



2025 Gardener's Toolbox Classes

Happy New Year, Gardening Friends!

A new year is always filled with so much excitement and possibility! The days are growing longer, and while we still have a couple of winter months ahead, it's the perfect time to dream about the warm, sunny days and gardening adventures that await. I know how challenging these final weeks of winter can be, but this quiet season offers the perfect opportunity to plan new projects and choose the crops that will thrive in the year ahead.

I hope your resolutions include making more time for the amazing benefits of gardening. Not only can growing your own vegetables help you eat healthier, but the physical activity it provides is great for your body and mind. And don't forget the incredible mental health benefits—gardening has been shown to reduce stress, boost coping skills, and even increase longevity. Simply caring for a houseplant can make a difference! If space or time is limited, spending time in nature—whether at a local park or nature sanctuary—offers similar wellness benefits. Trust me, a walk in nature can work wonders for your mood and spirit!

We're thrilled to share this year's lineup of gardening topics! With budgets tighter for many, we've made most of our classes FREE so that everyone has the chance to attend. Seats are limited, so be sure to reserve your spot early! Winter is the perfect time to dive into something new—whether it's learning about a new plant or exploring a fresh gardening technique. The best part of gardening is experimenting and discovering, so let's make this year one of growth, learning, and fun!

As always, we're here to help. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out by phone or email. We're just a message away.

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Early Lawn Weeds - The Battle Starts Now ~ Tuesday, January 21st at 6:00pm: Early lawn weeds can be frustrating for homeowners. However, they do provide some important benefits to pollinators after a long winter. If you choose to use herbicides, these winter annuals need to be controlled before they are noticeable. We will discuss lifecycles and herbicide management techniques to head them off before they flower and seed. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

The Challenges of Growing Tree Fruit in Kentucky ~ Thursday, January 30th at 6:00pm: We all dream of bountiful backyard fruit trees, but they often require far more management than homeowners are prepared for. We will discuss the steps required to grow quality fruit at home so you can make an informed decision before planting. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Growing Vegetable Transplants at Home ~ Thursday, February 6th at 6:00pm: Growing quality transplants indoors can be challenging but is not impossible. We will share tips to help you succeed. We will also discuss alternate methods of starting plants for your consideration. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Tips for Gardening in Small Spaces ~ Thursday, February 20th at 6:00pm: Not everyone has a patch of ground suitable for a vegetable garden. We will discuss ways you can grow veggies in small or limited spaces. We will cover containers, dwarf vegetable varieties, watering tips, etc. We will provide seeds to try at home. *Must attend the class to receive the seeds*, which will be distributed at the end of class. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Growing Great Zinnias ~ Tuesday, March 11th at 6:00pm: The wildly popular zinnia is a favorite no brainer but often succumbs to disease problems. We will introduce you to improved varieties that will have friends and neighbors drooling. You will be amazed at the bloom size, disease resistance and super bright colors. You will take home seeds of a few fun varieties. **Cost: \$10.00**

The Early Season Vegetable Garden ~ Thursday, March 20th at 6:00pm: There are many great reasons to grow some of your own food. We will teach the very basic concepts of growing vegetables. This class will also focus on the early spring crops that can be planted and harvested before the main spring planting window. It is far easier than you might think. Participants will receive a copy of our vegetable growing guide and a packet of seeds. *Must attend the class to receive the vegetable growing guide and the packet of seeds.* **Cost: Free, but must register in advance through the Fayette County Extension Office. Seating is limited.**

*****PLEASE NOTE: This class will be meeting at SOUTHERN STATES, 2570 PALUMBO DRIVE, LEXINGTON. However, you must contact the Fayette County Extension Office to register.*****

Benefits of Pruning Perennials ~ Thursday, April 3rd at 6:00pm: Everyone is familiar with pinching mums to produce fuller, bushier plants that do not flop. Similar techniques can be utilized with many flowering perennials to control height, stagger flowering and delay bloom time. We will discuss benefits and the plants best suited to this technique. Learn the advantages of dead heading and time saving approaches. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Native Shrubs for Kentucky Landscapes ~ Tuesday, April 15th at 6:00pm: There is great interest in native landscapes but little knowledge of the plants suitable for these applications. We will explore native shrubs suitable for landscape use and discuss growing requirements. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

SAVE THE DATE: Growing Community Vegetable Gardening Event ~ Saturday, May 3rd. One of our most popular events. More details on this event will be in the April 2025 By the Yard Newsletter. **Cost is Free. Pre-registration is NOT required for this event.**

Tomatoes ~ Tuesday, May 6th at 6:00pm: A whole class about everyone's favorite summer vegetable. We will discuss techniques for growing great tomatoes and how to avoid common pitfalls. There will be an emphasis on disease prevention. We will provide each class member with a tomato plant to grow at home. *You must register and attend the class to receive the plant*, which will be distributed at the end of class. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Growing Sweet Potatoes ~ Tuesday, May 13th at 6:00pm: Sweet potatoes rarely make it into the home garden. Understandable, as they take up lots of room, but unfortunate as they are very easily grown and very nutritious. These tasty and versatile vegetables have few pests. Come learn how simple it is. We will provide plants you can grow at home. **Cost: \$10.00**

Managing Lawn Weeds ~ Tuesday, June 3th at 6:00pm: There are many types of weeds and controlling them begins with an understanding of their life cycle. We will cover annual and winter annual weeds and their management as well as their perennial cousins. Control strategies will include chemical and sustainable (very limited) approaches. We will also discuss some of the benefits a weedy lawn can provide should you prefer a more natural approach. You should leave with the knowledge to gain the upper hand in your weed battles (you still need to provide the effort and motivation). **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Favorite Native Plants for Pollinators ~ Tuesday, June 17th at 6:00pm: In this session we will discuss some of the better native flower choices for gardens. Planting natives for pollinators is quite popular and a great step toward protecting these valuable resources. Every great pollinator plant is not necessarily a well-behaved landscape choice. We will steer you to some pollinator favorites that also are great for gardeners. Take home a nice plant for your pollinator garden. **Cost: \$15.00**

Growing Perennials from Seed ~ Tuesday, July 8th at 6:00pm: Many lovely perennials are easily grown from seed. This can be an economical way to obtain new plants. We will discuss several options for starting these seeds including direct seeding. Participants will receive a packet of an easily grown variety to try at home. *Must attend the class to receive the seed packet*, which will be distributed at the end of class. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Best Crops for the Fall Vegetable Garden ~ Tuesday, July 22th at 6:00pm: Kentucky gardeners have three distinct growing seasons for vegetables. We can repeat many of the spring crops and often with much better results with cooler temperatures. You can also extend harvest into late fall and early winter. If you have struggled to grow broccoli, cauliflower or other cool-season varieties you will be amazed with your fall crops. We will provide seeds for you to plant at home. *Must attend the class to receive the seed packet*, which will be distributed at the end of class. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Low Maintenance Lawn Care ~ Tuesday, August 5th at 6:00pm: Homeowners are looking for more sustainable approaches to traditional lawn care. We will cover the basics of caring for a lawn with an emphasis on lower input and sustainable methods. Learn why late summer is the best time to seed and why common fertilization practices are often not the best approach. We will also discuss alternatives to grass monocultures. This is always popular so sign up early. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Dividing Perennials ~ Thursday, August 14th at 6:00pm: In this class we will cover the basics of dividing perennials. You will learn when to divide what, the best tools for the job, and some tips to make things go smoothly. Division breathes new life into old perennial clumps and will often increase bloom and flower size in subsequent years. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Honeysuckle, Pears, and Wintercreeper - Techniques for Managing Invasives ~

Thursday, August 28th at 6:00pm: Non-native invasive plants are consuming our woodlands and farms. They have many negative impacts on native species. We will discuss the problem and management techniques to help you get the upper hand. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Harvesting and Drying Herbs ~ Thursday, September 11th at 6:00pm: Culinary herbs are easily grown but often result in an abundance of herbs in late summer. These can be dried easily and stored for future use. We will discuss various methods of preserving your herbs to use for winter meals. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Create a Garden Space for Mental Health ~ Tuesday, September 30th at 6:00pm: Gardening has numerous health benefits. The physical and nutritional connections are obvious, but research indicates there are also benefits for our mental well-being. We will discuss ways to elevate mood and decrease stress through gardening or simply being in calming natural spaces. We will provide tips to intentionally devote a garden spot to better mental health through gardening. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Native Trees for Kentucky Landscapes ~ Thursday, October 9th at 6:00pm: Fall is a great time to plant trees and homeowners are increasingly aware of the benefits of native plants. We will discuss numerous native species, emphasize which are well suited to our local soils and conditions, and provide tips for matching plants to site conditions. This will be useful information for anyone considering tree planting. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Composting Methods ~ Thursday, October 23th at 6:00pm: There are numerous ways to make compost at home. High maintenance, thermophilic approaches can be complicated but even simple loose piles will result in compost over time. We will discuss the options including some less intensive methods for dealing with yard and kitchen waste. **Cost: Free - Advance registration required to attend.**

Epiphytic Plants to Consider ~ Tuesday, November 18th at 6:00pm: Epiphytes are unique plants that grow attached to trees or other surfaces and receive limited water and nutrients. Most folks are familiar with Christmas and orchid cacti, which belong to this group, but there are also many ferns, orchids and succulents. There are countless species that grow in this manner and their nature often makes them very forgiving houseplants. We will discuss epiphyte culture and introduce you to many great options to consider for your plant collection. You will receive a plant to grow at home.
Cost: \$20.00

Holiday Greens from the Garden ~ Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00pm: You can create beautiful holiday wreaths, garlands, swags and centerpieces using materials from your own yard. We will demonstrate several items and give them away as door prizes. Must be present to win.
Cost: \$10.00

~ MUST register in advance for **ALL CLASSES**, including the "Free" ones.

~ If there is a fee for the class, the fee must be paid at the time of registration or within 14 days to hold your seat. If the class fee is not paid within 14 days, registration for the class will be cancelled.

Winter Weather Policy:

In case of inclement weather, please call the Fayette County Extension Office at (859) 257-5582 (before 4:30pm), to verify if the class will be held.



2025 GARDENER'S TOOLBOX - REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

TOTAL Amount Enclosed \$ _____

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

- **Must register in advance for ALL classes, including the “Free” ones.**
- *Sign up early for classes to avoid being turned away because a class is full. All classes have capacities.*
- If there is a fee for the class, it must be paid at the time of registration or within 14 days. If the class fee is not paid within 14 days, registration for the class will be cancelled.
- If **you** need to cancel your registration for a class, you must do so two weeks prior to the class to receive a refund. Please email or call the Fayette County Extension Office to cancel.
- Plant/seeds distributed at “Free” classes will only be available at the class.
- Plant/seeds distributed as part of paid classes *must* be picked up at the Fayette County Extension Office by 3:00pm on Friday of the week the class is held, *unless otherwise stated in the description*. Any plant/seeds not picked up will be donated, no exceptions! (Plant/seeds are distributed at the end of the class.)
- To register and pay online, go to <https://ukyfayette.pacecommunity.net>
- To mail in your registration and payment, complete this form and return it with your payment.

Make check payable to: Fayette County Horticulture Program

Mail check/money order & completed registration form to:

*Gardener's Toolbox ~ Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way ~ Lexington, KY 40504*

For more information, please email (fayette.ext@uky.edu) or call (859 257-5582) the Office.

~ 2025 GARDENER'S TOOLBOX CLASSES ~

Classes begin at 6:00pm and are held at the Fayette County Extension Office, 1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY, *except where noted**.

✓	Class and Time	✓	Class and Time
	Tuesday, January 21 st : <i>Early Lawn Weeds - The Battle Starts Now.</i> Cost: Free		Thursday, January 30 th : <i>The Challenges of Growing Tree Fruit in Kentucky.</i> Cost: Free
	Thursday, February 6 th : <i>Growing Vegetable Transplants at Home.</i> Cost: Free		Thursday, February 20 th : <i>Tips for Gardening in Small Spaces.</i> Cost: Free
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IMPORTANT!!

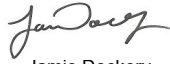
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Cooperative Extension Service

Fayette County Cooperative Extension
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504-1383

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Jamie Dockery
County Extension Agent for Horticulture

Cooperative Extension Service
Fayette County Extension Service
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504
(859) 257-5582



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with prior notification.

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES
COOPERATING



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