

MARCH 2025

THE UTHORT HUB

Official News Hub of the UTHort Team

Spring has Sprung!

As the doldrums of winter slowly fade, we excitedly welcome spring across the state of Tennessee. Spring ephemerals are pushing upward as the winter yields to warmer temperatures; the grass is greening; the vibrant hues of daffodils and tulips brighten our landscapes; and the smell of freshly dug soil and apple blossoms permeates the air and awakens the senses. As we ramp up for our spring task lists in the home garden, lawn, and landscape, we have several great tips and resources to get you growing in the right direction this spring!

Be sure to peruse our vast selection of resources on our [UTHort website](#) to get you off and growing this spring!

2025 Home Garden Calendar



[UTHort Resources](#)

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New Publications Released

Our teams have continued to work diligently on developing educational resources to assist gardeners in growing novel home fruits in Tennessee. We are excited to announce the release of the four following publications (please click each title below to access):

- [Growing Elderberries](#)
- [Growing Figs](#)
- [Growing Pawpaws](#)
- [Growing Persimmons](#)



Home Garden Variety Trials

Join the fun this year! Get involved with citizen science by participating in our fun and interactive Home Garden Variety Trials research program! Grow old favorites alongside new cultivars to determine what grows (and tastes) best according to you! Information is used to assist home gardeners in TN to select the best vegetables for their home gardens. Grow with us in 2025!

Interested in participating in the TN Home Garden Variety Trials in 2025? Check out this handy link for all the details!

[2025 Home Garden Variety Trials](#)

Coming Soon...

Small Space Food Series

Join the UTHort team for FREE weekly lunch-and-learn webinars on Tuesdays in May. We have a fantastic team of speakers slated for the event with topics ranging from growing in raised beds and containers, to selection recommendations for fruits, veggies, and herbs that grow best in containers!

[Register Here!](#)



May 6
May 13
May 20
May 27



12:30-1:30 EST
11:30-12:30 CST

Office Hours in Horticulture

Join the UTHort team for FREE live and interactive sessions answering all your lawn, landscape, and garden questions throughout the garden season...
Sign up [HERE](#)

June 13
July 11
September 12
October 10

Stay tuned for details later in the year!
10:00 EST/ 9:00 CST



Get Growing!

With spring finally awakening among our home gardens, lawns, and landscapes, we ask you to take advantage of all our resources to guide you through the season. In addition, we have ample opportunities for you to join us in upcoming webinars as we gear up for the summer growing season. Mark your calendars now to take advantage of these great connections!

As we continue into 2025, we look forward to connecting with you in the new year through outstanding educational opportunities and exceptional face-to-face interactions throughout the year. We wish all of you a very productive springtime!



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Master Gardener Spotlight

Tennessee Extension Master Gardener training began January 28, 2025! We currently have 559 interns training to become certified Master Gardeners all across the state.

In addition, Master Gardeners across the state are ramping up for three regional conferences to be held in each region of the state in May and June. We look forward to visiting with volunteers across the state! Registration coming soon!

[TN Extension Master Gardener Website](#) 

Turf Talk!

Spring is an ideal time to plan for the establishment of warm-season lawns in Tennessee. While cool-season grasses can be planted in the spring, this is generally not recommended. In many cases, there may not be enough time for proper establishment before the arrival of extreme summer temperatures, particularly in Middle and West Tennessee, where spring can be short, and the transition to summer is often rapid. When installing cool-season turfgrass in spring, consider sodding where possible to speed up establishment as an alternative to seeding.

Homeowners frequently ask about warm-season turfgrass selection, including whether bermudagrass or zoysiagrass—the two most common warm-season options in Tennessee is the best choice for their lawn. Additionally, selecting the right variety or cultivar can impact long-term success.

When selecting between zoysiagrass and bermudagrass, it's essential to consider factors like maintenance, establishment, climate tolerance, and overall performance. Both grasses offer distinct advantages and challenges, so your choice should align with your specific site conditions and management expectations.

[Discover Resources Here...](#) 