

Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

Master Gardeners Meeting September 17th, 6:30pm Sevier Co. Courthouse

A walking tour of the planters in downtown Sevierville. The tour will be led by Jim Rouhan

MG Day 10-13-07

The planning committee has done an outstanding job putting together a program that I think everyone will enjoy. To help make this as big of success as last years, we need your participation. Please mark your Master Gardeners Calendar and make plans to attend. Last year we had over 30 Sevier County Master Gardeners and interns in attendance. We need to increase those numbers this year!

Remember, we will have our mini Master Gardeners store, a silent auction and a live broadcast of the Garden Girls all taking place through out the day as well as educational programs (CEU's) and tours. Send your registration in today!

Alan

W. Alan Bruhin

Events & CEU's

Friends of the UT Gardens 525-4555

Sept. 7th - Secret Garden Party – Hors-d'evores on the Terrace

Sept 15th – Fall Plant Sale!!!

Sept 18th-In The Gardens-Lunchtime Walk 12 noon
Twilight Walk 6pm

Sept 29th – Secret Garden Party – GATOP

Oct 13th – Dig & Divide in the Gardens
UT PPD Course #281620

IJAMS 577-4717

Sept 9th – 4:30pm – Symphony in The Park with special guest actor David Keith

Sept 15th – Family Bug Night – 8:00pm
Spend the evening with your young ones learning about bugs! Members-Free, Non-\$5

Sept 28th- Owl Prowl – 6:00pm
Walk the trails at twilight to look for owls. Members – free, Non-\$5

Sept 29th- Living Clean & Green 1:00pm
Learn sed gathering methods and some propagation techniques.

Sept 15th – 9:30am-3:30pm Mufreesboro, Rutherford Co. MG's - Autumn Garden Extravaganza – Seminars, Demonstrations, Door Prizes. Call 615-355-6666 for info.

Sept 29th – Keep Sevier Beautiful 9:00am, Outback Steakhouse, Sevierville

Oct 4th – **5:30pm** Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd, Memphis TN 38120 \$10 Call 901-752-1207

Art Wolk: Award-winning Gardening Author, Speaking & Book Signing of Garden Lunacy: A Growing Concern Sponsored by the Memphis Area Master Gardeners

Get Your 2008 Calendar Now!

The 2008 MG Calendar is hot off the presses... still only \$10 for great gardening tips, wonderful seasonal pictures and room for your personal notes.... Available at the Extension office!

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From Beth Babbitt

One of the nation's top bulb experts, Brent Heath, will deliver the annual Gathering in the Garden lecture on "Bulbs as Companion Plants" on September 20 at 7 p.m. at Crossroads Christian Church, 2 miles off I-26, Gray exit, near Daniel Boone High School. (*Note: this is near Johnson City, according to SCAMGA's Navigational Expert, Juneil Mathis) With exquisite slides illustrating the seminar, you will be introduced to the best of the best - the right bulbs for the right places in the garden. You will learn how to combine many kinds of bulbs with perennials, annuals, groundcovers and flowering shrubs to create four seasons of beauty in your landscape. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and open to the public.

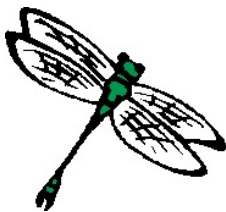
For more information, call 423-230-0654.

Gum Tree Farm, a good friend of the TN Master Gardener program is closing out their inventory with a Big Bang Sale! Many of you know how unique the plants are at this Hermitage, TN nursery.

Check their website for open days... take a group and get some great deals on some rare finds!

<http://www.gumtreefarmnursery.com/visit.html>

Except for advertised sale days, they are open by appointment only. Call (615) 885-0917 to schedule an appointment. If you are coming from out of town, or would like to bring a group, please schedule an appointment at least two (2) days in advance. Remember, August is a great time to support local nurseries and find great deals.



Are You Ready To Admit It ?

Hello, I'm Tim O'Brien, I live in Nashville and I've completed my course work in the MG program. I love the program! I'm also a full time writer and of course I love that as well! I am putting together a fun and informative gardening book, for a spring 2008 release that combines both of those loves!

The fun part of this project is that I want to work directly with you and include as many TN Master Gardeners as possible. The book is entitled: "Don't Dig a Pond Under a Willow Tree and 99 Other Backyard Blunders." We hope to not only have fun with the blunders that all of us have experienced, while at the same time educating the public on 100 things "not to do" in their backyard (or front yard).

Whether it's planting a tree in the wrong place, digging too big (or too small) of a hole for your perennials, using the wrong chemical instantly killing the plant, stepping on a snake that had been hiding under that nice stone fence you just built and falling into your prize rose bush. Whatever.

I need a variety!

Here's where you all come in. Think about a mistake that you have made and explain it in 50 words or less. Then explain what you did to solve it, in 50 words or less. Then we will feature an "alternative" solution to your problem written by another MG or a county agent. That's it! If your blunder is chosen, it will appear in the book and you will become instantly famous! If you are too embarrassed by the blunder, we can keep your name a secret, but we would like to use it if possible. By the way, all blunders (problems) don't need to have been solved. I'd like to hear what you did to remedy it, but was unsuccessful. We'll try to get the proper remedy from someone else in the program.

If you would like to participate and get more details, send me an email or drop me a line and I'll get right back to you. Thanks!

Tim O'Brien
6224 Deerbrook Drive
Nashville, TN 37221
tim@casaflamingo.com

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Growing Degree Days

By Leo Lubke

The Accumulated Growing Degree Days as of September 3, 2007 is 3,456. The number of GDD's in Knoxville in 2006 was 4,492, so we have about 1,000 GDD's to go.

A question often is asked if there is a maximum temperature for insect pest development. Certainly this is a valid question with the temperature-breaking records we've seen this summer in Sevier County. The answer is "yes" - there is a high temperature, or stress level, when pests slow or cease in their development. Growth rates are reduced when temperatures exceed the upper threshold, and so the maximum is set to this value if temperatures become hotter. Of course, this high temperature varies among pests, but for most it is around 85° F. In the formula I use, that is the upper limit. This means that if the temperature is in the 90's, the maximum temperature is recorded as only 85 in the GDD formula. The base temperature remains the same at 50. This will "pinpoint" the accuracy of GDD's as more research is done and results recorded for the upper developmental threshold of insect pests.

Links and Sites

<http://mgsca.org/default.aspx>

<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.org)

[friendsoftheoutgardens.org](http://www.friendsoftheoutgardens.org)

[Mulch Calculator](http://www.mulchcalculator.com)

[SevierCountyNews.com](http://www.seviercountynews.com)

<http://soilplantandpest.utk.edu/>

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

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
Dalene Griffith...Jim Grubb...Tommi Jo Harrell
Gayle Holt...Dottie Johnson...Mike Jones
Glenna Julian...W.C. (Dub) Julian...
Barbara King...Donna Little...Leo Lubke
Carol MacKenzie...Colette Mancke
Juneil Mathis...Ruth Miller
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: llubke@aol.com, or phone the Extension office at 453-3695

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Basil - How to Grow Great Basil in Your Garden

Overview:

Basil is an annual herb closely identified with Italian cooking, although it is originally from India. Today there are dozens of different basil varieties, some with the familiar lemony tang and others with spicy and exotic scents and flavors. They all grow easily in warm, sunny weather as tender annuals. The leaves are commonly used in cooking, but the flower buds are also edible.

Latin Name: *Ocimum basilicum* **Common:** Basil
Zone: Tender Annual **Size:** Varies with variety. 'Sweet Basil' can reach 6', but grows to about 3' for most gardeners. There are also short 6" dwarf varieties, which work especially well in pots.
Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom Period/Days to Harvest: You'll want to prevent your basil from blooming for as long as possible, by harvesting or pinching off the top sets of leaves as soon as the plant reaches about 6" in height. If the plant sets flowers, it is on its way to going to seed and will not be bushing out with leaves. Once a basil plant goes to seed, the existing leaves lessen in flavor.

Description : Basil is a member of the mint family. The extremely aromatic leaves also have a delightful variety of flavors from the slightly lemony mint of 'Sweet Basil' to cinnamon, and licorice. Leaf color spans from rich green to deep purple, with smooth or crinkled leaves. The flowers are insignificant, but very popular with bees.

Design Tips: Basil is traditionally planted along side tomato plants. It's said they help each other grow, but it may just be for convenience in harvesting. Basil does not need to remain in the vegetable or herb garden. Some of the shorter, purple varieties, like 'Spicy Globe', actually make nice edging plants in the ornamental garden, if you don't have problems with animals.

Cultural Notes: Basil is a heat lover. Don't bother planting it until the daytime temps remain in the 70s F. and night temps are above 50 degrees F. Seeds can be started indoors 3-4 weeks before last spring frost date. Unlike many Mediterranean herbs, basil likes a somewhat rich soil and doesn't like to be

dry. Space plants about 10" apart. They will bush out. Begin pinching the tops off once the plants reach about 6" in height. If you don't pinch or harvest, the plants will grow tall and gangly, with few leaves and will bolt to seed. You can continue harvesting as long as there are leaves left on the plant to keep it going.

Basil is very sensitive to frost and will be one of the first plants to go in the fall. You can extend the season slightly by covering your plants with row covers when frost is threatened. However, if the leaves are touched by a frost covered row cover, that's enough to likely turn them black. If you live in a frost free area, you might want to allow some basil plants to set flowers and self-seed in your garden. Not all varieties will do this successfully.

Growing Indoors: You can grow basil indoor, from seed, seedling or cuttings from your vegetable garden plants. Provide direct sunlight and warmth and feed monthly. An underfed basil plant, indoors or out, will have pale green leaves.

Problems: Aphids are the biggest basil pest, especially if grown indoors. Beetles and slugs can be a nuisance outdoors, tearing holes in the leaves.

Harvesting: As noted, frequent harvesting or pinching of the leaves will keep your basil plants producing longer. You can pinch off individual leaves or take the tops off of large plants, if you need a large amount.

Uses: Basil can be used in cooking, generally added at the end to keep its fresh taste and color. Basil can also be used fresh in salads, on sandwiches or even as a wrap, for instance around cheese cubes.

Preserving: Basil can be dried or frozen, for use after harvest.

(Editor's Note: If you plan on freezing Basil for preservation, it will defrost mushy and possibly discolored, though it will taste fine)

Submitted by Rich Wasman