



 Cooperative  
Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service  
Fayette County Extension  
1140 Harry Sykes Way  
Lexington, KY 40504-1383  
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Email: [fayette.ext@uky.edu](mailto:fayette.ext@uky.edu)  
<http://fayette.ca.uky.edu/>

## 2024 Gardener's Toolbox Classes

New Year Greetings Gardening Friends,

The last months of winter are difficult for gardeners. There is little daylight, and we all need a little boost. Fortunately, this coincides with the arrival of seed and plant catalogs to keep us entertained and dreaming while we wait for spring. I hope my list of Toolbox classes lands in this stack to be considered in your planning. There are always new varieties of seeds and plants to try. I will spend many evenings with these catalogs and a warm beverage. I reflect on last year's shortcomings and vow I will do a better job gardening in the new year. My future gardens are always going to be perfectly weeded with every new arrival planted in a timely manner. I am dreaming, so please don't follow up in August when my best laid plans fall by the wayside. Life happens, but even when I fall short of my winter goals, every minute spent in the garden is precious.

We are looking forward to another year of Toolbox classes and I want to thank you for taking the time to fill out last year's survey. The information you provided was extremely helpful in planning this year's topics. We are offering more free classes and have strived to reduce the cost of others. Many of our free classes will include seeds or items to plant for class attendees. The most requested topics were vegetable gardening, flowers, and native plants. We have made sure there are classes for each and many other topics as well. I look forward to seeing you in these classes. If you have friends who do not receive our newsletter, please share our class list with them. We love to meet new gardening friends. Please join us for these fun and casual conversations.

Thank you,

**Jamie Dockery**

Fayette County Extension Agent for Horticulture

[jamie.dockery@uky.edu](mailto:jamie.dockery@uky.edu)

(859) 257-5582

Cooperative  
Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

**Raised Bed Gardening ~ Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** There are many advantages to gardening in raised beds, but some challenges as well. We will discuss various types of raised beds and share some tips to help gardeners succeed with them. From simple earth mounds to constructing your own, we will help you navigate all the decisions. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**Growing Herbs ~ Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** Seeding, planting, early care, and use of herbs. Learn about perennial, annual, and biennial herbs, when to plant seeds, and which herbs are better as transplants. We will share many tips along the way. We will provide a seed packet to grow at home. Must attend the class to receive the seed packet, which will be distributed at the end of class. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**Easy Cut Flowers from Seed ~ Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** We will discuss great cut flowers that can be seeded directly into the garden. There are several easily grown plants that can provide bouquets over a long season. Zinnias, Larkspur, Gloriosa Daisies, Cockscomb, etc. If you can spare some garden space or have sunny spots in your landscape, you can grow flowers. Discussion will include management tips to ensure your success. We will provide seeds for you to try! **Cost: \$10.00.**

**Straw Bale Gardening ~ Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** We receive many calls about gardening in challenging locations. Straw bales can be used to grow many crops without soil or containers. We will teach this method from start to finish, detailing how to pre-condition bales before planting. After a season's use, rotting straw can be used for compost. A much easier, though temporary, alternative to raised beds. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**The Humble Potato ~ Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** Many home vegetable gardeners dismiss the potato from their list of crops citing their inexpensive availability and space requirements. As many of you know, home grown produce is unequalled by supermarket fare. The potato is an ancient and wildly diverse plant. We will discuss varieties, growing requirements, space saving growing techniques and each class participant will receive a small bag of seed potatoes to grow at home. Must attend the class to receive the seed potatoes, which will be distributed at the end of class. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**Native Trees to Consider ~ Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** A brief introduction to some of our more popular native trees. Selecting a tree that has potential to outlive us is a daunting task. There are so many options. We will discuss the importance of matching plants to site conditions and what conditions various species prefer. Selecting the proper plant for your site can minimize plant stress and lessen insect and disease problems. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**Vines to Consider ~ Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** There are often areas in the home landscape where a vine is desired. Many of the readily available options are invasive or simply too large for small spaces. We will discuss many options including a few that are less likely to become problems. From woody vines to seed grown annuals this will serve as introduction to growing them. You will take home a small plant for your garden. **Cost: \$15.00**

**Vegetable Gardening Basics ~ Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 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. It is far easier than you might think. Those who attend the class will receive a copy of our vegetable growing guide and something to plant at home. **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, please contact the Fayette County Extension Office to register. \*\*

**Growing Community Vegetable Gardening Event ~ Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**: One of our most popular events. SAVE THE DATE and watch for details on this day time event in our April 2024 By the Yard Newsletter. **Cost: Free, advance registration is NOT required.**

**Growing Great Tomatoes ~ Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Each class member will take home a couple varieties for their home garden. You must attend the class to receive the plants, which will be distributed at the end of class. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**Sunflowers ~ Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**: Sunflowers are a must have in the summer garden. Most everyone has grown a packet of seeds or two. You may not be aware of the wide variety of colors and size options. There are varieties ranging from 24" to 15 feet in height. Cut flower enthusiasts will be happy to hear there are also pollenless varieties that are less messy indoors. They can also offer benefits to birds, pollinators, and other wildlife. We will provide sampler packets of several newer options. **Cost: \$15.00**

**Growing Cucumbers, Pumpkins, and Squash ~ Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**: These vining crops can be productive options for home gardens but have some growing challenges. We will discuss their culture, common insect and disease problems, and share tips to help you be more successful with these popular vegetables. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**Favorite Natives for Pollinators ~ Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 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 small plant for your pollinator garden. You must attend the class to receive the plant, which will be distributed at the end of class. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**Growing Fall Vegetables ~ Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm**: Many people enthusiastically plant in the spring but miss the opportunity to maximize their harvest with succession planting. We will cover which crops are best suited to fall production and the pitfalls of summer planting. Many crops actually perform better as a fall crop than in spring. We will provide a seed packet for a small planting. Must attend the class to receive the seed packet, which will be distributed at the end of class. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**Non-Stop Perennials ~ Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**: There are many wonderful perennial plants for gardens. Most are easily grown and return for years but the majority bloom for only 2-3 weeks. There are some varieties that have extended bloom periods that can last several weeks or even months. We will discuss varieties known for their exceptionally long bloom times. You will take home a plant to grow in your own garden. **Cost: \$15.00**

**Low Input Lawn Care ~ Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**: You can have a nice lawn without excessive applications of fertilizers and chemical pest controls. We will discuss alternatives to traditional lawn care strategies. The emphasis will be working with nature and understanding the biology of cool season lawn grasses. **Cost: Free, but you must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

**Perennials for Late Season Color ~ Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm**: Color in the perennial garden tends to nosedive around August 1<sup>st</sup>. Your garden doesn't have to be drab into the fall. There is a whole world beyond sedum and mums. We will also discuss the role grasses, shrubs and textures can play during the dog days of summer. Take home small plants to grow at home.

**Cost: \$15.00**

**Perennials for Shade ~ Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**: Shade can certainly limit our options when gardening. We will cover numerous perennials for shady spots. Most will require some degree of moisture but shade doesn't have to limit gardeners excessively. We will share mulching and watering tips to help keep things looking their best. From Hosta and ferns to flowering plants, we hope to expand your list of options. We will provide a small plant to try in your garden.

**Cost: \$15.00**

**Growing Garlic ~ Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm**: Most people would agree that fresh garlic is indispensable in the kitchen but very few gardeners grow their own. There are many different varieties gardeners can choose from. We will discuss how to grow this easy, fall planted crop including how to harvest and store. Attendees will take home seed stock to plant in their own gardens. **Cost: \$10.00**

**Daffodils ~ Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**: Everyone loves the sight of the cheerful spring daffodils with their promise of warmer days to come. We all know the large yellow trumpet varieties but there are 13 divisions of these amazing bulbs including miniatures, doubles, small cupped, split-cupped, etc. We will explore the genus with tips for planting and naturalizing. Each class member will take home a sampler of lesser known daffodil bulbs for their own garden. We will include a generous assortment. **Cost: \$20.00**

**Growing Amaryllis ~ Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**: Amaryllis are popular holiday plants and make wonderful gifts. They are extremely easy to bring into bloom and often last several weeks. We will discuss the plant with an emphasis on how to keep them blooming year after year. You will receive a large bulb to force at home. **Cost: \$15.00**

**Holiday Cactus ~ Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**: Thanksgiving cactus, Christmas cactus, Easter cactus...it all gets rather confusing. Fortunately, all are easy to grow and bloom reliably with little special treatment. We will explain the differences and provide a plant for you to grow at home. **Cost: \$15.00**

### **IMPORTANT!!**

- *Sign up early for classes to avoid being turned away because a class is full.* All classes have limited seating.
- ***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 to hold your seat.*** Failure to pay at the time of registration could result in your class registration being cancelled.
- If you need to cancel, you must do so two (2) weeks prior to the class time to receive a refund. Please email or call the Fayette County Extension Office to cancel.
- Plants/seeds distributed at "Free" classes will only be available at the class.
- Plants/seeds distributed as part of paid classes that are not picked up by 3:00pm on the Friday of the week the class is held will be donated. (Unless otherwise stated in the course description.)

#### **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.**



# 2024 GARDENER'S TOOLBOX - REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- 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](mailto:fayette.ext@uky.edu)) or call (859 257-5582) the Office.

## ~ 2024 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
	Thursday, 1/25: Raised Bed Gardening. <b>Cost: Free</b>		Thursday, 2/15: Growing Herbs. <b>Cost: Free</b>
	Thursday, 2/29: Easy Cut Flowers from Seed. <b>Cost: \$10.00</b>		Thursday, 3/7: Straw Bale Gardening. <b>Cost: Free</b>
	Thursday, 3/28: The Humble Potato. <b>Cost: Free</b>		Thursday, 4/4: Native Trees to Consider <b>Cost: Free</b>
	Tuesday, 4/16: Vines to Consider. <b>Cost: \$15.00</b>		Tuesday, 4/30: Vegetable Gardening Basics. (* <b>NOTE:</b> Class is meeting at <b><u>Southern States</u></b> , 2570 Palumbo Drive, Lexington) <b>Cost: Free</b> , but <u>must</u> register through the Fayette County Extension Office to attend.

**OVER FOR PAGE 2 and more classes**

## Page 2 of 2024 Gardener's Toolbox Registration

✓	Class and Time	✓	Class and Time
	Saturday, 5/4: Growing Community Vegetable Gardening Event. <b>Cost: Free</b> (Advance registration is <u>not</u> required to attend.) <b>NOTE: SAVE THE DATE.</b> More details on this event will be in the April 2024 By The Yard Newsletter.		Tuesday, 5/7: Growing Great Tomatoes. <b>Cost: Free</b>
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	Tuesday, 6/18: Favorite Natives for Pollinators. <b>Cost: Free</b>		Tuesday, 7/2: Growing Fall Vegetables. <b>Cost: Free</b>
	Thursday, 7/11: Non-Stop Perennials. <b>Cost: \$15.00</b>		Tuesday, 8/6: Low Input Lawn Care. <b>Cost: Free</b>
	Thursday, 8/22: Perennials for Late Season Color. <b>Cost: \$15.00</b>		Thursday, 9/12: Perennials for Shade. <b>Cost: \$15.00</b>
	Thursday, 10/3: Growing Garlic. <b>Cost: \$10.00</b>		Tuesday, 10/15: Daffodils. <b>Cost: \$20.00</b>
	Thursday, 11/14: Growing Amaryllis. <b>Cost: \$15.00</b>		Tuesday, 12/10: Holiday Cactus. <b>Cost: \$15.00</b>





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**Keep this chart for your Records**

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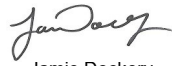
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Fayette County Cooperative Extension  
1140 Harry Sykes Way  
Lexington, KY 40504-1383

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Jamie Dockery  
County Extension Agent for Horticulture

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



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*Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, disability, or national origin.*

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



## 2024 Gardener's Toolbox Classes

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