

# The Hoe Truth Newsletter

Helping You Grow!

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**Wheelbarrow Series  
Pick Up Or Request  
A Booklet From The  
Extension Office**

## 2025 Wheelbarrow Series

| Date    | Class                                 | Fee  |
|---------|---------------------------------------|------|
| Feb 13  | Winter Sown                           | \$0  |
| Feb 20  | Plant-Based Dye                       | \$0  |
| Feb 27  | All About Peppers                     | \$5  |
| Mar 6   | Growing Luffas in Kentucky            | \$5  |
| Mar 13  | Spice Apple Grafting                  | \$5  |
| Mar 20  | Growing Potatoes in Kentucky          | \$10 |
| Mar 27  | Oddball Edibles                       | \$10 |
| Apr 10  | Jostaberries                          | \$20 |
| Apr 17  | Stokesia                              | \$20 |
| Apr 24  | Beans, Beans the Magical Fruit        | \$10 |
| May 1   | Carnivorous Plants                    | \$0  |
| May 8   | Maw Maw's Flower Garden               | \$10 |
| May 15  | Wine Bottle Hummingbird Feeders       | \$5  |
| May 22  | Gardening Myths Debunked              | \$0  |
| May 29  | Tillandsia "Air Plants"               | \$0  |
| June 5  | Cheap & Easy Vermicomposting          | \$10 |
| June 12 | Growing Lycoris                       | \$20 |
| June 26 | How Cool are Fungi?                   | \$0  |
| Aug 7   | Growing White Cap Mushrooms           | \$0  |
| Aug 14  | Fall Garden Square Footage            | \$0  |
| Aug 21  | Fall Cover & Green Manure Crops       | \$0  |
| Sept 11 | Growing Ginger                        | \$0  |
| Sept 18 | Overwintering Tropical Plants Indoors | \$0  |
| Sept 25 | Fall Flower Arrangements              | \$10 |
| Oct 2   | African Violets                       | \$5  |
| Oct 16  | Species Tulips                        | \$20 |
| Nov 13  | For the Birds                         | \$0  |

**Total + \$5 Registration Fee=**



2025

## Gardener's Wheelbarrow Series

*Gardening classes that help you grow!*

**PRESENTED BY**  
Dennis Morgeson  
Washington County Extension  
Horticulture Agent

Name

Phone Number For Remind Calls

Address

We accept cash, check,  
debit and/or credit cards.

**Cooperative  
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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Community and Economic Development

**MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT**

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Plant of The Month



**'Sandy Shores'**  
**HONEYMOON® Series**  
**Lenten Rose**

**Perennial**

Hardy in USDA Zones 4A -9B

- ↓ Height: 18-24 in
- ← Space: 18-24 in
- ☀ Less than 4 Hours of Daily Sun
- 💧 Light to Medium Moisture
- 🕒 Blooms Early to Mid Spring
- 🐇 Deer and Rabbit Resistant

- 2½-3 inch single flowers
- Pale apricot blossoms
- Backs of the flowers are rosy pink
- Very easy to grow in any soil
- Mildly drought tolerant when established
- CAUTION: Poisonous if ingested!
- Pair with Hosta, Bleeding Heart, Coral Bells

## February To Do's

### Trees And Shrubs

February is a good time to prune trees and shrubs. Of course depending on bloom time. One note of caution on pruning, if the tree or shrub is an ornamental and blooms in the spring don't prune it until after it blooms. Fruit trees should be pruned now through the beginning of March.

### Vegetables

If you are growing your own vegetable transplants in window seals or under lights remember as a general rule it takes about six weeks for a good sized transplant to grow. This means you can start broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage, and other cool season garden plants in mid February. These will be planted in the garden in late March.

### Lawns

Pre-emergent control herbicides can be applied in late February and March. This will help control annual weeds. A second application may be needed in late May or June for good crabgrass control. Don't apply pre-emergent herbicides if you sowed or plan to sow grass seed this spring.



# Getting Started With Composting

Composting is a great way to add valuable organic matter to your soil while reducing the amount of yard and food waste that ends up in landfills. It's also something that is remarkably easy to do.

Compost is the result of a natural process where decaying organic substances, such as plants, are broken down by microorganisms. This produces a nutrient-rich, organic material that you can apply to your lawn or garden, much like you would a commercial fertilizer.

You can start a compost bin or pile in your backyard. You can purchase a bin or make one using inexpensive, leftover materials like pallets or chicken wire. The bin can be as big or small as you want, but for most rapid composting, a pile that is at least one yard tall, one yard wide and one yard long is best. Make sure to place your compost in an area that is flat and well-drained.

When the compost area is ready, collect yard waste and food scraps. Yard waste can include twigs, shrub trimmings, grass clippings, leftover straw and leaves. Most fruit, vegetable and grain scraps are compostable as are coffee grounds, herbs, nuts and egg shells. Avoid meat scraps, oils and dairy products. You need to have a mixture of "brown" material (dried leaves, straw, twigs, coffee grounds, even cardboard) and "green" materials (fresh grass clippings, vegetable scraps, other fresh plant materials) for the composting process to work.

Mix or turn the pile once a week to help speed the breakdown of organic materials. If the compost pile is extremely damp, turn it more often. If it is dry, add some water or fresh plant material. It can take four to six months to complete the composting process. You will know it's finished when the compost is dark brown, crumbly and smells like soil.

Compost can be used in the vegetable garden or spread around ornamental plants in the landscape, but be careful not to use too much. A one-inch layer of compost, worked into the top few inches of soil, will feed plants for several months. Source: Rick Durham, extension professor



**Register  
Now!**

2025

## 48th Annual Kentucky Turf & Landscape Management Short Course

February 18-20, 2025

Hardin County Extension Center  
111 Opportunity Way  
Elizabethtown, KY



University of  
Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment



Kentucky  
Horticulture  
Council

# Eight Reasons To Test Your Soil

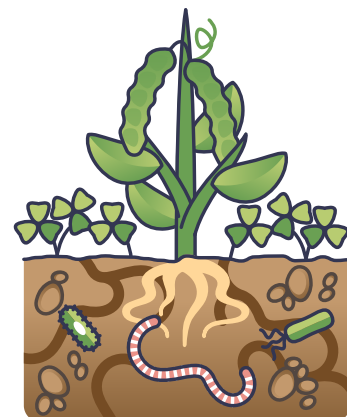
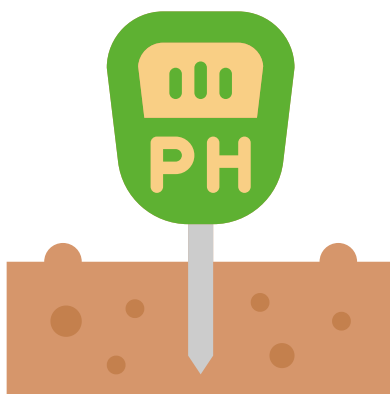
Soil testing can tell you many things about your soil that can help you make informed decisions about fertilizer application, site selection for crops and so much more. It is an essential part of a successful agriculture or horticulture enterprise. Home gardens and lawns can also greatly benefit from soil testing.

With the wet pattern Kentucky has been in over the past months, soil testing is paramount to having quality crops this spring and summer.

There's no reason not to test your soil since your local office of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service makes it simple. So, let's get to it. Why should you test your soil?

1. Know the pH level of your soil. Soil experts will make different recommendations depending on the acidity or alkalinity of your soil and your intended use.
2. Save time and money. Having the proper levels of soil nutrients will help maximize economic yields. Soil testing also reduces the chance of overapplying and over-purchasing fertilizers.
3. It's good for the environment. Soil testing results in a more accurate application of fertilizers and that ultimately reduces runoff into waterways.
4. They are FREE. Washington County Extension Service covers soil analysis costs.
5. It is easy. Taking samples doesn't take a lot of time or skill, and your county agents can help you along the way.
6. Find out the fertility level of the soil. You gain knowledge about the soil condition and can make informed decisions about how to improve it.
7. Follow soil changes over time. Follow how conditions like drought, prolonged wet periods and other weather scenarios affect the soil.
8. Identify problem areas in your field or garden.

You'll need to take different samples for various land uses such as agricultural, fields, lawns, gardens, fruit trees, shrubs and flowers because they all have distinct fertility and pH requirements.





# Prevent Winter Damage From Moles And Voles

A common misconception is that moles and voles, those burrowing pests that destroy our lawns and gardens, take a break in the winter to hibernate. Nothing is further from the truth. In winter, moles and voles simply dig deeper to escape the cold, while continuing to eat with a ravenous appetite.

We tend not to go out as much in the winter, therefore we do not see their signature tunnels, hills and holes, which are occasionally covered by snow. You can avoid surprises in your lawn this spring by preventing winter damage with a few precautionary measures.

You can purchase traps, repellents, and baits to help control mole problems. If you used mole repellents during the summer, continue to use them into winter. Stopping the use of repellents can leave your lawn and garden vulnerable to mole activity. If you see signs of damage in the winter, you should begin repellent applications immediately.

The effectiveness of repellents for voles, which are sometimes called meadow mice, is not proven. When dealing with only a few voles, trapping might be the best option. Use ordinary mousetraps baited with peanut butter or apple. The traps must be placed in the runs and then covered with boards to be effective.

If you are unsure about mole and vole signs or control measures, you can seek professional help from a trusted pest control company. A pest control professional will notice signs of mole and vole activity and can apply any necessary treatments throughout the year if a problem is found.

Next fall, take proactive measures to prevent moles and voles as winter approaches. Avoid overwatering your garden or lawn with sprinklers and irrigation, which makes the soil moist and loose. Wet soil makes it easier for the moles and voles to move around, while providing moles with an abundance of their main food source, earthworms and grubs. Another preventive measure is not to mulch too early in the fall. Mulch is a great way to protect plants from plummeting temperatures and helps retain moisture, but it also provides attractive homes for voles. Wait to mulch until a couple of weeks after the first frost. It might convince a vole to take cover for the winter someplace else. Physical barriers in your beds and around trees can protect them from mole and vole damage as well.



## Brussels Sprouts

Start Brussels sprout seeds indoors before transplanting the plant to the garden! Well-grown transplants can be transplanted to the garden by March 15 in most areas of Kentucky, allowing for harvest in mid-June.

**Dates to begin planting indoors:**  
February 1st for Western Kentucky  
February 8th for Central Kentucky  
February 15th for Eastern Kentucky

# Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

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Dennis Morgeson, Horticulture Agent

We Are On The Web!!!  
[washington.ca.uky.edu](http://washington.ca.uky.edu)



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Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

## WASHINGTON

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE



Washington County Extension Updates  
each Tuesday Morning at 8:30 AM On  
WLSK 100.9 FM And Extension Tips Daily  
After The Farm Report



## Recipe of The Month

### Sweet and Spicy Brussels Sprouts

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>1 pound</b> (2 cups)<br>Brussels sprouts | <b>1 teaspoon</b> fresh<br>cracked black<br>pepper | <b>Drizzle:</b><br><b>½ teaspoon</b> hot<br>sauce |
| <b>1 tablespoon</b> olive oil               | <b>1 teaspoon</b> red<br>pepper flakes             | <b>1 tablespoon</b> honey                         |
| <b>½ teaspoon</b> sea salt                  |  |   |
| <b>1 teaspoon</b> garlic powder             |  |   |

**Preheat** oven to 400 degrees F.  
**Wash** Brussels sprouts, **remove** outer leaves and **cut** each sprout in half.  
**Mix** olive oil, sea salt, garlic powder, black pepper and red pepper flakes in a medium sized bowl. **Add** Brussels sprouts to the mixture and **stir** to coat evenly. **Mix** the hot sauce and honey in a small bowl and set aside. **Place** Brussels sprouts on a greased baking

sheet. **Bake** 30 minutes or until tender. **Drizzle** hot sauce mixture over top of cooked Brussels sprouts.

**Yield:** 4, ½ cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 70 calories, 3.5 g fat, 0.5 g saturated fat, 0 g trans fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 320 mg sodium, 9 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 2 g protein.



Plate it up!

