

Ag Column  
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May 5, 2017

## UT Extension Master Gardener Classes Set for Fall

The UT Extension Master Gardener Program is a great way of connecting with great volunteerism opportunities and expanding your gardening knowledge. Our Master Gardeners enable the University of Tennessee to reach more people teaching them about horticulture. Our volunteers educate through demonstration gardens, plant clinics and workshops. Some volunteers enjoy digging and planting while others like leading projects, speaking to groups, writing news articles, and assisting with UT Extension Programs. Last year, local volunteers contributed over 11,600 hours in their community. As a UT Extension Master Gardener, you will become a part of the University of Tennessee. You will have an opportunity to familiarize yourself with the vast resources of UT Extension and make these available to citizens in your community.

The 2017 Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener classes will begin on September 5 and continue through October 31. The sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Ron Ramsey Regional Agricultural Center in Blountville, TN. Contact Chris Ramsey, Master Gardener Coordinator/UT Agricultural Extension Agent, at (423) 279-2723 to request an application. Please call ASAP if you are interested in this program. The fee for the program is \$175.00 which includes an extensive 800 plus page Master Gardener Textbook, the graduation dinner, your name badge, and other related costs. A limited number of partial scholarships will be awarded on an as needed basis.

If you decide to become a UT Extension Master Gardener, you will attend 40 hours of horticultural classes. Following graduation, you will be introduced to a number of community projects and mentor Master Gardeners. You will receive a newsletter from the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association and have the opportunity to become involved with this engaged network of Master Gardeners.

This program is open to anyone wishing to attend regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or veteran status and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.