

MAY 2025

THE UTHORT HUB

Official News Hub of the UTHort Team

Sunshine Vibes and Summer Highs

As springtime wanes, we excitedly welcome summer across the state of Tennessee. Our summer gardens will soon be in full swing, along with bountiful berries and orchard fruits, gorgeous landscapes, and running barefoot through our home turf! As we ramp up for our summer 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 summer season!

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

2025 Lawn Maintenance Calendar

2025
LAWN MAINTENANCE
CALENDAR

[UTHort
Resources](#)

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New Home Fruit Publications Released

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

- [Selecting Grapes](#)
- [Selecting Peaches, Plums, and Cherries](#)



New Small Space Food Production Publication Series Released

Raised beds, containers, and even indoor food production continue to attract both new and experienced gardeners. And, our team always wants to meet gardeners where they are with resources to get them growing well. These three new publications are designed to equip gardeners for getting the most out of their small spaces.

- [Outdoor Small Space Food Production](#)
- [Indoor Small Space Food Production](#)
- [Crops and Cultivars for Small Space Food Production](#)



Too Rainy to Plant?

[Check out the recordings from our Space Food Series](#)

In May, our UTHort team held a lunch and learn webinar series with an hour-long session each Tuesday.

[Click HERE to access the whole YouTube Playlist](#)

Each week delivered two presentations on key topics to support small space production in Tennessee.

Week 1- Site/light + vegetable favorites

Week 2- Media and materials + herbs

Week 3- Water/nutrients + fruit favorites

Week 4- Avoiding pitfalls and pest and disease management

[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 for Office Hours Here!](#)

June 13
July 11
September 12
October 10

Everyone signed up will receive reminder and recap emails!



We hope to see you this summer!

With summer right around the corner, we hope that you are making use of great Tennessee Extension resources and programs to support your gardening and horticulture. From websites to publications, to webinars series, there is a great suite of content to support you all.

We also hope that you are making plans to enjoy some of the great field days offered by University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture this summer!

June 10th - Fruits of the Backyard Field Day in Spring Hill, Tennessee

July 10th - Summer Celebration in Jackson, Tennessee

August 27th - Fall Gardener's Festival in Crossville, Tennessee



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Master Gardener Spotlight

Tennessee Extension Master Gardener training officially ended on April 22nd with 559 interns well on their way to becoming certified Master Gardeners all across the state.

In addition, Master Gardeners 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! Learn more about the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener below...

[TN Extension Master Gardener Website](#)

Turf Talk!

Summer Lawn Care Tips...

- Gradually increase mowing height:
 - *Cool-season lawns* (e.g., tall fescue): Raise mowing height to **3.5 to 5 inches** to support deeper root growth and improve moisture access.
 - *Warm-season lawns* (e.g., bermudagrass, zoysiagrass): Raise mowing height to the upper end of the recommended range (around **2.5 to 3.5 inches**).
- Irrigate **deeply and infrequently**! Daily watering encourages shallow roots and weaker turf. Deep, infrequent watering builds resilience to heat, drought, and traffic stress.
- **Fertilize with balance** and care by using slow-release or organic fertilizers to reduce burn risk and environmental loss. Remember more is not always better.
- Watch for common summer turf diseases like Dollar Spot, Leaf Spot, and Brown Patch.
- Always confirm disease issue before treating:
 - Do not apply pesticides without correctly identifying the issue.
 - Contact your local UT Extension office for assistance with diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

[Discover Turf Resources Here...](#)