

The Hoe Truth

newsletter

HELPING YOU GROW!



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upcoming wheelbarrow classes

all classes begin at 10 AM

May 8 MawMaw's Flower Garden

My MawMaw's Favorite Flowers, because everyone deserves to have a flower garden as pretty as my MawMaw's. \$10 for a wide variety of seeds.

May 15 Wine Bottle Hummingbird Feeders

Create the perfect summer watering hole for tiny hummingbirds! Class cost is \$5.

May 22 Gardening Myths Debunked

Everything from old wives' tales to phases of the moon! We'll sort out the truth from the myths.

May 29 Tillandsia "Air Plants"

Even those without a green thumb can enjoy these plants.

We'd BEE delighted if
you'd join us for Bee
Keepers meetings.

The first Monday of each month
at 6:30 PM.



Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification

May
2025

Cooperative
Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

plant of the month



'Hearts on Fire'
Old-Fashioned Bleeding Heart

Perennial

Hardy in USDA Zones 3A - 9B



Height: 18-24 in

Space: 24-36 in

Less than 6 Hours of Daily Sun

Medium to Heavy Moisture

Blooms Late Spring

Deer Resistant

- Gold foliage emerges early in spring
- Long strings of red, heart-shaped flowers are held outside the foliage to maximize display
- Rich, loose, well-drained soil
- Keep consistently moist
- Does not like clay soils
- Pair with Hosta, Ferns, Sedge

May to do's

If you have been in the habit of bagging your grass clippings, stop unless it is clumping, which would kill the grass. Grass clippings decompose readily and if you never take grass clippings off you will rarely need to fertilize. Grass clippings rarely contribute to thatch and tall fescue doesn't even produce thatch.

If you feel the need to take up grass clippings you can use them as mulch or put them in the compost pile. However, if you have sprayed your lawn for weeds the chemicals can still be in grass clippings and can damage any plants susceptible to 2-4D and other chemicals. If you compost them there is less chance of chemical damage to your plants.

Keep an eye out for aphids, cabbage loopers, and Colorado potato beetle. The aphids can be controlled readily by orthene, the cabbage loopers by Sevin, and the Colorado potato beetle with Colorado Potato Beetle Beater a natural bacteria. If you don't want to use chemicals you can hand pick the cabbage loopers and step on them, the Colorado potato beetles can be wrangled by shaking the plants while holding a large tub under them. Dispose of them any way you see fit, personally I use boiling water. Aphids can be sprayed off with a water hose every few days or with an insecticidal soap.

Plant your summer vegetable garden. The safe frost-free date is May 10th.

Keep an eye out for black spot disease on roses as well as the first signs of spider mites. This disease and this insect are the two toughest to control. "Immunox" is great for black spot and several sprays of insecticidal soap, orthene, malathion, and avid will help control spider mite if sprayed early. Be sure to spray the undersides of the leaves as well as the top. Always use a spreader sticker to increase the effectiveness and to reduce the amount of spray you will have to use.

Don't use spreader sticker with Sevin it will cause a chemical reaction and burn the leaves. If you use Sevin regularly and have a spider mite problem, it will get worse with the Sevin. It doesn't kill spider mites but makes them sick which in turn makes them want to reproduce so you end up with an increased infestation of mites!

If you have a pond, it is a good idea to go ahead and clean it. A lot of organic matter has probably settled in the bottom and can be cleaned out now. Also, algae is starting to grow from last year's supply and a good cleaning now will slow its return.

When replacing the water be sure to add an additive that takes out chlorine.

If you have water plants, you should fertilize them now with a registered fertilizer. These usually come in pellet or stick form and can be stuck directly into the container.

Only feed your pond fish as much as they will eat in a few minutes to keep your water nice and clear.

If you have trouble keeping pond water clear there are products that can increase the clarity. These usually contain a beneficial bacteria. These products can be purchased at most garden centers.

Garden Club

2025 trip schedule

May 20th

Poppy Festival (Paris)

June 17th

Bountiful Blooms Cut Flower Farm (Bloomfield)

July 1st

Willies Daylilies (Lancaster)

August 12th

Mulberry Orchard and Gallrein Farms (Shelby County)

September 23rd

Whitehall (Louisville)

October 21st

Barker Arboretum and Downing Museum (Bowling Green)



All trips leave the Extension Office at 9:00 AM.

Van space is limited to 12 passengers, so call today to reserve your spot!

Colonel John McCrae, Canadian surgeon with Canada's First Brigade Artillery, wrote in 1915 one of the most famous poems of World War I called "In Flanders Fields", in which he mourned the "row on row" of graves of soldiers who had died on Flanders battlefields, the first stanza being:

**In Flanders the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

Bourbon Brood of periodical cicadas ready to sing this spring in Kentucky

Kentucky will be the epicenter for the emergence of Brood 14 of 17-year periodical cicadas this spring. Designated the “Bourbon Brood” by University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment entomologists, these time-keeping insects are characterized by their red eyes and loud singing.

Periodical cicadas have appeared in Western Kentucky counties over the past few years, but the largest emergence area for 2025 will occur across most of Central and Eastern Kentucky. According to Jonathan Larson, assistant extension entomology professor in the Department of Entomology at UK Martin-Gatton CAFE, the 17-year periodical cicadas emerge from the soil to molt into their flying, adult form in late April to early May, much earlier than annual cicadas.

“We will begin seeing this brood of cicadas when the soil warms to the mid-60s, about the same time you start to see iris blooms,” Larson said. “A lot of people hate them, but I hope they will learn to appreciate them as periodical cicadas are such a rarity.”

Larson explained that the periodical cicada nymphs live in the soil, feeding on the sap of tree roots. They count their feeding cycles to know when to emerge and prepare for molt. Not all cicadas appear in the correct year; the few that do not are referred to as stragglers.

What to expect at emergence

Cicadas are not harmful to humans, pets or wildlife, as they do not bite or sting. While some may compare cicadas to locusts, Larson said they do not swarm and cause massive plant damage. Adult cicadas feed on sap with little impact to the plant.

Local wildlife, such as snakes, foxes and turkeys, will benefit from the extra protein provided by the cicadas. Although Larson mentioned that the surge in cicada numbers won’t immediately boost the population of predatory animals in high-emergence areas, it will likely lead to increased feeding activity. He advised people to be aware.

In addition to the many nymph exoskeleton shells left behind on tree trunks and nearby objects, the adult cicadas’ sound will be difficult to avoid.

“A song from a large congregation of cicadas can be deafening, rivaling the sound made by a jet engine,” Larson said. “Only the males can produce the sound, and their first song is to encourage other males to congregate in sunlit trees. Another choral song is then made to attract females. The males will die shortly after mating, and the females will begin laying their eggs.”

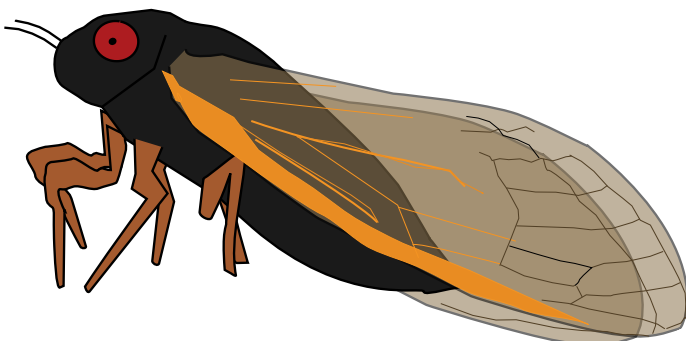
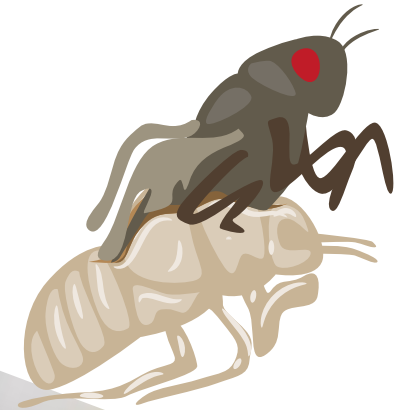
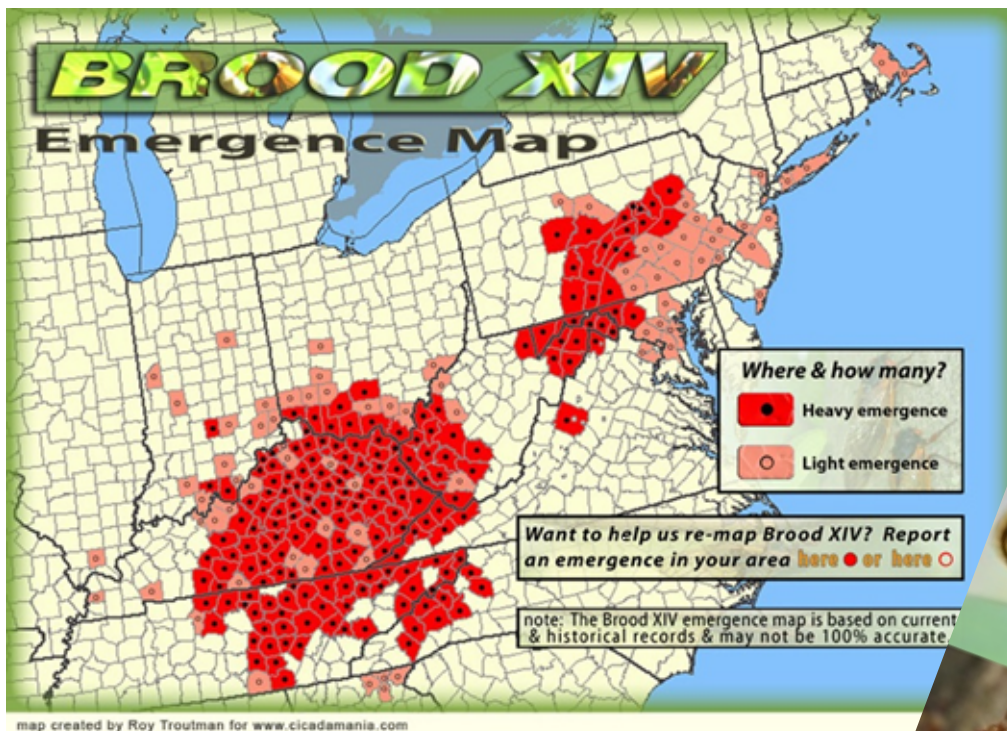
Protecting trees and shrubs

Larson said egg laying is the part of the periodical cicada lifecycle that can be problematic for orchards, tree nurseries and landscapers.

Female cicadas will bore their ovipositor into young, tender tree or shrub branches and deposit 200-600 eggs. This “flagging” may cause the branches to snap. While not beneficial for a growing tree, a fallen branch makes for a much shorter journey for the hatching nymphs from egg to soil. A heavy population of nymphs in the soil may also impact the tree’s root system. While using insecticides may be less costly, Larson said the safest and most effective way to prevent tree and shrub damage is by using cicada netting, which prevents females from laying their eggs.

Netting is suggested for use on new and smaller trees: oak, apple, arborvitae, ash, beech, berry and grape vines, crab apple, cherry, dogwood, hickory, holly, maple, lilacs, magnolia, peach, pear, rose bushes, spirea and willows. It should be installed when the cicadas begin to sing, about mid-May for most of the area. Trees that are established in the landscape — too tall to net for most people — will grow throughout the egg-laying period.

“By using the netting, we won’t be harming these wonderful examples of nature’s pageantry,” said Larson.



Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

245 Corporate Drive, Springfield, Kentucky 40069

Dennis Morgeson, Horticulture Agent

859-336-7741 * dennis.morgeson@uky.edu

at the office

May 5 - District Board

May 7 - Sewing Group

May 8 - Ham Shucking

May 12 - 4-H Summer Camp Meeting

May 15 - Heritage Homemaker Meeting

May 16 - Cost Share Meeting

May 17 - Quilting Club

May 19 - Horse Club

May 20 - Garden Club Trip

May 26-30 4-H Summer Camp

May 28 - WOW



Tune in to 100.0 WLSK every Tuesday morning at 8:30 for extension updates and daily farm tips!

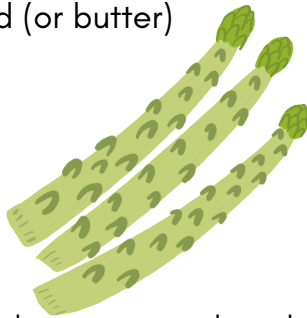
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or stop by our facebook page, just search: Washington County Extension Office.

Asparagus has folate, fiber, as well as vitamins A, C, E, and K. It also has antioxidants, so treat yourself to this dish knowing that you are feeding your body with some important nutrients.

Ingredients

- 2 cups asparagus, washed and trimmed (about 8 ounces)
- 2 tablespoons margarine, unsalted (or butter)
- 2 teaspoons lemon peel, grated
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice, fresh



Directions

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Cook asparagus in a large pot of boiling water until tender, about 4 minutes.
3. Drain: rinse with cold water to cool quickly, and drain again.
4. Pat dry; wrap in a paper towel and then plastic wrap and refrigerate.
5. Melt margarine in a heavy large skillet over medium-high heat.
6. Add lemon peel and garlic and stir for 30 seconds.
7. Add asparagus and toss to coat.
8. Sprinkle with lemon juice. Sauté until asparagus is heated through and coated with Gremolata sauce, about 3 minutes.
9. Transfer to platter. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

Recipe *of the month*

Asparagus With Gremolata Sauce

