

January 2012



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By The Yard...

HORTICULTURE

Gardener's Toolbox 2012

Our Gardener's Toolbox classes continue to be a big hit. We are happy to offer you the following opportunities to learn more about gardening. All of this year's classes will be held at the Fayette County Extension Office and will begin at 6:30pm. Unless otherwise noted, classes will be led by Fayette County Horticulture Agent Jamie Dockery.

As a reminder: Sign up early for classes to avoid being turned away because class is full.

Please remember all classes are **"Pre-registration" only**. If you are unable to send the registration fee before class time, please note that checks made out to the "Fayette County Master Gardener Association" will be the **ONLY** form of payment taken at the door. To save time and confusion before class please send your payment prior to class .

Sign up for 6 or more sessions and we will deduct 20% off your registration!



Tuesday, January 17th ~ Raised Bed Gardening - There are many benefits to gardening in raised beds. A discussion of pros and cons of the various methods. We will also discuss different approaches and materials to consider in constructing beds. **Cost \$10.00.**

Thursday, January 26th ~ Cool Season Vegetables - In Central Kentucky we can begin planting vegetables as early as March 1st. Many new gardeners do not realize there is a whole gardening season that occurs before the first tomato can be transplanted. We will discuss the types of crops that can be grown in the early spring. Participants will receive our vegetable garden guide and seeds for appropriate early veggies. **Cost \$10.00.**



Tuesday, February 21st ~ Home Composting - Composting at home is easier than you might think and creates a valuable garden resource. This program will offer a crash course in composting at a beginner level including a brief discussion of composting with worms. Lexington Fayette Urban County Government will provide free countertop "grubbies" to collect kitchen waste destined for your compost pile. Class is **free** but you must call the Extension office and pre-register to receive your "grubbie".

Fayette
County



Tuesday, February 28th ~ Low Input Lawn Care - You can have a nice lawn without excessive applications or fertilizers and chemical pest controls. We will discuss alternatives to traditional lawn care strategies. The emphasis will be working with nature and understanding the biology of cool season lawn grasses. **Cost \$10.00.**

Tuesday, March 6th ~ Disease Resistant Apples - Tree fruits generally require multiple chemical sprays to produce quality fruit. We will introduce you to newer varieties of apples that have been selected for resistance to our common diseases. These should still be sprayed for insect pests but are much better choices for folks who want to use fewer chemicals to produce fruit. Each attendee will receive a summer bearing “Pristine” yellow apple and a fall bearing red “Liberty” apple. These pollinate each other. Class is limited to 25 and I suspect will be the first to fill up. **Pre-registration is required, Cost \$48.00**



Tuesday, March 20th ~ New Primocane Blackberries - Perhaps you have heard of these new blackberries that bear fruit on the current season’s growth like fall bearing raspberries. Although they do have thorns, these varieties extend our blackberry season into fall and are nice complements to summer varieties. The fruits have high sugar levels. Each participant will receive 3-“Prime Ark 45” berry plants for their backyard homestead. Class is limited to 30 people and will fill quickly. **Pre-registration is required, Cost \$20.00**

Thursday, March 29th ~ Home Composting - Composting at home is easier than you might think and creates a valuable garden resource. This program will offer a crash course in composting at a beginner level including a brief discussion of composting with worms. Lexington Fayette Urban County Government will provide free countertop “grubbies” to collect kitchen waste destined for your compost pile. **Class is free but you must call the Extension office and pre-register to receive your “grubbie”.**



Thursday, April 12th ~ Intro to Vegetable Gardening- A general overview of growing a vegetable garden taught at the beginner level. We will walk through twelve months in the garden with a strong focus on sustainable practices and soil building. We will cover the three growing seasons and winter cover cropping practices. Participants will receive our Home Vegetable gardening booklet and seeds or plants for recommended disease resistant varieties. **Cost \$10.00**

Tuesday, April 17th ~The Backyard Asparagus Patch - There are few vegetables that excite cooks to the degree that asparagus does. Freshly harvested spears are certainly a delicacy after a long winter without fresh produce. It is not only nutritious and delicious, but also ridiculously easy to grow. The only difficult part is waiting for your planting to yield. Discussion will cover planting and growing this perennial vegetable. Participants will receive 10 plants for their backyard planting. This class will fill quickly so register early. Limited to 50. **Pre-registration is required, Cost \$20.00.**



Thursday, April 26th ~ Get to know Gooseberries - As interest in backyard food production has grown I am continually asked about fruits that can be grown without chemicals. A great, lesser known backyard choice is the gooseberry. Easily grown plants produce summer crops of sweet-tart fruits great for cooking or eating fresh. We have selected disease resistant varieties with sweeter berries. Each participant will receive two gooseberries; Hinnomaki Red and Jahns Prairie. Class is limited to 25 and will fill quickly. **Pre-registration is required, Cost \$20.00**

Tuesday, May 15th ~ Growing Great Tomatoes - A whole class about everyone’s favorite summer vegetable. We will discuss techniques for growing great tomatoes and how to avoid common pitfalls. There will be an emphasis on disease prevention. Each class member will take home a hybrid tomato and an open pollinated heirloom for your own mini trial. **Cost \$10.00.**





Thursday May 24th ~ Sweet Potatoes in the Home Vegetable Garden -

Sweet potatoes rarely make it into the home garden. Understandable as they take up lots of room, but unfortunate as they are very easily grown and nutritious. These tasty and versatile vegetables have few pests. We will provide a sampler of slips to let you try a few different varieties. These twelve plants will set the equivalent of a 20' row.

Pre-registration is required, Cost \$20.00

Tuesday, June 19th ~ Making Perennials Work - Instead of the usual discussion about specific perennial plants we will cover design and management approaches to help you get maximum impact from perennials with minimum input. We will cover the importance of building soils, plant selections, species diversity and natural approaches to weed control. Perennial beds will always require some labor but the aim here is to work with nature to minimize it. **Cost \$10.00**



Thursday, June 28th ~ Understanding Weeds - There are many types of weeds and controlling them begins with an understanding of their life cycle. We will cover annual and winter annual weeds and their management as well as their perennial cousins. Control strategies will include chemical and sustainable approaches. You should leave with the knowledge to gain the upper hand in your weed battles (you still have to provide the effort and motivation). **Cost \$10.00**

Thursday, July 26th ~ Cover Crops and Green Manures - Cover crops are plantings grown to be turned back into the soil. Backyard gardeners rarely utilize cover crops. There are a variety of benefits including soil building, nutrient production and retention, and weed suppression and control. There are short term summer options as well as the better known winter versions. These are often the best approach to improving soils and adding nutrients organically. Participants will receive seed for a summer and winter crop to trial in their home gardens.



Pre-registration is required, Cost \$15.00.



Tuesday, August 21st ~ How to Divide Perennials - In this lively and chaotic class we will cover the basics of dividing perennials. You will learn when to divide what, the best tools for the job, and some tips to make things go smoothly. Participants will need to bring an overgrown clump of perennial from home to divide and share. After hands on lessons in division, the plants will be offered in an informal plant swap so everyone can take home some new varieties to grow at home. **Cost \$10.00.**

Thursday, August 30th ~ Saving your Own Seeds - Many open pollinated vegetables and flowers can be carried over from year to year. This is how heirloom vegetables came to be. Learn what crops are practical to save seed from, why hybrids won't work, which types have to be isolated, etc. We will also go over the actual process of cleaning and storing seed for future use. **Cost \$10.00**

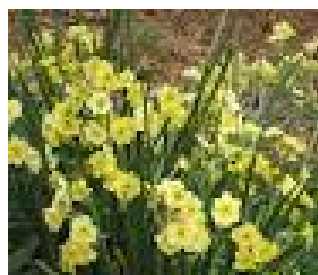


Tuesday, September 18th ~ Building Better Soils - Quality soils are the key to growing great crops. Research indicates that plants grown in rich organic soils are more capable of overcoming insect and disease problems. There are many ways to improve soil structure and fertility. Krista Jacobsen, UK Sustainable Agriculture program, will discuss techniques to help you improve your soil including amendments, green manures and organic nutrient sources. **Cost \$10.00**



Thursday, September 27th ~ Ornamental Vines for the Garden - There are many vines the gardener can consider, some beautiful, many vigorous and a few downright nasty. We will look at all sorts of vining plants and ways to use and support them. Our discussion will include annual and perennial options. We will feature a few desirable vines that will become door prizes. **Cost \$10.00**

Tuesday, October 16th ~ Growing Garlic - Most people would agree that fresh garlic is indispensable in the kitchen but very few gardeners grow their own. There are many different varieties gardeners can choose from. We will discuss how to grow this easy, fall planted crop including how to harvest and store. Attendees will take home a sampler of varieties to plant in their own gardens. **Pre-Registration is required, Cost \$20.00**



Tuesday, October 23rd ~ Narcissus and Daffodils - Everyone loves the sight of the cheerful spring daffodils with their promise of warmer days to come. We all know the large yellow trumpet varieties but there are 13 divisions of these amazing bulbs including miniatures, doubles, small cupped, double, split corona and my personal favorites the jonquillas, which feature multiple blooms per stem. We will explore the genus with tips for planting and naturalizing. Each class member will take home a sampler of lesser known varieties for their own garden. We will include bulbs from several divisions, at

least five varieties totaling 30 bulbs. **Class is limited to 40 people. Pre-registration is required, Cost \$30.00**

Thursday, November 15th ~ Attracting Birds to the Garden - There is great joy in observing birds in the garden during the gray winter days. We will focus on plants you may want to include in your landscape that attract them. We will also discuss the importance of habitat, nesting sites, water and feeders. We will feature a variety of feeders and other items that will be awarded as door prizes. **Cost \$10.00**



Tuesday, December 11th ~ Curing Country Hams - Tuesday, December 11th. Since folks have expressed so much interest in home food production we are curing country hams. This local tradition was a necessity in your grandparent's time. Gregg Rentfrow, UK meat specialist, will teach you how to salt and cure your own country ham. Each participant will cure a ham to take home afterwards provided your cure is successful (a small percentage of hams may spoil). We will provide a "green" ham and all the supplies. This class will meet two additional times, February 12 and June 18th of 2013 for follow up steps. The hams will hang in our "ham barn" between sessions. You must attend all sessions to complete the process. **Class is limited to 20 and will fill quickly. Pre-registration is required, Cost \$50.00.**

Winter Weather Policy
When Fayette County Schools
are closed, our programs will
be cancelled

“FOOD FOR THOUGHT” FCS CLASSES



Introducing a new series of classes “Food for Thought” that will all be held at the Fayette County Extension Office. All classes will start at 6:30 p.m., each class will cost \$10.00 individually, but if signing up along with Toolbox class for a total of 6 or more classes, you will receive a 20% discount. The following classes are being taught by our Family Consumer Sciences Agents. Like the Gardener’s Toolbox Classes, pre-registration is required.

Monday, February 6th ~ Healthy Heart Baking - Join us to learn some new tasty and healthy recipe alternatives to the traditional desserts and treats we are used to baking!



Wednesday, February 29th ~ Healthy Meals on a Budget - Creative ways to incorporate food leftovers and casseroles into family meals. Includes information on portion sizes and adapting recipes to stretch your food dollar

Monday, March 5th ~ Grains from Around the World - Have you ever wondered how to cook with bulgur, barley, buckwheat, and quinoa? Join us to find out about different types of wheat and how you can cook with them!



Monday, April 2nd ~ All about Asparagus - Learn how to use this vegetable from appetizer to entrée.

Tuesday, May 22nd ~ Spring into Salads - Join us to learn about different types of salads you can make. This class will feature hot and cold salad ideas.

Thursday, June 14th ~ Summer Grillin’ Fun...with Veggies - This is the perfect class to learn how to use your grill for something besides meat...grilling veggies. Join us in learning how to grill veggies!



Tuesday, July 10th ~ Fresh Ideas for Fresh Tomatoes - Ever wondered all you could do with a tomato? There are tons of cooking ideas for a tomato that involve few steps and taste delicious! Learn some great recipes to use up all the tomatoes coming from your garden.

Wednesday, August 22nd ~ Sweet on Sweet Corn - Come out and join us for an evening of sweet corn. Learn new ways to prepare your sweet corn and enjoy!



Thursday, September 6th - Melon Mania- Have you ever wondered what to do with your melon besides the normal cutting it up and serving? Join us to learn some new ways to use your melon!

Thursday, October 11th - Greens, Greens, Greens- With the variety of greens out there, join us for new ways of learning to prepare greens for the upcoming holiday season!

Thursday, November 8th - Apple Alternatives- Exciting new ways to use this age old fruit!



Gardener's Toolbox and Food for Thought Classes Registration Form

Take advantage of our discount price **per person** by registering for **SIX** classes for **20% Discount**

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ Total # _____ (Six Class or more: 20% discount) Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please remember that many of the classes are limited,
please register early to assure a spot in the class.

May we suggest that you call the Fayette County Extension, (859) 257-5582,
to inquire about the status of classes before registering.

Many classes are limited in size and we can not allow "un-paid guests" to attend.

TOOLBOX CLASSES

1/17: Raised Bed Gardening, Cost: \$10.00	1/26: Cool Season Vegetables, Cost: \$10.00
2/21: Home Composting, Cost: FREE	2/28: Low Input Lawn Care, Cost: \$10.00
3/6: Disease Resistant Apples, Cost 48.00	3/20: New Primocane Blackberries, Cost: \$20.00
3/29: Home Composing, Cost: Free	4/12: Intro to vegetable Gardening, Cost: \$10.00
4/17: Backyard Asparagus Patch, Cost: \$20.00	4/26: Get to Know Gooseberries, Cost \$20.00
5/15: Growing Great Tomatoes, Cost: \$10.00	5/24: Sweet Potatoes in a Home Garden, Cost: \$20.00
6/19: Making Perennials Work, Cost: \$10.00	6/28: Understanding Weeds, Cost: \$10.00
7/26: Cover Crops and Green Manures, Cost: \$15.00	8/21: How to Divide Perennials, Cost \$10.00
8/30: Saving your Own Seeds, Cost: \$10.00	9/18: Building Better Soils, Cost: \$10.00
9/27: Ornamental Vines for the Garden, Cost: \$10.00	10/16: Growing Garlic, Cost: \$20.00
10/23: Narcissus and Daffodils, Cost: \$30.00	11/15: Attracting Birds to the Garden, Cost \$10.00
12/11: Curing County Hams, Cost: \$50.00	

FOOD FOR THOUGHT CLASSES

2/6: Healthy Heart Baking, Cost: \$10.00	2/29: Healthy Meals on a Budget, Cost: \$10.00
3/5: Grains from Around the World, Cost: \$10.00	4/2: All About Asparagus, Cost: \$10.00
5/22: Spring into Salads, Cost \$10.00	6/14: Summer Grillin' Fun...with Veggies, Cost: \$10.00
7/10: Fresh Ideas for Fresh Tomatoes, Cost: \$10.00	8/22: Sweet on Sweet Corn, Cost: \$10.00
9/6: Melon Mania, Cost \$10.00	10/11: Greens, Greens, Greens, Cost: \$10.00
11/8: Apple Alternatives, Cost: \$10.00	

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Fayette County Master Gardener Association
and mail:
Gardeners Toolbox
Fayette County Extension Center
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