



Master Gardener Thymes

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WANT TO PLANT A FALL GARDEN?

John Hamrick of the Washington County Extension office will present a program on Fall Vegetable Gardening at the August 3 NETMGA General Meeting. All MGs and Interns are welcome to come and learn how to keep growing those delicious veggies right through the fall.

Food and fellowship will begin at 6:00 and the program will start at 6:30. The meeting will be held at the Gray Community Center. All attendees are invited to bring a finger food to share. Friends of MGs are also welcome to come to the program to learn more about Master Gardeners.



www.gardengrowth.com

Farm Fest is Coming to Exchange Place

Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest will provide old-fashioned family fun on Sunday, July 12, from 2-5 p.m. at Exchange Place Living History Farm on Orebank Road in Kingsport. Sponsored by Hamlett-Dobson Funeral Homes and Exchange Place, Farm Fest celebrates the pleasures of country life. Step back into the nineteenth century and enjoy fresh summer food like watermelon and corn on the cob. Join in activities from bygone days like sack races, hayrides, and cake-walks. Listen to music on traditional instruments, pet the farm animals, and try your hand at old time crafts like stenciling, tin punch, and carding wool. Small children will enjoy washing clothes on the washboard and jumping in the hay-stack.



A shuttle bus will run from Mountain View United Methodist Church to Farm Fest from 1:45 to 5:30 p.m. to ease parking congestion. This free event is part of Kingsport Fun Fest, and no ticket is required. For more information call 423-288-6071.

Master Gardener volunteers are needed to help with plant related children's activities and teaching farm "chores". To volunteer contact Joy Moore at 348-6572 or jon-moore@tricon.net.

2009 Master Gardener Classes Scheduled

The 2009 Master Gardener classes will begin on September 10 and continue through November 5. Most sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 at the Gray Community Center next to Appalachian Fairgrounds and Gray Volunteer Fire Department. Some classes will be field trips, and one class will be an evening lecture. A complete schedule will be in the Sept/Oct newsletter.



MG Class Planning Committee for 2009. Pictured are Nina Hedrick, Joy Moore, Chris Ramsey, and Winkle McKinley.

Help us spread the word about our wonderful program! If you know someone who might be interested, please have him /her contact Chris Ramsey's office, **ASAP**, at 423-279-2723. He will send an application and more information regarding the program.

There are many opportunities for Master Gardeners or Interns to be involved with the classes:

- Remember, you are welcome to attend any or all of the lectures. It is fun to meet the new students, and there's always something new to learn (attending one lecture will provide 3 CEUs!).
- Please consider serving as Moderator for one or more of the lectures. The main Moderator duties include: preparing the room for the lecture, welcoming students, introducing the speaker, and ensuring time schedules are adhered to. Two Moderators are needed per lecture and you can earn 3 Administrative Hours Credit per lecture! If interested, please contact the Moderator Coordinator, Karen Campbell, karly-rose@gmail.com, 423-276-3942. (Thank you Karen for agreeing to serve as Coordinator this year!)
- You can also become a "Bud" for one of our new Master Gardener Intern "Sprouts". The Buds & Sprouts Program pairs a Master Gardener (BUD) with a member of the incoming class (SPROUT) for the main purpose of friendship and information sharing. You also earn volunteer hours! Lois Bronson will pair you with a class member and provide more information. Please contact her at 423-239-4285 or honeybee37@charter.net Thank you Lois for agreeing to Coordinate this Program again!



Chris' Corner

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Can you believe half of 2009 and the gardening season is over already! Hopefully, you are finding ample opportunities to get involved and accumulate those MG volunteer hours and CEUs. **We will extend the reporting deadline to October 31 this year.** Hours reported after this date will not be recognized at the Annual Master Gardener Recognition Program, but the hours will count toward your annual recertification if they are in the state database by December 31, 2009.

There are many opportunities around the area to get involved in ongoing projects. You can find a list of projects at sullivan.tennessee.edu. We have over 15 ac-

tive projects with opportunities in all area cities and communities. **Call me now if you need ideas on where to get involved!**

The volunteer service requirement is 40 hours for Master Gardener Interns and 25 hours for certified Master Gardeners. Both of these groups should accumulate 8 hours of Continuing Education (CEUs).

The 2009 Fall Master Gardener class is in the planning stages. The class will tentatively be held at the Gray Community Center next to the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Gray. The class will meet on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The program will begin on September 10 and end in early November. Please spread the word to other potentially interested individuals. They may call me at 423-279-2723 to put their name and address on our mailing list. Program details and an application will be mailed in late July. The Fall MG classes are great CEU opportunities for you as well.

PLAN AHEAD TO EARN SOME HOURS

Master Gardeners have two opportunities to earn volunteer hours this fall. The first is Kids' Expo, Saturday September 12 and Sunday September 13 at Meadowview Convention Center. The second is Women's Expo, Saturday October 17 and Sunday October 18, also at Meadowview. Volunteers are needed to staff the Master Gardener information booth and to collect tickets.

The schedule for both events is:

Saturday 10:00 to 1:00, 1:00 to 4:00 and 4:00 to 6:00

Sunday 1:30 to 3:30 and 3:30 to 6:30.

For more information or to volunteer call Doug Hilton at 423-239-9433.

HOMEGROWN TOMATO FEST V

A Celebration of All Things Tomato

The Fifth Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest will take place Saturday, August 8, 2009 from 9 am until Noon at Glen Bruce Park, beside the Kingsport Public Library. This celebration of the juicy red fruit features tomato contests, free tomato tastings (including many heirloom varieties), free tomato refreshments, music, tomato-inspired art, tomato-growing advice, and fun for the whole family. **New this year will be activities for kids and culinary demonstrations by Troutdale at Ridgefields.**

Tomato lovers are invited to enter the Best Salsa Contest and bring tomatoes to compete in the following categories: Best Tasting, Biggest, Prettiest, Ugliest, Most Bizarre, and Best Dressed. Admission is free and there are no entry fees. Entry forms may be picked up at DKA or downloaded from the SAPS website, www.saps.us

For further information about TOMATO FEST V, contact Dennis Marshall at 423.288.3675

Protect Against Canna Leafrollers

By Carol Reese at West TN research Station

The Lesser Canna Leafroller has been affecting cannas the last couple of years. It attaches the leaves together with silk, preventing them from unrolling. This caterpillar also feeds on the leaf. It overwinters in old Canna foliage and stems, so collecting and destroying old plant material each fall should help reduce the population.

A good organic control is BT. BT is made from a naturally occurring bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Liquid or powered Sevin will also work. The problem with both BT and Sevin is getting down in the rolled up leaves where the leafroller is.

A good systemic insecticide is one with the active ingredient - imidacloprid. Imidacloprid is the active ingredient in many of the Bayer Advanced products found at Wal-Mart and Lowe's. It is mixed and then used to drench the roots when the plant starts actively growing, about a foot or so tall. The foliage may be sprayed as well. Repeated applications every 4 to 6 weeks seem most effective. The Lesser Canna Leafroller can and will have multiple generations during the summer.



aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

Looking for a new plant? Try Angelonias.

By Hugh Conlon

With summer upon us, most people are now enjoying their flower garden. But, for some reason, there may be a plot of ground not currently strutting color. To solve the problem, plant the Serena series of angelonias. Flower colors range from purple, lavender, pink and white. Plants are heat and drought tolerant with no pest problems. They also grow well in mixed containers in full sun to partial shade. Plants are compact, growing 10-12 inches in height and 12-14 inches in width. Garden performance is superb! Angelonias bloom non-stop from the time they are planted until a hard freeze in the fall.

In early June, angelonias were on sale at the Wayne Torbett Greenhouses in Piney Flats (now sold out). They have also been found at Martin's Greenhouse in Rogersville and Evergreen Garden Center in Johnson City.



www.post-gazette.com

Plan a Trip to Asheville's Arboretum

The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville is offering several interesting events during the next few months. Some of them include:

July 11 and 12 - Bamboo Festival: The American Bamboo Society's Southeastern Chapter will host its third annual Bamboo Festival. Visitors will learn about the artistic value and functionality of this remarkable grass during a weekend of lectures, demonstrations, crafts, plant sales and a raffle. Free with the parking fee of \$6 per personal vehicle; always free for Arboretum Society members.

August 28 through 29 - Speaking of Gardening Symposium: Enjoy two days of expert garden lectures. Five highly regarded designers, authors, horticulturists, research specialists and nurserymen will provide participants with new ideas and inspiration. The symposium includes a design workshop and programs on topics including public garden design, new plants from NCSU breeding program, designing with grasses, new perennials from Jelitto and the Human Flower Project. Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Fee includes six lectures, book signing, plant giveaway, lunches and snacks. \$98 Arboretum Society Member, \$114 for general public. Limit 100. Register at 828.665.2492, Ext. 317 or [online](#).

October 2 and 3 - Bulb Lecture: The North Carolina Arboretum welcomes Brent Heath of Brent & Becky's Bulbs of Virginia for a weekend of expert workshops and seminars and a bulb sale. Information at 828.665.2492, Ext. 319.

October 17 and 18 - NC Chrysanthemum Society Annual Show: The rewards of spring and summer come full bloom at The North Carolina Arboretum during the North Carolina Chrysanthemum Society's annual show. Hundreds of chrysanthemum blooms in vibrant and varied colors will be on display. This judged exhibit highlights the exceptional variety in size, shape and color of these popular fall flowers. The show is a perfect opportunity to learn more about how to grow display or show quality chrysanthemums. Free with the parking fee of \$6 per personal vehicle; always free for Arboretum Society members.

Spare Species List

New on the spare species list are Lenten Roses offered by Mike May. Mike says: "I have several plants that need dividing which I am unable to take care of myself. If anyone would be interested in Lenten Roses, I have a ton of new seedlings 1-2 yrs old that I need to pass on to someone else. Also other plants in my garden that I can share, but someone will have to bring something to carry them in, and help with the digging." Email if you have questions, mmaypvt@aol.com



Lenten Rose courtesy of www.landscapenashville.com

Whose Roses are the Prettiest?



Are your roses doing well this summer? How about your dahlias? Do you have some zinnias that are really special? Consider entering them in the floral competition at the Appalachian Fair.

The annual Appalachian Fair is scheduled for Aug. 24 through Aug. 29, 2009 at the fairgrounds in Gray, Tn. Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring cut flowers, vegetables, or house plants and enter them in competition. This is one sure way to decide whose flowers are truly the prettiest.

The Fair also has competitions for vegetables, fruits, and field crops. For more information and to download entry forms, visit the fair web site at [http://](http://www.appalachianfair.com)

www.appalachianfair.com. This is a great way to celebrate your gardening skills and to see some exceptional exhibits. See you at the Fair!

APPALACHIAN FAIR

Gray, Tennessee

August 24th - 29th, 2009

For Best Results - Rotate Your Petunias

By Hugh Conlon



images.flowers.vg

Crop rotation was an important lesson passed down to us by the ancient Egyptian and Roman farmers. A few years back, reports began to surface that, in several areas of the U.S., petunias were not growing well. Further investigation revealed that petunias had continuously been planted in the same

beds over several consecutive years. This led to a buildup of soil root and stem wilt diseases.

Many gardeners don't know that the petunia is part of the Solanaceae family, the same botanical lineage as the tomato and pepper. So, the message here is not planting the same plant in the same location over two consecutive years. Design your flower garden with the crop rotation principle in mind. Instead of petunias in 2010, consider switching to celosia, salvia, lantana, marigold or angelonia and come back to petunias the following year.

This is not an edict that Tri-Cities gardeners should stop planting petunias. Petunias are one our best summer blooming annuals. They take summer's hot dry weather better than most flowering annuals. There will be more, even better, petunia varieties to select from next year.

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<http://netmga.net>

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DATES TO WATCH

July 11 - 12	Bamboo Festival	NC Arboretum
July 12	Farm Fest	Exchange Place
August 3	NETMGA Meeting	Gray Community Center
August 8	Tomato Fest	Kingsport
August 24-29	Appalachian Fair	Gray
Aug. 28 - 29	Garden Symposium	NC Arboretum
Sept. 12 - 13	Kids' Expo	Meadowview Convention Center
Oct. 2 - 3	Bulb Lecture	NC Arboretum
Oct. 17-18	Women's Expo	Meadowview Convention Center
	NC Chrysanthemum Show	NC Arboretum