

WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

THE PERENNIAL



WILLIAMSON COUNTY
EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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OUR ROOTS

A Message from our President

Dog Days of Summer

I always enjoy gardening, but there are days where it's, let's say less than ideal. Late July and August in Tennessee tend to be those days. It's hot, humid, and low on rain. Some things are happy as can be, like peppers and Joe Pye Weed, but most of my garden is struggling. It's hard not to take it personally, given how much time and effort goes into the garden throughout the year. I feel like there should be more I could do: water more, put up shade cloth, etc. And while I could do those things, it doesn't change the fact that it is just difficult to have a lush, thriving garden in August in our climate. In my effort to enjoy each season for what it is, I'm going to harvest my peppers, water when I can, and remember the halcyon days of May and June.

This is also a great time to take notes on your garden. What did well, what didn't, and where. I make notes of certain plants that got a soil-born virus or disease, so I don't grow the same thing in that spot the next year. I also plan what improvements or projects I'd like to do for next year. I need to add some wire trellising to my back fence, so I can run squash and passion flower along it. I will also probably remove more turf grass and add raised beds, because I have a problem. And one of these years I'm going to actually install the raised bed drip irrigation I keep threatening to add.

This is a time of year to be safe, hydrated, and sunscreened. Don't push yourself too much, and try to work in the garden in the morning or evening. It's hard for me to look at my garden and see things crispy and dying, but that is all part of the seasonality of what we love: growing things. Enjoy the harvest, preserve what you can, and know that cooler weather is coming. And we'll get to do this whole thing all over again next year.

Matt Bergstrom
President, WCMGA



Emerald Ash Borer, Oh My!!

By Anita Tilley, WCMGA Member, UT Williamson County Diagnostics Team

As you drive around Williamson County, have you noticed the dying canopy of trees in our hillsides? It is not your imagination. The culprit, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), has definitely invaded our county and is doing significant damage. Here, on the Diagnostic Desk, we have received a significant uptick in EAB queries. As Master Gardeners, we all need to be on the lookout and prepared to make decisions for our own landscapes.

Identification: EAB is a type of jewel beetle (Family Buprestidae). Adults are bright metallic green, reminiscent of an emerald. Its abdomen can be purple or a reddish-brown, and its antennae, located below two giant eyes, are segmented in a way that makes them look serrated. The larvae are white or cream colored, with a bulbous flattened head slightly darker in color than the rest of the body. Adults are about 0.3 to 0.5 inches long and the larvae about 1.0 to 1.3 inches in length.



This image, above, provided by Debbie Miller of the USDA Forestry Service shows foliar damage by an adult EAB feeding.



Damage: There are several telltale signs of EAB damage on an ash tree. While adult feeding damage on foliage is very difficult to detect, the D-shaped exit holes made when adults leave the tree are much easier to see. Larval feeding creates vertical cracks in the bark, beneath which you can often see the winding larval galleries. Woodpeckers are a predator of the larvae and often increase in number if a tree is infested with EAB, and their feeding often results in strips of outer bark being flaked off. This causes the bark to appear lighter in color (this is known as “blonding”). Epicormic sprouts (also known as “suckers”) growing at the bottom of the ash tree are another indicator of EAB. These sprouts are a sign the tree is very stressed and an indicator that the tree likely doesn’t have long to live.

The classic “D-shaped” exit hole image above is from Dr. Dave Coyle of Clemson.

In addition to all species of Ash, EAB is also preying upon the white Fringetree. We recommend you regularly scout your landscape to stay a step ahead of this nasty invader.

Management: Several insecticides are available and effective for controlling EAB on high-value trees or trees in urban or residential landscapes. Working with a licensed arborist, one should start applying insecticide treatment before the tree is infested. Once these treatments are initiated (usually applied yearly or every other year, depending on the specific treatment), they will likely be necessary for the remainder of the tree's life. Insecticides (including dinotefuran, emamectin benzoate, azadirachtin, and imidacloprid) can be applied in different ways, including as a soil drench (applied at the base of the tree), trunk spray, or trunk injection.

To Treat or Not to Treat: Affordability, environmental impact, and effectiveness of the application are all factors in deciding a treatment type. Purdue University offers the following tips:

- Treat, if your tree is healthy, vigorously growing and has at least half its leaves, is important to your landscape, shows few outward signs of infestation, or is intrinsically valuable to you.
- Do Not Treat, if your tree is unhealthy with more than 50% of the tree in decline, is planted in a poor location within the landscape, or is showing outward signs of damage such as woodpecker damage or bark splitting.

Bottom line, scout and make proactive decision to protect your landscape. The contents were prepared by the WCMGA Diagnostic Team with much of this article sourced from Clemson Cooperative Extension: [Emerald Ash Borer | Home & Garden Information Center](#).

Our WCMGA Diagnostics Team offers phone and onsite support for Williamson County homeowners and gardeners. We have thousands of archived, research-based reference documents and books, plus access to the amazing repository of UT Extension publications.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to get your insect and/or disease question answered.

You may also contact us here:

Email: wilcodxteam@gmail.com Phone: 615-790-5721

Or, visit the UT Extension Office (Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Suite 200, Franklin, TN 37064)

WCMGA members who are interested in helping people with their horticulture questions, come join our team!! You may contact us in any of the ways listed above.



For more information about Emerald Ash Borers (EAB):

[Emerald Ash Borer - Penn State](#)

[Emerald ash borer in Minnesota | UMN Extension](#)

[Emerald Ash Borer - TN.gov](#)

[Insects - TN.gov](#)

[EAB - Management](#)

[EAB Network](#)

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture urges area residents and visitors to help prevent the spread of EAB:

- Don't transport firewood, even within Tennessee. Don't bring firewood along for camping trips. Buy wood from a local source. Don't bring wood home with you.
- Don't buy or move firewood from outside the state. If someone comes to your door selling firewood, ask them about the source, and don't buy wood from outside the state.
- Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees. If you suspect your ash tree could be infected with EAB, refer to the EAB Symptoms Checklist and online EAB Report Form to alert state plant and forestry officials, or call TDA's Consumer and Industry Services Division at 1-800-628-2631.

[Don't Move Firewood - Protect Trees From Bugs](#)



“My garden... An hour or two of morning labor was all that it required. But I used to visit and re-visit it a dozen times a day, and stand in deep contemplation over my vegetable progeny, with a love that nobody could share or conceive of, who had never taken part in the process of creation. It was one of the most bewitching sights in the world to



observe a hill of beans thrusting aside the soil, or a row of early peas just peeping forth sufficiently to trace a line of delicate green. Later in the season, the humming-birds were attracted by the blossoms of a peculiar variety of bean; and they were a joy to me, those little spiritual visitants... Multitudes of bees used to bury themselves in the yellow-blossoms of the summer-squashes... when they had laden themselves with sweets, they flew away to some unknown hive... I was glad thus to fling a benefaction upon the passing breeze, with the certainty that somebody must profit by it, and that there would be a little more honey in the world, to allay the sourness and bitterness which mankind is always complaining of. Yes, indeed; my life was the sweeter for that honey.”

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "The Old Manse," Mosses from an Old Manse, 1850

[The Quote Garden](#)

Must-Have Perennials for the Garden

By Kristy Bergstrom, WCMGA Member

Few things bring me more joy than watching my garden grow. My husband, Matt, installed our first raised bed in 2015 and ever since, our love for this hobby has grown exponentially each year. After graduating from the Master Gardener program in 2019, we stopped using chemicals or pesticides in our garden, opting for mostly native perennials to surround our raised vegetable beds. Each year, we've witnessed a more diverse ecosystem return to our garden – one not only full of native insects, but beautiful birds, butterflies and even the occasional bunny. Here are a few of my favorite perennials. Each year, they put on a magnificent show and if you have the right spot, I hope you'll give them a try!

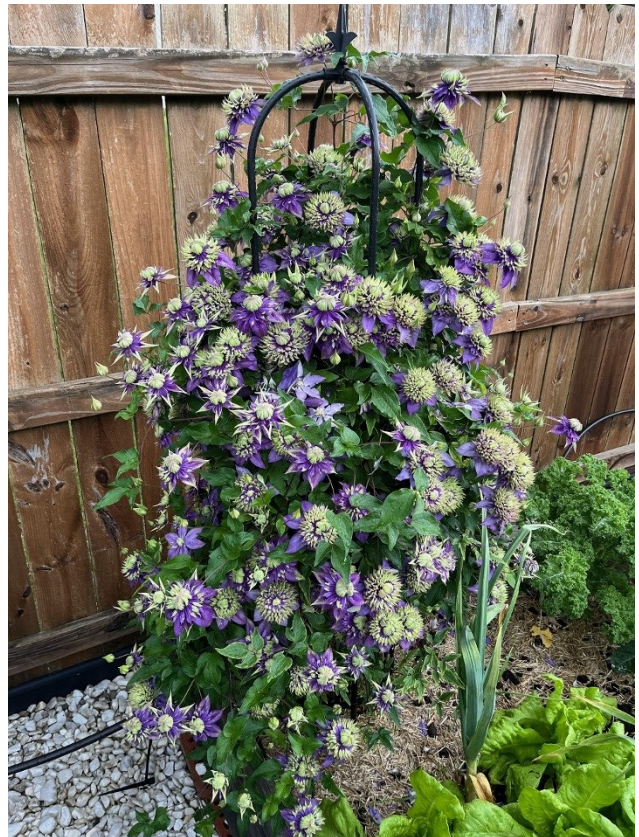


Major Wheeler Honeysuckle:

This native is an absolute showstopper in our garden, and we owe it all to Linda Horton. She spoke about it during our 2019 class and I immediately ordered one online. We grow it along the right side of our backyard fence and it's just as beautiful on the other side of our fence as it is on the inside. It bloomed each year as it was getting established, but its fourth year took our breath away! It attracts hummingbirds to the point that they will fight over it! I'd say it has 3-4 good flushes of flowers each season too, meaning it stands out in the garden most of the year. I've also used these in my cut flower arrangements as it does well in vases.

Clematis Taiga, Jackmanni, and Roguchi:

I love clematis because they add amazing vertical interest to the garden. We have three varieties that



I especially love. Clematis taiga produces funky-looking green and purple flowers with one main flush each season. Clematis jackmanni and roguchi grows up trellises Matt installed a few years ago encasing our gutters. It's a brilliant way to hide them while showcasing a stunning plant. Jackmanni blooms in usually 2-3 flushes a season while roguchi blooms for the majority of summer into fall.

Baptisia:

I'm not usually one for short bloom cycles, but I adore baptisia. This native dies back completely during winter, blooms once in early spring and then features the most beautiful bushing foliage for the rest of the growing season. It takes up considerable space so plan for that in your garden, but those spring blooms are worth it. Pollinators love it and it makes a lovely cut flower.

Hellebores:

These shade-loving perennials are the first to bloom every year in our garden. While everything else looks dead and gloomy in winter, hellebores (a.k.a. Lenten roses) bud out and bloom; our earliest varieties do so in January/February and will continue blooming through early summer. They're the first food of the season for bees and their foliage remains a lovely green throughout winter. They are relatively expensive in nurseries because the seedlings take 3-5 years to bloom, but they are worth the wait. There are lots of varieties, including variegated ones.



Photos by Kirsty Berstrom

THE VINE: News

We had a wonderful group of Master Gardener interns and mentors pitch in this May at the Giving Garden to install landscape tarp in the aisles of the Flower & Herb Garden. The barrier will help block out the weeds and keep the walkways tidy. They did a phenomenal job and had a blast working together!

This area will also serve as the site for our intern project gardens. Each team of interns will be assigned a plot to design, plant, and maintain, providing hands-on experience while fostering collaboration and connection among participants.

We're deeply grateful to the church for graciously allowing us to expand into this space and utilize it for the team gardens.

To learn more about The Giving Garden, visit: [WCMGA at The Giving Garden](#)



Photos by Kristy Bergstrom

At our May association meeting, we were delighted to welcome our very own WCMGA member Susan Ramsay, who shared her insightful presentation: "Here Today and Gone Tomorrow! Spring Ephemerals in Your Garden." We explored the fleeting beauty of spring ephemerals, plants that emerge early in the season with vibrant blooms, colors, and textures, then retreat by mid-summer. Their brief presence makes thoughtful garden planning essential to avoid bare spots later in the season. Many featured plants were native woodland varieties, including Virginia bluebells, trillium, starflower, star of Bethlehem,



Photo by Holly Gardner

bloodroot, snowdrops, mayapple, and spring beauty. For garden enthusiasts, few things rival the joy of spotting those cheerful blooms after a long, gray winter!

Susan, also a member of the Middle Tennessee Hosta Society, brought various hostas for sale. Many members went home with new selections for their shade garden.

Beautiful table decorations were provided by our Hospitality Committee. Committee members Mary Holt and DeeAnna Carney are pictured at right.



Photo by Rachel Fortuna



Our WCMGA volunteers and our UT Diagnostics Team represented us well at the Strawberry Festival at Wagner Berry Farm in May. We were able to share information about the Master Gardener program and our projects with festival attendees and vendors.



Our speaker for June was Katy Kilbourne, Forest Health Specialist for the Division of Forestry with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. She oversees a range of projects aimed at protecting Tennessee's forests and forest products. Katy gained her experience with invasive pests as a plant inspector for two years in southern middle Tennessee and then eight years as the State Plant Pathologist. A passionate advocate for citizen science, she has spearheaded numerous initiatives to engage communities and stakeholders.

She presented on invasive plants to avoid in the garden and landscape and some best management practices for dealing with naughty plant neighbors.

For more information:

[About the Division of Forestry](#)
[Pest Plants - TN.gov](#)



Photo by Rachel Fortuna



Invasive Plant #8- Callery Pear

Bradford/Callery (*Pyrus calleryana*) an invasive tree which spreads aggressively by seeds and suckers

- Integrated approach, often involving repeated herbicide applications and mechanical control
- Native Alternative: Serviceberry or Crabapple
- Chemicals:
 - Glyphosate
 - Triclopyr
- Techniques:
 - Foliar spray
 - Manual control
 - Cut stump
 - Hack and Squirt
 - Basal bark



TN Agriculture

Photos by Holly Gardner

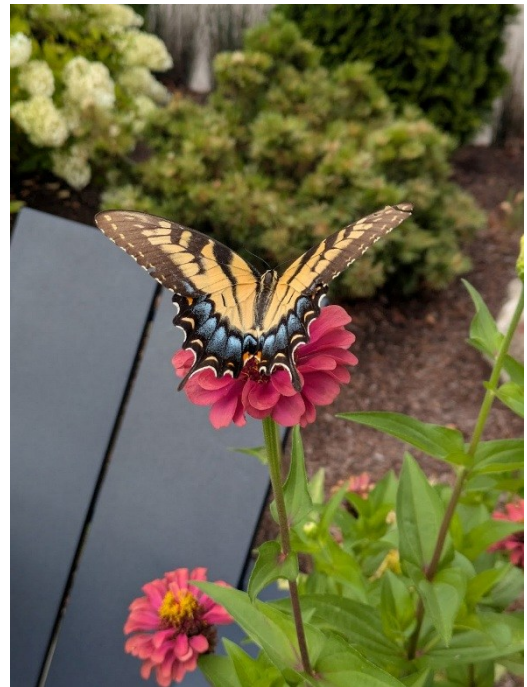
Ramsey Garden Tour 2025 by Katie Ramsey

This year I hosted my third garden tour for the intern class, and it was a pleasure as always. There was an excellent turn out of both interns and veteran Master Gardeners. My home garden showcases a mixture of formal garden design and favorite specimen plants along with native perennials. Originally inspired by the Blevins garden at Cheekwood, our home garden was designed with a Japanese ornamental garden in mind.



Our house is a new-build on a corner lot in a neighborhood with an HOA, so aesthetics were of initial concern. Over time it has evolved to include plantings of native perennials. Any time builder-installed plantings fail, they are replaced with native perennials. Tomatoes and herbs in containers find a place on our patio, amid comfortable seating and a fire-pit. I think this works well in our neighborhood, which has a relaxed, but sophisticated, rural feel.

This year, we held the tour in June. Irises and spring perennials were already done by that time, while Milkweed and Purple Cone flowers were just coming into bloom. A few orange day lilies were popping open here and there, while annuals, like orange cosmos and holly hocks, have volunteered and distributed themselves around in surprise locations.



Photos by Katie Ramsey

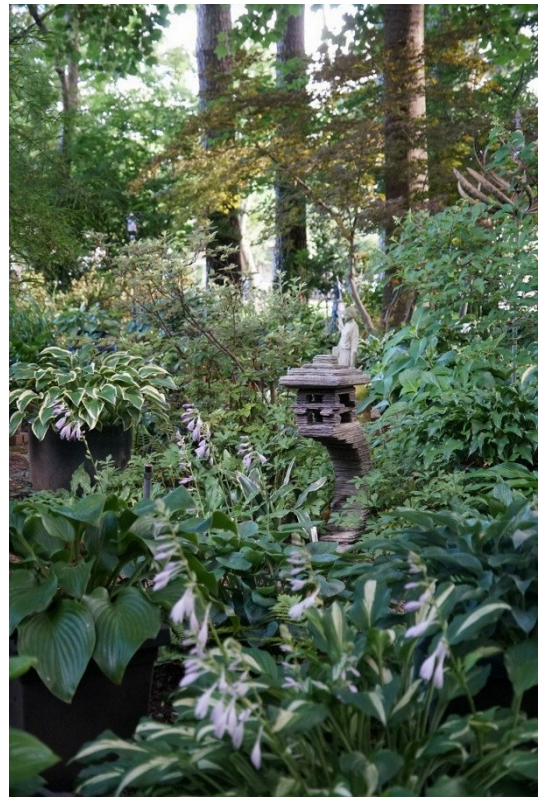
Sue Fox shared her impressions of the garden with me. "Katie's garden felt deeply intentional and thoughtfully curated. It was clear she had some cherished plants, but she also included a selection of natives and strays, that blended seamlessly. The space evokes a sense of Secret Garden – peaceful, slightly hidden, and filled with Zen."

My hope is that this inspires others to make the most of their suburban spaces, and illustrate the beauty and environmental benefits of gardening with natives. I enjoy hosting a tour each year, and in various seasons, and I look forward to the next occasion to share this space.

Local gardener Cornelia Holland opened her Franklin shade garden, *Tranquility*, to visitors on June 14, for her much-anticipated annual tour. Several members of the WCMGA were among those who attended, enjoying a firsthand look at one of the area's most thoughtfully cultivated private gardens.

Nestled on approximately half an acre, *Tranquility* is a testament to Holland's passion and artistry. The garden features more than 800 varieties of hostas, each carefully placed to highlight texture, color, and form. These are beautifully complemented by a diverse selection of companion plants, including Lenten roses, ferns, Rohdeas, hydrangeas, azaleas, camellias, and gingers.

Adding to the garden's charm are numerous pieces of garden art and sculpture, which lend personality and



visual interest to the shaded landscape. Visitors left inspired by Holland's dedication to horticultural excellence and the peaceful ambiance she's cultivated over the years.

Holland's generosity and horticultural legacy extend beyond Franklin. In 2015, she donated 600 hostas to the University of Tennessee Gardens in

Knoxville, a gift that led to the establishment of the Cornelia B. Holland Hosta Garden. Today, it remains a celebrated feature of the UT Gardens, honoring her enduring contributions to Tennessee's gardening community.

For more information about Cornelia's garden in Franklin and the Cornelia B Holland garden at UT:

[GARDEN SPOTS: Franklin gardener brings a tranquil approach - williamsonscene.com](http://williamsonscene.com)

[Cornelia B. Holland Tranquility Hosta Garden | UT Gardens](#)

[Franklin woman's passion for gardening leads to UT recognition - williamsonherald.com](#)

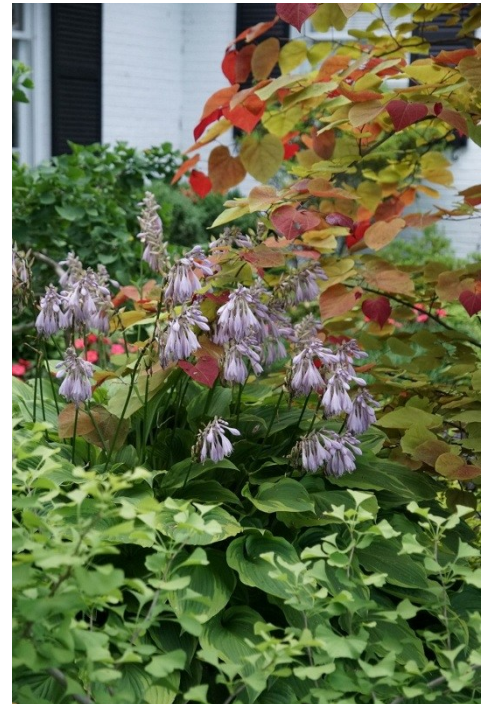


Photo by Holly Gardner

On the evening of July 8, WCMGA members and interns gathered at the Giving Garden's Flower & Herb area for the Intern Project Garden Party to celebrate the 2025 Intern Project Beds and the results were nothing short of inspiring. This year's six themed gardens, included the following themes: *Beat the Bugs & Invite Pollinators*, *Don't Bug Me*, *Sunflower Celebration*, *Pickling Garden*, *Welcome to Common Scents*, and *Mad Hatter Garden*. These lovely creations highlighted the interns' creativity, teamwork, and horticultural skill.



Photos by Holly Gardner

Guests enjoyed delicious refreshments while exploring water features, inventive trellising, and a vibrant mix of native and perennial plants. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and recognize the hard work of our interns. Thank you to all who attended and supported these budding garden designers!



Photos by Holly Gardner

Special thanks Franklin First United Methodist Church and The Giving Garden Board for graciously allowing UT Extension and WCMGA to use dedicated beds for our Intern Project Gardens. Also, thank you to The Giving Garden project leader, Jamie Desmond, WCMGA Vice-President and Hospitality Chairperson, Rachael Fortuna and her team, Intern Coordinator, Kristy Bergstrom, and UT Extension Agent, Taylor Reeder for planning and executing this garden party on this beautiful night.



At our July WCMGA meeting, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mario Forgione, Stormwater Quality Coordinator for the Williamson County Engineering Department as our speaker. His role involves overseeing stormwater management efforts to ensure water quality and environmental compliance throughout the county. He shared his expertise on riparian zones, the vital green buffers that protect our waterways.

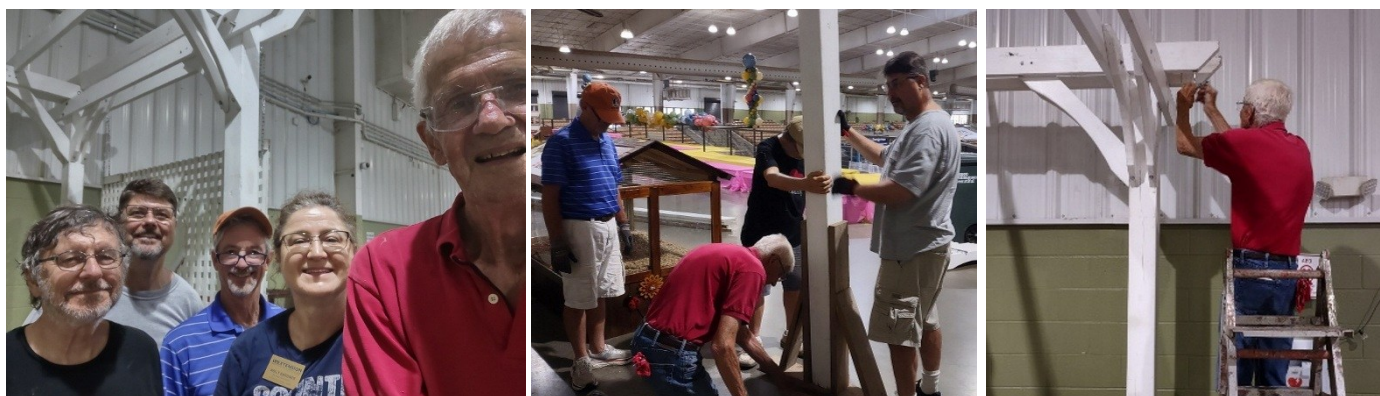
Mario explained how these vegetated areas along streams and rivers serve as nature’s filtration system, reducing erosion, absorbing pollutants, and supporting a rich diversity of wildlife. He emphasized the importance of native plants in stabilizing streambanks and enhancing water quality, encouraged gardeners to think beyond their own yards to the broader ecological impact of their landscaping choices, and discussed how Master Gardeners and Williamson County Government can work together to protect these important and scenic habitats.



For more information about riparian zones:

[Stormwater Management | Williamson County, TN - Official Site](#)
[Maintain or restore riparian areas | USDA Climate Hubs](#)

Our WCMGA Williamson County Fair Booth setup team did a bang up job as usual getting the pergola set up and decorated. This year the theme of the fair was “Summer Nights and Fair Delights”, so we concentrated on Nighttime Pollinators as our decorating theme.



Our build team this year included Mike Seitz, Mark Gardner, David Miller, Holly Gardner, and Wally Hoffman. Our decorating team was Holly Gardner, Cherie Liddell, and Emma Gardner. Thank you so much for your efforts to make this year’s booth fantastic!

Check out our November issue for fair coverage. If any Master Gardeners won any ribbons in competitive events at the fair this year, please send photos, entry details, and a list of ribbons won to ThePerennialWCMGA@gmail.com to be featured in the issue.



Did You Miss Out on the Garden Fun? A Recap of the TEMG Central Region Master Gardener Tour

By Marti Savouray and Mary Pemberton, WCMGA Members



The TEMG Central Region Master Gardener Tour of Wilson and Sumner Counties was held on Friday, May 16, 2025. We started out anticipating a rainy day, but the rain didn't last, making for a wonderful event that included a tour of the Fiddler's Grove Historic Village and the arboretum area at the Wilson County Agricultural Park.

Lucas Holman, Wilson County Director, and the Master Gardeners of Wilson County showed us the extensive demo gardens they use to educate the public, especially during the Wilson County Fair. Native plants play a prominent role in some of their demo gardens. An unexpected tour bonus was getting to see a broom maker in action in the broom factory at the historic village. We all learned a bit about making brooms from broom corn.

Next, we headed to Cedars of Lebanon State Park for a tour of the Native Plant Project Garden. What a beautiful garden full of a wide variety of native plants and lots of pollinators! After enjoying a lovely picnic lunch, attendees got the opportunity to purchase native plants at the pre-sale for the Master Gardeners of Wilson County Native Plant Sale.

The plant sale was utterly amazing. We felt like kids in a candy store. There were multiple tables of hard-to-find native plants at wholesale prices. The plants were well organized by categories like sun-loving or shade-loving. Try finding that in big box stores. A deep inventory of perennials, shrubs, trees, vines and groundcovers were



Wilson County Demo Gardens



Broom maker in Action



Master Gardeners of Wilson County Native Plant Sale at Cedars of Lebanon

thoughtfully displayed to facilitate shopping. Plant labels contained extensive details including the number of pollinators each plant supported! We each came home with a box or two of new plants for our gardens. If you are interested in native plants, we highly recommend putting the Master Gardeners of Wilson County Native Plant Sale on your calendar for next year.

The day concluded with a tour of the Connell Community Garden in Sumner County by Sumner County Extension Agent, Emily Richards, and the Sumner County Master Gardener crew.

Both of us have attended several Master Gardener State and Regional Conferences and Tours. We highly encourage you to join in on these great opportunities to learn about a variety of gardening topics and to see what other Master Gardener Associations are doing in their communities. We also enjoy getting to meet so many other interesting Master Gardeners. We'd love to see more of our Williamson County Master Gardeners join us in attending these events, especially when they are held close to home.

Watch your emails for upcoming TEMG online and in-person events and don't miss out on the fun!

[Central Region 2025 TEMG Tour](#)

[Wilson County Master Gardener Association](#)
[Master Gardeners | Wilson County](#)
[Sumner County Master Gardeners - Home](#)
[Master Gardener | Sumner County](#)



Wilson County Memory Garden



Wilson County Ag Expo Greenhouse



SUMNER COUNTY
**MASTER
GARDENERS**
GROWING TOGETHER

Its Not Over - 3rd Season Vegetable Gardening! Part 1

By Cheryl Carlson, WCMGA Member

I have started my Fall Cool Season Garden!

I use the UTIA Guide of Direct Seed and Transplanting Common Vegetable Crops found on the UTHort.com site to aid me in what to plant when.

This guide can be found on page 7 of [The Tennessee Vegetable Garden - Garden Planning, Plant Preparation and Planting](#) publication.

I planted my summer crops as early as possible in the front raised bed so everything is harvested by the end of July. I can then start some of my cool season plantings and avoid annoying pests that especially come on during hot humid weather in the summer garden.

The summer bed had butternut squash, spaghetti squash, straight neck squash, cantaloupe, a variety of peppers, tomatoes, and bush beans with the perimeter of the bed ringed in herbs.

With everything harvested, I was able to put in part of my Third Season Garden! In early August, I usually put in

| Vegetable | Spring planting | Fall planting | Seeds or plants per 100-ft row | Inches between rows | Inches between plants* | Planting depth (in) |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Beans, snap | 4/10 to 6/30 | 7/1 to 8/15 | ¼ lb. seed | 24 to 36, bush 36 to 48, pole | 3 to 4 | 1 to 1½ |
| Beans, lima | 5/1 to 6/30 | | ½ lb. seed | 24 to 36, bush 36 to 48, pole | 3 to 4 | 1 to 1½ |
| Beets | 3/1 to 4/15 | 9/1 to 10/1 | ½ oz. seed | 14 to 36 | 2 to 3 | ½ |
| Broccoli | 3/15 to 4/15 | 8/1 to 9/1 | 65-80 plants | 24 to 36 | 15 | |
| Cabbage | 3/15 to 4/15 | 8/1 to 9/1 | 65-80 plants | 24 to 36 | 15 | |
| Cauliflower | 3/15 to 4/15 | 7/15 to 8/15 | 65-80 plants | 24 to 36 | 15 | |
| Carrots | 3/1 to 5/1 | 8/1 to 9/1 | ¼ oz. seed | 14 to 36 | 2 to 3 | ¼ |
| Collards | 2/15 to 4/15 | 7/15 to 9/1 | ¼ oz. seed | 18 to 36 | 15 | ¼ to ½ |
| Corn | 4/15 to 7/1 | | ¼ lb. seed | 36 | 8 to 12 | 1 to 2 |
| Cucumber | 5/1 to 6/15 | 7/15 to 8/15 | ¼ oz. seed | 72 | 12 | ½ to 1 |
| Eggplant | 5/1 to 6/15 | | 50 plants | 36 | 24 | |
| Kale | 2/15 to 4/15 | 8/1 to 9/15 | ¼ oz. seed | 18 to 36 | 12 to 15 | ¼ to ½ |
| Lettuce, head | 3/1 to 4/15 | 8/1 to 9/15 | ¼ oz. seed | 14 to 36 | 12 to 15 | ¼ |
| Lettuce, leaf | 3/1 to 4/15 | 8/1 to 9/15 | ½ oz. seed | 14 to 36 | 6 | ¼ |
| Muskmelon | 5/1 to 6/15 | | ¼ oz. seed | 72 | 24 | ½ to ¾ |
| Mustard | 2/15 to 4/15 | 7/1 to 9/1 | ¼ oz. seed | 14 to 36 | 5 to 10 | ¼ |
| Okra | 5/1 to 6/15 | | 1 oz. seed | 36 | 6 to 12 | 1 |
| Onion | 3/1 to 4/15 | | 200 to 400 sets, storage 400 to 600 sets, bunch | 14 to 36 | 3 to 6, storage 2 to 3, bunch | 1 to 2 |
| Peas, English and snap | 2/15 to 4/15 | | ½ to 1 lb. seed | 12 to 36 | 2 to 4 | 1 |
| Pepper | 5/1 to 6/15 | | 60 plants | 36 | 18 to 24 | |
| Potatoes, Irish | 3/1 to 4/15 | 7/1 to 7/31 | 14 lb. seed | 30 to 36 | 12 | 3 to 5 |
| Pumpkin | 5/1 to 6/30 | | 1 oz. seed | 120 to 144 | 48 | 1 |
| Radish | 3/1 to 4/15 | 8/1 to 10/1 | ½ oz. seed | 14 to 36 | 1 to 2 | ¼ to ½ |
| Spinach | 2/15 to 4/15 | 9/1 to 10/1 | 1 oz. seed | 14 to 36 | 3 to 4 | ¼ to ½ |
| Squash, summer | 5/1 to 6/30 | 7/1 to 8/1 | 1 oz. seed | 48 to 60 | 12 to 24 | 1 |
| Squash, winter | 5/1 to 6/30 | | 1 oz. seed | 72 to 96 | 24 to 36 | 1 |
| Swiss chard | 3/1 to 4/15 | 9/1 to 10/1 | ½ oz. seed | 18 to 36 | 6 to 8 | ½ |
| Sweet potato | 5/1 to 6/30 | | 100 slips | 36 | 12 | |
| Tomatoes | 4/15 to 6/30 | 7/1 to 7/15 | 50 plants | 48 to 60 | 24 to 36 | |
| Turnips (greens, roots) | 3/1 to 4/15 | 7/15 to 9/1 | ¼ to ½ oz. seed | 18 to 36 | 2 to 4 | ¼ to ½ |
| Watermelon | 5/1 to 6/30 | | ¼ oz. seed | 120 to 144 | 48 | 1 |

Table 5. Guide to direct seeding and transplanting common vegetable crops in the home garden in Tennessee. (Revised from similar tables in UT Publications SP-291O and SP-291P)

* Thinning may be needed after plants emerge to achieve this spacing

AG.TENNESSEE.EDU

W 346-B 12/15 16-0089

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.

UTIA INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
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cauliflower, broccoli, and cabbage but didn't plant cabbage this year. I've put the broccoli and cauliflower sets under an exclusion net to keep pests away.

Peas are planted on the outside trellises with carrots in a row in front of them outside the exclusion net.



The back bed is full of pole beans and sweet potatoes. By the end of September, they'll be harvested and I will direct seed kale and spinach and other cool season goodies in their place.

For more information about gardens and extending your gardening seasons:

[The TN Vegetable Garden - Season Extension Methods](#)

[Seed Starting and Transplants - YouTube](#)

[Cool Season Vegetables - YouTube](#)



Photos by Cheryl Carlson

A screenshot of the UTHort website homepage. The header features the UTHort logo. Below it, there are several categories of educational resources: Vegetables And Herbs, Fruits, Landscapes, Turfgrass, Stewardship, Houseplants, Hydroponics, And Greenhouses, Native Plants And Wildlife, and People And Plants. At the bottom, there is a section for Upcoming Events, including Office Hours with a calendar icon and submission information: "Submit questions and get them answered by our team! June 13, July 11, September 12, and October 10 10 EST / 9 CST to 11 EST / 10 CST".

Did you know...?

The UTHort website contains a wealth of educational resources about all things horticulture related. From publications to videos, the University of Tennessee horticulture team works hard to create accessible, research-based content that supports gardeners, educators, and agricultural professionals across the state. Whether you're looking for planting calendars, pest management tips, or guides, UTHort.com is a go-to hub for practical, science-backed information.

UTHort.tennessee.edu



National Parks Series: The Flora and Fauna of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park: A Vertical Wilderness

By Lisa Hagenbuch, WCMGA Member

Editors Note: This is seventh in a series of articles by Lisa Hagenbuch, following and documenting her travels to some of our national parks.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, located in western Colorado, is a landscape of striking contrasts. Carved over millions of years by the relentless force of the Gunnison River, the canyon's sheer walls plunge over 2,000 feet, creating one of the most dramatic and rugged landscapes in North America. For nature enthusiasts, gardeners, and conservationists, the park is a fascinating study in adaptation, where flora and fauna have evolved to thrive in a unique environment defined by extremes—of altitude, temperature, and geology.



The park's flora is as diverse as the canyon itself, with vegetation that changes dramatically with elevation and exposure. The steep canyon walls create microclimates that support a wide range of plant communities, from arid desert species at the rim to lush riparian vegetation along the riverbanks far below. These plant communities are a testament to the resilience of nature, thriving in conditions that range from intense sunlight and summer heat to deep winter snows and freezing temperatures.

At the rim of the canyon, the landscape is dominated by pinyon-juniper woodlands, where pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) form dense, low forests. These hardy trees, adapted to the dry, rocky soils of the region, are iconic of the Colorado Plateau and play a critical role in preventing soil erosion while providing habitat for a variety of wildlife. Interspersed among the pinyon-juniper woodlands are patches of sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), which add to the arid character of the landscape.



Descending into the canyon, the vegetation shifts in response to the cooler temperatures and higher moisture levels. Here, you can find stands of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*), along with serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) and chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*). These species are more commonly associated with montane environments and provide vital food and shelter for wildlife. The deeper into the canyon one goes, the more pronounced these changes become, with the steep, north-facing

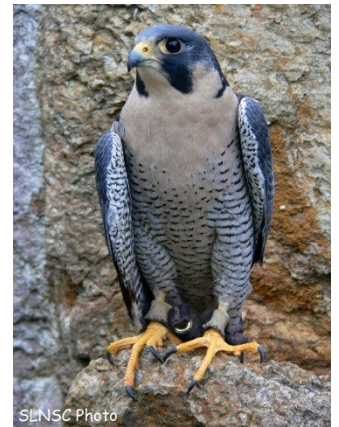
slopes supporting dense stands of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), which thrive in the cooler, shadier conditions.

At the very bottom of the canyon, along the Gunnison River, the environment is markedly

different. Here, the moisture from the river supports lush riparian vegetation, including box-elder (*Acer negundo*), narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), and willows (*Salix spp.*). The dense growth along the riverbanks creates a green ribbon of life that contrasts sharply with the rugged, rocky walls of the canyon. These riparian zones are crucial habitats, providing shelter and food for a wide variety of wildlife and serving as corridors for species moving through the landscape.

The fauna of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is as diverse as its plant life, with species that have adapted to the park's varied environments. The rugged terrain provides habitat for large mammals such as mule deer, black bear, and mountain lion. These animals are often elusive, but signs of their presence—tracks, scat, and occasional sightings—are reminders of the wildness of this landscape.

Birdlife is abundant in the park, with the canyon's cliffs providing ideal nesting sites for raptors. The peregrine falcon, once endangered, now soars above the canyon, a symbol of the park's successful conservation efforts. Golden eagles and red-tailed hawks are also commonly seen, their powerful wings carrying them effortlessly on the canyon's updrafts. The canyon is also home to smaller birds, such as the canyon wren, whose distinctive song echoes off the canyon walls, and the white-throated swift, known for its acrobatic flight.



Reptiles and amphibians are also well represented, with species like the collared lizard, western rattlesnake, and the rare canyon tree frog thriving in the park's diverse habitats. The Gunnison River itself is home to several species of fish, including brown trout and rainbow trout, making it a popular destination for anglers.

Conservation is a critical aspect of managing Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The park's ecosystems are fragile, particularly in the face of climate change, invasive species, and the increasing pressures of tourism. Efforts to preserve the park's unique environments are ongoing, with a focus on maintaining the health of its plant communities and protecting its wildlife from disturbances.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison is more than just a geological wonder; it is a living ecosystem, where plants and animals have adapted to survive in one of the most challenging environments in the American West. For those who love nature and the outdoors, the park offers endless opportunities for exploration and discovery. Whether standing on the rim and gazing down into the abyss or descending into the canyon's depths to experience its hidden treasures, visitors to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park are reminded of the power and beauty of the natural world.

As enthusiasts continue to study and protect this remarkable landscape, we ensure that the flora and fauna of Black Canyon of the Gunnison will thrive for future generations. This vertical wilderness is not just a place to visit, it is a sanctuary of life, where the resilience of nature is on full display, and where every living thing plays a role in the intricate web of life that makes this park so extraordinary.

[Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](https://www.nps.gov/blackcanyonofthegunnison/)



THE BARK: Monthly To-do List

AUGUST

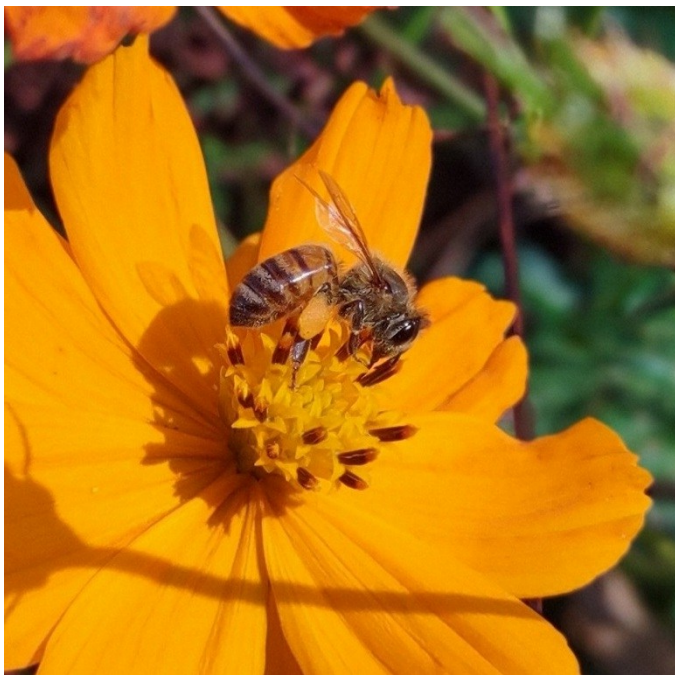
- Harvest vegetables continuously to keep plants producing and to stretch their season
- Sprinkle compost starter to speed up composting for fall soil building
- Prune summer-blooming shrubs (hydrangea, clethra, caryopteris) after flowers finish
- Plant garlic now for spring harvests
- Water, water, water, especially during periods of drought
- Keep a close eye out for pests in the garden like hornworms on tomatoes and squash bugs, squash beetles, and squash borers on squash and pumpkins
- Dig gently to harvest potatoes a few plants at a time
- Look forward to something different next spring: try alliums in your bulb garden
- Sow seeds of cool-weather herbs (chives, parsley, garlic chives, cilantro and dill)
- Plan perennial beds for fall and winter color with ornamental grasses, fall-blooming bulbs and hardy heaths and heathers



- Enjoy fall fragrance by planting autumn clematis (*Clematis paniculata*), flowering tobacco and annual stock
- Begin collecting seeds of annuals and perennials for next year's garden by cutting seed heads and placing in a brown paper bag to dry, labeling each bag with the name of the plant and the year collected
- Dig and divide daylilies, using a sharp shovel to split the clumps into desirable sizes. Cut back foliage to five inches and replant in a sunny location
- Practice good sanitation in the garden to prevent disease spread
- Control weeds before they go to seed
- Gather herbs and flowers for drying and preserving
- Keep cool during summer's dog days with a shade garden with hostas and hardy ferns
- Color up your bulb garden with fall bloomers (lycoris, fall crocus, colchicum).
- Make sure that crops and beds have plenty of mulch during dry spells

SEPTEMBER

- Set out transplants of cool-weather vegetables
- Prune cane fruits such as raspberries and blackberries
- Continue to harvest herbs and flowers for drying
- Plant winter pansies and fall annuals (calendula, dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale)
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs to brighten up fading window boxes, planters and in drifts among ornamental grasses
- Keep dead-heading plants or harvesting blooms, such as tithonia, zinnia, and cosmos, to ensure that they continue to flower
- Divide and plant peonies, bearded iris and other spring- and summer-blooming perennials
- Divide and repot any tropical plants you have outdoors to prepare them for their winter home by hosing off or washing plants with soapy water and inspect them for insects
- Keep an eye out for pests/disease on your cool-season crops and add row covers to reduce insects, if needed



Photos by Holly Gardner

- Watch for high temps under row covers and tunnels on very warm September days
- Plant herbs and groundcovers as the weather cools during hot summer months, including celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus
- Order sweet pea seedlings for fall planting
- Plant bare root trees and shrubs
- Remove warm-season crops as they finish producing to lighten the load of fall clean up
- If you have had problems with disease among the vegetables in your garden, remove and dispose of the plant materials properly and do not add these to the compost pile.



OCTOBER

- Plant or repair lawns
- Plant ornamental grasses
- Cover perennial, vegetable, bulb, and strawberry beds for winter
- Make sure that late season crops have adequate (but not excessive) water and nutrients
- Be on the lookout for fruit from late seeded, warm-season crops
- Plant cloves of garlic in the garden for a late spring harvest
- Plant balled-and-burlapped or container trees, shrubs, and vines
- Plant winter- and spring-blooming bulbs
- Pre-chill tulips and hyacinths for indoor forcing

- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Rake lawn to remove debris
- Plant container roses
- Prune fall-flowering shrubs just after bloom
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Make sure to clean up warm-season crops to prevent disease spread
- Protect tender plants from frost
- Wash your pumpkins, gourds, and winter squash in a mild bleach solution before displaying or storing to help prevent rot
- Keep detailed notes on the cultivars that did well or not as well in your garden
- Don't forget to bring in your tropical plants and houseplants before frost as many plants don't fare well when temperatures drop into the 40s
- Bring your tools in from the garden and clean them well; extend the life of your tools with proper sharpening and oiling



Photos by Holly Gardner



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Another good resource is the [2025 Tennessee Home Vegetable and Fruit Garden Calendar](#)

Member Gardens

Colorful clematis and iris from the garden of Judith Berthaud.



From the garden of Ted Norman, a Golden Falls Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) 'NC2015-12'. Lavender-pink spring blooms followed by new leaves tinged with orange, becoming bright golden. The foliage holds up well in sun and heat. The tall, narrow form is the perfect accent for small spaces. As you can see here it works well with garden art.

Deciduous. Zones 5-9.



Member Gardens (continued)



Beautiful roses
from Carol
Murphy's garden



Tracie Lovell
snapped some
pictures of her
humble cottage
garden which she
says is a work in
progress.
I believe we can
all relate.



We need photos!
If you would like to
have your photos
shared or your
garden featured,
please contact us at
ThePerennialWCM-
GA@gmail.com.



Continued Growth

UT INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE HANDS-ON CLASSES

Learn a new skill, try a new method, or develop a new passion. The Williamson County Extension's hands-on classes provide opportunities to experience agriculture, horticulture, and much more.



Agriculture Mechanics Craft Products Horticulture Preservation Outdoors

[Hands-On Classes Williamson County](#)

Seeding Cool-Season Grasses - September 9, 2025

Description - Get hands-on experience in seeding your cool-season lawn. We will discuss planting tips, calibrating your seeder, and much more. Get ready to gain practical skills in a fun and welcoming environment!

[Seeding Cool-Season Grasses | Williamson County](#)

Preregistration and payment is required for all classes. Classes may be purchased as a series or individually. Some classes may be free. See links above for more information. For questions, please contact **Taylor Reeder** at treeder2@utk.edu.

Also, check out the UT Extension publication, **Welcome Home: Gardening in Tennessee!** [PB1919 Welcome Home: Gardening in Tennessee](#)



THE DIRT

August

August 1-9 - Williamson County Fair - Williamson County Ag Expo Park

August 11 - 1-3 p.m. - **Library Garden Talk Series** - "From Dusk 'til Dawn - The Garden at Night" - Marti Savouray - Williamson County Public Library, Franklin, TN, with an option to attend virtually -

[Williamson County Public Library – Events](#)

August - No WCMGA meeting

September

September 8 - 1-3 p.m. - **Library Garden Talk Series** - "Fall Pruning" - Taylor Reeder - Williamson County Public Library, Franklin, TN, with an option to attend virtually - [Williamson County Public Library – Events](#)

[Library – Events](#)

September 13 - WCMGA Picnic - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Old Mill Barn at Wagner Berry Farm

October

October 13 - WCMGA meeting - 6:00 p.m. - Williamson County Ag Expo Park - Speaker: Karen Bailey, horticultural therapist

November

November 10 - WCMGA potluck and intern graduation - 6:00 p.m. - Williamson County Ag Expo Park



Newsletter and Website Articles Wanted

Special thanks to Matt Bergstrom, Anita Tilley, Cheryl Carlson, Lisa Hagenbuch, Kristy Bergstrom, Holly Gardner, Tracie Lovell, Marti Savouray, Mary Pemberton, Ted Norman, Carol Murphy, Katie Ramsey, and Judith Burthaud for their contributions to this issue.

Great job on sending articles, news stories, and photos! Keep up the good work!

We cannot do this without you!
If you have photos or stories to share, you can get volunteer hours!

ThePerennialWCMGA@gmail.com

Keep contributing!

Keep reading!

Keep sharing!

WCMGA by the Numbers
Total Volunteer hours reported so far for
2025 = 6,827

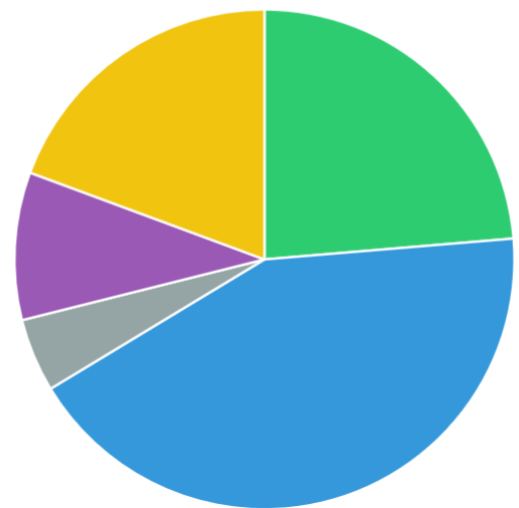
Based on values determined by Independent Sector Website:
Hours Value: **\$151,292.52**

WCMGA Mission

The mission of the Williamson County Master Gardeners Association (WCMGA) is to provide research-based, horticultural education, while promoting environmental stewardship, via community volunteerism.

WCMGA operates under the umbrella of University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) and the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension Office.

Project Hours by Category



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