

# GREENE COUNTY PLANT PRESS

GREENE COUNTY, TN.



## Community Spotlight

### Big Spring Master Gardener Association

The Big Spring Master Gardener Association is a group of trained Extension volunteers dedicated to improving the lives of Tennesseans through horticulture education. Members support Greene County Extension by sharing research-based gardening information, assisting with

community programs, and promoting environmentally responsible gardening practices.

#### Interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

Registration for the 2027 Intern Class will open at the end of the year. Stay tuned for details and application information.



#### From Anna's Desk

Stay connected by following UT Extension-Greene County on Facebook for programs, events, and resources in agriculture, horticulture, family & consumer sciences, and 4-H. [HERE>](#)

— Anna Parsons, ANR Extension Agent I

## February at a Glance

This section will highlight upcoming programs, events, and workshops happening throughout the month. Be sure to check here regularly for important dates, registration details, and opportunities to connect with UT Extension Greene Co. Stay Tuned!

## Quick Updates

2026 UT Extension Fruit and Veggie Calendar: [HERE>](#).

Join Our Email List:



Scan the QR Code or Join [HERE>](#)

## Plant of the Month

### *Berberis bealei* – Leatherleaf Mahonia

- Evergreen shrub with late-winter yellow blooms
- Early nectar source for pollinators
- Low-maintenance, deer-resistant, thrives in shade
- [MORE HERE>](#)



## | In the Garden This Month

# February Gardening Checklist

February is a key month for preparation and planning. While gardens are still mostly dormant, **the tasks you complete now will set the stage for a successful growing season.**

- Dormant prune fruit trees and remove diseased wood; apply dormant sprays as needed.
- Begin the earliest warm-season transplants for early May planting.

- Start seeds for cool-season crops like broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower (about 8 weeks before transplanting).
- Collect scion wood for grafting and prepare soil for early crops when conditions allow.
- Order remaining garden seeds will available.

## Fruit Tree Tip:

- Success starts with good site selection and disease-resistant cultivars adapted to East Tennessee. Thoughtful choices now prevent long-term issues later.



## | Resource Roundup

- (D59) *Cole Crops for the TN Vegetable Garden* [READ MORE>](#)
- (W346-F) *Season Extension Methods* [READ MORE>](#)
- (PB901) *Growing Vegetables in Home Gardens* [READ MORE>](#)

## Stay in Touch

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GREENE COUNTY  
**UT EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

## | Seasonal Snapshots

## Dormant Pruning Basics for Fruit Trees

Dormant pruning improves light, airflow, spray coverage, and fruit production. Train fruit trees to a single central leader with a narrow, cone-shaped canopy.

- Remove large, crowded, damaged, or diseased branches.
- Keep well-spaced, mostly horizontal limbs; remove very upright or drooping branches.
- Use renewal cuts to encourage new, productive growth. [READ MORE>](#)

## | Producer Spotlight



**Feature Your Farm in Our Next Addition!** We love highlighting the great growers and ag businesses in Greene County! Want to be featured in an upcoming newsletter? **Send the name of your business, a short description of your operation, and a photo to** [aparsons@tennessee.edu](mailto:aparsons@tennessee.edu). We can't wait to share your story!