoxville, Jackson and Crossville. Designated as the official botanical garden for the State of Tennessee, the collections are part of the UT Institute of Agriculture. The Gardens’ mission is to foster appreciation, education and stewardship of plants through garden displays, educational programs and research trials. The Gardens are open during all seasons and free to the public. For more information, see the Gardens website: [ag.tennessee.edu/utg](http://ag.tennessee.edu/utg).