

Gardens

The University of Tennessee

Newsletter | July 2011



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July 2011 Plant of the Month:

Kalanchoe thyrsiflora

by Sue Hamilton, UT Gardens director



Also known as flapjack, dog tongue, desert cabbage, or paddle plant, *Kalanchoe thyrsiflora* is a succulent tropical or annual plant for Tennessee, but it can be easily over-wintered indoors in a container. A native of the South African

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Events

UT Gardens Educational
Classes and Workshops

Take a Stride and Learn at the
UT Gardens in Knoxville!

Summer Celebration
- July 14

Fall Gardeners Festival
- August 30

Rose Education Day
- September 24

2012 Floriade in Holland

Wednesdays 4-7p.m.

At the UT Garden in Knoxville.



For more information, [click
here](#).



desert, flapjack makes a unique and vivid potted plant or summer succulent annual in the landscape. It is in the third largest plant, *Crassulaceae*, and other wonderful succulents like the jade plant, hens 'n chicks, and sedum are relatives.

Flapjack is easily recognized by its distinct paddle-shaped leaves attached to the stem of the plant without a leaf stalk or petiole. The leaves are opposite, covered with a thick whitish wax. Its common name is derived from its leaves, which are stacked on each other like flapjacks, forming a rosette and face upward to reduce their exposure to the hot sun. When given enough sunlight, these large and dramatic sage-green leaves develop a bright red or pink band that highlights the edges of the smooth, fleshy paddles. **Read more...**

July Gardening Tips

by **Research Horticulturist Jason Reeves, UT Gardens Jackson**

Layering easily propagates many plants. Hydrangeas, viburnums, weigela, trumpet honeysuckle, Carolina jessamine and climbing roses are a few plants that will root if the stems are fastened down and covered with soil.

Start planning your fall vegetable garden. Late July is the time to start seeding your winter broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and brussel sprouts to be transplanted into the garden in mid-August.

Raise the height of your mower to reduce stress on your lawn and to conserve moisture in the ground. For best results, mow 2 inches for Bermuda grass, 1 to 2 inches for Zoysia and 2.5 to 3 inches for Fescue.

Quick Links

Landscaping is No. 1 project for U.S. homeowners

Gardens Containers Go Sustainable in 2011

Partnership Aims to Teach Gardeners About Climate Change Impact

Japanese Royal Fern Tops List of Plants Ideal for Cleaning Indoor Air

Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Blount County

TN Urban Forestry Council Tree of the Month

Sprinkler Times App

July is a good month to prune "bleeder" trees like maples, dogwood, elm, birch and other trees that bleed when pruned in winter.

Give your chrysanthemums and asters a last pinching no later mid-July.

Keep your perennials deadheaded to keep them flowering. Be sure to remove the fading flowers down to a leaf node or new bud.

Cut back early planted annuals that are getting leggy or out of control by one-third to keep them looking good into the fall. Give them a shot of a water-soluble fertilizer. Good candidates include impatiens, salvia, sweet potato vine, trailing or ground-cover-type petunias, and herbs, like basil.

Avoid pruning spring-flowering shrubs from now until next spring. Anything you remove now will also be removing next year's flowers. Spring-flowering shrubs include azaleas, camellias, witch hazels, rhododendrons and any other early, spring-blooming shrubs. Now is the time to prune overgrown oakleaf and mop-head hydrangeas.

Cut flowers for a bouquet early in the morning. Immediately place them in water. Good cut flowers include purple or white *Echinacea* (coneflower), *Rudbeckia* (Black-eyed Susan), zinnias, salvia, dahlias, sunflowers, Mexican sunflower, celosia, jewels of opar, cosmos, dill, fennel, *Gomphrena* (globe amaranth), *Gaillardia*, *Monarda* (bee balm), phlox, yarrow, ornamental grasses and *Artemisia*.

Cut old flower heads off *Hydrangea arborescens* such as 'Annabelle' to get a second but smaller flush of flowers.

July is a good time to buy crapemyrtles. They are in flower now so you can be certain to get the flower color you want. Crapemyrtles should not be fertilized after mid-July to allow them

time to properly harden off by fall. Check out the following website for Dr. Carl Whitcomb's plant introductions such as crapemyrtles and lacebark elm:

http://www.lacebarkinc.com/pat_plants.htm.

Keep birdbaths clean and filled with water through the hot weather.

Control mosquitoes by eliminating all sources of stagnant water.

Now Showing

by James Newburn, Assistant UT Gardens Director



Petunia x 'Suncatcher Pink Lemonade'

Bedding Plant Trials

The backbone of the UT Gardens summer display is the annual bedding plant trials. It is a good time to see the latest cultivars that are available and some that may be introduced in the future. One petunia that has already caught our eye is *Petunia* 'Suncatcher Pink Lemonade.' The bloom is a pale primrose yellow throat with a faded pink margin that is the color of pink lemonade.

It seems there is a bedding plant that will match any color, growth habit or sun exposure need you have to add that splash of color to the landscape.

Foliage Plants Don't forget to pair your flowers with great foliage plants, containers or beds. There are many great selections on display that can enhance your garden design. *Pennisetum* 'Vertigo' is one new plant we have used throughout the garden as a pairing for the bloomers. This plant has wonderful purple foliage, only gets about 2 feet tall and will have a pink-purple seed head on it. Other foliage plants on display are sweet potato vines and coleus.



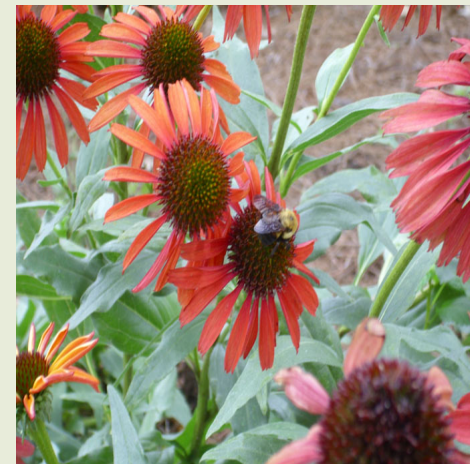
Pennisetum 'Vertigo'



'Merrit's Beauty'
Hydrangea

Hydrangeas The belle of the summer garden is hydrangea. Many species of this favorite shrub blooming now, including some commonly known as lacecap, oakleaf, bigleaf and mophead. You will see 'Annabelle,' 'Endless Summer,' 'Ryan Gainey' and the one pictured here, 'Merrit's Beauty' at either of the UT Gardens locations.

Coneflower (*Echinacea* hybrids) Every garden needs at least one selection of coneflower, and with so many new, exciting colors on the market, it's easy to go crazy and have many in your garden. Available in purple, reds, oranges and yellows, there is something for everyone to come and see. These perennials are great pollinator-



attracting plants, and if left to go to seed, you are assured goldfinches in late summer. 'Firebird' is pictured here and is a deep orange red.

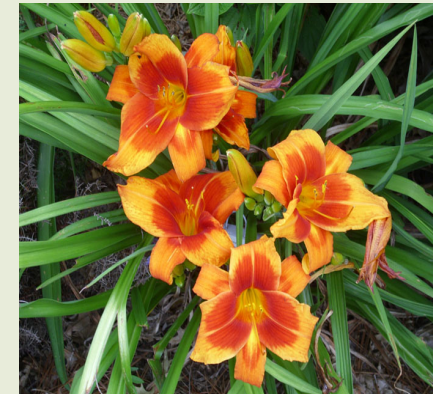


'Firebird' Coneflower



Tennessee Coneflower

Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) The hybrid daylilies are still blooming throughout the Gardens. Much like the coneflowers, there is a daylily for everyone's taste. Pictured here is 'Outrageous' - a wonderful orange flower with a red-orange throat. Also, check out 'Give Me Eight' that has eight petals (they typically have six) with a beautiful pale yellow color.



Hemerocallis

'Outrageous'



'Grande Dame'.

Roses

Despite the heat many of the roses are still going strong. This month's most fragrant award goes to 'Grande Dame,' a beautiful double-pink hybrid tea.



'Sheer Magic'

'Sheer Magic' takes the award for most beautiful with its creamy center and deep coral margins.



'Gizmo'

'Gizmo' is the best miniature because of the sheer number of blooms per plant. This one is nonstop.

Volunteers

We are continuing our weekly volunteer trial sessions at the UT Gardens in Knoxville through July, each Tuesday morning from 9a.m. to 12p.m. and each Thursday afternoon from 1p.m. to 4p.m. We meet in room 119 of the South Greenhouse before moving out into the Gardens to work. Many, many thanks are due to our dedicated volunteers who have been braving the recent heat and humidity to come help us keep the gardens in tip-top shape. The storms we've all been experiencing this year have made it particularly challenging - we are so appreciative of the help we have

received to clean-up. As always, we will suspend the weekly sessions during the month of August and resume them in September.

Trials

Our trial judges have started making their evaluations of the summer trial varieties at the Knoxville and Jackson sites. Many of the cultivars that we are trialing this year are showing a great deal of promise for our region and its particular gardening challenges. Be sure to come by and note which are your favorites - you could be growing them in your own yard next year!

Knoxville Gardens Volunteer of the Month: Alice Greene



Alice Greene is the UT Gardens' volunteer of the month for July. Alice has been volunteering for the Gardens several years now. She is an extensive traveler, but we always look forward to seeing her at the Gardens when she is in town. When not in Knoxville, she is often visiting her son in Washington, D.C., and helping him with his garden.

As an indication of how determined she is as a gardener, when she was unable to locate a source of pine straw mulch in his area, she began packing an extra suitcase full of it each time she visited him. Last month she traveled to Houston, where she competed in several

track and field events in the National Senior Olympics , taking silver in the women's 400 meter Dash! The staff of the UT Gardens appreciates the help Alice gives at our Tuesday morning work sessions, and we look forward to many more to come!

Educational Classes and Workshops at the UT Gardens.

Click here to download the pdf for the July/August Educational classes.

Travel with AAA and the UT Gardens to the 2012 Floriade in Holland!



Visit the 2012 Floriade World Horticultural Expo in Holland with AAA and the UT Gardens on a unique and special canal cruise. This expo happens only once every 10 years! Explore picturesque Holland and Belgium next spring at the peak of tulip time.

You'll see more than 7 million bulbs in full bloom as we explore the Keukenhof Spring Gardens. Spend another day at the spectacular Floriade World Horticultural Expo where we have the opportunity to enjoy the most exquisite and exceptional flowers, plants, trees, fruit and vegetables of the world exhibited in indoor and outdoor venues. This once in a lifetime trip is April 12-21, 2012. Please join us on this exciting trip as we cruise the canals of Holland and explore the

beautiful gardens. To learn more, **click here** to see the PDF trip flyer and visit the Floriade website:

<http://www.floriade.com/>.

Check Out Summer Celebration

Lawn Garden Show Scheduled for July 14, 2011



Summer Celebration 2011 takes place on Thursday, July 14 at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, and includes all the features that have made this event a sensation for so many years. Sixteen garden talks (half of which are held indoors in a lovely air-conditioned facility), led by local and regional plant experts like Carol Reese, Don Shadow, Rita Randolph and Jason Reeves.

A diverse plant sale featuring hydrangeas, ferns, flowering trees, disease-resistant American elms, plus many more shrubs and perennials.

Summer Celebration begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 17 and under. For more details on specific garden talks or featured speakers go to <http://west.tennessee.edu>.

Take a Stride and Learn at the UT Gardens in Knoxville!

Learn more about plants and gardening while enjoying special walks through the gardens in Knoxville. We are excited to have a variety of monthly walks. Walks are rain or shine, and will be

cancelled only in the event of dangerous lightening. All walks are FREE and meet at the entrance to the Gardens. (Advance registration appreciated, but not required.)

Noon and Twilight Tours

Tours will be held every third Tuesday of the month: July 19, August 16, September 20 and October 18. The noon tour will begin at 12 p.m., and the twilight tour will begin at 6 p.m. Tours depart from the Friendship Plaza at the entrance to the UT Gardens, Knoxville.

Photography Walks

Learn how to capture a perfect garden photograph while enjoying an early morning walk through the gardens. A member of our staff will lead an hour-long walk focusing on the best lighting and garden location during that particular walk. This event is a unique opportunity to have time with fellow photographers and garden lovers while having some serious photography time in the garden. Photography walks will be held every third Friday: July 15 and August 19. Walks begin at 7:30 a.m. and depart from the Friendship Plaza at the entrance to the Gardens in Knoxville.

Family Nature Nights

Learn about the plants and animals that come out in the evening! Wear your walking shoes and let us guide you and your family through the Gardens during twilight.

Taste Buds - Tuesday, August 2, 6:30 p.m.

Going on a Bug Hunt - Tuesday, September 6, 6:30 p.m

3rd Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival Scheduled for UT AgResearch Plateau Center

CROSSVILLE, Tenn. - Gardeners should plan to spend a fun-filled

day at the University of Tennessee Plateau AgResearch and Education Center on Tuesday, August 30. Beginning at 10 a.m., the center will host a Fall Gardeners' Festival, and whether your gardening interests lie along the lines of landscaping for fun or gardening for food, you are sure to find presentations and exhibits of interest.

Sponsored by the Cumberland County Master Gardeners, UT Extension, and the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center, the event will include 12 presentations that feature UT experts and local gardening personalities. Tours of the center and walks in the center's discovery gardens will also be available.

Admission is free, and registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Central Daylight Time. Snacks and lunch items will be available for purchase throughout the day.

The event will be held at the main unit of the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center on U.S. Highway. 70N west of Crossville. A map and complete directions are available online at <http://plateau.tennessee.edu/location/>. For more information, call the center at 931-484-0034.



ROSE EDUCATION DAY

Sponsored by the Tennessee Rose Society

Saturday, September 24, 2011

University of Tennessee Knoxville --

Agriculture Campus

1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Fee:\$10 Registration is limited to the first 100 registrants

Rose Show: This district rose show is only available in Knoxville once every seven years! Outstanding rosarians from Tennessee and

Kentucky will compete and exhibit their best roses with the show open to the public beginning at 1:00 PM. Attendees will see beautiful garden roses that thrive in our climate zone. For more information please visit <http://www.tennesseerosesociety.org/>

Knoxville Gardens Host Field Day

A group of 150 industry professionals attended the recent Tennessee Nursery Landscape Association Field Day in the UT Gardens. Special thanks to the field day's primary sponsor, the **Tennessee Department of Agriculture**. Special thanks as well to the following green industry businesses for participating as exhibitors:

Airitech Tools
Blankenship Farms
Cherokee Manufacturing
Deal's Small Engine
Dickens Turf & Landscape Supply
Farm Credit Services
Griffin Greenhouse & Nursery Supplies
Heather Farms Nursery
Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits
John Deere Landscapes
Pleasant Cove Nursery, Inc.
Randall Walker Farms
Riverbend Nurseries, LLC
Riverdale Nursery
Samara Farms
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Walker Nursery Company

Wildlife management Calendar for July

By [Craig A. Harper](#), UT professor of wildlife management
Protecting Vegetable Gardens

-Put up chicken-wire fence 2 feet high around vegetable gardens to protect them from rabbits.

-Put up a two- to three-strands electric fence (one strand 6 inches above ground and the other 6 inches higher) to keep groundhogs and raccoons out of vegetable gardens.

-To repel deer from vegetable gardens, erect a single-strand electric fence (2 ½ feet above ground) with aluminum tabs attached every 3 to 5 feet. Smear peanut butter on the aluminum tabs. Deer are attracted to the peanut butter. When they touch the aluminum tabs with their mouths, they learn to stay away.

-Nuisance crawdads in the yard may be remedied by pouring boiling water down the spout of the mound.

-To keep bats out of attics and out from under vinyl siding and other areas, close or cover up all holes and cracks so they can't get in. Do this at night after bats have left the roost; it may be necessary to open the hole the following night to allow any bats that were trapped inside a chance to leave. Maternal colonies will migrate to hibernation sites in the fall. If you wait until then to close holes and cracks, you will avoid trapping any inside.

-"Repel" snakes by cleaning up around the house - mow more often, remove piles of wood, brush, and trash. There is no reliable "repellent" for snakes; only "snake oil."

Visit <http://icwdm.org> for additional wildlife damage management information.

Loose and Exfoliating Bark on Trees

By Wayne K. Clatterbuck, UT professor of silviculture and orest

management

Several inquiries have been received this spring from forest landowners, homeowners, Extension personnel and the media concerning an abundance of bark at the base of the tree and loose and easily peeled bark on the tree. Most of the occurrence is with white oak, but has been observed in other species with long, thin, platy bark. Many ask if squirrels could be the culprits in their activities of scurrying up and down the bole as well as gnawing and cleaning their teeth. Although squirrels may contribute some to bark loosening, the growth of the tree trunk, or bole, is the primary cause. Especially in the spring, when moisture is plentiful and the sap is rising to support newly formed leaves, the larger earlywood pores (xylem) are formed. The bark is dead tissue or cells located outside the living cambium. As the tree expands in diameter and circumference, the inflexible, dead cells of the bark are pushed further out and are not able to stay attached to the tree trunk. Thus the bark exfoliates. This natural process occurs every year, but becomes more acute when trees are rapidly growing in the early spring when moisture is plentiful and the temperatures are warmer than usual. The trees are growing well because of the excess of growth resources.

The same process occurs in trees with thick, tighter bark, but this bark is more corky and flexible. This bark is able to hang on the tree, retain more flexibility, and exfoliates much more slowly than those with thinner, platy bark. Thus, an abundance of bark at the base of the tree is not necessarily an indication that something is wrong with the health of the tree. Most of the time, the tree is just growing faster because of an abundance of moisture and favorable weather and the bark is making room for an expanded girth of the tree trunk.

Two UT Gardens Special Events Big Success

By Sue Hamilton, UT Gardens Director

The Hydrangea Symposium on Saturday, June 18 attracted 55 participants with some traveling as far away as Cincinnati. A silent auction of 16 choice hydrangeas generated \$410 for the Gardens.



Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Blount County

By Tennessee Urban Forestry Council

The emerald ash borer (EAB) has been spotted in Blount County near the Knox County line. The pest was found about 18 miles from a sighting last year at a truck stop along I-40 in Knox County. Another EAB was recently found in the same location.

The U.S. and Tennessee Departments of Agriculture are partnering on a survey and detection program. Its goal is to assess the extent of the insect's infestation. More than 4,000 traps are being placed in trees in a 50-mile radius of the Knox County infestation. Knox and Loudon counties are now under state and federal EAB quarantine, which restricts movement outside the area of hardwood firewood, ash seedlings, logs, and bark, and other regulated articles without a certification.

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Become a Friend of the UT Gardens

There are a variety of ways you can support the UT Gardens.
For more information go to <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/support.html>.

The University of Tennessee Gardens located in Knoxville and Jackson are part of the UT Institute of Agriculture. Their mission is to foster appreciation, education and stewardship of plants through garden displays, collections, educational programs and research trials. Some 4,000 annuals, perennials, herbs, tropicals, trees, shrubs, vegetables and ornamental grasses are evaluated each year. Both gardens are Tennessee Certified Arboreta and American Conifer Society Reference Gardens. The gardens are open during all seasons and free to the public. Visit <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/support.html/ornamentals> for more information.



Try it FREE today.