

**AG NOTES**  
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**RESOURCES**

We have so many resources available. We have a huge bank of publications at our UT Extension website. These cover crops, lawns, residential horticulture, livestock, family consumer topics, you name it we've probably got it. I'll share some links here. You can write these down or send me an email and I'll share the active link.

First, the catalog is at <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Pages/default.aspx> This treasure has links to publications that are free. The first page will allow you to select by department, specific topic or by area of interest.

There is a link to the UT Institute of Agriculture's AgResearch publications database. This research is carried on in the labs and on the university's research farms located across the state.

This page will also provide a link to Tennessee State University publications. There is some good information found here.

I also use other universities to search for publications on research-based topics. I use only research-based information. And I prefer to use other universities in our area since we share climate, pests, production systems, livestock, plants, growing seasons, etc. We all cooperate on research and data and many publications are joint efforts.

Whether it's garden vegetables, field crops, weed control or livestock management, there is really good information available at no charge. For those who lack computer skills and equipment, I'll be glad to help get copies of desired publications for you. Contact me at 684-5971 or email me at [jteague1@utk.edu](mailto:jteague1@utk.edu) Our office is at 2105 Midland Road and we have some items available for pick-up.

**SOIL TESTING**

I've said it before, and I'll repeat. Take a soil sample, bring it by and we'll get it to the lab with information to help meet the nutrient requirements of your plantings. Whether it is a crop, a lawn or a garden, this will give you information to help your projects.

The samples are \$15 each and this will provide you with good information. We have the sample boxes and the information sheets. We send samples to the lab often, and we can get a copy of your results and help with the analysis.

Now is the time. Well, when the weather is better. But planting and growing season will be here before you know it. Spring is not that far off!

**SPRING**

Speaking of spring, I had a nice photo sent to me by Wayne Tucker from Flat Creek of a flowering plant that I thought I'd share. I've already had a buttercup picture with the typical yellow flower sent back in January. But this one is different.

Lenten rose (*Helleborus x hybridus*), a perennial belonging to the buttercup family, is not actually a rose. Its two-part common name refers to the plant's bloom season (around Lent) and the rose-like shape of its flower buds. It's valued for its early blooms of purple, red, yellow, green, blue, lavender, and pink, and its leathery evergreen foliage.



### **WISDOM**

I heard an inspirational speaker the other day. He made me think of what's really important. He said his greatest mentor was his father, a third-grade dropout who stayed home and helped on the farm in Texas.

His father was a cook, leaving home at 3:45 in the morning to work at a diner so he could support his children. His father taught himself to read, learned beyond his limits, set such an example of work ethic and kept telling his children to not stop at self-improvement, his sons became a judge and an award-winning college professor and journalist. That's powerful. Let nothing stand in your way to improve.

### **MORE WISDOM**

The Progressive Farmer's Cornerstones section features quotes on treasure. As I read them the word means different things to different people.

William Penn said "Knowledge is the treasure of a wise man." Walt Disney said "There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates loot on Treasure Island." Ralph Waldo Emerson said "Truth is the property of no individual but is the treasure of all men." Louisa May Alcott said "A faithful friend is a strong defense; and he that hath found him hath found a treasure."

So knowledge, books, truth and a friend are treasures. Here is one more, and a great one. Jackie Robinson, a national treasure himself, said "The most luxurious possession, the richest treasure anybody has, is his personal dignity."

