

The Hoe Truth

newsletter

HELPING YOU GROW!



upcoming wheelbarrow classes

all classes begin at 10 AM

June 5 Cheap and Easy Vermicomposting

Composting with Earth Worms and vegetable scraps.

Cost: \$10.

June 12 Growing Lycoris in Kentucky

Commonly known as Naked Ladies or surprise lilies, come in many colors! Class cost is \$20.

June 26 How Cool are Fungi? Basics of Plant Disease

Take a deeper look into the world of plant pathogens, how they develop, and how we can battle some of nature's oldest survivors.

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Garden Club

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!

2025 trip schedule

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



June 2025

Cooperative Extension Service

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

*Apply approximately one table-spoon of Ammonium nitrate one foot from the base of each tomato in late June. This will force some new growth and give you more late tomatoes while the first ones are ripening.

*If you want sweet corn later in the season make additional plantings in June.

*Vegetables gardens as well as flower beds need approximately one inch of water per week.

*Tomatoes and peppers are less likely to get diseases early on if you apply a mulch before soil gets a chance to splash onto their leaves.

*Begin a fungicide program for tomatoes. Mancozeb, maneb, and daconil give good protection against most tomato diseases. Copper based fungicides will give some control for those wanting to remain organic.

*Mulch works just as well for vegetable gardens as it does for ornamentals!

*If you haven't mulched flower beds go ahead and do so. Mulch will greatly reduce the time it takes for soil to dry out.

*Spring blooming clematis should be pruned immediately after flowering in June. Summer and fall blooming clematis should be pruned in March before new growth occurs.

*If you would like to attract hummingbirds plant beebalm, lobelia, cleome, columbine, four o'clock, impatiens, petunias, and trumpet vine.

*Feeding hummingbirds with feeders will likely increase your numbers. Wash the feeder weekly if the sugar water is gone or not. Rinse it with 10% bleach and rinse thoroughly.

*Let your grass grow longer during dry spells. This will help shade the ground and conserve moisture in the plant.

*If you haven't planted your sweet potatoes yet you still have plenty of time. A large local greenhouse has a lot of slips for sale.

*Sweet potatoes are heat loving and prefer loose well drained soil with weekly water requirements of an inch. To help conserve moisture and keep the soil loose apply a couple inches of good organic mulch. Straw works great!

*Keep an eye on container plants, they will need watering usually at least once a day in the heat of summer and maybe twice a day for really pot bound large plants. If you haven't planted your containers yet mix a cup or so of a moisture holding crystal that will hold water and release it when plants need it.

*June is also a good time to fertilize annuals again especially if they are starting to turn yellow from the bottom up.

*Cut back spring blooming bulb foliage when it turns yellow. Don't do it before it turns yellow or you will reduce next seasons bloom.

*Remember to water your compost pile and turn it regularly. If it dries out it won't "cook" properly and you won't have a good finished product.

*Don't be surprised if your tree fruits drop some of their load. This is normal and aptly called "June Drop". The trees are just managing their crop load.

Civil Rights Act - Compliance Statement

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Black Rot of Grapes

Black rot is a common disease of grapes in Kentucky. Due to the prevalence of this disease, it is also one of the most economically important diseases of grapes. Black rot can affect all young, developing, above ground plant tissues. However, fruit infections are the most destructive. Without adequate disease management, both home and commercial vineyards may suffer significant yield losses.

Black Rot Facts

- Leaf symptoms first appear as small, round, reddish-brown spots that enlarge to 1/8 to 1/4 inch diameter. These spots may coalesce into larger blotches. Enlarged spots develop dark margins with light brown to tan centers that may contain small, black spore-bearing fungal fruiting structures (pycnidia).
- Fruit symptoms begin as soft, light brown spots that enlarge to envelop entire berries. Infected fruit then shrivel into black, wrinkled mummies.
- Symptoms on shoots, petioles, and tendrils appear as irregular or diamond-shaped, sunken, tan to brown lesions. Black fungal fruiting structures may be observed in lesions.
- Disease is favored by warm, moist periods. Infection may occur throughout the growing season; however, as plants mature, disease susceptibility decreases.
- Caused by the fungus *Guignardia bidwellii*.
- The pathogen survives winter in mummies, fallen leaves, and stem lesions.

Management Options

- Select cultivars with reduced susceptibility to black rot.
- Plant in good sites with appropriate air circulation and leaf drying characteristics.
- Avoid planting in low lying, poorly drained sites.
- Train vines onto high trellises to promote air circulation and allow for better fungicide penetration.
- Remove weeds and basal sprouts for increased air movement.
- Utilize disease prediction models to evaluate risk for infection. The University of Kentucky provides a [Black Rot of Grape Disease Prediction Model](#)
- Remove and destroy all diseased plant tissues.
- Fungicides may be applied preventatively beginning at bud break (after 1/2 inch new growth) and continue through berry maturity. Homeowners may use fungicides that contain the active ingredients mancozeb or myclobutanil. Contact a county Extension agent for more information on fungicide use.



By Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology
Senior Extension Associate and Nicole Gauthier,
Plant Pathology Extension Specialist



Fire Blight Symptoms Now Visible on Fruit Crops

Fire blight is the most important disease of apple and pear in Kentucky. Symptoms may now be visible; however, initial infections occurred at bloom. The pathogen survives winter in dead, dying, and diseased wood and in cankers. Removal of these pathogen sources can reduce spread of fire blight and should be completed in late winter while the pathogen is dormant.

Fire Blight Facts

*Early symptoms include wilt of flower cluster and blossom death. Disease spreads to shoots or branches where tips wilt and rapidly die (blight) to form a characteristic 'shepherd's crook'. Dark brown, sunken cankers (stem lesions) develop and expand to girdle branches, resulting in branch death.

*Potential hosts include apples, pears, and several landscape woody ornamentals in the rose family.

*Primary infection occurs at bloom and may continue through petal fall or until shoot elongation ends.

*Rainy conditions, periods of high humidity, and temperatures between 65-70°F favor disease development.

*Caused by the bacteria *Erwinia amylovora*.

*Bacterial cells overwinter in dead, dying, and diseased wood.

Management Options

*Select varieties that are tolerant or resistant to fire blight.

*Maintain plant health with proper nutrition and irrigation practices.

*Prune to increase air flow through the plant canopy.

*Remove infected plant tissues during winter when plants and pathogens are dormant. Do not prune when trees are wet. Burn, bury, or otherwise dispose of diseased material.

*Bactericides should be applied preventatively. Once infection occurs, sprays are not effective. Homeowners can apply copper during dormancy to reduce overwintering inoculum. Additional bactericides available for commercial growers are presented in the Commercial Fruit Pest Management Guide (ID-232). Always follow label directions when utilizing bactericides.

*Fire blight risk throughout the season can be determined by the disease development models available through the UK Ag Weather Center website.

By Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist





AGVENTURES DAY

FREE ICE CREAM
OUTDOOR GAMES
KENTUCKY KATE
FARM SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS
INFLATABLES
POPCORN
& MORE!



 Cooperative
Extension Service

JUNE 13TH
12:00 PM-3:00 PM
WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
245 CORPORATE DR, SPRINGFIELD, KY

Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

245 Corporate Drive, Springfield, Kentucky 40069

Dennis Morgeson, Horticulture Agent

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at the office

2nd @ 6pm Bee Club

4th @6pm Adult Sewing Club

5th @ 12pm Homemaker Meeting

13th AGVENTURES DAY

16th @6:30pm Horse Club

17th @4:30pm Retired Teachers

18th @1pm Card Workshop

21st @8am Quilting Club

26th @6:30pm Country Ham

Cattlemen's Quarterly Meeting

June 19th @ 6pm

John & Jill Settles' Farm

Call the extension office to register.



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

plant of the month



Perennial

Hardy in USDA Zones 5B - 8B



- Height: 18 in
- Space: 24 in
- Any Amount of Daily Sun
- Any Amount of Moisture
- Blooms Early to Late Summer

- Warm purple flowers with a soft lilac edge
- Flowers are large for Spiderwort at 2 inch wide
- Long period of bloom
- Grows in any amount of light
- Prefers moist, well-drained soil
- Cut back after flowering to rejuvenate foliage
- Pair with Primrose, Cardinal Flower, Bee Balm



'Webmaster'
Spiderwort

Recipe of the month



Blue Cheese Potato Salad

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 3 pounds new potatoes, sliced | ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper |
| 1 teaspoon salt | ½ cup light blue cheese dressing |
| ½ cup sliced green onions | ½ cup crumbled blue cheese |
| 1 8-ounce container plain Greek yogurt | |

Place potatoes and salt in a large saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 7-12 minutes, until potatoes are tender. Drain and cool. In a large bowl, stir together the green onions, yogurt, pepper, blue cheese dressing and blue cheese crumbles. Add potatoes and gently

stir to coat. Chill for several hours and serve.

Yield: 8, ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 220 calories, 5 g fat, 2.5 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 550 mg sodium, 33 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 10 g protein.

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