

Guidelines for Master Gardeners of Wilson County Newsletter Submissions

Purpose: The newsletter supports the Tennessee Extension Master Garden Program in providing research-based, innovative and usable horticulture information to all Tennessee residents through a dedicated and skilled volunteer network.

1. Educational articles must be based on research from a reputable scientific or educational resource. The source must be clearly identified. Should any question about the validity of a source arise, the editorial staff will abide by the decision of the Wilson County Horticultural Extension Agent.
2. Feature articles may offer a gardeners' observations based on experience if clearly identified as observations and/or preferences of a particular subject. For example, a feature article about a Master Gardener who has grown sunflowers for many years may include her preferences for varieties and her observations about beneficial growing conditions.
3. Features highlighting individual Master Gardeners will reflect over time the diversity of the group's membership.
4. Articles where controversy exists should present available research on all sides of the controversy from legitimate sources. For example, an article about the butterfly bush (*Buddleia* spp) as a potential nectar source for pollinators would include information from proponents of planting butterfly bush and from native plant enthusiasts who object to the use of butterfly bush.
5. References to plants must include botanical names.
6. Articles should normally be no longer than 800 words. Brevity is encouraged. All articles are subject to editing for clarity, length, accuracy and style. The Associated Press style manual will be followed in editing with potential exceptions reflecting deliberate decisions by editing staff.
7. Articles that require greater length (for example, instructional articles or detailed explanation of research) will be broken into distinct parts via sidebars and other techniques or presented briefly with links to the full article.
8. Decisions to include or exclude articles from the newsletter will be made by the editorial staff in support of the newsletter's purpose. The newsletter editor will have the final say should agreement not be reached.