

# Sign-up for Our Monthly Newsletter!



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Every day is Earth Day in a Smart Yard

As we celebrate **Earth Day** and **National Native Plant Month**, reflect on what motivates you in your stewardship. Whether it's planting native plants for wildlife or considering natural fertilizers, the effort of putting the **nine smart yard principles** into practice will return benefits of a more ecologically vibrant and resilient yard. This year's Earth Day theme is "Planet vs. Plastics," so consider how you might **reduce plastic waste in your yard**.

**Seasonal Highlights**  
(CLICK BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION)

Wildlife	Common Invasive	Native Alternative
 HUMMINGBIRD <i>Archilochus colubris</i>	 AMUR HONEYSUCKLE <i>Lonicera maackii</i>	 WITCH HAZEL <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>

Newsletters developed through Williamson County Extension, Franklin Downtown Neighborhood Association, and Nashville-Davidson County Metro Water Services. Banner photo: -Dagwood, Corvus Florida



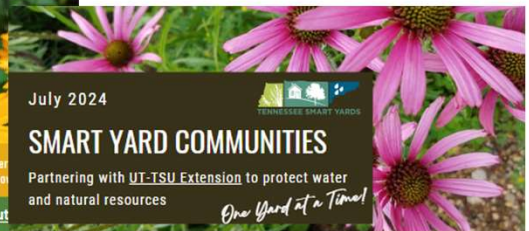
Maintenance and Management of Our Smart Yards

With the growing season in full swing, our smart yards are lush as summer approaches. With all this growth comes support for wildlife, protection of soil and water quality, and enjoyment of blooms and beauty, but also the need for maintenance. If you choose to hire a professional to work in your yard or community spaces, consider this **Hiring Checklist** to help you talk with a landscape professional about your goals and objectives for your Tennessee Smart Yard.

**Seasonal Highlights**  
(CLICK BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION)

Wildlife	Common Invasive	Native Alternative
 Fireflies / Lighting Bugs <i>Photinus pyralis</i>	 Mimosa Tree <i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	 Fringe Tree <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>

Newsletters developed through Williamson County Extension, Franklin Downtown Neighborhood Association, and Nashville-Davidson County Metro Water Services. Banner photo: -Mikael Bar Cornejo, Cornejo Artworks



Water Conservation in Your Smart Yard

While July can feel like a dry month as temperatures are on the rise, afternoon thunderstorms can produce intense downpours that generate runoff. With summer upon us, water management in the landscape is critical to having water when and where you need it. Some strategies include using rain barrels, growing drought tolerant plants, or building a rain garden to catch and soak in rainwater runoff.

**Seasonal Highlights**  
(CLICK BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION)

Wildlife	Common Invasive	Native Alternative
 Dragonfly <i>Odonata</i>	 Butterfly Bush <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	 Summersweet <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>

Newsletters developed through Williamson County Extension, Franklin Downtown Neighborhood Association, and Nashville-Davidson County Metro Water Services. Banner photo: -Tennessee Condover, Echinosia Tennesseeans



One Yard at a Time!

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### Intro

Smart Yards. Healthy Landscapes. Clean Water. A Tennessee Extension initiative to share resources and certify yards to protect Tennessee's water and natural resources

Page · Education

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Photos

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Tennessee Smart Yards

August 14 at 5:18 AM · 🌐

Have floppy flowers got you down? Many of the native perennials we love to use in our smart yards like this Blazing Star (*Liatris*) are prairie plants. These species have evolved overtime in native plant communities dominated by grasses and sedges, which provide support for summer and fall flowering forbs.

If your plants are experiencing the summer flop, then consider planting native grasses and sedges with them for support.

Check out our Native Plant Database for lists of... [See more](#)



One Yard at a Time!