



INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

Extravaganza 2
Photographs

Dividing Perennials 3

Recipe of the Month 3

Did You Know 3

MGRC Officers 3

About Our Organization 4

LASANGA GARDENING

By Judy Cunningham

Fall is the perfect time of year to begin planning and planting a lasanga garden. Organic materials are a plenty this time of year and are also the main ingredient needed for this type of layered garden. First decide what you want to grow and select the garden site, based on the requirements of the plant or plants you chose. Will they require sun or shade, moist, wet or dry soil, will wind be a factor? Once the site is selected, gather the key ingredients. These consist of brown material (high-carbon based) and green material (high-nitrogen based). Most are available from home and garden waste, such as peelings and cores from vegetables and fruits, yard and garden waste (flower dead heads, twigs, leaves, grass clippings, weeds - preferably with no seeds). Initially, you'll have to buy some of the ingredients, such as peat moss (brown

material), manure (green material), bone meal to add



Judy Cunningham's lasanga gardening results

phosphorous for good root growth, blood meal for nitrogen. If a soil test is done and pH needs to be adjusted, you'll need lime (calcium) to raise pH of acid soil, or sulfur to lower pH of alkaline soil.

The total height of the layers should be 18" to 24" when finished. The first layer is always 3 sheets of newspaper or a single layer of cardboard soaked in water. Be sure to overlap this material, so that grass or weeds below cannot grow through. This will create a dark, moist environment that will easily attract earth-

worms, a gardener's BFF. The layers of organic matter will provide them a limitless buffet. Their waste (castings or poop) will be "Black Gold" a humus-rich soil amendment. Next layer will be 2" to 3" of peat moss, then 4" to 8" of a brown material, 2" to 3" peat moss, 4" to 8" green material, etc. Note the peat moss is used in between each layer of brown material and green material. Also, each layer is watered down, before the next layer is added. It's critical the garden is not left to dry out, keeping it moist must be a priority. Examples of brown material include: dried grass clippings, twigs, straw, pine fines (soil conditioner), stalks, hay, chopped/crumbled leaves. Examples of green material include: fresh grass clippings, coffee grounds, kitchen scraps, aged manure, worm castings.

(Continued on page 2)



Lasagna

(Continued from page 1)

Once layers reach 18” to 24”, you’re ready to plant. No tools are needed, just your hands! Pull apart the top layer and insert the plant. If you want to plant seeds, dust the top with peat moss, lay down seed and cover with fine layer of peat moss.

If the height of the lasagna garden is offensive, you can “cook” the garden. Cover it with black plastic, weighed down on the edges with bricks, and let

sit. After 6 weeks, remove the plastic and you’ll find a dark, crumbly material waiting for your plants. The only difference is you’ll need to use 4 times more brown material than green material, if you are going to cook it.

*Source: Lasagna Gardening,
author: Patricia Lanza*

More of Judy Cunningham’s lasagna gardening results



For additional Extravaganza photos, visit our website:
www.mastergardeners-rc.org



“If the height of the lasagna garden is offensive, you can “cook” the garden.”

DIVIDING PERENNIALS IN THE FALL

According to one PAllenSmith.com e-newsletter, Smith states the following plants should be divided only in the fall.

- **Astilbe**
- **Asiatic Lily**
- **Oriental Lily**
- **Lily-of-the-Valley**
- **Bleeding Heart**
- **Siberian Iris**

- **Japanese Iris**
- **Veronica**
- **Peony**

“Whether transplanting or dividing you should give the plants about 6 weeks before the first hard freeze occurs in your garden so they can be settled in to their new home and ready for winter.”

Peonies are quite persnickety about being moved, so you may

not have blooms the first year after transplanted. Be sure you have the “eyes” of the peony pointing to the sky and 1-2 inches deep, for if you don’t you probably will never see blooms. The standard root division is a piece of crown possessing three to five eyes with two or three maturing attendant roots. For detail information go to: www.americanpeonysociety.org.



Recipe of the Month

TOMATO PIE*
Jim & Patsy Heaberlin

- 1 9 in. deep dish pie crust cooked according to package instructions
- 6 8 oz. Tomatoes
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 2 cup Mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 3 cup Mayonnaise
- 4 bunch (sliced) Green Onions
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh Basil

Peel and cut tomatoes in 1/4 inch thick slices. Place tomatoes in colander & sprinkle with 1 tsp. Salt.



Preheat oven to 350°
Combine cheese & mayonnaise in bowl. Place drained tomatoes in the baked pie shell.
Sprinkle evenly with basil and green onions.
Spread the mayonnaise/cheese mixture over the top.
Bake 30-40 minutes, until cheeses are lightly browned.
Remove from oven, garnish lightly with fresh sliced basil if desired.
ENJOY!

**Note: From “Southern Lady” magazine; July/August 2006 issue*

MGRC OFFICERS 2009

President: Linda Goetz
 Vice President: Linda Lindquist
 Secretary: Judy Cunningham
 Treasurer: Emily Arnold
 Past President & Executive Board: Jack Smith

 Newsletter: Katherine Smith
 Website Coordinator: Bob Ellis

Did You Know

- **Phenology:** The scientific study of periodic biological phenomena, such as flowering, breeding, and migration, in relation to climatic conditions.
- The Japanese have been monitoring peak cherry tree bloom for 1,200 years.*
- Tracking the dates of

biological events began in pre-agricultural times. The earliest written records were by the Chinese in 974 B.C.*

**Leonard Perry, Extension Professor of Horticulture at the University of Vermont*

Have an unusual gardening fact? Send it to the Scoop Editor.



Master Gardeners of Rutherford County



UT/TSU Rutherford County Extension

Lane Agri-Park

315 John R. Rice Blvd.

Suite 101

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Phone: 615-898-7710

Fax: 615-898-7999

E-mail Newsletter Editor:

ksmith555@bellsouth.net

We're on the Web:

www.mastergardeners-rc.org

"The Scoop" is the official newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is published by email the first week of the month. Those members without email and who are not able to attend meetings may receive the newsletter by U.S. Postal mail. The deadline for articles, pictures, events, etc. to be included in the newsletter is due the fourth Friday of each month.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the Lane Agri-Park at 6:30 p.m., unless specified. Membership is \$25 for a single, or \$35 for a couple residing at the same address. All memberships are valid January through December and are pro-rated for new members only.

Memberships in the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County are open to those interested in learning, teaching, and volunteering for the purpose of educating the community in all phases of gardening.

Please note: Master Gardener Certification requires 40 hours of training plus 40 hours of volunteer service. Recertification requirements are 25 volunteer hours, plus 8 hours of continuing education per year. Attendance at meetings counts as 1.5 hours of continuing education and 1.5 hours of administration

Trade and brand names are used only for information. UT/TSU Extension does not guarantee nor warrant the standard of any product mentioned; neither does it imply approval of any product to the exclusion of others which also may be suitable.

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, county governments cooperating, UT Extension, and Tennessee State University provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.