

# Horticulture Lunch and Learn Series

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### Methods

The **Lunch and Learn Program** employs a variety of **engaging and accessible educational methods** to effectively reach and educate the Roane County community:

- Expert-Led Presentations:** Each session features **Master Gardeners** or guest experts who provide research-based information on horticulture, gardening, and sustainability.
- Hands-On Demonstrations:** Some sessions incorporate **interactive demonstrations** to give attendees practical skills they can apply in their own gardens, such as seed starting or flower arranging.
- Live Q&A Sessions:** Attendees can ask questions and receive **real-time answers** from knowledgeable presenters, fostering interactive learning.
- Multimodal Learning Options:** The program is available **in person and online**, offering live Zoom sessions, Facebook and YouTube streaming, and recorded content for later viewing.
- Seasonal and Community-Driven Topics:** The curriculum is based on **seasonal gardening needs, the latest research, and community requests**, ensuring relevance and practical application.
- Guided Garden Tours:** Some sessions, like the **July garden tour**, provide **on-site learning experiences** where attendees can see best practices in action.
- Self-Paced Learning:** Participants can revisit recorded sessions to reinforce learning or accommodate busy schedules.

Through this combination of **lecture-based, hands-on, and interactive** educational methods, the **Lunch and Learn Program** ensures that **learners of all experience levels** gain valuable knowledge and practical skills to enhance their gardening success.

### Program Impacts

The 2024 **Lunch and Learn Program** demonstrated a **significant increase in participant knowledge** on key horticultural topics, as evidenced by survey responses and attendee feedback. Based on collected data:

- **100% of respondents** reported gaining new insights into **environmental stewardship** and sustainable gardening practices.
- **80% of participants** stated they received valuable information on **plant selection**, enhancing their ability to make informed gardening decisions.
- **Over 90% of attendees** rated the program as **highly relevant and helpful**, reinforcing its effectiveness in addressing community gardening needs.
- Participants expressed a desire for continued education in areas such as **Winter Sowing, Landscape Design, and Growing Grapes**, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to learning and applying new techniques.

These results highlight the **program's impact in expanding knowledge, encouraging sustainable practices, and fostering a well-informed gardening community** in Roane County. By continuing to adapt to community interests and providing expert-led education, the **Lunch and Learn Program** ensures **continued growth and empowerment** for local gardeners of all experience levels.

### Program Contact

To access information on the Lunch and Learn Program contact [jessicawsmith@utk.edu](mailto:jessicawsmith@utk.edu) or view [roane.tennessee.edu](https://roane.tennessee.edu) .

### Introduction

The **Lunch and Learn Program** is a horticultural education program in Roane County. Hosted in conjunction with the **Master Gardeners of Roane County (MGRC)**, this initiative provides free, accessible, and research-based learning opportunities to the community. Held on the second Saturday of each month at the **Roane County Extension Office**, the program features expert-led discussions on seasonal gardening topics, sustainable practices, and innovative techniques. Attendees can participate in person, via Zoom, or through live streaming on Facebook and YouTube.

### Demographics

The **Lunch and Learn Program** serves a **diverse audience across Roane County**, welcoming individuals of **all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels**. Through in persona and all media platforms the 2024 Lunch and Learn Program reached over 2,200 participants.

Participants include:

- Home Gardeners** – Beginners and experienced growers seeking practical knowledge to improve their home gardens.
- Agricultural Enthusiasts & Hobbyists** – Individuals interested in **sustainable practices, environmental stewardship, and specialized gardening techniques**.
- Retirees & Lifelong Learners** – Community members who enjoy continuous education and hands-on engagement in gardening.
- Families & Educators** – Parents, teachers, and youth interested in incorporating **gardening into education and daily life**.
- Professionals & Community Leaders** – Individuals from various industries who value **horticultural knowledge and environmental conservation**.

With a **strong commitment to accessibility**, the program provides **both in-person and virtual learning opportunities**, ensuring **broad community participation**. The **Lunch and Learn Program** continues to grow, reaching new audiences and fostering a **connected, informed, and environmentally conscious community**.

**Lunch and Learn on March 8, 2025 at Noon**  
Hosted by: The Master Gardeners of Roane County

Getting Started with Landscape Design  
Presented by Jeff Skinner



Please join us to learn about designing your personal home gardens and surrounding areas to achieve your goals and objectives. Discussion will include plant selections, sun exposure and incorporating design elements such as hardscapes.

The speaker, Jeff Skinner, is the owner of The Garden Center in Dayton, TN. He is a professional landscaper who offers landscape design services and nursery products.

About the MGRC Lunch and Learn Series:

The classes are short one-hour educational programs delivered by Master Gardeners or expert guests.

Topics vary from month to month based upon the latest research tips, requests from the community, and seasonal relevance.

Sessions are held at Noon at the Extension Office, on the second Saturday of each month. Classes are Free and open to the public.

Bring a sack lunch if you wish

**Up Coming Schedule:**

- April 12: The Joy of Gardening with Children
- May 10: Growing Beautiful Roses in East Tennessee

**WAYS TO JOIN LUNCH & LEARN**

**In Person** at the Extension Office 3074 Roane State Hwy Harriman, TN

**Virtually** using one of the following links: **Zoom:** [tiny.utk.edu/MGRCNLN](https://tiny.utk.edu/MGRCNLN) **Facebook:** [tiny.utk.edu/FacebookLive](https://tiny.utk.edu/FacebookLive) **YouTube:** [tiny.utk.edu/UTRoaneYouTube](https://tiny.utk.edu/UTRoaneYouTube)



Contact Us:  
Master Gardeners of Roane County  
Roane County Extension Office  
Email: [jessicawsmith@utk.edu](mailto:jessicawsmith@utk.edu)



UT Extension is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

Lunch and Learn 2025 Schedule	
Hosted by: The Master Gardeners of Roane County	
Master Gardeners of Roane County (MGRC) is a trained and dedicated volunteer network that expands the outreach of the Tennessee Master Gardener Program to serve the horticulture education needs of the Roane County community through civic organizations, schools, and local events.	
Date	Topic
**January 11, 2025**	Winter Workshop on Starting Seeds (Fee Based)
February 8, 2025	Vegetable Gardening
March 8, 2025	Getting Started with Landscape Design
April 12, 2025	The Joy of Gardening With Children
May 10, 2025	Growing Beautiful Roses in East Tennessee
June 14, 2025	The Art of Flower Arranging
July 12, 2025	Guided Tour of The MGRC Demonstration Gardens at Southwest Point
August 9, 2025	Invasive Plants
September 13, 2025	Getting Started With Water Gardens
October 11, 2025	Attracting Hummingbirds & Their Food Sources
November 8, 2025	At The Root Of It
December 13, 2025	Preparing Your Garden For Spring

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- Topics vary based on the latest research tips, requests from the community, and seasonal relevance
- Sessions are held at Noon at the Extension Office, on the second Saturday of each month
- Classes are Free and open to the public
- Bring a sack lunch if you wish

Join in person or virtually via Zoom with live Q&A or watch live via Facebook or YouTube

### Target Audience

The **Lunch and Learn Program** is designed to serve the diverse community of **Roane County**, welcoming individuals of **all ages and experience levels** who share an interest in gardening, sustainability, and horticulture. Whether you are a **beginner looking to start a home garden**, a **seasoned gardener seeking advanced techniques**, or a **community member eager to learn more about local ecosystems**, this program provides **accessible, research-based education** tailored to your needs. Families, students, professionals, and retirees alike are encouraged to join us **in person or virtually** to grow their knowledge, connect with experts, and cultivate a love for gardening in our community.

### Sponsors & Supporters

The **Lunch and Learn Program** is made possible through the dedicated support and collaboration of the **Master Gardeners of Roane County (MGRC)** and the **UT Extension Office of Roane County**. As an official extension program, MGRC volunteers work in partnership with **UT Extension** to provide **free, research-based horticultural education** to the local community. Their expertise, passion, and commitment ensure that every session delivers **high-quality, practical, and engaging learning experiences** for gardeners of all skill levels.

Additionally, the program is enriched by the generosity of **local artists and community sponsors**, who donate **handcrafted gifts and unique items** as tokens of appreciation for our guest speakers. These contributions not only support the program but also showcase the **talent and creativity** within our community.

Through these **strong partnerships**, the **Lunch and Learn Program** continues to **thrive, grow, and serve** as a valuable educational resource, fostering **lifelong learning, environmental stewardship, and community connection** in Roane County.

### Conclusion & Next Steps

The **Lunch and Learn Program**, has grown into a vital community resource, providing accessible, research-based horticulture education to individuals of all ages in **Roane County**. With strong engagement, high satisfaction ratings, and participant feedback highlighting the program's **relevance and effectiveness**, this initiative continues to foster learning, environmental stewardship, and community connection.

The program's **diverse educational methods**—including expert-led presentations, hands-on demonstrations, interactive Q&A sessions, and virtual accessibility—have proven successful in meeting the needs of both beginner and experienced gardeners. Popular sessions such as **Dehydrating Produce, Raised Bed Gardening, and Garden Tours** reflect a strong community interest in practical, sustainable gardening techniques. Feedback also indicates a demand for new topics like **Winter Sowing, Landscape Design, and Growing Grapes**, offering direction for future programming.

#### Next Steps for Program Growth and Enhancement

- 1. Expand Educational Offerings** – Incorporate new topics requested by participants, such as **Winter Sowing and Advanced Landscape Design**, to keep content fresh and engaging.
- 2. Enhance Hands-On Learning** – Increase the number of interactive workshops and demonstration-based sessions to further engage participants in experiential learning.
- 3. Strengthen Community Outreach** – Promote sessions to reach broader audiences, including younger gardeners and families, by leveraging social media and community partnerships.
- 4. Improve Virtual Accessibility** – Continue offering **Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube streaming**, while exploring additional digital resources such as **recorded tutorials and online materials**.
- 5. Gather Ongoing Feedback** – Conduct post-session surveys and follow-up interviews to ensure that future programs align with community needs and expectations.

By **building on 2024 successes and responding to evolving community interests**, the **Lunch and Learn Program** will continue to serve as a leading horticulture education initiative in Roane County, promoting sustainability, lifelong learning, and a passion for gardening across generations.