

Q. My gardenia trees are not doing well. What should I do? I have made dirt out of equal parts compost, peat moss, and vermiculite. I have added coffee grounds and crushed eggshells. I have been careful with water. They get indirect sun until about noon. Any help is appreciated. -L. from Jonesborough

A. Hi L., based on the picture your gardenia looks healthy at the top and it sounds like you are taking good care of it. Our UT Extension Agent recommended moving it to a different location with more morning sun to see if that would help. Also, make sure you are using an acid-loving plant fertilizer.

Check out this web site devoted to Gardenias: <https://www.gardenia.net/guide/learn-how-to-grow-and-care-for-your-gardenia>. This site has a lot of good information on how to care for your plant and has suggestions to help with various problems, if the above recommendations don't help.

I hope this helps you get your plant back in shape! -Your Friendly Master Gardener

Please submit your questions to the Master Gardeners on their website at www.netmga.net. Click the link at the top of the page, "ASK A MASTER GARDENER" to send in your question. Questions that aren't answered in this column will receive a response from a Master Gardener to the contact information you provide.

Did you ever dream of becoming a Master Gardener yourself? You can do it! The University of Tennessee Extension is offering training classes starting August 5th at the UT-TSU Sullivan County Extension office. For more information call their office at 423-574-1919, email abelche4@utk.wsu or visit the extension website at www.netmga.net.

Did you know that UT Extension offers educational services in all 95 counties of Tennessee? We lead programs that support 4-H Youth Development, Community Economic Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources, and Family & Consumer Services. From Agri-Business Economics & Entrepreneurship to Homebuyer Education to Babysitting Training, UT Extension services is at work in your community to help Tennesseans gain knowledge and develop confidence to make good decisions for their family and their community.

The Master Gardener Program is offered by the University of Tennessee Extension. The purpose of the Master Gardener program is to train people as horticultural-educated volunteers. These volunteers work in partnership with their counties to expand the educational outreach, providing home gardeners with researched-based information.