

BY THE YARD

HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER



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Food and Environment
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This year it might be more accurate to say, “May showers bring June pollinators!” Last month we had warmer temperatures and higher precipitation than usual for central Kentucky. Be prepared because the NOAA has predicted June to be a wetter than an average year as well. This means potential increases in garden diseases! Be sure to prune away dead and dying branches with sanitized pruners. We'll also share some tips when submitting plant samples to our office for diagnosing plant diseases.

June is pollinator month! Let's not forget all the hard work that butterflies, bees, beetles and other insects do to pollinate the plants of the world. Did you know that birds, bats and even some lizards can be pollinators too?! We've included some plant varieties you might consider to help the pollinators this year.

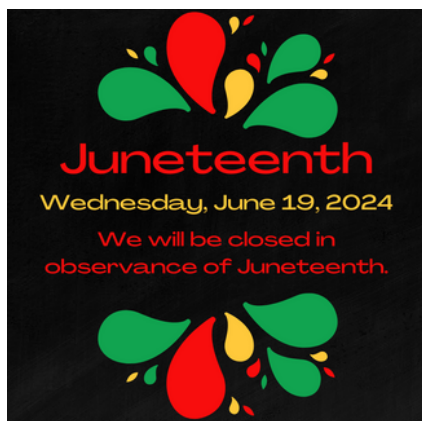
We would also like to share a big thank you to everyone who helped with and attended this year's Growing Community in May. It was a great success! So many families went home with knowledge, plants and seeds to start their own garden.

Lastly, we hope many of you will come see us at the Bluegrass Fair on June 8th and 9th for the Flower and Vegetable Show. Even better, submit your own harvests for a chance to win cash prizes and the highly sought blue ribbons!

In appreciation,

Reena Martin, Fayette County Horticulture Assistant
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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Master Gardener Volunteer Training Information

Are you interested in learning the science behind what makes plants grow and a garden successful? Do you have a desire to share knowledge and skills with various communities and nonprofit organizations? Does becoming a community ambassador bring excitement and purpose to your life? Then the Master Gardener volunteer training program might be right for you!

This program is an extensive curriculum-based training program that will provide you with the tools and expertise to further the mission of Cooperative Extension by educating and assisting local communities in their horticultural efforts. It will cover a wide range of topics in approximately 11 weeks of classroom instruction. As program providers, we pride ourselves on presenting factual, research-based recommendations suitable to Central Kentucky, and we encourage participants to improve the quality of their home and community environments by using this information.

With completion of the course, participants become certified master gardeners after fulfilling 40 hours of volunteer service split between external nonprofit organizations and internal master gardener initiatives. The program will be held at the Fayette County Extension Office (1140 Harry Sykes Way).

We offer the program beginning in September of alternating years. The level of interest in our program far exceeds the number of seats available in each class. We will interview all candidates to identify those with the most interest in long-term volunteer commitments with Cooperative Extension.

Classes will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon for roughly 11 weeks beginning after Labor Day. In addition to class attendance, students are required to complete a homework assignment and quiz for each class session. Students will also prepare and submit insect and tree collections outside of class time. Students are allowed 2 absences from class, regardless of circumstances, and the third absence equates to dismissal from the program.

After the classroom portion, students are required to pass a comprehensive final exam with a minimum score of 70%. Students who successfully pass the classroom portion become apprentice Extension Master Gardeners for the following year while they complete 40 hours of volunteer service in assigned activities. After completing the 40-hour volunteer requirement, apprentices become fully certified Extension Master Gardener volunteers by the end of 2025. After the initial apprentice year, volunteers remain certified by volunteering a minimum of 20 hours and earning 10 Continuing Education Units (CEU) per year.

The cost of the Fayette County Extension Master Gardener training program is \$150.00 which includes textbooks and other materials. We do offer partial and full scholarships to the program in exchange for additional volunteer time. A full scholarship will require 80 hours of volunteer time throughout the following year. A partial scholarship requires 60 hours of volunteer time. Class fees are non-refundable if a student withdraws or is dismissed from the program.

Since our greatest need for volunteers coincides with our office hours, we do not offer this program as an evening or weekend class. If you feel up to the challenge and would like to join the ranks of our highly skilled volunteers, please consider applying for the 2024 Extension Master Gardener Program.

Complete the paperwork and mail or drop it off at the front office of the Fayette County Extension Office.

Deadline to apply is: July 1, 2024



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

KENTUCKY MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



Please answer each question thoroughly and thoughtfully. It is our objective to offer a quality program to committed, interested individuals. PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____
(FIRST) (LAST)

ADDRESS: _____
(STREET) (CITY) (ZIP)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CHECK IT OFTEN? Y or N

PHONE: Cell: _____ Best time to call: _____ a.m./p.m.

OCCUPATION: (CURRENT AND/OR PREVIOUS)

Indicate highest educational level you attained:

High School _____ Graduate School _____
Undergraduate School _____ List advanced degree _____

Do you have any special needs? If yes, please describe:

What is your interest or experience in horticulture (gardening)?

Why are you interested in becoming a volunteer?

Have you done volunteer work before? ____ Yes ____ No ____
If yes, when and what type:

Are you able to attend all 8-14 class sessions with only one excused absence? **YES NO**

Would you be available for tours, demonstrations, or volunteering on the weekends?

Yes ___ No___ If yes, when? Saturday: A.M. or P.M. (circle one)

In a few words, please state why you would like to become a Kentucky Master Gardener and any other relevant skills you might have.

I wish to become a University of Kentucky Master Gardener and agree to attend the training program. I understand that after attending all the training classes, I will participate in a forty (40) hours internship to the Cooperative Extension Service to be completed in the following 12 months. I also agree to honor the Master Gardener title and use it only in reference to Extension programs and activities and not for personal gain.

Signature _____ Date _____

Return Application to:
**Master Gardener Application
Fayette County Extension Service
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504**

Consider the pollinators

When one third of the food we eat exists because of pollinators, we need to make sure we are doing all we can to protect them. It's not just honeybees to think about. There are vast numbers of native bees, beetles, flies, wasps and butterflies that need attention too. Here are some things to consider in your own lawn and garden that can go a long way in increasing pollinator biodiversity.

- Add flowering plants that will increase nectar and pollen sources for pollinators.
 - * Group the same plant species in at least 3 ft. masses to make the flowers easier for insects to find.
 - * Different flower shapes and colors attract different pollinators.
 - * Plant flowers that bloom throughout the growing season, from spring to late fall.
- Keep the weeds! Or even just a few. Wild strawberry, dandelion, henbit, purple dead nettle, violet and clover all provide needed food sources to pollinators when other plants aren't flowering.
- Go native! Some great native options include milkweed, coneflower, black-eyed Susan, cardinal flower, bee balm, Virginia bluebells, maypop (passionflower) and trumpet honeysuckle.



Bumblebee & Bee Balm, Reena Martin.

Top 10 Tips for Container Gardens

1. Seasonality. You want to make sure the plants are blooming around the same time.
2. Light requirements. Making sure they are all full sun or all partial shade is best.
3. Size of your container. The container should be large enough to hold each plant's final size.
4. Container color. Avoid darker colors as they can get too warm in the summer.
5. Drainage. Drainage holes on the side near the bottom of the container may work better than directly on the bottom.
6. Soil type. Choose soil that is intended for containers. It allows for better drainage.
7. More water. Sometimes a lot more. Mulch can help with this.
8. Avoid too much sun and wind. Keep your containers lifted off concrete and grouped together. Be sure your container isn't top heavy. Excessive wind can blow containers over.
9. Extra fertilizer. Water and fertilizer can drain through the container rather quickly. It's best to fertilize with a water-soluble plant food every 2-4 weeks.
10. Plant in final location. A filled container can be heavy.



Purslane, Hibiscus, Blue Plumbago & Black Pearl Pepper, Jamie Dockery.

The Japanese Beetle



Japanese Beetle Life Cycle Calendar.
ENTFACT-451

Now Japanese beetles are not of the pollinating variety and can be a headache to many as both the grubs and adult beetles can cause extensive damage to lawns and gardens. The larvae will feed on the roots of grasses during the spring. Grub damage appears similar to drought and can spread as the larvae continue to grow.

Then when adults emerge in early summer, they can ravage the leaves of nearly 300 different plant species. This is when females will lay 40-60 eggs underground to start the process once again.

Preventive control for grubs works best and is ideally applied in June. All white grub prevention products require irrigation following the application in order to reach the rootzone where grubs will feed.

Source: UK Entomology Fact Sheet 451; D.A. Potter, M.F. Potter, L.H. Townsend

So you want to submit a sample...



The border of a dying patch of grass tells is best when submitting samples for diagnosis.

It's happened. Your beloved plant is now spotted, wilted or just generally has an ick. We would love to help figure out what's wrong! It would be best to submit samples that show all stages of the problem along with any healthy plant portions. This could mean submitting an entire plant (roots included) or several large branches of a tree or shrub. If submitting an entire plant, be sure to carefully dig it up without pulling or tugging the roots. Bag or wrap the root ball in a plastic bag. If grown in a container, you can submit the entire container, if that would be easier for you. We will not be able to return the container once submitted. For lawn or grass samples, carefully dig up the entire sod with roots included. Try to include a "border" portion of the problem – partially living and partially dying or dead turf (see image on left). To submit tree or shrub samples, follow dead or affected branches back until live tissue is found and cut 4-6 inches into living portion. Include any deformed portions (cankers) if possible. Then simply bring to the extension office during working hours to submit and fill out the corresponding forms.

Source: UK Plant Pathology Fact Sheet 09; J.W. Beale, B.S. Kennedy, S.J. Long, N.W. Gauthier

What to Plant Now?

Earliest Safe Planting Date*	Planting Method	Vegetables
JUNE 8	Start seeds outdoors	Sweet corn
JUNE 8	Move transplants to garden	Sweet potato
JUNE 22	Start seeds outdoors	Sweet corn, late potatoes, summer squash, bush beans, lettuce, parsnips, beets, carrots

*Dates are approximate for the Central Kentucky region

Upcoming Events

Look out for these events happening at the Extension Office and across Lexington. Several of these require registration. Be sure to look them up ahead of time!

- June 6 – Arboretum Naturalist Series: Weird & Rare Plants
- June 8 & 9 – Bluegrass Fair Flower & Vegetable Show
- June 13 – Butterfly ID for Beginners at Raven Run Nature Sanctuary
- June 13 – UK Forestry Woodland Health Webinar
- June 15 – KY River Clean Sweep at Kelley's Landing Park
- June 15 – Junior Naturalist: Pollinator Pals at McConnell Springs
- June 17-23 – Pollinator Week!
- June 18 – Gardener's Toolbox: Favorite Natives for Pollinators
- June 19 – Juneteenth (Office Closed)
- June 20 – Plant Walk at McConnell Springs
- June 20 – UK Forestry Carbon, Climate Change & Woodlands Webinar
- June 29 – Junior Explorers: Creek Critters at Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

June Quick Tips

- Prune evergreens now through late August.
- Mound soil around potato plants to improve quality.
- Thin fruits on fruit trees when they reach the size of a dime. Leave one fruit for every 6-8" of branch.
- Mow grass at three inches for a healthier lawn. Leave clippings on lawn for a natural source of fertilizer.
- Use chemical controls as a last resort. Patrol plants regularly for insects and hand pick before populations explode. If you must resort to chemicals avoid spraying during the heat of the day and ALWAYS read and follow label directions.
- Remove flower buds from culinary herbs to keep them growing and productive.
- Mulch plants for the summer. It will conserve moisture in hot weather and prevent weeds from growing.
- Keep gardens and beds well weeded. Weeds compete for light and nutrients, reducing yields. By preventing weeds from setting seed you will lessen weed problems in future years.
- Pinch chrysanthemums back every few weeks until mid-July. This will promote fuller bushier plants that are less likely to fall over when in bloom.
- Start planning your fall vegetable plantings now. Many cool season crops like lettuce, peas, and cole crops will be finished from the spring planting and can be planted again in late July and August for a fall crop
- Register and pay online for Gardener's Toolbox Classes: <https://fayette.ca.uky.edu/classregistration>

Recipe of the Month



Cabbage Noodle Casserole

5 strips turkey bacon	1 teaspoon salt	3 cups whole grain egg noodles, cooked
1 tablespoon vegetable oil	½ teaspoon pepper	1 cup reduced-fat sour cream
2 teaspoons sugar	6 cups cabbage, chopped into 1 inch pieces	1 teaspoon paprika

1. In a large skillet, **cook** bacon until crisp. **Remove** and set aside.
2. **Add** oil, sugar, salt and pepper to the skillet with the bacon drippings. **Add** chopped cabbage and stir until coated. **Cover** and **cook** 7-10 minutes.
3. **Crumble** bacon and **add** to cabbage. **Stir** in noodles.
4. **Spoon** into a greased 2-quart casserole dish; **cover** and bake at 325° F for 30 minutes.
5. **Remove** from oven. **Spread** sour cream over the top and **sprinkle** with paprika.
6. **Bake** 5 minutes.

Yield: 6, 1 cup servings.
Nutritional Analysis: 260 calories, 12 g fat, 4.5 g sat. fat, 40 mg cholesterol, 720 mg sodium, 30 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 10 g protein.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.



Plate it up!

For More Plate It Up Recipes, Visit: <http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/plate-it-kentucky-proud>