

May Topics for Farmers' Markets are as follows:

1. Soil Sample kit distribution and explaining the importance of testing. There are two soil kits – one from Alabama Extension and one from a privately owned company called Powered by Soil Kit. The Soil Kit gives exact product recommendations (from their sponsors). Both use the Auburn University lab. As Master Gardeners, we do NOT make product recommendations.
2. Be a label reader of your growing medium: small stand up sign and 3 tubs containing potting mix, topsoil, and garden soil will be on hand. MG should discuss reading the labels on the bags, using a potting mix for raised bed or container gardens, and when to use the other growing mediums. (Recommend reading <https://www.yourindoorherbs.com/what-is-a-growing-medium-materials-photos/>)
3. Create your own butterfly garden in a small space: A planter with begonias, parsley, and dill and a small stand-up sign will be on hand. The QR code takes the user to an ACES article on Butterfly Gardens. Discussion on having a host plant (parsley and dill) for the caterpillars and nectar (begonias) to draw the butterflies. Purpose is to create habitat for butterflies. (Encourage those who don't have much space or want a planter on a porch or deck to use this idea.)
4. Can you name the herb? A small sign with the herb names and a planter with oregano, sage, parsley, rosemary, and basil will be on hand. Encourage growers to use planters if they have a small space and to place near their kitchen door. See if they can name the herbs. Then introduce the grower to the rest of all the herbs. (Another idea for those with limited space.)
5. Start a Garden brochures to distribute: Raised Bed Gardening ANR-1345, Container Gardening ANR-1139, Five Gallon Bucket Supply List ANR-2663, Raised Bed Supply List ANR-2664, and Garden Box Supply List ANR-2665. Only place 2-4 brochures on the table at a time to prevent "grabby" hands. Share the Grow More Give More resources on the ACES website via the QR code on the small sign. An additional QR sign is available for the lengthier The Alabama Vegetable Gardener ANR-0479. (Recommend that you familiarize yourself with all these brochures on the ACES website.)
6. Grow More Give More growing cards for Tomatoes, Okra, Green Beans, and Squash are available for distribution. Bushel baskets and Share Your Harvest cards will be on hand for donations. Small stand-up sign for display with Share Your Harvest card is available as well.
7. Helpline cards and Smart Yard brochures available for distribution.
8. Two large buckets with soil, fertilizer, and tomato starts; 1 small bucket with soil, fertilizer, and bean seeds – should be given away to new gardeners. These are provided by Extension.