

Come Visit the Demonstration Gardens at Lane Agripark

Here in Rutherford County, we are incredibly fortunate to have the Lane Agripark complex, which ranks amongst the finest county owned Extension facilities in the state. The 42-acre complex, located at 315 John R. Rice Blvd. in Murfreesboro, is home to numerous demonstration gardens that are maintained by dedicated Rutherford County Master Gardener volunteers. The purpose of these gardens is to showcase best practices in the areas of home fruit, vegetable and herb production, along with ornamental landscape practices. Demonstration gardens include a vegetable and herb garden, small fruit production area planted with cane berries, blueberries, strawberries and fruit trees, along with a perennial flower and native plant pollinator garden, and two rain gardens. These gardens are open to the public and many have educational signage to help visitors better understand the practices, plants, and purpose of each demonstration area.



Justin Stefanski,
Extension Agent II

We encourage anyone interested in touring the demonstration areas or those wanting to ask the experts garden related questions, to come visit us during the Rutherford County Farmer's Market. The Farmer's Market is open on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 7am to noon. During these market days, Master Gardeners will be available from 9 am to noon to help answer your garden questions and to help share their gardening knowledge. Additionally, we will be offering special tours highlighting certain demonstration areas and practices throughout the season. Please see the list below for more details:

- June 21st-Vegetable Garden tour, focusing on growing tomatoes in the home garden
- July 5th- Pollinator Garden tour, focusing on best plants and practices for attracting pollinators
- August 9th- Native Plant Garden tour, focusing on using native plants in the home landscape
- August 30th- Vegetable Garden tour, focusing on strategies to reduce pests and diseases
- September 13th- Composting Area tour, focusing on how to properly make and use compost
- October 4th, Vegetable Garden tour, focusing on putting your garden to bed for the season

Each of the tours listed above will take place twice each day, with the first tour happening at 9 am, followed by a second tour at 10:30am.

Please come out and support the local farmers selling at the market and then swing by the demonstration area to learn from the experts and tour these wonderful gardens. If you are unable to make it out during the market, you are free to come visit the Lane Agripark complex at your leisure. Our gardens are open to the public and visitors are welcome to visit these demonstration areas at any time. If you are lucky, you might also catch a crew of dedicated Master Gardeners tending these gardens. They are always happy to see appreciative visitors and are eager to share their gardening knowledge and passion with others.

Happy Gardening!

For questions or comments, please feel free to reach me at the UT/TSU Rutherford County Extension office. Our main office line is 615-898-7710 and my email is jski@utk.edu. Additionally, please check us out on the web at rutherford.tennessee.edu to learn more about upcoming classes and all other Extension programming activities that we offer.



**Demonstration Vegetable Garden
at Lane Agripark, Photo J. Stefanski**



**Native Plant Pollinator and Herb
Gardens at Lane Agripark,
Photo J. Stefanski**



Demonstration Rain Garden at Lane Agripark, Photo J. Stefanski