



Newsletter | June 2011



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June 2011 Plant of the Month: *Clematis rooguchi*

by: Carol Reese, Western Region Ornamental Horticulture Specialist



Occasionally someone asks me how to prune their clematis.



Clematis rooguchi

"Which one do you have?" is my question, and usually they do not know.

They need to know, since clematis is a complicated group of plants that must be pruned differently according to the particular type. It would be easier on all of us if they would just plant a clematis called 'Rooguchi'. Rooguchi is also sometimes spelled "Roguchi," but that is as complicated as it gets.

This vine dies to the ground each winter, and springs forth each spring, eager to

flower on new growth. Oh, how I love a plant that has no special pruning needs, in fact, needs no pruning at all. You aren't even likely to prune to control its size, since it's a mannerly garden citizen, which can even be permitted to sprawl atop a shrub or climb through a Japanese maple without taking over. [Read more.](#)

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June Garden Tips

by Research Horticulturist Jason Reeves, UT Gardens, Jackson

Just because it's almost summer doesn't mean it's too late to plant annuals. I often don't get my annuals at home into the ground until late June. Plants such as sunflowers, zinnias, Mexican sunflower, cosmos, basil and dill can still be direct-seeded.

During the hot summer months, mulch can be especially useful for conserving water. Consider mulching your vegetable garden as well as your ornamentals. The mulch not only helps conserve moisture, but it prevents splashing of water, reducing the spread of disease. It also adds organic matter to the soil and prevents many weeds.

Trim back Catmint (*Nepeta*) after its first flush of flowers to promote new growth and a second flush of blooms.

The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils.

Daylilies are in peak bloom in June. It is a good time to buy new daylily selections for your garden to ensure you get the color you desire. Visit a daylily farm for the best selections, and plant them in full sun for the best flower production.

Once daffodil foliage has turned yellow, you can mow or cut it down. If you remove it while it is still green, you decrease the amount of energy available for the bulb to store, decreasing flower size next year.

To keep squash, cucumber and bean plants abundantly producing, harvest them frequently.

Leftover vegetable and flower seeds may be stored in a cool dry location to be saved for planting next year.

Water your plants in the morning, if possible, to conserve water and reduce evaporation. Frequent, deep watering is better than frequent, shallow watering, since deep watering promotes deep root growth. For best results, deep water trees and shrubs once or twice a week, and flowers two to three times a week. Most plants need 1 inch of rainfall per week. Pay attention to how much falls from the sky and

water accordingly. If you have an automatic irrigation system, consider installing a rain sensor that adjusts for rainfall.

Be on the lookout for mosquitoes! With all of the rain we have been having, these pesky insects are sure to be in abundance. Keep plant saucers, buckets, trash cans and children's toys poured out. Make sure your gutters are draining properly, and change the water in birdbaths every three to four days. In areas where standing water cannot be avoided, use environmentally friendly mosquito dunks. These dunks are made from a naturally occurring bacterium called Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*). Dunks can be purchased at nurseries and most home improvement stores.

Powdery mildew is also more likely to be a problem when we are receiving abundant rainfall. Keep an eye on plants like yarrow, asters, azaleas, coreopsis, dogwoods, euonymous, gaillardia, gerbera daisy, honeysuckle, hydrangea, lilac, monarda, phlox, pulmonaria, roses, rudbeckia, scabiosa, spirea, verbena and zinnias. Check out these links for more information on powdery mildew:

<http://soilplantandpest.utk.edu/>

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/>

Bats can be an effective way to control insects. One big brown bat can eat 3,000 to 7,000 insects each night. Attract bats by building and placing bat houses in your yard.

Summer solstice (June 21) is the longest day of the year and the first day of summer. Pay tribute to the sun by enjoying the long day.

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Now Showing

by James Newburn, Carol Reese, and Jason Reeves

Many wonderful plants showing are off their colors this month -- so many that we could go on and on about what you need to come see in person at both the Knoxville and Jackson Gardens. Here are just a few selections to entice you to pay the Gardens a visit.



Hydrangea macrophylla 'Lady in Red'

'Lady in Red' hydrangea is one of the first releases from the plant improvement programs headed by Dr. Michael Dirr in Athens, Georgia. The flowers are blue but can be pink in more basic soils. The red aspects come into play later in the summer as the flowers dry to a deep rose, and the foliage darkens to maroon with distinctly red veins. 'Lady in Red' is available for viewing at the UT Gardens in Knoxville and Jackson.

'My Girl'

rose has been outstanding in the no-spray rose trials. It's in near-constant flower, maintains a tidy form and is quite disease-resistant. It's one of the Easy Elegance series from Bailey Nurseries and can be seen at the Knoxville and Jackson locations



of the UT Gardens . Be sure to visit the Beall Family Rose Garden in Knoxville, where more than 100 roses are in full bloom.



The Easy Elegance® 'My Girl' rose



Stachys officinalis 'Hummelo'

Stachys officinalis 'Hummelo' is a form of wood betony that gives several weeks of brilliant, pink flowers and can be viewed at both the UT Gardens Knoxville and Jackson. 'Hummelo' is related to lambs ear and can be evergreen in warmer climates.

Lysmachia punctata 'Alexander' is beautiful even when not in flower because of its showy foliage. Less invasive than other forms of lysmachia, it benefits from afternoon shade in the South. 'Alexander' can be seen at the UT Gardens, Jackson.



Lysmachia punctata 'Alexander'



Tamarix ramosissima 'Rubra' - Summer Glow
Tamarix always draws comments, not just for the



Tamarix ramosissima 'Rubra'

showy, pink flowers, but for its soft, blue foliage as well. Summer Glow can be seen at the UT Gardens Jackson.

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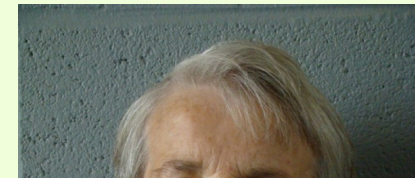
Trials Update

The 2011 Summer Annual (and Perennial) Trials are officially underway! Make time to come by and look for your new favorite plant. Exciting new varieties are growing side by side with award-winning and tested cultivars. As always, we will evaluate their performance over the course of the summer. Look for performance reports, which we make available to plant companies, local gardeners and green industry professionals. In our Knoxville garden, you can even weigh in yourself - check out the seven entrants in the third Annual American Garden Award contest in our upper annual bed and then chose any of the three simple ways to register your vote for the best variety!

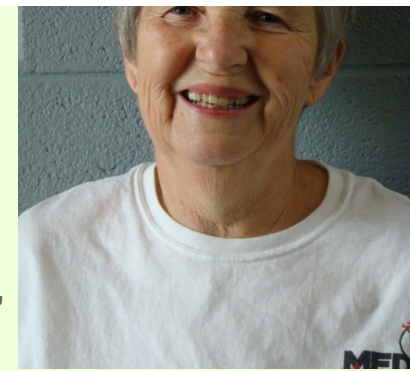
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Volunteer of the Month: Jeanie Shover

I grew up in the city (Columbus, Ohio). My dad grew tomatoes in our backyard and my granny who lived with us had flowers. Knoxville has been our home for 38 years! My interest in gardening peaked after retirement from Oak Ridge National



Laboratory. We have lots of space at our West Knoxville home. My husband brought in lots of compost, dirt, etc. and created some great beds for me to experiment with.



Last year I grew "loofah sponges" for the first time - what a fun project. This year is my third as a volunteer at the UT Gardens, and I enjoy the time. I've learned a lot and met some great gardeners but gardening for me is still just fun. My youngest grandbaby is my "garden girl." We have been visiting a local garden center since she was two, and I let her pick the plants she wants - what a joy! Gardening is enjoyable and a big part of my life. Thanks to all the helpful, appreciative staff at "The Garden" - Life is Good.

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Educational Classes and Workshops at the UT Gardens Knoxville

[Click here](#) to download the pdf for the Educational Classes and Workshops

[Click here](#) to learn about our summer Garden Discovery Camps.

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: June 21, 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: June 17, 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.

Meet the Flowers - Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.

Explore your Senses - Tuesday, July 5, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Books and Blooms

Bring the kids to this popular summertime event! Join us in the Knoxville Gardens for nature-themed stories and activities. After story time, the kids can enjoy fun under the sprinkler in warmer weather. To join an e-mail list to receive notices about Books and Blooms, contact utgardens@utk.edu or 865-974-7151. Books and Blooms is held every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. now through October 27. FREE!

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UT Gardens Hydrangea Symposium Saturday, June 18th

Come and learn all about the 'queen' of the summer garden and the new, unusual and most beautiful selections for your landscape. The day will include educational seminars; a guided tour of the UT Gardens, Knoxville; lunch; and an exclusive hydrangea plant sale featuring some of the most beautiful and choice selections for the Midsouth.



American Hydrangea Society or UT Gardens Members: \$50; Nonmembers: \$65. [Register online](#) or call 865-974-8265. For more information call 865-974-7972, email Dr. Sue Hamilton or [download the program](#).

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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.

And a fun and flavorsome cooking demonstration presented by the UT Kitchen Divas. (A reservation ticket is required for this presentation.)

Of course, Summer Celebration is known for introducing novel garden displays, and this year is no different. The theme is "Come Check the Mail," which will be evident as you tour the new Mailbox Gardens. From elegant to rustic, the array of mailboxes

and ornamental plantings will demonstrate what plant combinations look good and can be successfully grown around a mailbox. And each mailbox will contain an informative brochure that lets you know what materials were used to create the mailbox designs and where you can purchase the materials.

If you have specific plant questions, you can get them answered at the Plant Diagnostic Center, which will be staffed by plant pest and disease experts. And if you need a break, enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by 4-H All-Stars, or take a relaxing wagon ride around the AgResearch & Education Center and learn more about the breakthroughs in agricultural research that are happening right here.

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> or follow us on Facebook at "UT Gardens Jackson."

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The UT Organic and Sustainable Crop Production Program and the UT Gardens have partnered with community and student growers to offer a new Farmers Market that is held every Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. through October 26 on the Friendship Plaza at the UT Gardens in Knoxville. The UT Culinary Institute serves a meal for purchase each week that features the freshest season produce available.

For information on being a participating vendor, see <http://vegetables.tennessee.edu/> or contact Fiona McAnally at fmcanall@utk.edu or 865-806-1557.

East Tennessee Hosta Society Continues Support of the UT Gardens

Many thanks to the East Tennessee Hosta Society for providing \$1,000 in support of the UT Gardens. The Hosta Society has lead the development of the Gardens hosta collection and has been a committed supporter of the growth and development of the Gardens for many years. These funds will assist in the expansion of Gardens' hosta collection as well as support our student internship program, which provides for the

hands-on maintenance of our plant collections.

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Thank you, Volunteers



Many, many thanks are due to the numerous volunteers who gave so generously of their time to help with our Blooms Days Festival last month! Whether they were regional Master Gardeners, UTIA employees, UT Gardens volunteers, or just gardening enthusiasts- they came together to help make it a successful and rewarding event.

Additional thanks are due to the volunteers who braved our unusual May weather to help get the summer annual trial varieties planted. Although our new auger makes it an easier task than in years past, there is still no substitute for the amount of planting that a group of focused volunteers can accomplish in just a few short hours. Next time you're in the gardens, take a moment to appreciate just how much our volunteers help us do!

Our focus shifts now to maintaining planted areas. We will continue to meet for our Tuesday morning (9- 12 p.m.) and Thursday afternoon (1-4 p.m.) volunteer sessions through June and July. As always, we will take a break from volunteering during the

month of August. If you are interested in volunteering, you can simply come to one of the sessions to get started. We meet in Room 119 of the South Greenhouse before moving out into the garden to begin our tasks for the day. Contact Beth for more information: 865-974-2712 or ewillis2@utk.edu.

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Volunteers Rally to Help Storm-ravaged Gardens

by Sue Hamilton, UT Gardens Director



The incredible storms of April 25 and 27 took a major toll on the UT Gardens in Knoxville. Sixteen large, mature trees came down along with everything in their wake on Monday, April 25. Just as we were getting a handle on this devastation, the series of storms with tennis ball-size hail on Wednesday the 27th knocked us right back down. Talk about adding insult to injury! I have never seen such hail damage like we experienced.

A few of our trees like yellowwood and ginkgo were nearly defoliated. It's times like this when you are mindful and truly grateful for the many Garden Friends you have. Our entire staff was just overwhelmed by the outpouring of volunteers and the many helping hands that turned out to help with the cleanup. Glenna and Bud Julian, who are regular volunteers at the Gardens, went as far to bring their daughter and granddaughter to help with the cleanup. All of this just 10 days before Blooms Days! There isn't much you can do with defoliated trees, broken roses, irises, peonies, and

assorted other plants when mother nature decides to remind you who really is in charge. I am grateful that we didn't have any significant damage to our Gardens' structures and thankfully, no one was hurt. Thank you again to everyone who helped us with our massive storm clean-up.

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Blooms Days Weather and Attendance 'Good'!

Mother's Day weekend proved to be great for the ninth Blooms Days Festival in the Gardens. Despite our storm-ravished Gardens, more than 2,200 people enjoyed the pleasant temperatures of early May and the variety of Blooms Days activities. A free dogwood for each mother on Mother's Day was a big hit along with the 'Sneak Peek' preview evening for our Friends of the Gardens. Three hundred and fifty Friends enjoyed early shopping and wine and cheese compliments of Sweetwater Valley Farm and Mountain Valley, Apple Barn and Hillside Wineries. A special thanks to all of our sponsors of Blooms Days and to everyone who volunteered, attended and supported the Gardens.

Media



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Dick and Suzanne Ott
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TN Urban Forestry Council Tree of the Month: Cherokee Oak, a Landmark Tree in Putnam County



The old white oak (*Quercus alba*) stands on the Old Walton Road, one of only two known roads in



Middle Tennessee that 19th-century pioneers used as wagon roads. (The other road was the Chattanooga-McMinnville Road.) The Old Walton Road ran between Brotherton and Buck Mountain and became part of the Trail of Tears route in 1830.

According to local legend a full-blooded Cherokee woman, Frances Hammock, escaped from soldiers by hiding in a cave nearby after her wagon broke down. She later married Isaac Swallows, and they made their home in Brotherton. Their union would result in hundreds of descendants in the Upper Cumberland, many of them who live there today.

The tree also became a regular resting site for the famous Willis Hyder, one of the last U.S. mail horseback carriers, and was featured in a 1947 Nashville Tennessean article. Hyder and his horses carried the mail on his 26-mile route from 1908 until his retirement in the early 1950s.

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Chemical in Alaska Yellow Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) and Citrus Fruit Repeals Bugs.

The centers for Disease Control and Prevention is looking for an all-natural insect

repellent and it has found a viable candidate. CDC is pushing hard to develop a completely natural insect repellent made from a chemical called nootkatone, which is found in Alaska yellow cedar trees and citrus fruit, said Marc Dolan of the CDC's vector-borne infectious diseases laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado. Dolan says nootkatone "is nongreasy, dries very quickly, and it has a very pleasant, citrus-y grapefruit odor to it."

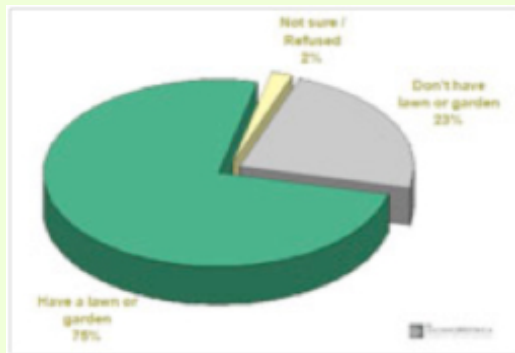
He recently demonstrated its effectiveness as a mosquito repellent, rubbing some on his hand and then sticking it into a cage containing 50 hungry mosquitoes. When he holds the treated hand near mosquitoes, they try to get away in the opposite direction as fast as they can. Even after five minutes, Dolan has no bites on his nootkatone-treated hand. Nootkatone is also effective against ticks, and scientists think it will work against bed bugs, head lice and other insects, too. [Read more.](#)

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Garden Trend Surveys

Source: Garden Writers Association

Garden Spending Drops, but Retailers Maintain Head-to-Head Competition



As a sign of the economic times, planned consumer garden spending is expected to drop from an average \$615/household in 2009 to a projected \$469 for 2011. At the same time, competition between independent garden centers and mass merchants is expected to remain evenly split for early spring plant purchases.

When the Garden Writers Association Foundation (GWAFF) started tracking the early

spring gardening preferences of consumers in 2005, only 40 percent of the respondents planned to buy most of their spring plants at garden centers compared to 51 percent who favored mass merchants. [Read more.](#)

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Chili Pepper Could be Appetite Suppressant

By David Kuack, Greenhouse Management Magazine. May 16, 2011

Purdue University Study Finds Red Pepper May Help Curb Appetite

Eating red pepper could help manage appetites and burn more calories after a meal, said Richard Mattes, Purdue University professor of foods and nutrition. He said this is especially true for individuals who do not consume the spice regularly. Mattes said simple dietary changes, like sprinkling red pepper on food, may be sustainable and beneficial in the long run. This is especially true if the practice is combined with exercise and a healthy diet.

Other studies have found that capsaicin, the compound in chili peppers that gives them their heat, can reduce hunger and burn calories. However, the amounts tested were not realistic for most people in the U. S. population, Mattes said. The current study measured the spice's effects using quantities (1 gram or half a teaspoon) of red pepper that are acceptable for many consumers. Those who did not consume red pepper regularly experienced a decrease of hunger, especially for fatty, salty and sweet foods. Mattes said the findings also show that red pepper should be consumed in non-capsule form because the taste maximizes the digestive process.

This study used ordinary dried, ground cayenne red pepper. Cayenne is a chili pepper. Most, but not all, chili peppers contain capsaicin. The findings are published in *Physiology & Behavior*.

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