

It's Garden Time

If you are interested in improving soil fertility for farming, gardening, lawns or wildlife food plots, you should get a soil test.

Because we are maintaining social distancing, the Lee County Extension office has provided a tub in front of their office (5338 Cliff Gookin) to receive your samples.

How should a soil sample be taken?

For homeowners to test soil for fertility needs:

1. Use a spade, trowel or soil probe to remove soil 6 inches deep.
2. Obtain up to 15-20 similar sections or cores from other random places in your garden or lawn. Do not take samples where fertilizer has been spilled or manure has been piled. Do not include debris such as leaves, sticks, or large stones in your sample.
3. Put these samples in a bucket and mix soil thoroughly.
4. Remove about one pint of the well-mixed soil and dry it at room temperature.
5. Place the dried soil in a container.
6. **You will need to go to <https://register.extension.msstate.edu/soil-testing-laboratory> to pay and complete submission form.**
7. **Print the confirmation page.**
8. Bring confirmation page and soil to the Extension office.
9. Inside the black tub, you will find the soil boxes. Please complete the front of the box. If you were unable to print the confirmation page, please write your order number and the transaction ID on the soil sample box.
10. Place soil sample box and confirmation page in the black tub.



Our agent will mail the samples to MS State University Soil Test Lab for processing. The results will be sent by e-mail (if you provided that information) or by mail once they are processed.

Call John Nanney at 662-432-2460 if you need help interpreting the results.



Check out the following websites:

- extension.msstate.edu
- leecountymastergardeners.com

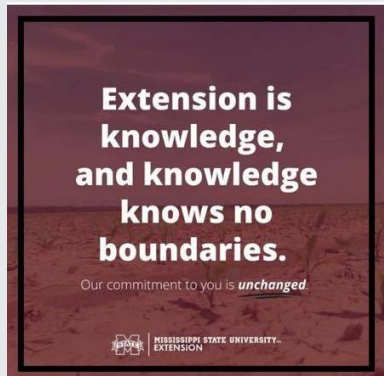
Be sure to follow Lee Extension and Lee County Master Gardeners on Facebook



Even though we cannot meet with you face-to-face during this challenging time, we, at the Lee County Extension Office, will continue to educate, inform, and empower our community.

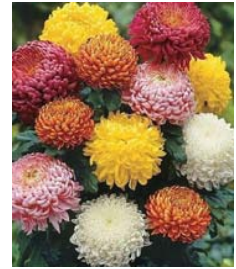
MS State University Extension will continue to be here for you through all of life's challenges! We can help you find the answers — answers you can trust.

Our foundational goal has remained the same—to deliver research-proven information to Mississippians using tools that today's technology offers.



SUSAN MCGUIN ~ JOHN NANNEY ~ POST OFFICE BOX 2297, TUPELO, MS 38803 ~ 662-841-9000

Garden Calendar: May



Planting

- Plant annuals and perennials early in the month. Keep well watered.
- Plant Crape Myrtles when plants are in color.
- Set out Chrysanthemums.
- Continue planting Gladiolus. Can also plant Calla lilies, Ginger lilies, Tuberose, and Cannas.
- Take Hydrangea cuttings and let root in coarse sand.
- In the shade, plant: Impatiens, Coleus, Sweet Alyssum, Lobelia, and annual Dianthus.
- In the full sun, plant: Verbena, Periwinkle, Ageratum, Marigolds, Zinnias, Petunias, Wax Begonia, Clematis, Four-o'clocks, and Portulaca.
- Vegetables that should be planted this month: Cucumbers, Tomato, Pepper, Squash, Peas, Beans, Eggplant, Corn, Okra, Parsley, Watermelons, and Cantaloupe.

Pest Control

Keep an eye on garden pests and diseases: red spiders, thrips, aphids, lace bugs, lacewings, mealy bugs, caterpillars, slugs, snails, mildew, fungus, and crown rot.

Pruning

- This is the last month to prune Azaleas and Camellias as new buds are formed in June.
- Gardenias can be pruned by bringing a bouquet inside to beautify the house.
- Cutting bouquets regularly will keep your plants pruned and prolong the blooming season. Cut in early morning or late afternoon and put into water immediately.
- Remove seedpods from bulbs and irises as they sap the plants' strength.

Mulch

A layer of mulch helps maintain moisture and can protect roots from extremes in temperature.

Miscellaneous

Water deeply during weeks that it does not rain. One inch of water per week is needed.

Home Accent

Repot house plants during their active growing period: April through September. May is a good month to repot and divide overcrowded ferns.

In Bloom

Confederate Jasmine, Gardenias, Begonias, Impatiens, Salvia, Geraniums, Roses, Hydrangeas, Magnolias, Azaleas, Clematis, Phlox, Sweet William, Deutzia, Honeysuckle, Goldenrain tree, Pomegranate, Mock Orange, and Weigela.



Roses



Confederate Jasmine

Clematis



Garden Calendar: June

Planting

- Set out Caladiums in shady areas.
- Plant Crape Myrtles in bloom to be sure of color.
- Replace turf in deep shade with ground cover: Liriope, Ajuga, or Jasmine.
- Plant summer annuals such as Ageratum, Cockscomb, Impatiens, Marigolds, Sunflowers, Four-o'clocks, and Periwinkle.
- Plant Tomatoes late this month to insure harvest late into fall. Cherry Tomatoes are a choice that is heat tolerant.
- Choose Daylilies now that they are in bloom to plant in your garden.
- Divide and replant Iris. Cut leaves back to 6 inches after transplant.
- Plant Zinnias and Marigolds now for a second crop of flowers.
- Plant Snap Beans, Lima beans, Cucumbers, Eggplants, Peppers and Squash.
- Gladiolus planted now will give lovely fall blooms.



Fertilizing

- Fertilize Camellias with Azalea-Camellia fertilizer if not done earlier in the year.
- Fertilize Bermuda and Zoysia grass.
- Fertilize Tomatoes, Cucumbers, and Zucchini monthly with 5-10-10.
- Fertilize annuals and perennials.



Pest Control

- Mow lawn in the morning to reduce the chance of starting Brown Spot (fungus).
- Remove Zinnias with powdery mildew and replant.

Pruning

- Pinch Dahlias and Mums to assure a compact growth habit.
- Remove Blackberry fruiting canes after harvest. Prune new canes to encourage side branching.
- Faded flowers should be removed from Daisy, Daylily, and other summer flowers.
- Prune out dead and damaged wood from trees and shrubs.

In Bloom

Ageratum, Althea, Balloon Flower, Bee Balm, Begonia, Blackberry Lily, Butterfly Weed, Coreopsis, Cornflower, Feverfew, Funkia, Gladiolus, Hollyhock, Japanese Iris, Lily, Nicotiana, Petunia, Phlox, Rose Scabiosa, Shasta Daisy, Sweet Pea, Verbena, Butterfly Bush, Goldenrain Tree, Hypericum, Mimosa, Stewartia, Sourwood, Vitex, Yucca, Jasmine, Crape Myrtle, Daylily, Geranium, Hibiscus, Hydrangea, Impatiens, Lantana, Morning Glory, Oleander, Plumbago, Portulaca, Purslane, Salvia, Veronica, Dusty Miller, Four O'clock, and Zinnia.



Geranium



Balloon flower

Additional information and publications can be found at:

- ♦ extension.msstate.edu/lawn-and-garden
- ♦ extension.msstate.edu/publications

Grow Your Own Vegetables

There are many good reasons for growing a vegetable garden in Mississippi. A garden offers the opportunity to enjoy vegetables at their freshest. Sometimes only minutes elapse between harvest, preparation, and eating. On the other hand, most fresh vegetables available at the grocery store travel about 1,800 miles between producer and consumer, and this travel often occurs over a period of several days. There's a lot to be said for "homegrown" freshness.



Vegetable gardens are traditional in Mississippi. When the state was more rural, most of the family's food was grown at home. Today, vegetable gardens are often thought of as a form of family recreation. Many older Mississippians grow gardens that are much too large for their own use just to have fresh vegetables for family, friends, and others who are unable to garden.

See page 1 for information on submitting a soil test to MSU for improving soil fertility.

Complete content for Vegetable Gardening in Mississippi can be found in [Extension Publication P1091: The Garden Tabloid](#)



If you have questions about home flower gardens or ornamentals, call Susan McGukin at 662-432-2467.

If you have questions about vegetable gardens, home lawns, wildlife food plots, soil test results or pond management, call John Nanney at 662-432-2460.

Dr. Christian Stephenson, an MSU Extension Agent in Hancock County is offering free presentations on various garden topics. All past, present and upcoming presentations will be recorded and may be found online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPnT4I73AH0QURrSOIxX9EQ>

You may also choose to follow him on Facebook for the schedule of LIVE PRESENTATIONS. This will give you a chance to ask him questions.

Being Counted Matters

5 TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF AGAINST CENSUS SCAMS

- The Census Bureau will contact you by mail. They will not email or call you.
- Make sure the return address is from Jeffersonville, Indiana. If the envelope has a different address, it is not real.
- If you respond online, make sure the website is secure. The domain should be www.census.gov.
- If a Census worker visits your home, ask to see an ID badge and a copy of the letter the Census Bureau sent you.
- A real Census worker will not ask for your Social Security number, credit card or bank account numbers, or cash or donations.

RETURN
0
MISSISSIPPI