

Upcoming Classes

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

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>

March 26th Homestead Chickens: Getting Started 6-7:30pm

Thinking of starting a backyard chicken flock? Join UT Extension Washington County Agriculture Agent Adam Watson to learn best practices for having your own flock.

Zoom Only. Register at <https://tiny.utk.edu/homesteadchickens>

Stay tuned for additional classes throughout the year!



Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trials



Home Garden Variety Trial You are invited to participate in a research study. You will be asked to complete cultivar evaluation forms that should take about 10 minutes of your time. Information will be used to assist home gardeners in TN select the best vegetables for their home gardens. The information in

the study records will be kept confidential. No reference will be made in reports which could link participants to the study.

Trials include seeds of both cultivars for approximately 8-10 row feet of trial space per cultivar. LIMIT 5 trials (excluding youth trials). Cost: \$2 per trial

[UT HGVT catalog 2024](#); [Online order link for 2023 trial](#)

Timely Tips:

- Dormant pruning season is quickly slipping away. Make a goal to finish pruning your fruit trees before bloom. Check out [YouTube Channel](#) for recordings on pruning tree and small fruits.
- Early & mid-March is a great time to be planting out cool season vegetables. Lettuces, radishes, brassicas (cabbage, Broccoli, Kale, etc.), mustard and others can now be out in our gardens.
- Mid-March is a great time to begin warm season transplants for planting in early May. Tomatoes, Peppers, & Eggplants need 6-8 weeks to produce a mature transplant. Starting too early can create an overgrown root bound transplant that never performs as we'd hope. To learn more about raising transplants join on **March 12th for the 3 Season Vegetable Gardening: Vegetable Transplants class webinar.**
- Crabgrass Control: There is still time to apply a pre-emergent herbicide that prevents crabgrass seed from germinating. The best window for application is Mid-March through Early April. A second application 8

The Trusty Trowel-March 2024

weeks later will increase the period of control as well as possibly controlling later germinating weeds such as goose grass. Always read and follow all label directions of the herbicide product. See [Crabgrass Species Control in Turfgrass](#) for more information.

- Stay on top of fruit pests this season follow the suggested UT Extension publication [PB 1622 Disease and Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings](#)

Fruit Disease Spotlight: Cedar Apple Rust



Cedar Apple Rust on apple. Image from: [George Hudler, Cornell University, Bugwood.Org](#)

Cedar-apple rust is a common disease of apple and crabapple. The fungus that causes the disease, *Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae*, is unusual because it must spend a phase of its life cycle as a parasite on Juniperus species, such as red cedar or ornamental junipers.



Cedar Apple Rust Gall on Cedar taken 2/26/24 Image by Adam Watson

Infections of apple fruit result in lower fruit quality and early fruit drop. Leaf spots may cause early defoliation, especially during dry summers. If trees are defoliated several years in a row, they become weakened and unthrifty.



Telial horns of cedar apple rust
[JOSEPH OBRIEN, USDA FOREST SERVICE,](#)

Apple tree infections shed spores from July to September which infect Junipers. These infections form small galls on the Juniper that become evident the following Spring and Summer. The following spring these galls swell and produce bright orange jelly-like tendrils after spring rains. The tendrils are spore horns, or telial horns, and are highly visible on junipers. The spores released by these horns infect apple leaves primarily, but also can infect fruit from blossom to petal fall.

Control options? The single best option is to select resistant varieties when we plant. [Liberty, Freedom, Redfree, and Goldrush and others are good options for our region.](#) Second, you can remove nearby cedars/junipers, but be aware that spores can travel some distance by wind so removal is not a guarantee of control. Lastly, [apply the fungicide Immunox at the Pink, Petal Fall and first cover sprays.](#)



Missed one of our classes? <https://tiny.utk.edu/washingtonvideos>

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.

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