

MADISON COUNTY
2016
Master
Gardener

The Bridge to Knowledge
Volume 86, Issue 6



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From The President

Dear Master Gardeners,

Congratulations, Master Gardeners! We reached an all time high for income from the Spring Plant Sale. Judy Rice, Tharon Kirk, and Mary Kay Havranek had everything so beautifully organized and you all brought so many plants, and we had so many customers! Wow, I don't think it could have been any better!

This year they introduced giving out copies of a map that showed where every type of plant was located in the room. It was a great way to engage in conversation with the 150 people standing in line before 7 o'clock that morning! We gave out maps to 400 customers before 9:30 and they just kept on coming.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the sale, the preparations, and to those who dug, potted, cleaned, and labeled all those beautiful plants. Without all of you we would not be able to take great bus trips, enjoy all the programs, and support all the projects we are involved in.

One more huge thank you goes out to Carol Reese for promoting our sale in her column and giving us so much good information at our meeting on the great variety of plants Jason grew for the sale.

Hopefully you have all done some relaxing this month because at our June meeting we will start gearing up for Summer Celebration. It is a perfect way to rack up those volunteer and education hours. Joan Hughes is project leader this year and will have sign up sheets ready at the meeting.

Remember to let Celeste know if you are interested in becoming a representative for the Western Region MGs at the state level.

We'll see you at WTREC for the June meeting at 6:30. Our speaker will be Jeanne Guidi from Melodia Hill Plant Farm....and I do believe she will be bringing some plants for sale.

Mary Nenarella
President
Madison County Master Gardeners

PLANT SALE THANK YOU!

Wow, what a wonderful day, May 7th turned out to be for the MCMG Plant Sale! We had a beautiful day, wonderful volunteers, great shoppers who spent lots of money, and we took in more than we ever have before! The final number is not complete yet as we wait to determine how much of the profit goes to Jason and how much to MCMG but we did well. So pat yourselves on the back. You are the ones that make it all possible. The Plant Sale Committee says, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

It is always hard to start thanking particular persons but there are a few persons that the committee gives special thanks to and for: Dr Hayes, for allowing us to use the UTREC facility for our sale; Jason – who always helps us think things through; Carol Reese – for her wonderful support and publicity; Rita Randolph – an honorary MG who donated plants to our sale; David and Carol Sams – who provide hundreds of plants each year for the sale and then work tirelessly to help sell them; Bill and Frances Bobbitt – who worked with the committee and also donated hundreds of plants to our sale; John and Mary Kay – who also donated hundreds of plants and volunteered hours; Celeste Scott – our MG mentor who helped in countless unseen ways and was here to help throughout the set-up. We are grateful to all those who worked helping us get things ready whether it was for Jason's side or the MG side. And we are grateful to everyone who donated plants and other items that were available during the sale. The plants were some of the best looking specimens that we have had. YOU REALLY ARE THE GREATEST!

We have had much positive feedback from our shoppers. Some of our regular shoppers said that it was well organized and they liked having several check-out locations. We had positive feedback on the maps but perhaps some of the best feedback concerned the friendliness and helpfulness of the MG volunteers both inside and outside. So thank you to all who came and worked either the MG sale or the UT (Jason) sale. Of course there were snags. There always are. We still need to figure out how the hold area can function most effectively but we made some notes for next time.



Susan Shephard noted that as she was walking around her yard yesterday she realized that there were some plants that if dug and potted now would be really beautiful and lush next Spring. Just a thought for all of us to remember.

Again, thank you for all your hard work. Now it is time for us to move on and help Joan Hughes with Summer Celebration. Enjoy your gardens and we'll see you out and about the garden!

Plant Sale Committee – Judy Rice, Mary Kay Havranek, Tharon Kirk, Bill and Frances Bobbitt, Susan Shephard, Christine Warrington, Kathleen Trent, and Jason Bunch

This spring has been a whirl wind of activity and fun! Now that we have a few weeks to breathe easy and enjoy our gardens, temperatures are rising and summer is slowly creeping in on us. Over the past month, I have had multiple calls at the office concerning widespread plant deformation and death in home landscapes and vegetable gardens. These have all been due to herbicide damage. I would like to take a moment to talk about signs and symptoms and to remind everyone of a few simple ways to prevent herbicide drift damage on our own gardens as well as our neighbors'.

The signs and symptoms of herbicide damage are wide and varying. Different types of chemicals present themselves in various forms. Damage from selective broadleaf herbicides containing 2,4-D and Dicamba cause twisting, curling, cupping, strapping and or any distortion/malformation of the leaf, slight yellowing and reduced growth. Damage from non-selective herbicides containing glyphosate, commonly known as round-up, is presented with bleaching, chlorosis, crinkling, and or distortion of the leaf, as well as stunting and possible death. Wilting and defined leaf spots are not generally indicators of these two classes of chemicals. If damage is severe, both can lead to plant death. If damage is minimal, prune out infected areas, keep soil moist, and resist the temptation to fertilize! By reducing the amount of stress put on the plant, its chance for survival is much improved. Another sign to be aware of is wide spread damage. 2-4,D has a tendency to drift and will likely effect more than one single plant. Glyphosate damage however, may be isolated.

Applying chemicals wisely is the key to preventing off-target damage. Here are a few guidelines:

-Avoid spraying in windy conditions

Even if there is only a slight breeze, be conscious of directionality. Air is usually calmest at dusk.

-Read and follow all application method instructions on the label

Are you doing a broadcast spray when you really only need to spot spray?

-Apply at appropriate temperatures

Many chemicals are more volatile during warmer weather, while others are ineffective without higher temperatures.

-Be aware of the droplet size of your sprayer

Smaller droplets/fine mist achieves better coverage and canopy penetration, but it is also carried off target more easily=drift. Find a happy medium between fine mist and stream settings.

*Madison County is under the umbrella of "Cotton Counties" and the use 2,4-D Ester formulations are not permitted after cotton has been planted. 2,4-D Ester has the ability to vaporize. This vapor can drift over a mile and is called Volatilization. Warm temperatures and moist soil increase the potential for vapor drift. Many of the 2,4-D chemicals marketed to homeowners are Amine formulations, which are less volatile and unregulated. I encourage everyone to read their chemical label and discontinue use of ester formulations at this time.

If you have any questions or concerns please give me a call at the office.

Ramblings

David W. Sams May 2016

Plant Sale: Once again we completed a plant sale in fine fashion with almost no lines, few plants left over and with an abundance of apparently satisfied customers. I continue to be amazed at how well these sales go, the quality of the work which MCMG's do and how well they work together. Once again everyone should be proud of themselves.

Thank you: For those who were not at the last meeting Carol and I repeat a thank you for the outpouring of concern and compassion we recently received at the death of our grandson. An impossible situation was made less impossible due to the response of MCMG.

Weather: As of now we continue to receive frequent light showers to water our new plantings. Temperatures are low and we have required little irrigation. This will end suddenly with heat and drought. We know that it is coming, we just don't know when. I really need to finish my 8 new automated irrigation zones as soon as possible and finish mulching all the beds. But first...

Protection for berries: We saw large cages built over berries in England to protect them from birds. I have been collecting ½" PCV and fittings since late winter and will soon begin building walk-in PCV cages over blackberries, blueberries and raspberries. The cages will be covered with nylon netting and should considerably increase our harvests of these fruits. It may be cheaper to buy fruit but...

Nutrition: We have become an overweight nation addicted to fast food, sugar and low nutritional quality due partly to the time between harvest of our food and consumption. If we pick a berry in Mexico, Argentina or Chile, move it thousands of miles to a distribution center, distribute it to grocery stores, let it sit on shelves there for a few days, then let it sit days longer in our refrigerator how much nutrition is left when we eat it. What if I grow berries, freeze them almost immediately after harvest and thaw them only when I am ready to eat them? I am willing to bet that their nutritional quality will be much higher and that we will be healthier as a result.

Do Now: Plant the last of warm season vegetables as well as any potted plants still waiting to be planted. Remember that they will need water until they are fully established which can take as much as 2 growing seasons. Take time to enjoy your gardens as you walk through them looking for things which require immediate attention such as disease, insects and wilted plants. Do you have areas which still need to be mulched? Lowes has run sales on mulch (5 bags for \$10) before most of the spring or summer holiday for the last 2 years. I am betting that they will continue this policy this summer. Meanwhile, one can sometimes rescue plants from Lowes discards quite cheaply if one watches and is selective.

June meeting: I will have yet another batch of about 10 fig trees ready for distribution. My fig plant at home continues to thrive and bear heavily as it has for many years.

Next year: Our new plant at the sale next year will likely be Northern maidenhair fern, *adiantum pedatum*. It fully hardy for us and is spreading slowly in 7 or 8 locations. I will divide them next spring.

Gardens in Jackson TN

Visit <http://west.tennessee.edu/events>

Summer Celebration, July 14

- Master Gardeners' Plant Sale begins at 9 a.m.
- Garden Lectures begin at 10 a.m.
- Admission is \$5 for adults, free for children 17 and under.
- Admission to UT Kitchen Divas Cooking Demo additional \$5.



Williamson County Master Gardeners Association Garden Fair 2016

Ag-Expo Park, 4215 Long Ln. Franklin, TN 37064

June 4, 2016 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Join us for our annual Garden Fair. This one day event features beautiful perennials, annuals, container gardens, bamboo, herbs, daylilies, plant diagnostics center, and much more. There are native plants and those grown by our own Master Gardeners. The Master Gardener Potting shed features new and gently used items for your home and garden. Don't miss the artisan crafts and unique gifts.

For more information, visit wcmga.net

Dee Proctor Director of Public

Garden Tour

MEMPHIS AREA MASTER GARDENERS

Our 7th annual tour is shaping up to be the best. Our host gardens are within a 7 mile radius, making it easy for visitors to drop in at all six gardens. Mark your calendars now for **Saturday June 6th from 9 AM - 4 PM** for this fun event.

Garden 1: This typical sized suburban lot is only 5 years old and is being transformed into a woodland garden and wildlife habitat. See how they deal with sharing the garden with a dog and manage run-off from neighboring homes

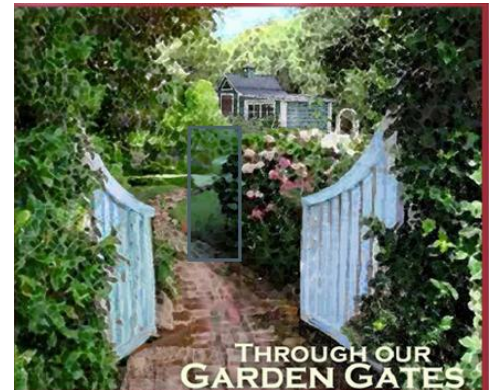
Garden 2: An estate sized 5 acre garden featuring a deer proof vegetable garden, terraced gardens, ponds and outdoor entertainment area. Tropical plants are featured along with perennial flowers and shrubs. This location will also host our speakers and demonstration tent.

Garden 3: This compact property is a study in gardening in small spaces. A serene garden where you can enjoy birds, butterflies, a variety of plant life and trees. Organized into various "rooms" of sun, shade, a moss area, statuary and a wonderful patio from which to view them all.

Garden 4: The 311 acre family farm was sold off in parcels leaving this 4 acre homestead with 70 flower beds maintained exclusively by the homeowner! Garden beds are laid out in both sun and shade areas. The garden features distinct rooms in both formal and informal design.

Garden 5: A suburban garden that demonstrates how to effectively integrate potted plants into the garden. Featuring multiple garden rooms, a water garden and integration of a "borrowed" view in its design.

Collierville Victory Garden: Everything you want to know about gardening vegetables and then some. This demonstration garden produces nearly two tons of produce each year. CVG is a sustainable garden, making informed decisions on plants, crop rotation, water conservation, composting, weeding, and pest prevention.



**“I LIKE GARDENING - IT’S A PLACE WHERE I
FIND MYSELF WHEN I NEED TO LOSE MYSELF.”**

ALICE SEBOLD

Wanted!! Articles for the Newsletter

You can earn volunteer hours by writing about some garden you visited, some technique you tried which worked (or did not), or share your enthusiasm for some special plant, or condensing a gardening article you read.

Keep contributing. Keep reading. Keep sharing.

Please send your contributions to:

Liz Whitsitt lizv@tds.net

Pam Stanfield pamstanfield@gmail.com

June Meeting

June 7th
West Tennessee
Research Center
6:30 pm

Jeanne Guidi
Melodia Hill Plant Farm



**Check Out
UT Gardens Jackson
On Facebook!**

Lots of great info being shared there, and you don't have to wait for a monthly newsletter!

The Bridge to Knowledge

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