

Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

Master Gardeners Meeting
June 18th, 6:30pm
Sevier Co. Courthouse

Events & CEU's

Volunteers In The Garden – Sevierville Senior Center... 1st Saturday of the month and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10:00am. Come spend some time helping and earn volunteer hours!

Friends of the UT Gardens 525-4555

June 7th - Books & Blooms 10:30am

June 9th – Course – Creating Topiary Standards UT PPD #274603

June 9th – Secret Garden Party – The Plant Collector & Sculpture Gardens

June 14th – Books & Blooms 10:30am

June 19th – Luncheon Walk 12 Noon
Twilight Walk 6:00pm

June 21st- Books & Blooms 10:30am

June 23rd & 24th – Blooms Days!

June 28th – Secret Garden Party – Dinner & Daylilies

June 30th – Books & Blooms 10:30am

IJAMS 577-4717

June 16th – 1:00pm Living Clean & Green – Trash to Treasure – Recycling makes a difference!

June 21st – 8:00pm – Let Ijams light up your life! Learn about fireflies through interactive games and outdoor activities – fun for all ages!

June 23rd - 9:00am Summer Birds – Join Ijams' Lyn Bales for a workshop on birds that only spend their summers at Ijams or nearby – Free for members, non-members \$10

June 23rd – Urban Wildlife – Learn what to do when you encounter wildlife, how to identify a few animals, and hike to visit the resident Ijams beaver's new home!

TMG State Conference

June 8th-10th MeadowView Convention Center and Resort in Kingsport, TN

<http://tnmgc2007.net>

Reserve this weekend on your calendar! For those who can't make the entire weekend, Saturday events and the Garden Market are available!

Growing Degree Days

By Leo Lubke

* The Growing Degree Day is 1,083.8 as of June 1, 2007.

* Japanese beetles started to arrive on, or about, 1,029 AND will remain in our yards and gardens until about 2,154. Check your "Using



Growing Degree-days for Insect Pest Management" leaflet to see other pests about to arrive, or that have left for the season.

* The website to review the Little Rock International Master Gardener Conference presentations is mg2007.uaex.edu. Click on "Speaker and Seminar Presentations" and select which presentation (those that are available are in bold print) you'd like to review (pdf format). I've reviewed those sessions that I attended and these files are taken directly from the presentation given at the conference.

* For more information on the NEXT International MG conference in Las Vegas from March 22 - 26, 2009, go to mg2007.uaex.edu, click on "Speaker and Seminar Presentations" and select the last item in the list (IMGC 2009 - Welcome to Las Vegas).

* For more information on the Southern Region Master Gardener Conference in Oklahoma City, OK, in June 2008, please be patient - the website is still being developed.

Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

Member Annual Dues

The following Members have paid their \$15 Annual Dues... Have you?

Jack Bailey ... Sandi Bailey... Selena Ball
Liz Ballard...Casey Berg...Gayle Crowe
George Denton...Judy Denton...
Jerry Gilpin...Robert Glenn ...Jo Golden
Jim Grubb...Tommi Jo Harrell
Gayle Holt...Mike Jones...Glenna Julian
W.C. (Dub) Julian...Barbara King
Donna Little...Leo Lubke...Carol MacKenzie
Colette Mancke...Juneil Mathis
Sheila Pennycuff ...Pat Powell...Reatha Reil
Jerry Shonk...Nellie Smith...Jan Sutton
Randell Tate...John Thomas...
Margaret Thompson...Richard Wasman
Les Williams

Please write your check to Sevier Co.
Extension, and give or mail to:
Margaret Thompson, Treasurer
3014 Sugarwood Drive
Kodak TN 37764

REPORT YOUR HOURS!

Sevier Co. Certification Officer Leo Lubke needs your hours...by telephone, fax, Email or paper ... email: lhlubke@aol.com, or phone the Extension office at 453-3695

Links and Sites

<http://www.treehelp.com/>
<http://plantsciences.utk.edu/>
www.arborday.org
www.pestfacts.org
<http://www.gardensalive.com>
[Starting Plants from Seeds](http://www.startingplantsfromseeds.com)
[friendsoftheoutgardens.org](http://www.friendsoftheoutgardens.org)
[Mulch Calculator](http://www.mulchcalculator.com)



The Newsletter needs your contribution! Events, pictures and articles are welcome!
Email to jssutton@mindspring.com

Drought Watering

If you are on a well like I am, when drought hits, you worry about weather your well is going to run dry. If you're on city water, you really don't want to see your water bill in the triple digits.

So you have to plan your garden watering carefully. Here's some tips, most of which you already know, but may not always think about.

Water in the mornings, when the water will not evaporate as it will in the blazing sun of mid-day or afternoon.

Water the soil, not the leaves or flowers... water spots on the leaves and flowers can burn them in the sun, and really doesn't provide the moisture where it's needed... the roots!

A single, deep watering is more beneficial than several light waterings, and can sustain the plant for several days, especially if mulch is used.



Since I don't (yet!) have an irrigation system, the hose has to serve...I turn the nozzle almost all the way off, and let it "drip" around the base of the plant (and young trees) for an hour or so, giving them a long, deep drink.

Jan Sutton

Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

An Overview of Some Common Organic Garden Pesticides

From [Marie Iannotti](#),

Insecticidal Soap

Ingredients: Insecticidal soap is sodium or potassium salts combined with fatty acids. **Application:** Insecticidal soap must come in direct contact with the insect. It is no longer effective once it has dried. **How It Works:** The fatty acids in the soap penetrate the insect's outer covering and cause the cells to collapse.

Pros: One of the safest pesticides. Non-toxic to animals. No residue. You can use on vegetables up to harvest. **Cons:** Can burn or stress plants. Don't use in full sun or high temperatures. **Precautions:** Check label for specific plants that may be sensitive to insecticidal soap.

Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)

Ingredients: **bacteria.**

There are more than 80 types of Bt used as pesticides

Application: Generally available in powdered form that is sprinkled or dusted on a plant. It must be eaten by the targeted insect. **How It Works:** Bt is a stomach poison. It releases toxins in the stomachs of susceptible insects which cause them to stop eating and starve.

Pros: Bt strains are very host specific and will not harm people, pets, birds or bees. **Cons:** Slow acting. It may take days for the insect to completely stop eating and die. Breaks down quickly. Can kill 'good insects' like butterfly larva. Breaks down rapidly in sunlight. Can be a skin irritant..

Neem

Ingredients: **Contains 2 ingredients, azadirachtin (AZA0 and liminoids, both from the seed kernels of the neem tree fruit.**

Application: Sprayed onto plant leaves. **How It Works:** Upsets the insects hormonal system and prevents it from developing to its mature stage. Most effective on immature insects and species that undergo complete metamorphosis.

Pros: Non-toxic to humans. **Cons:** Washes away in rain. Slow acting. Breaks down in sunlight. Indiscriminate pesticide. **Precautions:** Keep pets from treated leaves until they dry.

Horticultural Oil

Ingredients: Highly refined petroleum oil

Application: Mixed with water and sprayed onto foliage. **How It Works:** Coats and suffocates insects or disrupts their feeding.

Pros: Low toxicity to humans, pets or birds. No toxic residue. **Cons:** Most effective against soft bodied insects. Can cause bluish evergreens to temporarily lose their blue tint. Can burn leaves

Precautions: There are several grades. Be sure to use the one that is right for the season in which you are spraying.

Pyrethrins

Ingredients: Derived from *Chrysanthemum cinerariifolium*

Application: Generally found in powder form and dusted on leaves. **How It Works:** Poisons the insect, causing a quick death

Pros: Quick acting. Low toxicity to animals. Degrades within a day. **Cons:** Broad spectrum insecticide. Kills any insect. Very toxic to honeybees

Precautions: Use cautiously, only when you have a major problem with hard-to-kill insects.

Sabadilla

Ingredients: Ground seeds of the sabadilla lily

Application: Comes as a fine powder and used as a spray. **How It Works:** Acts as a stomach poison

Pros: Very effective against the true bugs (members of the Hemiptera order). **Cons:** Highly toxic to bees. Very irritating to the mucus membranes of mammals

Precautions: Use as a last resort

Continued....

Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

Rotenone

Ingredients: Derived from the roots of tropical legumes

Application: Dust onto plant . **How It Works:** Inhibits a cellular process, depriving insects of oxygen in their tissue cells.

Pros: Low residual effect. Breaks down quickly in sunlight. **Cons:** Broad spectrum pesticide

Precautions: Apply in the evening, when bees are less active.

Potassium Bicarbonate

Ingredients: Potassium bicarbonate usually combined with horticultural oil and / or a substance to improve spreading and coverage of the leaves. There are commercially available products such as GreenCure® and Kaligreen, or you can prepare your own. Note: Baking soda or sodium bicarbonate is often recommended for similar fungus problems, however research has shown potassium bicarbonate works better and is safer on plants.

Application: Spray at the first sign of disease or use as a preventative before infection. **How It Works:** It's still unclear, but it appears that bicarbonates can damage the cell wall and possibly create a pH that is not conducive to further fungal growth. The effect is immediate.

Pros: Lasts 2 - 3 weeks as a preventative. You can use on vegetables up to harvest. **Cons:** Can burn plants, especially if used in full sun.

Precautions: Check label and test on a small area before spraying entire plant.

Remember, just because a pesticide is organic doesn't mean it's not toxic. Always read and follow the label instructions and cautions.

A great way to stay on top of organic gardening practices is to subscribe to [Organic Gardening \(OG\)](#) magazine.

Read more about gardening with nature in [Organic Gardening Essentials](#).

Submitted by Rich Wasman

The Newsletter needs your contribution! Events, pictures and articles are welcome!
Email to jssutton@mindspring.com

From Beth Babbit

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

Fine Gardening Magazine is working with the Tennessee Master Gardener program to raise money for the state program's endowment. They are giving TMG \$10 for every new subscription made at the website below.

Please share this with other gardening friends and family. Master Gardeners will appreciate the donation and new subscribers will enjoy their new subscription to Fine Gardening Magazine!

Cut and paste the link below into your browser:

<http://www.finegardening.com/TN>



The Garden of L. Goldsmith, Landing NJ

Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

Greetings from the Weather Rock

It's transition time in Tennessee! This is the time of year that the cold and the hot battle for superiority....and though we have had several great doses of cool weather, now and againthe heat, which is a factor of very dry air has been here too....cooler than average and warmer than average....that's average....right? The drought, is many months old now....and will continue to be a real problem....at least until hurricane season starts to kick in. With the lack of moisture comes heat. How it works is simple. When the ground is dry, the sun has to waste no energy evaporating the available moisture in the top layer of soil, because there is none!then, there is more available energy just to heat things up. Global warming, correctly stated, ocean warming, releases huge amounts of water vapor which does fall as rain....but the changed weather patterns cause the rain to fall in limited areas, and not everywhere....deluge and drought. It's the lack of rain that heats things up....not your car. You see, the significant greenhouse gas is water vapor,...NOT carbon dioxide....the politicians are lousy scientists!....whoops....did I get up on my apple box?...I think so!!

After a years break from land-falling hurricaneswe will not be so lucky this year. The forecast for Hurricane Season 2007 is for the season to be like 2004 and 2005BAD!!!! But until then, the drought will continue to be very serious in the Tennessee Valley.

So what can we expect for June....Hotter than usual temps and very little broad areas of rain....just spotty thunderstorms. Low humidity, will be pleasant,....but will make it very difficult to water the garden, etc because of much accelerated drying conditions.

The closer you are to the mountains, though, the better your chance for rain....but that's about it.

I would like to say thanks to all of you for expressing concern over the loss of our apple crop....Thanks!!....and we are already preparing for 2008....life goes on!

BOOK REPORT TIME!....Jo Golden asked me to review a book she had acquired. It's called *The Gardeners Weather Bible* by Sally Roth/Rodale Press. What a GREAT book! A fun, easy read,....very accurate. It's full of folklore too, and their scientific explanationsit WILL make you a better gardener. I've added it to my library!!

See you next month!

From a hot, but well read 'Weather Rock',

Jack Bailey

