

Calling All Gardeners – 2023 Master Gardener Class Applications Are Being Accepted Now!

New to NE Tennessee/? New to gardening? Experienced gardener ready to learn more? Get ready to take a deep dive into the world of gardening like never before. Join passionate gardeners, experienced and novices alike, in classes and workshops sponsored by the University of Tennessee and presented by UT and TSU professors, Extension Agents and local Master Gardeners. You will have hands-on workshops, field trips and opportunities to ask those burning questions about gardening. Classes cover vegetable gardening, lawn care, growing and caring for trees and shrubs, and annual and perennial gardening in NE Tennessee. You'll learn things that will amaze you and make you a fantastic gardener. And you'll make new friends as you go through classes and work on volunteer projects together.

The 2023 UT Extension Master Gardener classes will begin on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, and continue through May 2, 2023. The sessions will be held on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at UT-TSU Sullivan County Extension Office, located in the Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville, TN. You'll receive 40 hours of classroom instruction. Add forty hours of volunteer work and 8 hours of continuing education during 2023 to earn the coveted Tennessee Master Gardener badge. You will be trained to help the UT-TSU Extension Office providing valuable horticultural information and educating the public in home horticulture to help improve the quality of life of local citizens.

Complete the program and join the ranks of approximately 2,000 active Master Gardeners in 44 Tennessee counties in aiding the Extension Offices by helping in all sorts of ways, including working at plant clinics; fulfilling requests for UT Horticultural Information; establishing and maintaining demonstration gardens; working with the handicapped, youth, the elderly, as well as aiding other special groups in the community; designing and implementing community involvement projects; along with coordinating Master Gardener programs. Whatever your preferences and skills are, you'll find what you love to do through this program.

The fee for the program is \$185.00 which includes an extensive Master Gardener Textbook, the graduation dinner, your name badge, a soil sample test kit and analysis, and other related costs. The textbook alone is worth the fee!

The UT Extension offers this program regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or veteran status and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Contact Chris Ramsey, Master Gardener Coordinator/UT Agricultural Extension Agent, at (423) 574-1919 to request an application.