



# Tennessee Home Fruit and Vegetable Garden

2025 CALENDAR

# 2025 Tennessee Home Fruit and Vegetable Calendar

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This calendar has been developed to assist you in formulating an overall plan for your residential vegetable garden and fruit production. Utilize the calendar to schedule various planting, harvesting, and management practices. However, there are many other excellent resources available from UT Extension that will be an asset to you in planning and managing your garden, so they are linked within this calendar.

And this calendar is also available online as a fillable PDF at [tiny.utk.edu/W436](https://tiny.utk.edu/W436).

We hope this calendar is one step in your successful home fruit and vegetable journey.



# Getting the Most from the 2025 Home Vegetable and Fruit Calendar

## Step 1. Be aware of climate and temperature trends in your specific location.

The dates listed in the calendar are averages for different regions of the state. However, there is a large range in growing season length across Tennessee, so it is always good to be familiar with the local climate data to most usefully adapt dates from this calendar.

A brief table is below. Additionally, more detailed information can be found by consulting with [frost/freeze tables for Tennessee](#).

This National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) publication will allow you to look at frost/freeze probability data for all stations in Tennessee.

	Bristol	Chattanooga	Clarksville	Crossville	Dyersburg	Jackson	Knoxville	Lawrenceburg	McMinnville	Memphis	Mtn. City	Nashville
Last Spring Frost*	May 3	April 17	April 27	May 10	April 15	April 18	April 22	April 30	April 28	April 9	May 26	April 21
First Fall Frost*	Oct. 6	Oct. 21	Oct. 4	Oct. 4	Oct. 16	Oct. 13	Oct. 17	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 30	Sept. 18	Oct. 10

*\*The values reported here are the most conservative because they are dates where there is only a 10 percent chance of a frost occurring after (spring) or before (fall) these dates.*

## Step 2. Utilize the full selection of UT Extension publications and resources for home gardeners.

Check out [Uthort.com](http://Uthort.com) or the UT Extension publications catalog to find all of these publications and more.

[W 346-A Site Selection and Soil Testing](#)

[W 346-B Garden Planning, Plant Preparation and Planting](#)

[W 346-C Managing Plant Nutrition](#)

[W 346-D Plant Management Practices](#)

[W 346-E Building and Using Raised Beds](#)

[W 346-F Season Extension Methods](#)

[W 346-G Stewardship in Soil Management](#)

[W 346-H Growing Tomatoes](#)

[W 346-I Harvest and Storage](#)

[W 661 Conventional and Organic Garden Products](#)

[W 316 Home Vegetable Garden Disease Control](#)

[PB 595 You Can Control Garden Insects](#)

[PB 1622 Disease and Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings](#)

[Vegetable Gardens Archive - A series of publications on garden vegetables](#)

## TASKS FOR JANUARY

- Check out this calendar as a fillable PDF to keep records through the year. [Tennessee Home Fruit and Vegetable Garden Calendar](#)
- Place orders for bare root fruit crops after making selections for your location and needs. [tiny.utk.edu/FruitSupplierList](http://tiny.utk.edu/FruitSupplierList)
- If you plan to graft trees/vines, collect and store scion wood.
- Work on your garden layout and planting plans for this year. These plans should be based on a rotation among vegetable plant families as well as any pest and disease issues that were seen the prior year. Test germination on remaining garden seed to ensure viability (see image below). See [UT Extension Publication W 316 Home Vegetable Garden Disease Control](#).
- Gather materials for producing transplants. These should include new or pathogen free substrate. See [UT Extension Publication W 346-B Tennessee Vegetable Garden: Garden Planning, Plant Preparation and Planting](#).
- Order seeds for your 2025 garden, especially those for transplants. Check out UT trial results to support your selection. See [UT Extension publication W 1162 Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trial Report](#).
- In some parts of Tennessee, seeds for cool-season spring transplants will need to be started in January.
- Consider becoming a Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Volunteer; check here for local program options! <https://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/how-do-i-become-a-master-gardener>



## Getting Started with Vegetable Gardening in Tennessee

Vegetable gardening can be a nearly year-round adventure with great options for spring, summer, fall, and even early and late winter crops.

- **Cool-season crops** prefer cooler spring and fall for growth and can withstand some frost. So, they can be grown in both spring and fall here in Tennessee. Some of the hardiest crops can produce in the early winter and overwinter to harvest in early spring.
- **Warm-season crops** are killed by frost but perform well in the heat of the summer.

### Crops for spring planting and late spring/early summer harvest:

Leaf or small head (bibb, oakleaf, mini romaine) lettuce, radish, kale, collards, Swiss chard, snap peas, beets

### Crops for late spring planting and summer to early fall harvest:

Peppers, tomatoes, okra, beans (sequential plantings), southern peas, cucumbers and summer squash (multiple plantings)

### Crops for late summer planting and fall to early winter harvest:

Broccoli, cabbage, collards, leaf or head (bibb, oakleaf, romaine) lettuce, turnips (greens or roots), carrots

### Crops for fall planting for winter harvest or overwinter/spring harvest:

Kale, spinach



# JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Make sure to follow a rotation of crop families.	<b>2</b> Research any new cultivars to try this year and check out the UT Garden trial report at <a href="http://uthort.com">uthort.com</a> .	<b>3</b> Review cultivars and crops that performed well last year in your garden.	
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Six weeks until early date to plant kale in West TN. Seed soon if using transplants.	<b>7</b> When considering fruit plant purchases, those from tissue culture are lower in disease risk.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Test germination of left over seed from last year.	<b>10</b> Prepare seed order for remaining cool season and warm season seeds for transplants.	<b>11</b> Remember that many diseases can be prevented by ordering disease free seed.
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> ○ FULL MOON	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Prepare your garden plan—by hand or digitally.	<b>17</b> Make sure to follow a rotation of crop families.	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> These green colored squares remind you to keep track of your garden.	<b>21</b> There are several record sheets at the end of this calendar. There are also boxes on each month.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Remove or bury any mummy berries from blueberry plots to reduce disease.
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Purchase or gather materials to prepare transplants.	<b>28</b> Be sure to purchase pathogen free media and clean containers. for transplants.	<b>29</b> ● NEW MOON	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Remove or bury any mummy berries from blueberry plots to reduce disease.	
Notes on crops:			Notes on weather:		Notes on new cultivars to try:	

## TASKS FOR FEBRUARY

- Now is the time for dormant pruning on many fruit crops; make sure to remove any diseased wood while pruning for production.
- Dormant sprays are also an important early season fruit practice. See [UT Extension publication PB 1622 Disease and Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings](#).
- Seed cool-season crops for transplanting if needed. Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and similar crops will need approximately 8 weeks from seeding to transplanting. A late March or early April planting will require an early February seeding. See [UT Extension publication D 59 Cole Crops for Tennessee Gardens](#).
- Gather scion wood for grafting fruit trees if still dormant (this varies by year and region).
- Order remainder of garden seeds for the 2025 garden. Direct seeded crops can be ordered later, but ordering early provides best selection.
- Seed the earliest of warm-season transplants. An early May transplant date will require a February or early March seeding.
- If conditions allow, you may prepare soil for early seeded, cool-season crops. Allow plenty of time for cover crops to decompose. See [UT Extension publication W 346-G Stewardship in Soil Management](#).

### Join in on the Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trial

There is no better way to create the research foundation for garden crop and cultivar selection for Tennessee gardeners than to do the research together with Tennessee gardeners! Our Home Garden Variety Trial Program does just that by enabling home gardeners to select crops of interest, get seeds mailed to them and then grow the crops in their gardens. At the end of the season, Extension and research faculty at UT collect the data and prepare a report to share the results with gardeners across the state. Here are some of the top performers and our 2023 trial report:

[Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trial Report](#)

We invite you to join us!

Get all the information for the 2025 trial at:

[HGVT trial page website](#)



## Getting Started with Fruit Growing in Tennessee

Fruit crops can be rewarding and tasty, but they can also be a challenge if you don't start with crops that fit your time, space and climate. While many folks dream of starting growing fruit for apples and peaches, our UT Extension horticulture team encourages beginning your fruit journey with small fruits that can fit a variety of spaces and sites to help you be successful right out of the gate!

- **Blueberries**, especially rabbiteye types, which are often hardier than highbush, can be productive for many years if soil and site are well managed. They are also a good crop for low spray or organic gardening. Check out these great [blueberry options W895A](#).
- **Blackberries** are a native fruit to the southeast and can produce only a year or two after planting. Different types can enable harvest from early summer to fall. Plus, there are many newer cultivars that are relatively upright, thornless and great tasting. Get to know the many [options with this publication \(W895B\)](#).
- **Strawberries**- In just around a year, you can have [tasty strawberries \(W895C\)](#) from your own garden, container or raised bed. Don't overlook one of the quickest to bear and space efficient fruit crops for gardeners.

Intrigued about some of these small fruit crops? Well, it isn't too late to order plants. Check out our simple to use [fruit crop decision guide](#) to get you thinking about what would be most successful for you and then utilize the [supplier list](#) to find listed cultivars.



# FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Prepare seed order for warm season direct seeded crops.
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Use dormant oil sprays complete on your fruit trees to combat scale and other pests.	<b>4</b> Prepare garden soil in West TN if not too wet. Early seeding can be easier in raised beds.	<b>5</b> Six weeks until early date to plant kale in East TN and cabbage/ broccoli in West TN. Seed transplants now.	<b>6</b> Eight weeks from frost-free date in the warmest parts of West TN. Seed warm season transplants now.	<b>7</b> Six weeks until early date to plant cole crops in East TN. Seed transplants now.	<b>8</b> Could direct seed peas, mustard, kale and collards in West TN if soil can be prepared.
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Monitor transplants closely to ensure that they are not over or underwatered.	<b>11</b> Dormant sprays, like lime sulfur can reduce disease on many fruit crops. Before bud break!	<b>12</b> ○ FULL MOON Eight weeks from frost-free date in much of Mid-TN. Seed warm season transplants now.	<b>13</b> Pruning fruit trees can reduce disease pressure and increase production.	<b>14</b> Make sure that young transplants are not stretching. This could indicate low light or high N.	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Prepare garden soil in Middle and East TN if dry enough.	<b>19</b> Could direct seed peas, mustard, kale and collards in much of Middle TN.	<b>20</b> Eight weeks from frost-free date in much of East TN. Seed warm season transplants now.	<b>21</b> Dormant prune blueberries and cut 10-20% of canes each year to renew fruting wood.	<b>22</b> ○ FULL MOON
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Make sure to store bareroot plants carefully if they arrive early.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> For caneberries, remove any remaining canes that fruited the previous season, then thin the rest.	<b>27</b> ● NEW MOON	<b>28</b>	

Notes on crops:

Notes on weather:

## TASKS FOR MARCH

- Plant fruit trees or plants. Make sure to prevent bare root stock from drying out prior to installation. They can be heeled in outdoors.
- Remove straw protection from strawberry plants before bloom.
- Assemble your spray materials to prepare for fruit season.
- Seed the remainder of warm-season transplants. Tomato transplants need 6-8 weeks, so March seeding means May transplants. See [UT Extension publication W 346-B Garden Planning, Plant Preparation and Planting](#).
- Prepare garden soil if conditions allow. Remember that if you are tilling in a cover crop, the cover crop material may need a few weeks to decompose. See [UT Extension publication W 346-G Stewardship in Soil Management](#).
- Seed or transplant cool-season crops. Hardy cool-season crops are usually seeded or transplanted 4-6 weeks before the frost-free date while less cold hardy cool-season crops are usually started 2 weeks prior. See Frost and Freeze charts [weather.gov/media/ohx/PDF/frostfreeze probs.pdf](http://weather.gov/media/ohx/PDF/frostfreeze probs.pdf).
- Install row covers or low tunnels over early season transplants to increase day and night temperatures and support season growth. See [UT Extension publication W 346-F The Tennessee Vegetable Garden: Season Extension Methods](#).
- Don't forget to harden off any transplants to reduce stress and loss once placed in the ground.



## Tips and Tricks for Transplants

- **Start with a pathogen free soilless media.** Germination mixes are designed to start your seedlings off disease free. They are also designed to drain well while holding enough water to support germination and growth. Most are made from peat or coconut coir along with perlite.
- **Follow suggested temperatures for germination.** One of the most common issues that causes poor germination is lower than ideal temperatures. Warm-season crops — such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplants — will germinate slowly when too cool and are more likely to have disease issues.
- **Light is critical.** Most indoor locations don't have enough light to grow stocky seedlings. Watch your seedlings for color and stem thickness (are they stretching?). Supplemental fluorescent or LED lighting can be key.
- **Don't overwater.** Growing media should be allowed to dry out slightly (but not completely) between waterings. Air movement and light are important in managing the environment and drying out the media.

## Understanding Spring Frost and Freeze Risks

Warming temperatures in spring bring the risk of blooms that can be damaged or lost during late freezes. Gardeners can delay planting vegetables or cover the young plants, but fruit crops are harder to protect. Avoiding the risk of spring freeze damage through crop and cultivar selection is often the best methods to protect fruit crops.

- **Blueberries:** Rabbiteye generally bloom earlier than highbush so are more affected by low spring temperatures. Select blueberry cultivars with at least 500-550 chill hours to lower this risk of early season bloom loss. Growing different types and cultivars can enable some harvest even when some early blooms are lost. When flowers are still tight in the cluster or very early bloom, they can withstand 23-27F (image on left). When in full bloom, though, fruit damage can occur at 28F (image on right).
- **Apples:** Since they are one of the later blooming tree fruits (after pears and peaches), frost damage risks are lower. When blooms are still small and tight (barely showing a green tip), they receive only minimal damage at 18F. However, once the blooms show pink and start to open, they will have damage at 28F and nearly complete loss at 25F.
- **Peaches:** As one of the earliest to bloom fruit crops, and it is recommended that only cultivars with 850 chill hours or more be grown. Once peach buds open, they can be damaged at 28F and nearly all are killed at 21-24F.



# MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Keep track of crops on the record sheet at the back of the calendar.
<b>2</b> Plant blueberry and caneberries when dormant in winter/early spring.	<b>3</b> Plant or seed lettuce outdoors in West TN. Plant Irish potatoes in West TN. Also direct seed beets.	<b>4</b> Site selection is essential and good drainage is a must!	<b>5</b> Early date to plant potatoes in East TN.	<b>6</b> Could direct seed peas, mustard, kale and collards in East TN if soil can be prepared.	<b>7</b> Time to transplant cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli in West TN.	<b>8</b> Row covers or low tunnels can be a great way to push early season crops.
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Watch for signs of maturity in cool crops such as radish to prevent harvesting too late.	<b>11</b> Early to mid-March is the best time to plant asparagus. They prefer a 50 degrees F soil temperature.	<b>12</b> Maintain succession seeding of cool season leafy crops.	<b>13</b> For a 5/10 transplant date, this would be the seeding date for warm-season transplants.	<b>14</b> ○ FULL MOON Carrots can be planted in most of the state in March.	<b>15</b> Trees fruits are fertilized about a month after bud break.
<b>16</b> Use your soil test results to add pre-plant fertilizer applications to the garden.	<b>17</b> Early date to transplant cabbage, broccoli in East TN.	<b>18</b> Peas and potatoes should be all seeded by late March in West TN.	<b>19</b> Direct seeded cool season leafy crops should still be mature in late April or early May.	<b>20</b> Remember that a cover crop needs a few weeks to break down before planting.	<b>21</b> Fertilize blueberry bushes at bloom, repeat in 6 weeks. Write down dates fertilized below.	<b>22</b> Tree fruits are fertilized about a month after bud break.
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Early date to transplant cabbage, broccoli in East TN.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Remove mulch on strawberries and place between rows. Monitor the weather in case a need to frost protect arises.	<b>27</b> Be prepared for succession seeding of cool season crops.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> ● NEW MOON
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes on crops:</b>		<b>Notes on weather:</b>		

## TASKS FOR APRIL

- Finish site preparation if not completed. Use proper pre-plant fertilizer. See [UT Extension publication W 346-C Managing Plant Nutrition](#).
- Finish direct seeding and transplanting cool-season crops to prevent them from maturing under hot summer conditions.
- Harvest may begin on the earliest seeded leafy crops or root crops.
- Begin purchasing transplants of warm-season crops.
- Be ready for spring spraying on fruit trees for disease protection.
- It is common to seed some direct seeded warm-season crops a bit before the frost-free date (beans, corn). Be cautious of soil temperatures, though, especially if you are seeding untreated seeds or supersweet corn.
- Transplants of warm-season crops can be planted in Tennessee in April after frost free dates. However, soil temperatures support root growth, and sometimes transplanting crops early is not all that helpful due to cool soils.
- Harden off your transplants before placing them in the garden. See [UT Extension publication W 346-B Garden Planning, Plant Preparation and Planting](#).

## Getting Great Germination in the Garden

1. Don't plant seeds too early when temperatures are below optimum as germination will be slower and chances of seed loss will be higher. See the table below that shows length of time to germination based on temperature.
2. Plant when soils are moist, but not saturated. Don't let seeds dry out.
3. Make sure there is good seed to soil contact to enable the seed to take up water to enable the germination process.
4. Don't plant the seed too deeply. See [UT Extension publication W 346-B Garden Planning, Plant Preparation and Planting](#).

Note- Garden seeds can be treated with fungicides to reduce decay before or during germination, and there are also many biological options.

	Days to germination at 59 degrees Fahrenheit	Days to germinate at 77 degrees Fahrenheit
Snap bean	16	8
Sweet corn	12	4
Cucumber	13	4
Lettuce	4	2
Pepper	25	8
Tomato	14	6

Data from [University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources \(UCANR\) publication 164220 Garden Notes](#).

## Tips and Tricks for Raised Bed Gardens

If your site has poor or degraded soil, raised beds and containers can be a great way to grow home vegetables and small fruits. Raised beds can be built from kits or with do-it-yourself instructions. Wood, metal, composite materials, concrete blocks and even rocks can all be used.

A common bed width is 4 feet if accessed from both sides, and 2 to 3 feet if accessed from one side. Beds are generally constructed 6 to 12 inches deep but can be deeper. Shallow rooted crops, such as lettuce, spinach, kale, and other leafy crops, may be produced in beds that are only 4 to 6 inches deep. Taller and deeper-rooted crops, such as tomatoes and peppers require deeper beds. A smaller volume will retain lower amounts of water and nutrients. Since raised beds drain more rapidly than nearby level soil, deeper beds can decrease watering frequency. You can purchase raised bed mixes if your soil is not ideal. These mixes should have a range of particle sizes to support drainage and be free from weed seeds and pathogens. Remember they will need to be watered and fertilized more frequently than in-ground gardens!

### Great crops for raised beds and small spaces:

Spring crops: Lettuce, radishes, beets, Swiss chard

Summer crops: Bush beans, peppers, determinate tomatoes, summer squash, trellised cucumbers

Fall crops: Cabbage, kale, spinach, carrots, lettuce

Fruit crops: Strawberries, compact blueberry and raspberry

See [UT Extension publication W346-E The Tennessee Vegetable Garden: Building And Using Raised Beds](#).



# APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Prepare mulched beds ahead of time if using plastic mulch.	<b>2</b> Don't forget to also prepare irrigation if using plastic mulch.	<b>3</b> Nearing the end of dates to direct seed lettuce and spinach.	<b>4</b> It could be a good time to plant beets and peas in East TN.	<b>5</b> Direct seeding of early beans and sweet corn could begin in West TN.
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Determine how much pest control materials remain from previous year.	<b>9</b> If buying transplants, look for stocky, dark green seedlings with no sign of pest or disease.	<b>10</b> Remove nearby wild brambles to lower the risk of pest and disease pressures.	<b>11</b> Direct seeding of early beans and sweet corn could begin in Middle TN.	<b>12</b> ○ FULL MOON
<b>13</b> Nearing the end of dates to direct seed kale in West TN.	<b>14</b> Many warm season transplants can be placed in soil in Middle TN, but warm soil is essential for early growth.	<b>15</b> Make sure to transplant at a time when the soil temp is warm enough for good root growth.	<b>16</b> Make sure to follow soil test recommendations for pre-plant	<b>17</b> Prepare mulched beds ahead of time if using plastic mulch.	<b>18</b> Blackberries are fertilized once when primocanes emerge and once following harvest.	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Late spring planting of fruit is possible, but the stress will be higher as temps warm. Water well!	<b>22</b> Okra can be seeded in West TN if soil temps reach mid-60s. Warm soils are essential for okra!	<b>23</b> Stone fruit fertilizer can be applied in 2 halves. Early and later to adjust for fruit lost to late frosts.	<b>24</b> Control early weeds to combat insect, disease pressures.	<b>25</b> Remember: Don't apply insecticides during bloom to protect pollinators on fruit crops!	<b>26</b> When was that last frost this year? Make sure to note it!
<b>27</b> ● NEW MOON	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> April and into May are the time to plant turnips in east TN.	<b>30</b>			Keep track of the spring rains the weather blocks at the bottom of the page.
<b>Notes on crops:</b>				<b>Notes on weather:</b>		

## TASKS FOR MAY

- Keep on the regular control sprays for fruit crops following recommended guidelines in [UT Extension publication PB 1622 Disease and Insect Control](#).
- Harvest cool-season crops and watch for pests/disease (see July).
- Seed succession plantings of beans and sweet corn. See [UT Extension publication D 61 Sweet Corn for the Tennessee Vegetable Garden](#).
- Prepare for early season fertilization on small fruits; blueberries and blackberries are often fertilized about a month after bud break.
- Prepare beds for transplants. Black plastic can warm the soil and speed early growth. Provide irrigation if using plastic mulch. Sometimes natural mulches, such as straw, are applied a few weeks after planting as they can reflect light and actually slow soil warming.
- Continue transplanting warm-season crops. Peppers and eggplants prefer even warmer soil conditions than tomatoes and are often planted later. Make sure that young transplants are watered in and given a starter fertilizer solution to support early growth.
- Set up your irrigation system as transplants are placed in the garden. Drip irrigation is best to maintain dry leaves and reduce disease risks.
- Set up stakes, trellises, cages and support systems for your plants. It is best to have these set up at or soon after planting.
- Don't let weeds get started in the garden. See [UT Extension publication W 346-D Plant Management Practices](#).

### Getting Started with Scouting

Properly controlling pests and diseases in the garden and orchard relies upon preventative cultural and spraying practices. It also depends on close observation to be able to quickly address any issues that crop up.

- Do it frequently — at least once or twice a week.
- Inspect in a Z pattern if large or every plant if you have a small garden.
- Make sure to check the interior of the plants and the underside of leaves; don't just glance over the plants.
- Look for signs of insects and patterns of disease.
- Know your friends from your enemies; be able to ID beneficial insects.
- Take a hand lens, markers and bags for samples, and a camera.
- Do your own research on pests and diseases (see [UT Extension publication PB 595 You Can Control Insects](#) and [UT Extension publication W 316 Home Vegetable Garden Disease Control!](#)), but don't be afraid to send in samples to your local Extension office (see [UT Extension Office Locations](#) website) or the UT Soil, Plant and Pest Center. See [Soil, Plant and Pest Center](#) website.

## Novel Fruits for Tennessee- Try Pawpaws

**Pawpaws** (*Asimina triloba*) are a native tree in Tennessee and the closest thing we have to tropical fruit! In fact, some affectionately call them Appalachian banana. They are a smallish (20-25 foot) tree that is often found growing wild in fertile and moist but well-drained areas. When young, they prefer some shade and can be a fun addition to a small orchard or mixed landscape bed. As trees mature, the best production is found in sunnier sites.

Moving trees from native sites is difficult. And, while trees can be grown from seed, the best fruit will likely be harvested from grafted trees of known cultivars. So, select container grown or bare-root trees from a local or mail order nursery. Also, keep in mind that cross pollination from a genetically different tree is needed for good fruiting, so make sure to plant two or more cultivars.

There are both public and private breeding efforts underway to select pawpaw cultivars with large fruit and smaller seeds as well as good taste, texture and production. Some cultivars to look for are KSU-Atwood and Benson™ as well as Wabash, Potomac, Shenandoah, Susquehanna, Sunflower and Overleese.



# MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Record your favorite cool season crops this year at the end of the calendar.				<b>1</b> In many parts of TN, heat-loving plants such as peppers, eggplant could wait to be transplanted.	<b>2</b> Remember, it is about soil temps not just air temps.	<b>3</b> Seedless watermelons and supersweet corn will germinate poorly if soil is too cool.
<b>4</b> Do your cool season leafy crops need any fertilizer side-dressing?	<b>5</b> Direct seed cucumbers in west and Middle TN.	<b>6</b> Some gardeners wait until soil warms to install straw mulches.	<b>7</b> Be ready to harvest cool season crops at the peak of their quality.	<b>8</b> This is the early date for seeding okra in East TN.	<b>9</b> Succession planting could also be done for zucchini or cucumbers.	<b>10</b> Plan for fertilizing your blueberries. They prefer NH4 nitrogen sources.
<b>11</b> Direct seed cucurbits in East TN.	<b>12</b> ○ FULL MOON Remove weeds from strawberry canopy to improve airflow throughout season.	<b>13</b> Install bird netting over blueberries and caneberries to prevent birds from stealing your berries!	<b>14</b> Sweet potatoes are often one of the last crops to be planted.	<b>15</b> Continue succession seeding of corn and beans.	<b>16</b> Plan for weed control continuously through the season.	<b>17</b> When you do see diseases or insects, make sure to record them at the end of the calendar.
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Good irrigation in the first year is critical for establishment of new fruit crops.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Harvest strawberries often. Remove and dispose of damaged berries to lower disease risk.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Be scouting on a regular basis to prevent getting caught off guard by pests/diseases.	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> ● NEW MOON	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Preventative sprays for vegetable diseases may need to begin in May.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Have some common insecticides and fungicides on hand.	<b>31</b> Be scouting on a regular basis to prevent getting caught off guard by pests/diseases.
<b>Notes on crops:</b>			<b>Notes on pests:</b>		<b>Notes on weather:</b>	

## TASKS FOR JUNE

- Scout for any issues with pests or diseases at least weekly. Continue cover sprays for fruit trees, and if conditions support disease infection or if you see signs of disease, a protective spray program may be needed for vegetables. See [UT Extension publication W661 Conventional and Organic Product Overview for Home Vegetable Gardeners in Tennessee](#) and [UT Extension publication PB 1622 Disease and Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings](#).
- Tip pruning of caneberries as well as early picking of small fruits.
- Be on the lookout for maturity in the first corn and bean plantings (see July). See [UT Extension publication D 58 Beans for the Tennessee Vegetable Garden](#).
- Manage soil after cool-season crops are removed. Those areas may be a location for a summer cover crop, such as buckwheat, to prevent weed growth and add organic matter.
- If a warm-season crop is planted immediately after cool-season crops are removed, make sure to follow a crop rotation.
- Apply fertilizer to blueberries and other small fruit.
- Some of the latest warm-season crops to be planted are often watermelons and pumpkins as well as sweet potatoes.
- Make sure your irrigation system is functioning well and manage weeds. See [UT Extension publication W 346-D Plant Management Practices](#).

## Getting Started Using Fungicides in the Garden and Orchard

- Protective fungicides are the main tool, so it is important to have sprays applied before infection windows, cover well with the spray and follow recommended spray intervals.
- Few garden fungicides have strong curative properties; focus on prevention.
- Fungicides can't replace sanitation, rotation and disease resistant cultivars. Use these practices together for the best effect.
- Always follow the label and ensure that pollinators are protected.

<b>Bacillus subtilis</b> — Serenade Garden Disease Control, Cease	Organic. These products contain live bacteria and can generally be used up to day of harvest.
<b>Captan</b> — Captan	Protective fungicide for many fruits.
<b>Chlorothalonil</b> — Daconil, Bonide Fung-onil, Ortho Garden Disease Control	Best used as a protectant. Specific crops, mixing rates, pre-harvest intervals and max number of sprays per year are on label.
<b>Copper (Copper sulfate, fixed copper)</b> — Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide, Monterey liquid copper, Camelot O	Organic. Some formulations are easier to get in solution and spray. Specific crops, mixing rates, pre-harvest intervals and max. number of sprays per year are on label.
<b>Mancozeb</b> — Dithane, Manzate, Bonide Mancozeb Flowable w/ Zinc	Best used as a protectant. Specific crops, mixing rates, pre-harvest intervals and max. # of sprays per year are on label.
<b>Myclobutanil</b> — Immunox, Monterey Fungi-Max	Protectant with some curative activity. Pay close attention to label and listed crops.
<b>Neem oil</b> — Garden Safe Fungicide 3I, Monterey Neem Oil	Organic. Botanical extracts with insecticidal activity. Sprays should always be made to avoid flying bees and other pollinators.
<b>Potassium bicarbonate</b> —GreenCure, Milstop, Agricure	Organic. Specific diseases controlled or suppressed are on the label.
<b>Sulfur</b> — Bonide Sulfur Plant Fungicide, Yellow Jacket Special Dusting Sulfur, Espoma Earth-tone 3n1 Disease Control	Organic. Some sulfur products are mixed with an insecticide (Earth-tone 3n1 also contains organic pyrethrin), so sprays should be made to avoid flying bees and other pollinators.

## Novel Fruits for Tennessee- Try Elderberry

**American elderberry** (*Sambucus nigra* subspecies *canadensis*) is a native multi-stemmed shrub with white flowers that mature to small, dark purple to black berries. Elderberries are getting lots of attention lately due to potential health benefits. And, they can also be a great addition to edible landscapes that can be harvested or used for wildlife support. If growing for fruit harvest, consider some of the cultivars listed below and stay tuned to results from new cultivars trials planted in 2024 at UT research sites.

Older cultivars from more northern areas: Nova, York, Johns, Adams

Cultivars from more southern or midwestern areas: Bob Gordon, Wyldewood



For vegetables see [UT Extension publication W 661 Conventional and Organic Product Overview for Home Vegetable Gardeners in Tennessee](#).

For fruits see [UT Extension publication PB 1622 Disease and Insect Control in Fruit Planting](#)

# JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Succession planting of beans should be nearly done in West TN.	<b>2</b> Keep scouting for pests and disease. Check leaf undersides and interior leaves.	<b>3</b> Fertilize and irrigate blueberries as needed to promote plant vigor and fruit.	<b>4</b> Early beans may be close to harvest in many areas. Some can mature in only 50-55 days.	<b>5</b> Still time to get some okra seeded.	<b>6</b> Keep an eye out for cool season crops to harvest.	<b>7</b> Strawberry harvest may be nearing the end of the season.
<b>8</b> Watch out for early blight on your tomatoes.	<b>9</b> Keep an eye on plant health and be ready with fungicide.	<b>10</b> Do the strawberries need renovation for future productivity? Also plan to fertilize.	<b>11</b> ☉ FULL MOON Harvest summer squash when the skin is still glossy.	<b>12</b> Watch for ripe blueberries! And, watch for insect pests. Spray only if observed.	<b>13</b> Be ready for side-dressing many crops that are setting fruit.	<b>14</b> Many warm season crops, such as corn, many cucurbits can still be succession planted.
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Keep your eye on the blackberries. Many cultivars may be close to ripe.	<b>17</b> Soft tip blackberry primocanes when 8-12 inches over the trop trellis wire to encourage laterals.	<b>18</b> Succession planting of beans should be nearly done in East TN.	<b>19</b> Keep track of when you apply fertilizer and how much you apply.	<b>20</b> Enjoy the longest gardening evening of the year!	<b>21</b> Make sure to keep track of anything you spray. A record sheet is found on the back.
<b>22</b> Keep an eye out for mature sweet corn. A 70-day cultivar seeded on 4/20 could be ready!	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> A summer cover crop of buckwheat can work well behind a spring cool-season crop.	<b>25</b> ● NEW MOON	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Time your pumpkin planting to mature in early to mid-fall. August pumpkins are less exciting.	<b>28</b> A 100 day pumpkin seeded on June 30 would be estimated to mature around October 10.
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> If there have been frequent rains or lots of moisture, more protective fungicides might be needed.					
<b>Notes on crops:</b>				<b>Notes on weather:</b>		

## TASKS FOR JULY

- Keep blueberries and blackberries picked frequently for best quality and to reduce pest issues.
- Continue cover sprays for fruit trees. See [UT Extension publication PB 1622 Disease and Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings](#).
- Pick tomatoes, beans, corn and other warm-season crops
- Provide irrigation as needed but try to minimize leaf wetness and overhead watering.
- Manage vegetable nutrition through proper side dressing and in-season fertilizer applications. See [UT Extension publication W804-A Getting The Most Out Of Your Home Vegetable Garden Soil Test](#).
- Manage weeds. See [UT Extension publication W 346-D Plant Management Practices](#).
- Scout frequently for insect or disease issues and spray as needed. See June and see [UT Extension publication W316 Home Vegetable Garden Disease Control](#).
- Select cool-season crops and cultivars for fall and make seed order. Some cool-season crop transplants may need started in July.
- Pumpkins should be seeded according to maturity. A 100-day pumpkin seeded on July 1 would be estimated to mature October 11.

## Cutting Gardens Can be a Great Addition to Fruit and Veggies

Sometimes a bit of space for flowers in our edible crop gardens can feed our souls and local pollinators.

Consider a few simple-to-grow and easy-to-harvest annual flowers:

- **Zinnia** (*Z. elegans*)- For giant blooms, try Benary Giants in either a mix or as single colors (see the All Vol orange and white to the right). Cactus mix provides fun shapes and colors in large blooms or try novel blended bloom colors in the Queeny series including peach, orange and red tones mixed with green. Smaller blooms can be found in the Oklahoma series.
- **Sunflowers**- Consider whether you prefer single stems for a single beautiful bloom (Procut or Sunrich series) or many, smaller blooms on branching sunflowers. Branching types have an array of colors from light Buttercream to bicolor Strawberry Blonde to beautiful deep reds in Rouge Royale. Some dwarfs like Firecracker and Teddy Bear can even be used in small beds or containers.
- **Celosia** is more than just bedding plant coxcomb these days. Beautiful plume types like Pampas Plume can provide a mix of colors while wheat types like Flamingo Feather add a flourish.

For options that can be grown from seed, see [UT Extension publication D 139 Seed Grown Flowers for the Garden](#)

## Getting Started on Proper Harvesting

Warm-season Vegetables	
Beans, snap	While pods snap easily (as opposed to being tough and flexible) and seeds are still green.
Corn, sweet	Kernels should be filled out nearly to the end of the ear and milky if crushed. Silks dried down.
Cucumber	When seeds are small, flesh is still firm, and color is green.
Eggplant	When fruit is still shiny and the color has not dulled. Edible from 1/3 grown until full grown.
Muskmelon	When melons can be lifted and the vine pulls away from the fruit with little resistance (slips).
Okra	When pods are 2 ½ to 3 ½ inches long and tender.
Pepper	When full size and firm. Green is immature, and fruit will color to red, yellow, or orange and contain more sugars when ripe.
Potato, sweet	After reaching desired size, but before moist and cool fall soil conditions reduce quality and storage life.
Squash, summer	When skin is still tender and glossy and the large end (zucchini) is 1 to 2 ½ inches in diameter.
Squash, winter	When rind has hardened and is not easily scratched.
Tomato	When uniformly colored (pink to orange) but still somewhat firm.
Watermelon	When tendrils next to fruit die back and the rind on the underside of the fruit turns from white to a creamy yellow.





# JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> A six week old transplant for an August 22nd planting would be seeded today.	<b>3</b> Do not fertilize blueberries after July to prevent growth that can be at risk of winter injury.	<b>4</b> Keep an eye out for mature sweet corn—you must hurry to beat the varmints!	<b>5</b> Keep scouting—don't get too busy with harvests.
<b>6</b> Don't forget to get those late pumpkins seeded soon.	<b>7</b> Don't let the weeds get ahead of you annual weeds that go to seed only create future issues.	<b>8</b> Have you seen any of those pesky tomato/tobacco hornworms?	<b>9</b> Watch the irrigation and make sure that growing plants are receiving correct moisture.	<b>10</b> ○ FULL MOON	<b>11</b> Keep on picking! It may be nearing peach time in TN! Best peaches are mid-July to mid-August.	<b>12</b> Record those harvests on the record sheets at the back of the calendar.
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Do you have enough seed for a late planting of summer squash or cucumbers?	<b>15</b> In many parts of TN, late July will be the time to start fall cool-season transplants.	<b>16</b> Remove floricanes of blackberry after fruiting to lower disease risk. Also, time for fertilizer.	<b>17</b> Don't let disease get ahead of you. There is still much harvest time left if plants are healthy.	<b>18</b> Make sure to follow pre-harvest intervals listed on pesticide labels.	<b>19</b> Keep a record of your sprays and track their efficacy for future reference.
<b>20</b> Look up some new recipes to try with your summer harvest!	<b>21</b> Make sure that you have enough seed for fall cool-season crops.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Practice good sanitation. If it is damaged/diseased remove it and place far from other crops.	<b>24</b> ● NEW MOON Irrigate fruit crops as needed for the rest of the year to prevent stress.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Fruit fill of berries is a critical time for adequate water.
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Make sure that you have enough seed for fall cool-season crops.	<b>29</b> Are your Brussels sprouts planted? Long season cool crops could be planted soon.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Order plugs for fall strawberry plantings.		
<b>Notes on crops:</b>				<b>Notes on weather:</b>		

## TASKS FOR AUGUST

- Keep late blueberries picked as well as keep watch for tree fruit.
- Keep picking warm-season crops. Proper picking times are critical to enjoy the highest quality in home vegetable crops (see July). Timely picking supports the highest level of production. See [UT Extension publication W 346-I Harvest, Handling and Storage of Produce](#).
- Practice proper canning, freezing or drying to preserve garden produce for later use.
- Don't let the weeds get ahead of you and produce seeds.
- Late plantings of summer squash and other short season, warm-season crops, like cucumbers can be done this month.
- Keep an eye on soil moisture levels, irrigation and any need for side dressing for fruiting crops.
- Prepare soils for fall cool-season crops and maintain crop rotations.
- Transplant fall cool-season crops that take the most days to mature.

## Small Space Leafy Crops for Fall Gardening

Summer gardening can be tiring and sweaty, but fall can provide a great opportunity to relax a bit with [leafy crops](#) in containers or raised beds.



- **Leaf lettuce-** Multiple plantings can be direct seeded from August through October. Try old favorites like Green Star, Two Star, Tropicana, Starfighter, New Red Fire or a range of mixes.
- **Small head lettuce-** If you have been frustrated by spring lettuce, give fall a try with some fun bibb/buttercrunch or oakleaf types that can be harvested as small heads. For bibb, try Nancy, Skyphos or Red Cross. For oakleaf, try Panisse, Sandy or Oscarde.
- **Romaine lettuce-** For small heads, try Breen or Dragoon or Salvius, Green Forest or Winter Density for dark green, open heads.
- **Kale** is very cold hardy and tasty from your own garden. Scarlet and Redbor are great for red to purple color, Prizm is a nice, compact size or try Black Magic, Toscano or Lacinoto for tender and tasty dark green leaves.
- **Arugula** can be a tasty option that germinates fast, grows quickly and can add a zippy, nutty taste to fall salads.
- Don't forget fall favorites like turnips for roots or green. Old favorites like Purple Globe are great but try Hakurei for small roots and smooth leaves.

## The Challenges of Stone Fruits in Tennessee

Fresh peaches are often one of the first things that come to mind when considering home fruit production, but we want to be very clear about the disease and pest issues as well as environmental challenges. Because of early bloom time, stone fruits can especially be tough in the cooler parts of the state due to late frosts. Stone fruits are technically fruits that have a seed pit surrounded by fleshy tissue. The term is used to describe the *Prunus* genus that includes peaches, nectarines, plums, cherries, almonds, apricots and more.

Peaches, plums and sour cherries are the main crops grown with any success in Tennessee.



When selecting stone fruit crops and cultivars, one of the most important elements to understand is whether the chill hours are well matched to the site. The chilling requirement for a plant is defined as the number of hours, generally between 32 and 45F, needed from the onset of dormancy in fall until the plant can resume normal growth and fruiting once weather becomes favorable the next year. A minimum of 850 chilling hours is generally recommended for stone fruits in Tennessee. Selecting cultivars with resistance to common diseases is important to enable successful harvests. In stone fruits, bacterial leaf spot resistance may be found in several cultivars. "Resistance" does not mean "immunity," and timely sprays will be required for successful fruit production.

- **Peaches-** Try Contender, Intrepid or Carolina Gold for yellow-fleshed cultivars with some resistance to bacterial spot and more than 1000 chill hours. China Pearl is a white flesh cultivar with 1100 chill hours and resistance to bacterial spot.
- **Sour Cherries-** Early Richmond, North Star Dwarf and Montmorency are smaller trees that can be used in the orchard or landscape.

# AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> How can you determine when to plant fall crops? Example: a zucchini that will mature in 50 days.	<b>2</b> Knoxville first frost avg. is 10/22. 50 days plus 10 for fall slower growing 14 days to harvest is an 8/9 seeding.
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> If you are buying fall transplants, look for young, actively growing plants.	<b>5</b> Make sure you have the seed for directed seeded cool season crops.	<b>6</b> Side dress matted row strawberries with nitrogen to promote good fruit bud development.	<b>7</b> When should you plant fall crops? Ex: a broccoli transplant that will mature in 60 days.	<b>8</b> Nashville first avg. frost is 10/28. 60 days plus 10 for slower fall growth. We can plan to harvest a couple weeks after frost. 70 days back from 11/11 is 9/2. Or 7/22 to grow a 6-week-old	<b>9</b> ☉ FULL MOON
<b>10</b> Transplants for many fall crops in east TN are planted in early to mid-Aug.	<b>11</b> Get those best of show crops ready for the county fair!	<b>12</b> Direct seeded fall cool-season crops will require attention and water for best germination.	<b>13</b> Continue irrigating perennial plants even if fruit production has stopped.	<b>14</b> How can you determine when to plant fall crops? Example: a lettuce that will mature in 35 days.	<b>15</b> Nashville first average frost is 10/28. 35 day plus 10 for slower fall growth. We can plan to harvest for a couple weeks after frost, though. Count back 45 days from 11/11. Aim for about a 9/27 seeding.	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Keep on scouting and manage weeds and sanitation. It can help this year and next year!	<b>18</b> Plan your cover crops for fall and make sure you order enough seed.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Consider cover crops for between rows of your fruit orchard.	<b>21</b> Winter squash is ready to harvest when rind hardens. Does it scratch with your fingernail?	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> ☿ NEW MOON
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Continue irrigating through autumn to prevent drought stress.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Record any disease issues and how well disease is controlled by any applied sprays.
<b>31</b>	<b>Notes on crops:</b>			<b>Notes on weather:</b>		

## TASKS FOR SEPTEMBER

- Keep picking warm-season crops. Canning, freezing, and drying are all options for preservation. See [UT Extension publication W 346-I Harvest, Handling and Storage of Produce](#).
- Don't let those late season weeds get ahead of you and go to seed.
- Keep an eye on soil moisture levels and manage pests, as some of the warm-season fruiting crop harvests come to a close.
- Later planted beans, tomatoes, summer squash and other warm-season crops may require frequent attention in scouting and pest management to ensure good yields.
- Make sure that fall cool-season crops are properly watered and fertilized. Germination and early growth of leafy crops and brassicas requires even moisture and appropriate nitrogen levels. See [UT Extension publication D 70 Root Crops for the Tennessee Vegetable Garden](#).
- Transplant and direct seed fall cool-season crops. Keep in mind that days to harvest estimate often need to be lengthened in the cooler and lower light days of fall. See [UT Extension publication D 68 Leafy Crops for the Tennessee Vegetable Garden](#).
- Many fall cover crops are best seeded in September to get good stands and winter cover — even spring bloom for some!



## Plants that Feed the Soil - Summer and Fall Cover Crops

Cover crops are planted when the soil would otherwise be bare between crops or growing seasons and may be beneficial to soil, water and plant relationships as well as pest, pathogen and weed management. September is a great time to establish cover crops for overwintering.

- Legumes (peas, beans, clover, vetch, alfalfa) have root nodules that contain N-fixing bacteria. This nitrogen will be available for later crops after the legume is killed and incorporated into the soil.
- Many cover crops are grasses (cereal rye, barley, wheat and oats) that would be grain crops if grown to maturity. They are grown because they are economical, easily established, and can produce large amounts of plant material in a relatively short period of time. These crops stabilize the soil, prevent erosion and help break some plant disease or pest cycles in addition to increasing organic matter.
- Buckwheat, rape and radishes are examples of cover crops that are neither a grass nor a legume. These crops can increase organic matter, improve soil structure. Some brassicas have biofumigation properties (decomposing tissue releases compounds to suppress pests or disease in the soil) when incorporated.

See [UT Extension publication W 346-G Stewardship in Soil Management](#).

## Root Crops for Fall Gardens in Tennessee

Frustrated by crop failure or poor quality with spring [root crops](#)? Sometimes fall is the best time to grow common cool season crops with their more favorable temperatures for crop maturation.

- **Beets-** Sow in September and consider soaking seeds in water to speed up germination. Smaller cultivars like Baby Beet or fast maturing ones like Boro or standards such as Red Ace or Merlin are all options. Beet greens can be a great salad addition in fall as well.
- **Carrots-** Make sure to keep well-watered after planting in late August or September. Pelleted seeds can be more consistent and easier to handle. Try small round types like Atlas, storage types like Bolero or fun and colorful options such as Purple Haze or Rainbow.
- **Radishes-** Smaller types like Cherry Belle, Easter Egg, and Pink Beauty can mature in 25-30 days while Watermelon types and Black Spanish types can take 40-50 days. Fast germinating and easy to sequentially sow.
- **Turnips-** A great dual crop for greens and root harvest. Try old favorites like Purple Top Globe as well as smaller types with smooth leaves like Hakurei.

# SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Early fall is often the driest time of the year in TN. Be prepared to meet crop water needs.	<b>3</b> Begin selecting fruit cultivars to plant in the fall, dormant in the winter, or in early spring.	<b>4</b> Keep an eye out for pests/disease on your cool-season crops. Row covers can reduce insects.	<b>5</b> Most cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower should be trans-planted by mid-Sept. in West TN.	<b>6</b> Keep track of how much and how often watering is needed. Without rain 1-2 in/week is an estimate.
<b>7</b> ☉ FULL MOON	<b>8</b> Brassicas, lettuce and many fall crops are fast growing and may need a fertilizer sidedressing.	<b>9</b> Make sure that there is sufficient water for fall cool season crops.	<b>10</b> Have you seen any of the pesky armyworms? If so, record it!	<b>11</b> Want a few leafy crops for fall without managing a whole garden? Build a small raised bed.	<b>12</b> Vetch and other legumes benefit from early fall seeding while rye can be sown later.	<b>13</b> Containers can also be a great way to produce a bit of fresh produce for late fall.
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Many cover crops may produce best in East TN with a September seeding.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> September through November are the times to plant garlic across TN.	<b>18</b> In fact, here in TN, we can grow broth hardneck and softneck garlic. See November for info.	<b>19</b> Remove warm season crops as they finish producing to lighten the load of fall cleanup.	<b>20</b> If the plants are healthy, it could be a great time to being a compost pile.
<b>21</b> ● NEW MOON	<b>22</b> It's getting close to the end of seeding for fall leafy crops in Middle and East TN.	<b>23</b> A row cover or low tunnel can add a couple of weeks to the fall season.	<b>24</b> Watch for high temps under cover on very warm September days.	<b>25</b> To assure good growth and fruit set in spring, maintain healthy foliage on fruits crops to frost.	<b>26</b> Soil tests should be taken 6 months before planting caneberries.	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
<b>Notes on crops:</b>		<b>Notes on pests:</b>		<b>Notes on weather:</b>		

## TASKS FOR OCTOBER

- Continue picking any remaining warm or early cool-season crops. See [UT Extension publication W 346-I Harvest, Handling and Storage of Produce](#).
- Keep an eye on soil moisture levels and manage pests as warm-season fruiting crop harvests finish and cool-season begins.
- If you are participating in the Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trial, be sure to send in your evaluations soon. See [Home Garden Vegetable Trial](#).
- Ensure that fall cool-season crops are properly watered and fertilized. As temperatures cool, less water will be needed.
- Seed/transplant fall cool-season crops with shorter days to harvest.
- October is still a great time to seed cover crops. See [UT Extension publication W 346-G Stewardship in Soil Management](#).
- Take soil tests and make adjustments to pH as recommended.

## From the Garden to the Landscape: Consider Stepping up your Stewardship with Tennessee SmartYards

Are you looking for ways to have a biologically diverse landscape and protect natural resources while supporting wildlife? Tennessee Smart Yards is an educational and yard certification program for Tennesseans that teaches the “how to” aspects of stewardship to create healthier, more environmentally sound landscapes and communities. You don’t have to be an expert gardener or landscaper to create a Tennessee Smart Yard. All it takes is a willingness to learn and a desire to act. Maintaining a Tennessee Smart Yard mutually benefits the environment and the homeowner by providing natural and functional beauty.

Visit the Tennessee Smart Yard website at: [tnyards.utk.edu](http://tnyards.utk.edu)



## Herb Gardening in Tennessee

Herbs have a long history of use in cooking, medicine and culture, but they are as popular as ever because they fit a range of sites and even small spaces can produce well for a range of culinary uses. Check out our new herb pubs:

### [Selecting Culinary Herbs for Tennessee Gardens](#)

#### [Growing Culinary Herbs in Tennessee Gardens](#)

- Growing herbs in ground: Soil drainage is critical for herbs because many are native to Mediterranean climates with dry winters. Soil fertility is less critical as many thrive in low to moderate nutrition sites. Find sites with full sun and good air movement. Herbs can be used in landscape beds and some, such as basil, parsley and cilantro can grow well in vegetable gardens.
- Growing herbs in containers: Even small spaces or urban sites can be very productive for culinary herb growing with containers. Make sure to select a large enough container for the mature plant and use a high-quality growing media that drains well and is in a site with good light interception.

Crop	Growing Information	Suggested Cultivars
Basil	Warm season annual, grown from seed or transplant; 60-80 days from seed to harvest	Devotion, Obsession, Newton, Nufar, Aroma II, Prospera Compact, Everleaf,
Thyme	Perennial grown from transplants with harvest in 80-90 days.	Summer, Orange, German Winter
Sage	Perennial grown from seed or transplants with harvest in 80 days.	Common sage
Rosemary	Perennial grown from transplants with harvest in 80-100 days.	Arp, Blue Boy or Golden Rain
Lavender	Perennial although hardiness varies. Grown from transplant with harvest around 100 days.	Ellagance, Munstead, Phenomenal
Oregano (Greek)	Perennial grown from transplant with harvest in 80-90 days.	Greek Oregano
Marjoram	Sweet marjoram is an annual generally grown from transplant and harvested in 70-90 days	Zaatar, Sweet common
Parsley	Cool season biennial often grown as annual from seed. Harvest in 75 days.	Giant of Italy, Darki, Menuette, Italian Flat Leaf
Dill	Annual, grown from seed or transplant; 40-50 days from seed	Teddy, Bouquet, Fernleaf
Cilantro	Cool season annual, grown from seed or transplant; 50-60 days from seed	Santo, Calypso, Confetti

# OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Make sure to clean up warm season crops to prevent disease spread.	<b>2</b> Be on the lookout for fruit from late seeded warm season crops.	<b>3</b> Also be on the lookout for first frosts in parts of East TN.	<b>4</b> Keep good notes on the cultivars that did well or not as well in your garden this year.
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> ○ FULL MOON Getting close to the end of the time to direct seed fall crops in West TN.	<b>7</b> Many cover crops can still produce well in East TN if planted in mid-October.	<b>8</b> You don't have to seed the whole garden in cover at once. Cool season sections can be last.	<b>9</b> October is a great time to take soil samples. Take 10-15 sub-samples about 6 inches deep.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Remember, plants can survive low temp but may not grow and produce much yield in some areas.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bring your tools in from the garden. Clean them well.	<b>16</b> Extend the life of your tools with proper sharpening and oiling.	<b>17</b> Make sure that late season crops have adequate (but not excessive) water and nutrients.	<b>18</b> What were your favorite peppers and tomatoes this year? Make sure to write the varieties down.
<b>19</b> Have you had a frost yet? Write it down in the record sheet in the back of the calendar.	<b>20</b> Sometimes the taste of brassica crops is better after being exposed to a bit of frost.	<b>21</b> ● NEW MOON	<b>22</b> Review soil reports and make additions if needed to adjust pH for next year.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Fall is a great time to address voles or other issues in fruit plantings.	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> We are getting close to first frosts in many areas of West TN.	<b>28</b> Remove and dispose of floricanes that already fruited on caneberries.	<b>29</b> If apple scab, peach scab, or pear leaf spot occurred, rake and destroy leaves to prevent disease overwintering.	<b>30</b> Enjoy a home-grown jack-o-lantern for Halloween!	<b>31</b>	
<b>Notes on crops:</b>				<b>Notes on weather:</b>		

## TASKS FOR NOVEMBER

- Finish the picking of remaining warm-season crops. If frost is approaching, unripe tomatoes can be harvested to slowly ripen indoors. See [UT Extension publication W 346-H Growing Tomatoes](#).
- Make sure to remove crop and fruit debris from the garden and orchard that was diseased to reduce inoculum. Sanitation in home fruit is also crucial and discussed below with some key examples.
- Fall is a great time to set up a compost pile with the (disease-free) debris from your garden along with leaf and lawn clippings. See [Home Composting: A Guide to Managing Yard Waste](#).
- Ensure that fall cool-season crops are properly watered, fertilized and harvested. As temperatures cool, less water will be needed.
- There are some cover crops that can still be seeded in November, so don't assume that a late fall crop prevents you from seeding. See [UT Extension publication W 235-G Cover Crops and Green Manures](#).
- Fall is a great time to address rodent issues by maintaining bare soil under the trees, removing or crushing dropped fruit, mowing between trees and perimeters, and using rodenticides if problem worsens. See [UT Extension Publication PB 1868 Managing Wildlife Around Your Home](#).

## Shopping Season- Preparing Your 2026 Fruit Crop Order

**Do your cultivar homework- check out these UT publications:**

[Blueberries](#)

[Strawberries](#)

[Blackberries](#)

[Apples and Pears](#)

[Grapes](#)

[Peaches, Plums, and Cherries](#)

**Know the terms:**

- **Bare-root-** Field-grown and dug before shipping. Can perform quite well but generally shipped in early spring and need to be planted soon after arrival.
- **Container-** Started in a field or greenhouse but moved to a container to continue growing and be sold. Useful to widen purchase and planting window but use care in selection and check for health of roots.

**Make sure to purchase for a high-quality supplier:**

[Our fruit supplier list](#) can be a great place to begin!



## Soil Testing to Prepare for Next Year

Fall is a great time to prepare for crop next year and success begins with soil testing. Knowing what nutrients are in your soil and the current pH and how they can be adjusted can make a big difference in your garden success.

**Sampling- the where - the results are only as good as the sample!**

- If your area is uniform, one composite sample can be made. Collect 10 to 15 subsamples in a pattern to make sure the sample represents the area.
- If the soil appears different in your garden spot, you will need to take multiple samples to represent each distinct area.

**Sampling- the how**

- If using a soil probe, take soil cores that are six inches deep since that is the common rooting depth of many vegetable plants.
- If using a spade, remove a shovelful of soil six inches deep. Then take another thin slice of the soil with the spade that covers the whole six inches of the hole. The center of that slice is a great soil sample.
- Be sure to remove any grass, rocks, and other debris from the sample.
- Mix together all the subsamples in a clean (non-galvanized) bucket/ container and allow them to air dry before packaging.

**Sampling- the who**

- The UT Soil, Plant and Pest Center has all the needed testing and mailing information. Soil test boxes can be obtained from the local Extension office. Keep in mind that raised beds with more than 25 percent non-soil should be tested as greenhouse media.
- Make sure to mark the tests you need (consider getting an organic matter percentage) and the crops you are growing on the sample sheet.

**Soil reports - the what**

- Soil test reports provide information on current soil conditions and recommendations for amending this soil to reach optimum productivity for the crop. [Getting the most out of your garden soil test report \(W804A\)](#)

*Plus, see the easy to use in-season fertilizer guide at the back!*



# NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Did you get your garlic planted? It isn't too late!
<b>2</b> Keep harvesting your various cool season crops.	<b>3</b> Even if it is a mid-November seeding, a cover crop like rye can still be an benefit.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> ○ FULL MOON It may even be close to a first frost in Memphis by now!	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Keep notes on the crops and cultivars that performed well for you this year.	<b>8</b> Write those notes in the record sheets in the back of this calendar.
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Clean up any stakes or debris from the garden.	<b>11</b> What were some of your pest issues this year?	<b>12</b> What were some of the disease issues you faced?	<b>13</b> Knowing your gardening challenges is great info to help select crops for next year.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> There are many resistant varieties that can help you address disease issues.
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Prune and destroy all dead or diseased fruit tree limbs when dormant.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Adjust soil pH well before planting blueberries. pH lowering sulfur can take months to fully take effect.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> ● NEW MOON Carrots can be stored in ground for a little while, but be sure to pull before the ground freezes.	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Happy Thanksgiving with some great home grown crops on the table!	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Notes on crops:</b>			<b>Notes on weather:</b>		

## TASKS FOR DECEMBER

- Harvest any remaining fall cool-season crops. Lettuce, chard and beets can be less cold hardy than kale and spinach in some areas.
- Take stock of the completed gardening season and make sure you have good records of problems encountered and control practices that worked well. Use the information from the completed season and rotation guidelines to plan for next year.
- Sort and count any remaining seeds to determine what may need to be ordered.
- While it may seem early, December can be a great time to order seeds for your 2025 garden, especially those you plan to grow as transplants (see January-March).
- Clean any remaining stakes, plants or debris from the garden (excluding any plants that you intend to overwinter). Try to rotate this overwintering garden area to ensure that every section receives a cover crop as often as possible.
- Clean, repair (if needed) and store your garden tools for next year.
- Make sure to do any sanitation that remains for home fruit.

## Practices that Support Next Year's Garden: Crop Rotation

Many pathogens infect related plants, so rotation ensures the same families are not planted in an area too often. Rotation is most effective against pathogens that survive in soil or on crop remains for a short period of time. It is recommended to rotate away from a crop family for 3 years, which is called a 4-year rotation. See [UT Extension publication W 316 Home Vegetable Garden Disease Control](#).

Crop family	Common home garden crops
Apiaceae	Carrot, celery, parsnip
Chenopodiaceae	Beet, spinach, chard
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber, squash, pumpkin, watermelon
Poaceae	Corn
Malvaceae	Okra
Brassicaceae	Broccoli, mustard, Brussels sprouts, kale, collards, kohlrabi, turnip, cabbage, cauliflower, radish
Solanaceae	Tomato, potato, pepper, eggplant
Alliaceae	Chives, garlic, leek, onion
Fabaceae	Beans, peas, edamame
Asteraceae	Lettuce, sunflower, endive

## Spicing Up Your Winter with Microgreens

Microgreens are plant shoots that are harvested and typically eaten raw. They differ from sprouts because the roots are not eaten. Microgreens can be eaten at the seed leaf (cotyledon) stage, but often one to two true leaves are allowed to form and provide more plant weight. Microgreens are thickly seeded because they are harvested young and are typically 1-4 inches tall at the time of harvest. Production can vary by species, but often microgreens can be grown from seed to harvest in 10 to 21 days.



Microgreens can have a unique place in a meal as a garnish or added to salads, sandwiches, and smoothies.

Microgreens are always plants that have edible stems and leaves. They are eaten raw to maximize flavor and nutrition and because cooking often destroys the small, delicate plants.

- **Seeds-** Purchase microgreens mixes or use untreated garden seeds.
- **Containers-** Shallow germination trays work, and small-scale batches can also be grown in containers such as plastic berry containers.
- **Substrate-** New germination mixes are a great way to begin, and there are a range of fiber mats that you can also use.
- **Site-** Many indoor locations with good light or supplemental lights can be used. Air movement is also needed.

Find more details about growing in [UT Extension publication W 356 J Small-Scale Microgreen Production](#).

Cool season vegetables grown as microgreens	Warm season vegetables grown as microgreens	Herbs grown as microgreens
Kale, Broccoli, Cabbage, Beets, Swiss Chard, Pea, Lettuce, Mizuna, Arugula, Bok Choy, Turnip, Radish, Endive, Mustard, Cress, Carrot	Amaranth, Sweet Corn, Sunflower	Basil, Cilantro, Parsley, Fennel, Dill, Marjoram

# DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> It is almost seed catalog time. Don't be afraid to get some early orders in.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> It could be a great time to select and order bare root fruit for next year.	<b>4</b> ○ FULL MOON	<b>5</b> You could even test germination (take % of 10-25 seeds) to confirm viability.	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Mulch strawberries when temperatures are expected to drop below 20 degrees F—but only if they are dormant!	<b>10</b> Clean and store your tools for next year.	<b>11</b> It is a great time to service tillers and other equipment. Sharpen blades and change oil.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Start to think about the garden plan for next year.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Sort and count remaining seeds to prevent over-ordering for next year.	<b>18</b> Map out crop rotations for next year in light of diseases or pests encountered.	<b>19</b> ● NEW MOON Mulch blueberry bushes to a depth of 5-6 inches when dormant.	<b>20</b> The gardening days get longer from here!
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
Notes on crops:				Notes on weather:		

# In-Season Nitrogen Fertilization for Vegetable Crops

Crop	Timing in season/fruit or plant size	Application rate/100-foot row, 36-inch centers			
		33-0-0 or 34-0-0 Ammonium nitrate	15.5-0-0 (calcium nitrate)	Bloodmeal, feathermeal (12-0-0)*	Soybean (7-1-2), cottonseed (6-2-1) meal or fish fertilizer (5-1-1)*
Tomato	1st fruits are 1" diameter	1 lb	2 lb	2.8 lb	5.7 lb
Pepper	1st fruits are 1" diameter	0.5 to 1 lb	1 to 2 lb	1.4 to 2.8 lb	2.8 to 5.7 lb
	Later in season (if needed)	0.5 to 1 lb	1 to 2 lb	1.4 to 2.8 lb	2.8 to 5.7 lb
Vine crops (Cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, squash)	Vines are 1 ft. long	0.75 to 1 lb	1.5 to 2 lb	2 to 2.8 lb	4.2 to 5.7 lb
Sweet corn	Plants are 12-18" tall	1 to 1.5 lb	2 to 3 lb	2.8 to 4 lb	5.7 to 8.5 lb
Okra, eggplant	3 to 4 weeks after seeding/transplanting	0.5 to 1 lb	1 to 2 lb	1.4 to 2.8 lb	2.8 to 5.7 lb
	6 to 8 weeks after seeding/transplanting	0.5 to 1 lb	1 to 2 lb	1.4 to 2.8 lb	2.8 to 5.7 lb
Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts	2 to 3 weeks after transplanting	1 lb	2 lb	2.8 lb	5.7 lb
	5 to 6 weeks after transplanting	0.5 lb	1 lb	1.4 lb	2.8 lb
Kale, collards, lettuce, spinach, mustard	3 to 4 weeks after seeding	0.5 to 0.75 lb	1 to 1.5 lb	1.4 to 2 lb	2.8 to 4.2 lb

*\*Natural or organic fertilizers will be available more slowly than chemical (often 1-4 months).*



# Garden and Orchard Climate and Management Overview

(Use this page as a summary of notes recorded in the separate month calendars)

<b>Growing Season Events</b>	<b>Spring - Last Frost Date</b> Any late frost events?	<b>Fall - First Frost Date</b> Length of growing season (days from last to first frost).	<b>Extreme weather events</b>	<b>Other notes</b>
<b>General climate</b>	<b>Spring temperature trends</b>	<b>Summer temperature trends</b>	<b>Fall temperature trends</b>	<b>Winter temperature trends</b>
<b>Rainfall</b>	<b>Spring rainfall total</b>	<b>Summer rainfall totals</b>	<b>Fall rainfall totals</b>	<b>Other notes</b>
<b>Irrigation</b>	<b>Spring irrigation summary</b>	<b>Summer irrigation summary</b>	<b>Fall irrigation summary</b>	<b>Other notes</b>
<b>Soil management</b>	<b>Spring tillage</b>	<b>Summer cover crops</b>	<b>Fall cover crops</b>	<b>Other notes</b>
<b>Fertilization</b>	<b>Pre-plant fertilization</b>	<b>Side-dressing</b>	<b>Fertigation (fertilizer dissolved in irrigation)</b>	<b>Other notes</b>





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