

*WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION*

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# THE PERENNIAL

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WILLIAMSON COUNTY  
**UTEXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

 **TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

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# OUR ROOTS

## **Fellow Master Gardeners,**

It will not be long before winter is behind us, welcoming the spring in Tennessee. With the holidays behind us, I am sure everyone is poring through the gardening catalogs and making plans for the new season, be it in our own gardens or for a Master Gardener project you are involved in.

As the seasons are changing, WCMGA is going through some changes of its own. With a Planning Advisory Panel in place, improvements are sure to be in our future to make WCMGA a much-improved organization. This year promises to be an exciting time in WCMGA, as we move towards a bit of a re-organization.

We have a full slate of projects this year and will need a lot of volunteers help to keep them up. There may be new project opportunities on the horizon for us and hopefully, as the year progresses, more information will become available.

For 2019, the gardeners at the Period Slave Garden will focus on entering several items of their Civil War-era heirloom produce into the competition at the Williamson County Fair. It will take a little extra work and care, but I believe we can win a few categories. It would be nice to see a few other gardens in our organization do the same. I challenge all the project leaders to grow at least one vegetable that can be entered in the Fair in August. It sure would make a good showing for WCMGA to have our name on winning entries right in our own backyard.

I see the 2019 WCMGA year as being our finest as we incorporate changes, make improvements and increase our presence around the county. You will be undoubtedly be pleased with WCMGA as we move forward. What a great time of the year and a great program to be a part of.

## **WCMGA President**

*Jack Melnick*

# CONTINUED GROWTH

## WCMGA Upcoming Monthly Meetings



**FEBRUARY 11**

### ***2018 TOMATO FIELD TRIAL RESULTS***

*By Dr. Nataile Bumgarner,  
UT Residential and Consumer Extension Specialist*

**MARCH 11**

### ***HERBS***

*By Elaine Rohrig,  
Community Outreach Chair  
Herb Society of Nashville*



**APRIL 8**

### ***PLANT DIAGNOSTICS***

*By Jerry Alldredge  
& the WCMGA Diagnostics Team*

**Thanks to our T-shirt committee  
Lisa Headley, Mary Pemberton,  
Shannon Hazelton and Valerie Silver.**

**Thanks also to Linda and Dave Horton for leading  
the new Intern class.**

# CONTINUED GROWTH

## Intern class starting January 30

### *Current Master Gardeners welcome to sit in*

All current Master Gardeners are invited to attend the Intern class meetings.

It is asked that current members sit near the back and leave the table space available for the Interns and the Mentors.

DATE	TOPIC AND INSTRUCTOR
1.30 (WED)	Intro to the TEMG and WCMG Programs and WC Extension - mentor introductions, intro to TEMG Website (Dave Horton)
2.6 (WED)	Intro to Horticulture and Basic Botany
2.13 (WED)	NO CLASS DUE TO ROOM CONFLICT
2.20 (WED)	Soils and Home Composting with Dr. Jason DeKoff, Tennessee State University Extension Specialist
2.27 (WED)	Environmental Stewardship in the Landscape with Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, UT Consumer Hort Specialist
3.5 (TUES)	Tree and Small Fruits (and demo) with Dr. David Lockwood, UT Extension Fruit Specialist
3.5 (TUE)	<b>Optional</b> Tree Pruning Demonstration at Carter House Heirloom Orchard by Dr. David Lockwood 1:30 - 3:30
3.9 (SAT)	<b>Optional</b> Tree Pruning Demonstration at Carter House Heirloom Orchard by Ron Novak 9:00 - 11:00
3.13 (WED)	Homeowner Turf and Best Management Practices with Mitchell Mote, Rutherford Co. Extension
3.20 (WED)	Introduction to Entomology/Herbs with Jerry Alldredge and Linda Horton
3.27 (WED)	NO CLASS DUE TO ROOM CONFLICT
4.3 (WED)	Herbaceous Ornamentals with Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, UT Consumer Hort Specialist
4.10 (WED)	Vegetable Gardening with David Cook, Davidson Co. Extension
	Organic Options and Beneficial Insects in the Landscape & Garden with David Cook, Davidson Co. Extension
4.17 (WED)	Woody Ornamentals with Carol Reese, Western Region Extension Specialist
4.24 (WED)	Plant Disease with Dr. Alan Windham, Soil, Plant and Pest Center, UT Extension
5.1 (WED)	Urban Trees & Proper Maintenance with Larry Tankersly, UT Forestry Specialist
5.8 (WED)	Final Exam AND Project Presentations (REQUIRED)

## 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](#)



#### **STARTING SEEDS**

**Monday, February 11, 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Get a jump start on spring by learning seed-starting techniques. Starting seeds is a great way to get the exact plants you want for your garden. A demonstration using seed blocks will be featured.

#### **SOIL HEALTH AND COMPOSTING**

**Monday, March 4, 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

There's a lot going on in the soil beneath your feet. Discover natural ways to build healthy soil and how composting can help in your garden.

#### **ALTERNATIVE GARDENING: WALLED, WINDING & WETTER WAYS TO GROW**

**Monday, April 8, 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Explore unconventional ways to grow plants. Discover options that help mitigate space, time and physical limitations both indoors and outside.

#### **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.

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



## WCMGA Open House and Plant Swap

**SAVE THE DATE – October 14**

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

Plan on inviting a friend to join us for the October 14 OPEN HOUSE meeting. Each Association 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.

**Save the date and be on the look out for more details on this fun meeting.**



### How about creating a Williamson County Master Gardener Resource List?

After a recent meeting, it seemed that a lot of people mentioned their favorite book, favorite website, favorite tool, etc. Everyone was scrambling to write down the information! At this time, we would like to reach out to our WCMGs to see if we can pull together a resource list that are the "tried and true" things that we, in middle TN, use a great deal with a lot of success. Initially, this list was something to include in the intern notebooks, but, on reflection, it might be valuable for a lot of us!

If you have a resource idea, we just need the following information:

1. *Title and author of book*
2. *Website link to a favorite online resource*
3. *Do you have a favorite seed catalog? One that you go to all the time because the seeds are always easy to germinate and grow well in our area?*
4. *Is there a local resource you have come to rely on? A favorite nursery, your favorite source for mulch, etc?*

Add a line or two about why this resource has become so valuable to you in your Williamson County garden. We will be adding "recommended by" to make it more personal and serve as a connection for the interns to our stellar MGs. Suggestions for resources can be emailed to [hortonlinda4569@gmail.com](mailto:hortonlinda4569@gmail.com)

# THE BARK

## February

- Seed cool-season crops for transplanting if needed. Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and similar crops will need approximately 8 weeks from seeding to transplanting. A late March or early April planting will require an early February seeding.
- Order remainder of garden seeds for the 2019 garden. Direct seeded crops can be ordered later, but early is best for selection.
- Seed the earliest of warm-season transplants. Peppers often need 10-12 weeks to produce a nice transplant, so an early May transplant date will require a February seeding.
- If conditions allow, you may prepare soil for early seeded cool-season crops. Make sure to allow plenty of time for cover crops to decompose as this process is slower under cooler conditions.

## March

- Seed the remainder of warm-season transplants. Tomato transplants require 6 to 8 weeks, so a March 1 seeding provides transplants for a May 1 transplant date under good conditions.
- Prepare garden soil if conditions allow. Remember that if you are tilling in a cover crop, 2-3 weeks may be needed to decompose the cover crop material. Also allow time for other organic materials to break down if not fully composted to prevent competition with plants for nutrients.
- Seed or transplant cool-season crops. Hardy cool-season crops are usually seeded or transplanted 4-6 weeks before the frost free date. Less cold hardy cool-season crops are usually started 2 weeks before the frost free date.

- Install row covers or low tunnels over early season transplants to increase day and night temperatures and support early season growth.
- Don't forget to harden off any transplants (slowly subject them to garden conditions) to reduce stress once placed in the ground.

## April

- Finish site preparation if not completed. Use proper pre-plant fertilizer.
- Finish direct seeding and transplanting cool-season crops to prevent them from maturing under hot summer conditions. A 35-day lettuce direct seeded April 1 will need until approximately May 15 to mature. Even early maturing broccoli and cabbage transplants usually take at least 45-50 days from transplanting.
- Harvest may begin on the earliest seeded leafy crops or root crops.
- Begin purchasing transplants of warm-season crops. Select plants that are stocky and show good green coloration and no signs of pests or diseases.
- It is common to seed some direct seeded warm-season crops a bit before the frost free date (beans, corn). Be cautious of soil temperatures, though, especially if you are seeding untreated seeds or supersweet corn.
- Transplants of warm-season crops can be planted in Tennessee in April after frost free dates. However, soil temperatures support root growth, and sometimes early transplant dates are not all that helpful due to cool soils.
- Harden off your transplants before placing them in the garden

## 2019 TENNESSEE HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN CALENDAR

Be sure to visit the brand new garden calendar for Tennessee-specific tips and tasks.

The ***UT Extension publication W-436*** can be accessed [here](#). It even features a fillable PDF to keep records through the year!

Our thanks to Dr. Natalie Bumgarner and the Tennessee Extension Home Fruit and Vegetable Workgroup for producing this great resource.



# FOR SPROUTS

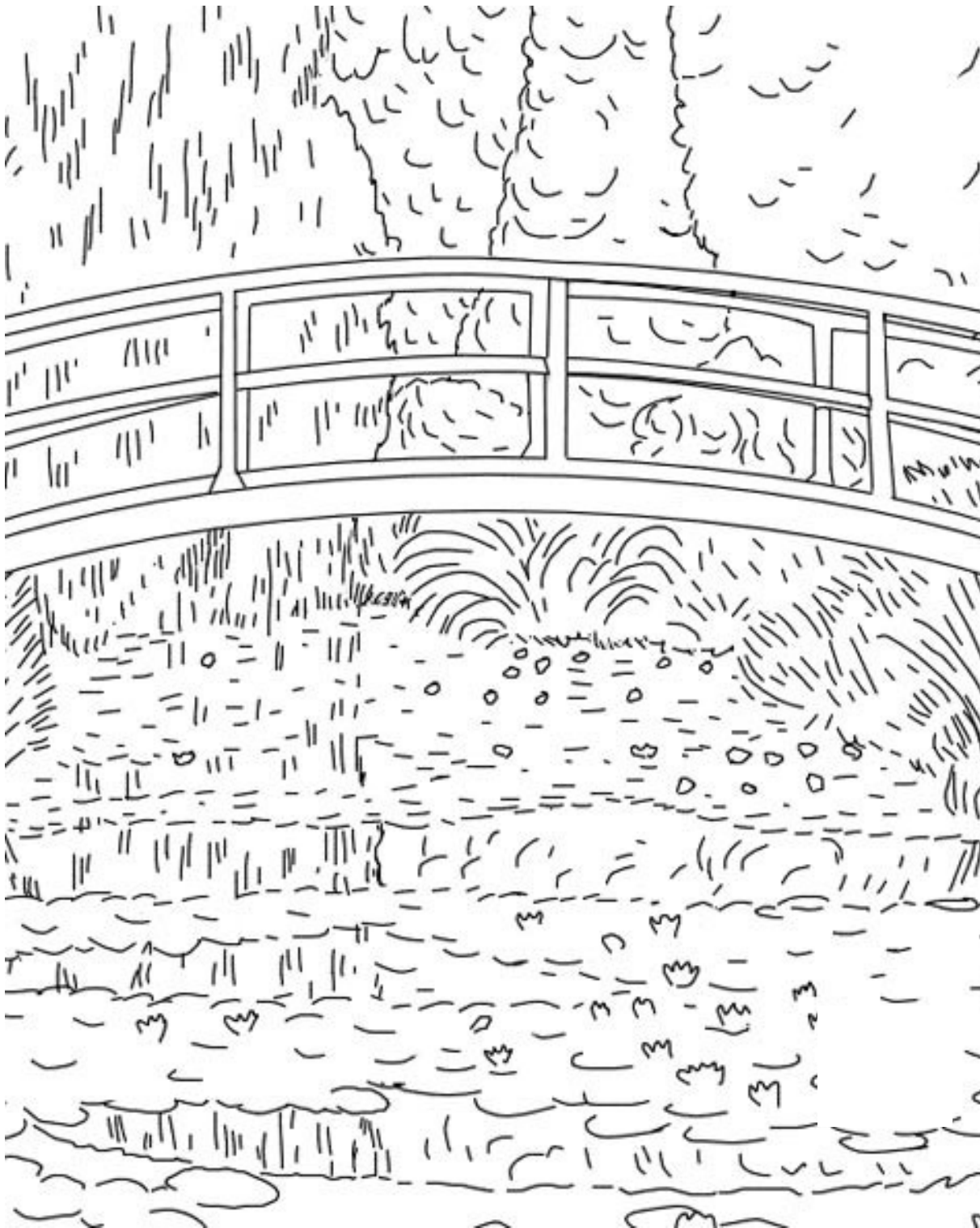
## Riddles

What kind of socks does a gardener wear?

Garden hose

What vegetable can tie your stomach in knots?

String beans



PRINT AND COLOR ME!

# 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 by the numbers 2018

Number of Interns certified: 38

Pounds of food produced: 26,090

Total project hours: 12,649.56

Total hours value: \$280,314.25

## 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.

## Contact Us

General Email: [wcmgstheperennial@gmail.com](mailto:wcmgstheperennial@gmail.com)

Address: [4215 Long Lane Suite 200, Franklin, TN 37064](#)