

March is Extension Month here in Tennessee

March is here which means spring isn't far behind. I don't know about you but warmer weather can't get here fast enough! I am looking forward to getting out into the yard and getting my hands dirty. I am sure that many of you feel the same. Before you get started in your garden, you should stop by the Shelby County Extension Office to see what programs and publications we have in place to help you.

So what is the University of Tennessee Extension? The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 established the Cooperative Extension Service that extended outreach programs through land-grant intuitions to educate local citizens about the advancements in agricultural practices. University of Tennessee Extension has an office in each of the 95 counties which brings educational programs and research-based information to the citizens of this great state. University of Tennessee Extension is an educational unit of the UT Institute of Agriculture.

Extension is all about education. Extension agents work with local government, community leaders, families and individuals to help improve the quality of life of the citizens within that county. Extension provides educational programs in agriculture, community economic development, nutrition, health, family money management, lawn and garden and youth development.

In the Shelby County Extension Office we have both UT and TSU (Tennessee State University) agents. In 1971, UT and TSU began doing cooperative Extension programming. The mission of TSU Cooperative Extension is to help educate and provide information to limited resource urban and rural individuals, families, small farmers and other groups. The mission of UT Extension is to bring research-based information about agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and resource development to the people of Tennessee where they live and work.

I love being an UT Extension agent here in Shelby County! Nothing gives me more satisfaction than being able to help someone with their lawn and garden issues. If you would like to see what we offer here at the Shelby County Extension Office, please go to our website (<http://extension.tennessee.edu/shelby/Pages/default.aspx>). You can contact us (901) 752-1207. We would be more than happy to help you!

Until next month, happy gardening.