Greetings! It is hard to believe that Spring is here! With Spring, there are a couple of things that come to my mind… flowers and vegetables! Spring is here, and it is time to get outside and plant some beautiful flowers and delicious vegetables! The Tribal MSU Extension Office is here to help with all your garden questions, so if you have a question, just call and/or email me! I am here to offer as much assistance as I can to all tribal members!

The MSU Extension Service is here to meet the needs of all tribal members in all tribal communities. The MSU Extension Service provides educational, up to date information on an array of topics! If you have any questions or if you are inquiring about an activity, please fee free to contact me! My phone number is 601-656-9679 and my email is kdf132@msstate.edu.

Please enjoy some April highlights from the Tribal MSU Extension Office!
Chicks, Chicks, and more chicks!

Students at Tucker Early Childhood Development Center were able to see chicks hatch in their classroom during the Poultry Hatch out Program offered by the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

The students were able to see the chicks hatch, learn about the incubator, and take care of the chicks while they were in their classroom! There were all colors of chicks that hatched, and a great time was had by all!

The Poultry Hatch Out program, offered by the Mississippi State University Extension Service, allows for eggs to be set up in the classroom, and they will hatch within a few days in the classroom. For this program, everything is provided, and all the participants do is look forward to learning and waiting for chicks to hatch in their classroom!

A big thank you to Ms. Karla, Ms. Jackie, and Ms. Sheena for allowing the Tribal MSU Extension Service to come and do this program with your students!

If you are interested in implementing this program in your classroom, please call the Tribal MSU Extension Office at 601-656-9679 or email Ms. Kaiti Ford at kdf132@msstate.edu
Who knew The Real-World cost so much?? Students in the Agriculture Science classes got a glimpse of how much life cost by participating in “The Real-World Budget Simulation” offered by the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Students were given careers, and these students went through “stations” and had to budget according to their specific financial means. The students were able to learn the importance of budgeting and saving money!

A big thank you to Ms. Morrow and Ms. Tubby for allowing the Tribal MSU Extension Service for come and implement this program with the Agriculture Science students!
Stress Therapeutic Painting Class

Laughter and fun were had by employees of the Tribal Scholarship department during their staff development meeting in April! The participants were able to release some stress by painting abstract art and taking their masterpieces home with them! The participants were able to learn about the color emotion wheel and how stress affects diabetes and blood glucose levels.

A big thank you to Ms. Melinda Ben for allowing the MSU Extension Service to come and do this activity with you and your department!
Dr. Rebecca Melanson, MSU Plant Pathologist, came to speak to producers of the Choctaw Farmer’s Market. Dr. Melanson talked to producers regarding updates in disease management and answered any questions that producers had regarding disease management. Mr. Gilbert Thompson, Director of Natural Resources, also talked to producers about updates regarding the Choctaw Farmer’s Market. Mr. Jordan Taylor with WIC also provided contracts to producers.

A big thank you to Mr. Thompson, Mr. Taylor, Candy Jimmie, and Dr. Rebecca Melanson for making this meeting a success!

- Deadline for Choctaw Farmer’s Market Vendor Application is May 19! Please contact Ms. Candy Jimmie if you have any questions at 601-656-9679
May Planting Guide

TOMATOES
WATERMELON
SQUASH
PEANUTS
MUSKMELON
PEPPERS
SNAP BUSH BEANS
NEW ZEALAND SPINACH

PLANTING TIMES WILL VARY BY ZONES
May Landscape Tasks

Caring for your lawn can be a full-time job during the warmer months! (Photo by Canva Pro) May is here and you know what that means, it’s go time!

Gardening tasks are on the minds of many once this time of year rolls around. With warmer weather here to stay for a while, you’ll likely spend more time outside with friends and family. Get your yard ready for summer fun by checking off these landscape tasks for the month of May.

Crape myrtles are a favorite plant among southern states. They come in a variety of pink, purple, red, and white shades to add color to your yard. When purchasing your tree, you want to be sure to select the right size variety for your landscape. Get the full rundown on all things crape myrtles in Publication 2007, “Crapemyrtle – Flower of the South.”

Caring for your yard is a full-time job many homeowners take on during the summer. The first step to take before regularly mowing your lawn is fertilizing. Your lawn should be fertilized after it turns green and has been mowed twice. This is a crucial step for having a healthy lawn all summer! For other tips on how maintain a healthy lawn, check out Extension Publication 1322, “Establish and Manage Your Home Lawn.”

If you haven’t already, prune your spring flowering shrubs back. Do not take the pruning shears to the shrubs until the bloom period is complete! For many of us, the unseasonal cold snaps shortened the bloom time on many spring shrubs. Azaleas, spiraeas, camellias, and forsythia are all shrubs that need to be pruned to encourage growth for the following year. “Pruning Landscape Plants” is a handy information sheet to help you learn more about how to properly prune plants around your yard!

There’s nothing more fun than a Saturday morning visit to the garden store to purchase flowers for your yard! Summer annuals and perennials are a great way to add a pop of color to your landscape. If you don’t have designated flower beds, try container gardening! Add a few containers to your porch area for a nice way to spruce up the area! Don’t know what to plant? Extension Publication 1826, “Annual and Perennial Flowers for Mississippi Gardens,” offers suggestions that are made to thrive in Mississippi’s climate!

When buying flowers, don’t forget to pick up a few bags of mulch! Mulch is an important part of gardening as it helps regulate soil temperatures, control weeds, and holds moisture. A proper mulch job consists of 2 to 3 inches of mulch spread around the base of plants. With warmer weather comes many, many bugs. They’re a nuisance to people, but also harmful to the health of your plants. Gently and thoroughly inspect your plants for any pests that may cause harmful damage. Watch carefully for signs of garden pests and other plant diseases. You can learn more on how to identify and control pests by heading over to the gardening section of our website!

You’ll also need to be persistent in tending to weeds in your landscape beds. You don’t want weeds to overrun your flowerbeds, so be consistent in removing weeds. Learn more about controlling weeds in our weed management publication!
I do hope that you have enjoyed the April highlights! The MSU Extension Service is here to meet the needs of all tribal members in all tribal communities! The MSU Extension Service brings research-based, educational opportunities and activities to all tribal members!

If you have an idea, recommendation, or inquiry about a possible activity/event, please do not hesitate to contact me. My phone number is 601-656-9679 and my email is kdf132@msstate.edu.

God Bless and Hail State!

Kaitlyn Ford
Tribal MSU Extension Agent

Upcoming Events

Canva Workshop; Lunch and Learn; 11:30-1:00 (class is at capacity)

Social Media Basics; Etiquette and Outreach; Lunch and Learn; 11:30-1:30