



Dennis Meyer

August 2023

Volume 19

Inside this issue:

<i>To Do's</i>	2
<i>No Diagnosis</i>	3
<i>Wheelbarrow Series</i>	3
<i>Chiggers</i>	4
	5
<i>Cicada Killers</i>	6
<i>Cicada Killers</i>	7
<i>Recipe of The Month</i>	8



HORTICULTURE



It's Time To Plant A Fall Garden

The end of summer doesn't have to mean the end of the growing season. Now is the time to plant a fall vegetable garden and fill your pantry with cool-season crops well into late autumn. Some of the best quality vegetables are produced during fall's warm days and cool nights. These environmental conditions add sugar to late-season sweet corn and cole crops, such as cauliflower and cabbage and crispness to carrots.

Fall vegetables are harvested after early September. They consist of two types: the last succession plantings of warm-season crops, such as corn and bush beans and cool-season crops that grow well during the cool fall days and withstand frost.

When planting a fall garden, group crops in the same way you would in the spring; plant so taller plants don't shade out shorter ones. To encourage good germination, fill each seed furrow with water and let it soak in. Keep the soil moist until seeds have germinated. Cool nights slow growth, so plants take longer to mature in the fall than in the summer.

Polyethylene row covers are a useful way to extend the growing season of frost-sensitive crops, such as tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. The objective of using a row cover is to trap heat from the soil and protect the crop from cold night temperatures. Often in Kentucky, a period of mild weather will follow the first killing frost. If you protect frost-sensitive vegetables at critical times in the fall you could extend the harvest season by several weeks. Once these vegetables die due to lower temperatures, you may be able to plant cool-season crops in their place. Leafy greens such as lettuce and spinach may grow into November or December under polyethylene row covers if outside temperatures do not drop below the teens. Be sure to allow for ventilation on sunny days to prevent overheating.

The following vegetables can be successfully seeded or transplanted now for fall harvest: beets, Bibb lettuce, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, endive, leaf lettuce, kale, mustard greens, spinach, snow peas and turnips.

facebook

Follow Us at
Washington County
Extension Service



August To Do's

Flowers

To control powdery mildew on begonia, phlox, rose, or zinnia try not to wet the foliage. Use a fungicide spray such as Cleary's or immunox.

Continue to dead head annuals and perennials unless you want to save the seeds. Most of our annuals will continue to bloom until frost if kept dead headed, watered, and fertilized. Many perennials will re-flower if dead headed as well.

Divide perennial phlox, day lily, iris, and spring flowering bulbs such as tulip and daffodil in August.

Trees And Shrubs

Water trees and shrubs once a week, especially spring flowering ones. They set next years flowers buds in late summer and fall.

Don't prune trees and shrubs now. This will force new tender growth that will get killed this winter.

Apply a new layer of mulch if you haven't already. This will buffer the soil temperature this winter and will hold in much needed moisture during the late summer and fall which is generally dry.

Lawns

If you have dead looking spots in your yard don't be alarmed it may just be dormant. When and if we have wetter cooler conditions many of these "dead spots" may green up.

Sharpen your lawn mower blade.

Mid August is the time to control grub larvae. Mow your lawn and rake any grass clippings or thatch before applying any chemical. This will allow the chemical to get into the soil faster. Apply Dylox or Bayer Advanced 24 hour grub control.



Don't fertilize turf until October, November, or December. Fertilizing now will only stress the turf even more.

Get a soil test done now on your lawn. The results will be available later this fall when the recommended one and only fertilizer application for low maintenance turf is needed.

Fruit

Keep mulch at least 2-3 inches deep around bush and vine fruits to control weeds and conserve moisture.

Prune out old canes that have fruited from June-bearing raspberries. This will reduce disease spread.

When the raspberry and blackberry harvest is over spray the plants well with sevin. This will kill the Japanese beetles and the cane borers.

Now is a good time to thin out strawberry plants. It is best to leave 5-7 plants per row for a good harvest next year.

Make a mental note of the apple and pear trees that have had or have fire blight. Next spring those are the trees that will have the most cankers. By pruning those out you will greatly reduce the amount of inoculum available for the disease to spread.

If your apples are late maturing continue sprays for apple scab. Also any leaves that fall should be raked up and disposed of because they harbor spores for future disease outbreaks.

It is a good idea to clean up fallen fruit from under any fruit trees instead of letting it decompose in place. This debris will also harbor disease organisms for next years outbreak.



Diagnosis of “No Disease”

Extension agents and growers may occasionally receive diagnostic reports from the University of Kentucky Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory that indicate “no disease was found.”

One possible cause for “no disease” diagnoses is insufficient sample size. This occurs when the sample size is too small or does not represent the affected area. Often leaves, small twigs, or dead plant material (Figure 1) provide little information to determine potential causes of problems.



Figure 1: Small twigs and dead plant materials are often inadequate samples for diagnosis. (Photo: Julie Beale, UK)

When symptoms are inconclusive, diagnosticians may recommend an agent or grower re-examine the entire plant to provide additional information or additional sample material.

Another reason for “no disease” diagnoses is that symptoms may be caused by an abiotic factor as opposed to a plant pathogen. Many environmental or cultural conditions can cause symptoms that are similar to those of infectious diseases.

For more information on a “no disease” diagnosis, refer to the publication *Diagnosis of “No Disease”* (PPFS-GEN-11). **Figure 1:** Small twigs and dead plant materials are often inadequate samples for diagnosis. (Photo: Julie Beale, UK)

Gardeners Wheelbarrow Series 2023

Fill This Registration Out and Keep One For Your Records

Circle if you will be attending the Morning or Evening Sessions If Applicable And Total At The Bottom

Attention!!! If An AM Or PM Session Doesn't Have At Least 5 To Register For That Session It May Be Canceled Via One Call

Date Changed To August 24th

July 27th	PM	PM	Petscaping		Free
Aug. 24th	AM	NA	Horticulture How To: Lacto Fermenting		Free
Aug. 17th	AM	PM	Fall Home Insect Invaders		Free
Sept. 21st	AM	PM	True Lilies		\$20.00
Sept. 28th	AM	PM	Peonies The Queens Of Spring		\$40.00
Oct. 12th	AM	PM	Daffodils		\$20.00
Oct. 26th	AM	PM	Holiday Cactus		Free
			Basic Registration For Any and All Classes	\$5.00	x
			Total From Above		
			Register And Pay For ALL Classes By February 16th 2023 And Save \$15.00	-\$15.00	
			TOTAL		

Its Chiggers Time!

One of the most annoying pests of the summer is chiggers. Chiggers are the immature stage of a parasitic mite that feeds on other arthropods when it becomes an adult. Chigger bites are often the result of working or spending time in brushy areas. Chiggers can be common in shady, humid areas with dense overgrown areas. The immature chiggers that get on your skin are too small to see and the reaction to their bite occurs after they attach; some may drop off before a reaction begins. They generally attach where clothing is tight, such as around waistbands, or near folding of the skin. The bites tend to be to areas where the skin is thin and with high humidity. The result is a red welt with intense itching that can last for days.

Management-Reducing Chigger Bites

One of the first steps in reducing chigger bites is to recognize when you may be entering areas where they can be common. Walking in overgrown or unmowed fields, hiking off trails, camping in chigger-infested areas, or even picking wild blackberries are situations where you may encounter chiggers. In these situations there are some preventive tactics you can take to reduce chigger bites. Many of these will also help to reduce tick bites as well.

- Before entering these areas, tuck your pant legs into your socks and wear long-sleeved shirts.
 - Apply an insect or tick repellent to your clothing or skin according to the label. Some products can only be applied to clothing.
- When returning home, shower immediately to help to remove chiggers that have yet to attach.

Habitat Modification

Chiggers are common around the home or farm, you might consider modifying the vegetation to reduce the suitability for chiggers. Habitat management may take a bit of time to reduce chigger numbers and bites, but can have long-term benefits and greatly reduce chigger numbers and bites. This begins with the following:

- Regularly mow grassy areas
 - Remove brushy areas near sites people spend time
 - Prune shrubs and trees to allow more sunlight and lower the humidity
- Eliminate or reduce areas that provide cover or habitat for other rodents as these are alternative hosts for chiggers.

Insecticides

If rapid reduction of chiggers is needed, an insecticide can be used to reduce their numbers. Insecticides provide effective reduction in chigger numbers, but this is only a temporary solution. Insecticides containing bifenthrin (Ortho Home Defense MAX), carbaryl (Sevin), and permethrin can be applied late spring/early summer according to label instructions.



Figure 1. Reactions to chiggers can last for days. (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK)



Get Started With CredibleMind

CredibleMind is the free online platform that brings together expert rated and vetted videos, podcasts, apps, online programs, books and articles all in one easy to use place.

Confidential and available 24/7, with CredibleMind you can learn new skills, understand your own mental health, take a mental health assessment and browse our library of thousands of mental wellbeing resources.

Get started today by taking the Mental Health Check-in Assessment and be entered to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card!

Mental health is vital to our overall wellbeing. Though when we hear "mental health" we tend to think of the negative things like feeling anxious, depressed, or stressed. Did you know that mental health also includes emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing? Things like our happiness, eating habits, and job or relationship satisfaction can affect our mental health, too!

Take this [assessment](#) to find out how you're doing mentally and emotionally in the areas of flourishing, anxiety, and depression. All community members who create an account and complete the assessment by August 31, 2023 will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card.



Your Privacy Matters

Your personal information including your name, email address and responses will not be shared with Heartland Trail ASAP.

Take the [Mental Health Check-in Assessment](#) for a chance to win!

Scan the QR code or go to heartlandtrail.crediblemind.com.



They're Cicada Killers, Not Murder Hornets

Since 2020, there has been a large amount of interest in a potentially invasive species of hornet, scientific name *Vespa mandarina*, but more famously known as the “murder hornet.” The current accepted common name for this insect is the northern giant hornet, though you may also see it referred to as the Asian giant hornet. In the United States, these large and imposing wasps were only ever found in the state of Washington; over 2022 and 2023, they have reported no sightings (hopefully they are gone).

Concern over the “murder hornet” has swept up other species of stinging insects, especially one of our larger native wasps known as the cicada killer. These titanic parasitoids specialize in flying after and capturing annual cicadas (the loud bugs you hear singing in your trees right now). Despite their size, they pose little to no hazard to humans, though they can occasionally become a pest in lawns, parks, and golf courses. Luckily, there are some easy ways to tell the difference between this species and the more famous invasive hornet, and there are some tips for management, if needed.

Cicada Killer Basics

Adult cicada killer females are up to 2 inches in length, while males are a little smaller, usually around 1.5 inches long. Both sexes have orange-colored heads and thoraxes with black abdomens that have yellow designs on them. The females have spurs on their back legs, which will help them with digging tunnels used as a nest for their larvae. Females also have a stinger at the tip of their abdomen, while males have a pseudostinger (it isn't hooked to a venom sac).

These are not social wasps; they don't have a colony with a queen and workers like yellowjackets or European hornets. Solitary females construct their burrow in the soil and hunt for cicadas. Males can be found hovering near areas of female activity. Females tend to disregard people, but males may attempt to deter humans from approaching burrow areas by hovering near your face. As mentioned before though, they don't have a true stinger, so they are all bark and no bite.

Cicada killer burrows can be quite long underground. An individual female may excavate about 100 cubic inches of soil to make a home for her young. When they sting a cicada, they either fly it back to the nest, drag it, or do a series of aimed “jumps” where they carry it to a tree or bush and jump/glide to get it home. In the burrow, a chamber with a female egg may get 2 to 3 cicada to eat while male eggs get 1 cicada. The height of cicada killer season is late July and early August.

Comparison to Northern Giant Hornet

There are many differences between these two jumbo Hymenopterans. As previously mentioned, cicada killers are solitary wasps, lacking a social structure. Conversely, Northern giant hornets are social; there is a queen and workers, each with distinct jobs. Social insects are more apt to sting humans and other animals, especially if they are threatening the colony.

More importantly though, you can tell them apart based on colors, patterns, and sizes of different body parts. To note:



Figure 1: Female cicada killers can be found flying or burrowing. They are up to 2 inches long and both males and females have dark orange heads/thoraxes with black and yellow abdomens (Photo: Jessica Louque, Smithers)

They're Cicada Killers, Not Murder Hornets



- The Northern giant hornet's head is much larger and broader than the cicada killer.
- Cicada killers have a dark red head and thorax, while their abdomen is black and yellow. The Northern giant hornet is yellow-orange and dark brown.
- Cicada killers have shaped patches on the sides of their abdomen while the Northern giant hornet has complete bands.

Cicada Killer Considerations

Cicada killers are not considered a stinging hazard. They can sting, and it has happened before, but it is rare. Because they are solitary, they lack the defensive mindset that leads to the stinging incidents with bees and hornets. Because of this, it is rare that cicada killer wasps need to be managed.

However, cicada killer populations can build in a local area over time. They like areas with loose, dry, light textured soils in the open sun. It is not uncommon to see them digging in between parts of retaining walls and also appearing on open playgrounds. They can be scary for people and annoying as they fly around. Sometimes, simply setting up a sprinkler and regularly running it in the area can make it wet enough that the wasps are discouraged away. Other times, a more physical approach to removal can involve using a tennis racket to kill them. It sounds like a joke but is a very effective method of control! Just don't get tennis elbow.

For an insecticide-based approach, applying a dust insecticide into the entrance of the burrow will work to kill wasps coming in and out of the hole. By Jonathan L. Larson, Entomology Extension Specialist



Figure 3: The face of death for a cicada. While cicada killer wasps can be annoying and a little scary, they mean humans and pets no harm (Photo: Jody Green, University of Nebraska).

Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

245 Corporate Drive
Springfield KY, 40069
Office 859-336-7741
Fax 859-336-7445
Email dennis.morgeson@uky.edu



We Are On The Web!!!

washington.ca.uky.edu

Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountyKentucky4H/>

College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Recipe Of The Month



Tomato Zucchini Herb Bake

2 tablespoons olive oil	2 tomatoes , seeded and chopped	½ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 small sweet onion, diced	½ teaspoon dried basil	1 cup cooked long grain brown rice
1 ½ pounds zucchini, cubed	½ teaspoon paprika	2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
1 clove garlic, minced	½ teaspoon dried oregano	
	½ teaspoon salt	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. **Lightly grease** a shallow 1 ½-quart casserole dish. **Heat** oil in a large skillet or pot over medium heat. **Sauté** onion for 3 minutes until slightly softened. **Add** the zucchini and garlic and **cook** for 5 to 7 minutes, or until slightly tender. **Add** tomatoes and allow to **heat through**, about 2 minutes. **Add** basil, paprika, oregano, salt, pepper, and rice and **stir** to combine. **Turn off** heat, and **fold in** 1 cup of

cheese. **Transfer** to the prepared casserole dish, and **top** with the remaining cheese. **Bake** uncovered for 20 minutes, or until cheese is melted and bubbly.

Yield: 6, 1 ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 220 calories, 12g fat, 5g saturated fat, 0g trans fat, 20mg cholesterol, 450mg sodium, 17g carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 4g total sugars, 0g added sugars, 12g protein