

Upcoming Classes Please Note Location Change

February 20th Backyard Fruit: Growing Blueberries 6:00pm-7:30pm

Learn how to grow blueberries in your backyard.

IN-PERSON LOCATION CHANGE: Washington Co. UT/TSU Extension office 206 W. Main St. Jonesborough

In-person Registration: <https://tiny.utk.edu/inpersonblueberry>

Zoom Registration: <https://tiny.utk.edu/homeblueberry>

February 27th 3 Season Vegetable Gardening: Planning a 3 Season Veg Garden

6:00-7:30pm Learn about the 3 vegetable gardening seasons in Northeast Tennessee and how you can take advantage of them. **Zoom Only!** Register here: <https://tiny.utk.edu/3seasonplanning>

March 12th 3 Season Vegetable Gardening: Vegetable Transplants 6:00pm-7:30pm

Learn how to grow your own vegetable transplants to have the varieties you want in your garden.

IN-PERSON LOCATION CHANGE: Washington Co. UT/TSU Extension office 206 W. Main St. Jonesborough

In-person Registration <https://tiny.utk.edu/inpersontransplant>

Zoom registration: <https://tiny.utk.edu/3seasontransplants>

Be on the lookout for additional classes throughout the year!

Missed one of our earlier backyard fruit classes? Check our YouTube Channel for those and other classes



<https://tiny.utk.edu/washingtonvideos>



Photo by Adam Watson, Early February growth of a winter wheat and Austrian winter pea cover crop in a raised vegetable garden bed.

Did you plant a cover last Fall?

Be thinking now of how and when you'll terminate the cover crop. You may want to take advantage of the next dry period to accomplish the termination depending on how early you wish to start planting this season. If tilling under the cover crop, ideally we'd accomplish that 2-3 weeks before planting.

The Trusty Trowel-February 2024

Considering Planting Fruit this Spring?

Check out these publications to help start on the right foot by selecting the most suitable cultivar for your goals.

[Selecting Apples and Pears for Residential Production in Tennessee](#)

[Selecting Blueberries for Residential Production](#)

[Selecting Caneberries for Residential Production in Tennessee](#)

[Selecting Strawberries for Residential Production in Tennessee](#)



Timely Tips:

- Now, the dormant season, is the prime time to prune our fruits and most other non-spring blooming woody plants. Start by removing dead, damaged or diseased branches.
- There is still time for a dormant spray on our fruit crops which is an important component to ensure quality fruit for 2024. See UT Extension publication [PB 1622 Disease and Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings](#).
- Early February is an excellent time to sow our Brassica transplants (kale, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, etc.) that need around 6-7 weeks growth before transplanting. We can begin planting those out in the garden the middle to late March.
- **Don't sow warm season vegetable transplants too early!!!!!!** Sow 6-8 weeks before desired planting date. Frost sensitive vegetables are also sensitive to cool soil temperatures. In this area its inadvisable to plant out our heat loving vegetables including tomatoes until early May. Some years we'd delay that to May 10th or even 15th if experiencing a cooler spring. Join us for the **March 12th 3 Season Vegetable Gardening: Vegetable Transplants** class to go deeper on how you can grow your own transplants.

For questions about your home and garden please feel free to contact me, Adam Watson, Agriculture Extension Agent watson@utk.edu.

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References made to commercial products or brand names is with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Be sure to read and follow all pesticide label instructions.

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.