

WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

# THE PERENNIAL



WILLIAMSON COUNTY  
**UT EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY

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- The background of the page is a photograph of various leaves. On the left, there are large green leaves with prominent veins. In the center and right, there are several large, lobed leaves in shades of red and brown, suggesting autumn foliage. Some green grass or narrow leaves are visible at the bottom right.
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**VOL\_ NTEE\_** Means nothing unless **U R** in it

# OUR ROOTS

## **Welcome our new WCMGA Board of Directors**

### **President**

Rick Hoos

### **Vice President**

David Allard

### **Secretary**

Roberta Gigear

### **Treasurer**

Sonya Craig

### **Director of Public Relations**

Laurel Prothro

### **Director of Membership**

Michelle Hutton

### **Director of Projects**

Wally Hoffmann

### **Director of Education & Activities**

Mary Pemberton



# GARDEN COMPANIONS

## My Spider Lily Story

*By Carolyn M. Kirchner*

Many years ago, my next door neighbor and her husband owned several acres of farmland where they raised a few simple vegetables, some chickens and a horse or two. Woodlands edged their fields and along the edge grew some beautiful, delicate-looking lilies. My neighbor dug a few bulbs and gave a couple to me. I planted them in a flower bed next to my driveway and hoped they would one day come back to life and bloom for me. At that time, I had no idea what type of flower those bulbs would produce or if they would even grow, being transplanted from



the forest edge to my yard. To my surprise and delight, those bulbs did awaken in spring and blossomed into the most gorgeous blooms, so fragile that touching the petals leaves your fingerprint upon them! And, they have bloomed each year for many years now. I have tried in the past to enter

one of them in the Williamson County Fair Flower Show, but they are so delicate that the bloom never made it intact to the Fair. It would have been a blue ribbon winner for sure!

I was so intrigued with these beauties that I did an online search to find out just what they were. I knew that they were some type of spider lily, but can now say definitely that they are called Carolina Spider Lilies, *Hymenocallis occidentalis* var. *occidentalis*.

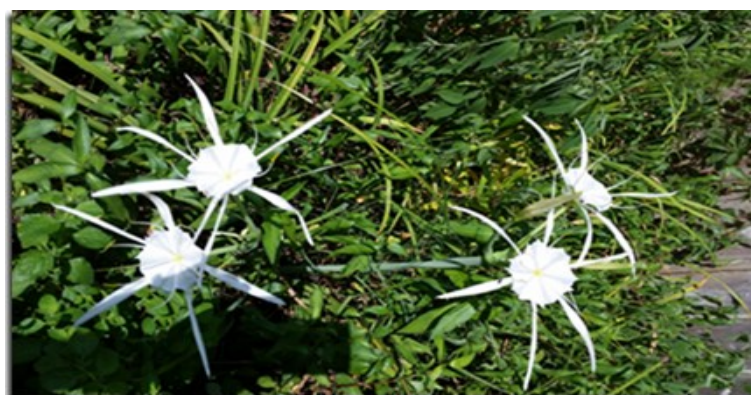
They thrive in damp, woodland, boggy areas. Why

they have done so well next to my aggregate driveway is beyond my comprehension, but I am certainly not complaining. Each spring to summer, I feel blessed to be able to enjoy their exquisite beauty.

This past August, on the way home from a vacation

to our home state, Wisconsin, my husband wanted to stop near Paducah, Kentucky where he has a hunting lease with several other hunters. He wanted to check his trail cameras for signs of deer for the upcoming fall hunting season. We hiked in on an overgrown 4-wheeler road to where his deer stands and the cameras are located. I, of course, was not interested or concerned about the deer population, but as he was checking out a camera, I continued on past him a few feet just appreciating the vegetation in the woods and was met with a fantastic surprise. There, right along the side of the rutted tracks of the primitive road, I came to an instant halt and guess what took my breath away? A wonderful clump of my lovely Carolina Spider lilies just blooming their pretty little heads

off right there in the middle of nowhere! Thank goodness my “hunter” had a small shovel in our truck, because now that beautiful, wild clump of lilies resides in my yard along with my originally gifted ones. Just gaze upon the pictures I’ve included and you’ll have to agree this lily is surely one of God’s masterpieces! My fingers are crossed that my new additions will rise up in spring to decorate my yard with their beauty.



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**The WCMGA website is up and running!**  
**Check it out [here](#)**

**The 15th Annual Williamson County Fair  
will be held Friday, August 2 to  
Saturday, August 10.  
Plan on entering your garden’s bounty!  
Register online in July  
More information can be found [here](#)**





**Williamson County Master Gardeners  
and their guests are invited to our  
WCMGA Open House and Plant Swap**



**October 14, 2019 - 6:00 pm - Williamson County AG Expo Park**

We're taking our plant swap to the next level by opening up our group to the community.

Each member is encouraged to bring up to 3 plants to be "swapped" AND a friend who might be interested in the WCMGA program.

For each plant a member brings, they will receive a ticket to bring home a plant. The tickets can be shared with the guest.



**Plus, WCMGA member,  
Lisa Ward-Smith will share  
information on "Tower Growing"**

Join the gardening revolution! Lisa Ward-Smith will show us how we can Grow Anywhere with Tower Gardens.

Meet the gardening system that lets you grow flavorful, nutrient dense vegetables, herbs, and even flowers and fruits all year round.

Simple to set up and maintain, Tower Gardens turns your kitchen, sun room, patio, porch, and even your office or classroom into a year-round farmers market.

It's all based on Aeroponics and is simply sustainable. Using only 2% of the water and 10% of the space required for traditional gardening, aeroponics is the future of gardening and farming.

**Come join the fun!**



- Refreshments will be provided!
- Spend time with your gardening friends and meet new ones!
- Share your knowledge and your plants!

# CONTINUED GROWTH

## WCMGA Upcoming Monthly Meetings

**MAY 13**

**BEES, BEES, AND BEES**

**Speaker: Buzz Evans**

**Also: an update on Abe's Garden**



**JUNE 10**

**FIELD TRIP TO CARNTON GARDEN**

*Save the date and watch for  
more details  
coming in your email*

**JULY 8**

**THE LOVE AND CARE OF HYDRANGEAS**

**Speaker: Linda Lanier, President,  
Mid South Hydrangea Society**



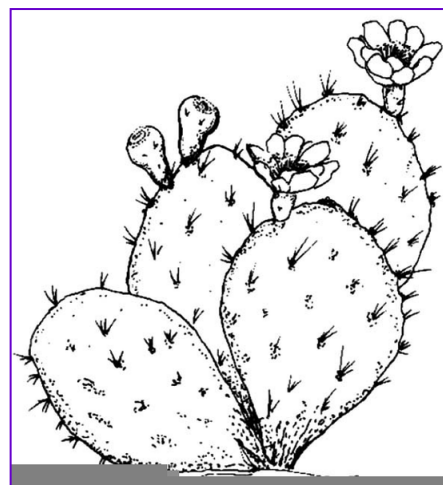
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# WCMGA SPEAKERS BUREAU

## ***2019 Williamson County Public Library Garden Talk Series***

All programs are Monday 1:00-3:00 pm at the  
Williamson County Public Library  
1314 Columbia Ave. Franklin, TN 37064  
Registration is required.  
Call (615) 595-1243 or register online [here](#)



### **EDIBLE GARDENS: VEGGIES, HERBS AND RECIPES**

**Monday, May 6, 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Discover what veggies and herbs grow best here in Middle Tennessee. Learn what grows well together, as well as what doesn't work. We'll include some recipes for using your garden's harvest.

### **NATIVE PLANTS VS INVADERS: THE EFFECT ON POLLINATORS**

**Monday, June 3, 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Join us as we explore the complex relationships between plants and pollinators. Learn why growing native plants is crucial to the survival of our native bees, butterflies and birds and how non-native and invasive plants threaten their existence. Discover the role honeybees play in our food supply and how you can help them flourish.

### **SOME PLANTS LIKE IT HOT**

**Monday, July 8, 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Tennessee summers are hot, humid and often dry. Meet plants that thrive when we sizzle. We'll look at a variety of annuals and perennials, including some trendy herbs and succulents, to keep your garden colorful during the hottest months of the year.

The WCMGA Speakers Bureau also participates in  
programs at the Brentwood Public Library.  
Check the library calendar [here](#) to find out about  
upcoming events.



# THE BARK

## MAY

- Harvest cool-season crops, and watch for pests/disease (see June).
- Seed succession plantings of common warm-season, direct seeded crops, such as beans and sweet corn. Some of the sweet corn cultivars that prefer warmer soil conditions may be best saved until this month.
- Prepare beds that will be covered in plastic prior to planting transplants. Black plastic can warm the soil and speed early growth of transplants. Make sure that irrigation is provided if plastic is used. Sometimes natural mulches, such as straw, are applied a few weeks after planting as they can reflect light and actually slow soil warming.
- Continue transplanting warm-season crops. Peppers and eggplants prefer even warmer soil conditions than tomatoes and are often planted later. Make sure that young transplants are watered in and given a starter fertilizer solution to support early growth.
- Set up your irrigation system as transplants are placed in the garden. Drip irrigation is best to maintain dry leaves and reduce disease risks.
- Set up stakes, trellises, cages and support systems for your plants. It is best to have these set up at or soon after planting.
- Don't let weeds get started in the garden — take control early with mulches and proactive management.

## JUNE

- Be on the lookout for maturity in the first corn and bean plantings.
- Manage soil after cool-season crops are removed. Those areas may be a location for a summer cover crop, such as buckwheat, to prevent weed growth and add organic matter. If a warm-season crop is planted immediately after cool-season crops are removed, make sure to follow a crop rotation that moves to a different family.

- Some of the latest warm-season crops to be planted are often watermelons and pumpkins, as well as sweet potatoes.
- You can still be succession planting corn and beans.
- Make sure your irrigation system is functioning well and manage weeds.
- Scout for any issues with pests or disease at least weekly.
- If conditions support disease infection, or if you see signs of disease, a protective spray program may be needed.

## JULY

- Consider succession planting of zucchini or later season tomatoes.
- Pick tomatoes, beans, corn and other warm-season crops.
- Manage irrigation as needed, but try to reduce leaf wetness and overhead watering.
- Manage fertility through proper side dressing and in-season fertilizer applications
- Manage weeds.
- Scout frequently for insect or disease issues and spray as needed.
- Select cool-season crops and cultivars for fall and make seed order.
- Some cool-season crops (Brussels sprouts, cauliflower) will likely need to be seeded in July if you are starting your own transplants.
- Pumpkins should be seeded according to maturity. A 100-day pumpkin seeded on July 1 would be estimated to mature October 11. However, it is common in our Mid-South climates for pumpkins to mature a few days earlier than listed.

## 2019 TENNESSEE HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN CALENDAR

The complete *UT Extension publication*  
**W-436** can be accessed [here](#).

# Newsletter Articles Wanted

You can earn volunteer hours by writing about a garden you visited, a technique you tried which worked (or did not), or your enthusiasm for some special plant, or any interesting garden topic.

Keep contributing. Keep reading.  
Keep sharing. Please send your contributions to:

[wcmgatheperennial@gmail.com](mailto:wcmgatheperennial@gmail.com).

Need to record your amazing  
volunteer hours?

Click [HERE](#)



# THE DIRT



## 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 UTIA and the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension Office.