

Bourbon County Horticulture News

November 2022



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service

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Join us for a free



Learn the latest in orchid care

Monday, November 7
6:00 p.m.
Bourbon County
Extension Office

Speaker: Chris Cherry, graduate assistant and researcher at the University of Kentucky.

He will share information on growing orchids, how to repot and answer any questions.

Door prizes will be given throughout the program

First 25 to register will receive a free orchid and fertilizer!



Register: Scan QR code or visit tinyurl.com/mrtbz4b6

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



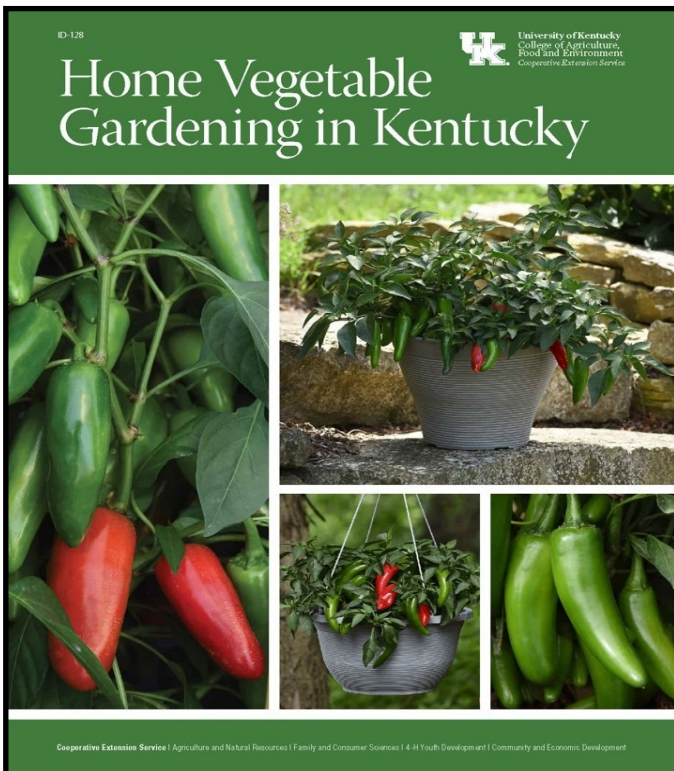
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Cleaning Up Gardens This Fall Can Help Control Diseases Next Spring

Removing plant debris from gardening areas when the growing season ends, usually after the first hard frost, reduces the likelihood that a number of diseases will develop on flowers, vegetables or fruits next year.

"A thorough cleanup of vegetable and flower gardens and fruit plantings is an effective way to control many plant diseases because remains provide an abundant source of microbes that can cause problems next year. This is because fungi and bacteria that cause diseases can overwinter on infected or contaminated roots, stems, leaves, flowers, vegetables or fruits," said John Hartman, Extension plant pathologist for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Good garden sanitation reduces the possibility of such plant diseases as early blight, mildews, and gray mold fungus, as well as various root rot and wilt problems.



In the vegetable garden, remove all plants, except winter vegetables or cover crops. It is especially important to completely clean out and destroy all diseased plants from gardens and fruit plantings. Be sure to dig up roots carefully and remove them because decomposing roots can release disease-

UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
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Home Composting: A Guide to Managing Yard Waste

William M. Fountain, Ph.D., Extension Horticulture Specialist;
Candace Harke, former Fayette County Horticulture Extension Agent;
Robert Warren, Ph.D., Agricultural Engineer, and Terry K. Hutchens,
former Jessamine County Agriculture Extension Agent

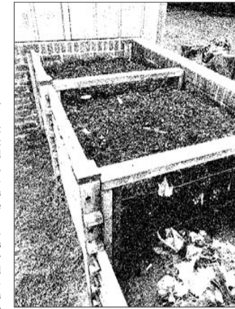
Backyard composting is an extension of processes that have gone on in nature since the origin of life. Without decomposition, the earth would soon be covered with dead animals and plants. With nothing going back into the soil, the soil soon would lack sufficient nutrients for the continuation of life. Natural recycling of these nutrients improves the soil in your yard and makes it more productive while reducing the rate at which landfills reach capacity.

Discarding yard wastes with other garbage creates an unnecessary expense for municipalities. Disposal costs for state-of-the-art landfills range from \$30 to \$60 per ton. Landscape refuse such as leaves, grass clippings, and trimmings account for up to 20 percent of the wastes being placed in landfills. Bans on outdoor burning and laws that limit dumping of landscape refuse in landfills make home composting an easy, economical, and environmentally attractive alternative for many homeowners. The home compost pile is one way that you can improve the environment by turning yard wastes into a usable product—humus—while extending the life of landfills. This in turn maximizes the value received for the tax dollar.

What is Composting?

Composting is a controlled natural biological process where bacteria, fungi (microbes), and other organisms decompose organic materials like leaves, grass clippings, and food wastes. The end product is called compost, or humus. During composting, microbes utilize the decomposable matter both as an energy source and for making additional microbes. The word "controlled" distinguishes composting from other natural processes such as rotting or putrefaction, which are less desirable.

The practice of placing materials like compost on the surface of the soil to moderate temperature, conserve moisture, and control weeds and erosion is called mulching. Adding uncomposted materials directly to the soil



may produce some undesirable effects. The microbes that break down the organic wastes will compete with the plant roots for nitrogen. This will result in nitrogen deficiency and poor plant growth. Composted materials are also easier to handle and incorporate into the soil.

How Decomposition Happens

Decomposition of organic material in the compost pile is dependent on maintained microbial activity. If any of the following four factors are not optimal, the process of decomposition will slow or stop (Table 1).

Table 1. Optimal composting conditions.

Oxygen	>5%
Moisture	40-60%
Carbon/Nitrogen	30:1
Temperature	90°-140°F

add them, and cover the pile with dry periods. If you are in doubt, squeeze a handful of the material: two drops of moisture will form adequately moist. displaces air from the compost become anaerobic. Avoid poorly the addition of large volumes of lens do not develop as a result of

icle size, the faster it will be turned particles have a larger surface area microbes. Nothing added to the se over 2 inches in size. A shredder the size of woody material added free leaves should also be shredded in forming layers. This task can be efficiently by picking up fallen leaves ed with a bagger. Shredding will not cess of decomposition, but it will also ame of the compost pile.

both a cell building block and an en- robes. Nitrogen is also required for the lism of the microbes. The ideal carbon- :N) in a compost pile is 30 parts carbon 30:1). wheat and straw are high in carbon and owly. Conversely, materials like manure rogen. An ideal C:N ratio is achieved by gen material with high carbon material gen material with high carbon material 1) or blood meal can be used as organic 2). Otherwise, use a commercial fertili- nitrogen content. Other nutrients such id potash are usually present in adequate mposition.

of organic matter usable in composting
15:1
19:1
20:1
25:1
35:1 to 85:1
80:1
60:1 to 110:1
170:1
625:1

causing microbes that will survive in the soil. Also remove spent blooms from flower gardens and take dried up fruits left on or around trees and grapevines.

Gardeners who decide not to remove old plants should till the garden to break dead material into smaller pieces and turn this

under. Buried plant debris decomposes faster than that left on the soil surface, reducing populations of organisms left in the garden to cause disease problems next year.

"Plant debris is a veritable gold mine for gardeners who have good compost piles," Hartman said. "A 'good compost pile' heats up and decomposes plant remains completely over the course of a few years. This will destroy most disease-causing organisms.

"If heat development isn't possible in the composting process, plants infected with root knot or Fusarium and Verticillium wilt diseases should be disposed of and put where they cannot be recycled back into the garden."

For more information, consult "Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky" (ID-128) and "Home Composting: A Guide To Managing Organic Wastes (HO-75). These publications are available at the Bourbon County Extension Office.



Dish Garden Design with Succulents Workshop

November 10
12 p.m. | Cost: Free
Bourbon County
Extension Office

Dish gardens are a great fall and winter plant related activity. During this hands on workshop, you will be designing and putting together your very own dish garden to take home.

Limited space! Register:

Call 859-987-1895
visit tinyurl.com/2f9ccujn
or scan QR code with
smartphone camera



Master Gardener Class Forming

I will be offering the Master Gardener this winter for anyone interested in learning more about horticulture and that enjoys giving back to the community. Sessions will be held here in Bourbon County. Classes will begin sometime in January and run through March. This will be an 8-10 week program. Each week will focus on different aspects of horticulture and the Cooperative Extension Service.

Program participants are required to do 40 hours community service to be considered a Master Gardener. Since this is a volunteer program through the University of Kentucky, a background check will be done on all participants.

If you would like to be added to our interest list and notified when we release full details and registration for the 2023 program, please scan the QR code to the right or visit tinyurl.com/yc55n23b



Fertilizing the Home Lawn

Fall and early winter nitrogen fertilization is best for fescues, Kentucky bluegrass, and ryegrass because they grow best during cool weather. Although it is best to soil test before applying fertilizer a good general rule of thumb is to apply 10 pounds of 10-10-10 per 1000 square feet. The turf develops a better root system, becomes very dense, and has much better late fall and early spring color if nitrogen is applied in the fall.

During mild winters, good color may be maintained all winter following a fall application of nitrogen. By eliminating or minimizing spring fertilization you:

- Prevent the heavy flush of growth that occurs with spring fertilization.
- Reduce frequency of mowing during spring.
- Develop a better root system.
- Reduce disease.

• Develop a more heat-tolerant, weed-free turf.

If for some reason you are not able to apply nitrogen in the fall, an application during the following early spring will improve green up. Even if some fall nitrogen was applied, applying a half rate of nitrogen in late May or early June in years with heavy spring rainfall may help improve color.

If color is not a major concern, don't fertilize, because crabgrass and other summer annuals respond to the nitrogen much more than do bluegrass and fescue. If you increase nitrogen fertilization of cool-season grasses in spring and summer, the need for irrigation, thatch control, and chemicals for weed control also increases. A lush summer lawn may not be worth these potential problems.

Late spring-early summer is the best time to fertilize bermudagrass and zoysiagrass, since they are warm-season grasses and perform best during summer months.

Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Myths

There are many myths and old wives tales concerning fruit and vegetable crops that have become part of Kentucky lore.

A number of grape growers believe that it is necessary to pick the leaves off the vine to expose the grape clusters to the sun so the grapes will color. This myth probably originated from growers removing leaves to improve air-circulation and reduce fruit rot. The truth is grapes—with the exception of the seedless Reliance variety—do not need sunlight to color. In fact, the fruit will color just fine when covered. Home grape growers can staple a bag over each cluster which keeps off birds, insects and diseases and reduces their spray program.

Frost has a tendency to concern many producers. Some people believe greens become poisonous after a frost. Greens like mustard, kale and collards actually develop a more enhanced flavor after a frost. Cool temperatures slow the internal respiration of the greens, allowing more sugars to accumulate, making them slightly sweeter. One exception, however, is rhubarb, which becomes toxic after exposure to a hard freeze.

Myths involving frosted sweet potato roots also exist.



Many producers believe that sweet potato roots become poisonous after a frost, but they actually just rot. Sweet potatoes are warm season crops and will not tolerate a vine-killing frost. Producers should worry about frost injuring the sweet potatoes where they attach to the vine. This injury prevents healing after the sweet potato is harvested leading to decay in storage.

For more information on fruit and vegetable production, contact the Bourbon Cooperative Extension Service.

Source: By John Strang

Timely Gardening Tips

Trees and Shrubs

- Late October/early November is not too late to plant most trees and shrubs. Wait until spring for broadleaf evergreens and azaleas.
- Trees planted too deep will often die from oxygen deprivation, crown rot or root rot.
- Apply dormant oil on warm days in early November to control scale insects on magnolias and other trees and shrubs.
- Soil test in early November then fertilize trees and shrubs accordingly in late November. Be sure to fertilize at the drip line and further out, since feeder roots of established trees may go out 2-3 times as far as the branches.
- Keep the mulch several inches away from the trunk to discourage voles from nesting and knowing.
- Don't pile salty snow around sensitive plants like white pines, maples, dogwoods, Lindens, Hemlocks, Arborvitae, Beech and Hollies.
- Add fallen tree leaves (except Walnut) to your compost pile, add nitrogen, soil, moisture, and other organic wastes such as coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable peelings, then turn the pile occasionally to help it heat up.
- Don't prune trees and shrubs in the fall or early winter. Why not? Because pruning is an invigoration process which puts the tree in 'growth mode' which makes the new growth more prone to winter injury. Screen or hardware cloth can be loosely placed around newly planted, smooth barked trees (red maple, honey locust, and crabapple), to prevent sunscald damage and frost cracks to the southwest side over winter.



Lawns

- Continue mowing into November or December as long as the grass is growing.

- Keep fallen tree leaves raked off the lawn so it can continue to take advantage of sunlight (plant makes more energy which helps prevent winterkill).
- Core aeration (coring, aerification) can still be done in early November on heavily compacted areas and on slopes where rapid water runoff has been a problem.
- Soil test (free through the Bourbon Extension Office) to determine the best fall/winter fertilization plan.
- You can apply fertilizer in November and December. If making several applications wait 30-45 days between applications.
- Use 2,4-D products to kill plantain, wild garlic, and dandelions. Use combination products, such as Weed—Gon, Turflon, Turf Kleen, etc. to control chickweed, ground ivy, henbit, white clover, red sorrel, and wild violets. Do not use products containing 2,4-D on newly seeded lawns.
- Set mole traps on active burrows between 4-6 pm in early November. Later in winter, moles may abandon surface tunnels and go into deep tunnels, 2-3 feet under ground. Another option is 'Tomcat Mole Killer'. Or 'worm-like' poison baits containing the active ingredient Talpirid.



2023 OAK Conference

January 26-28, 2023

Kentucky State University -
Frankfort, KY

Registration opens soon

The Organic Association of Kentucky's annual farming conference includes a growing audience of hundreds of Kentuckians and neighbors active in our community food systems: farmers, researchers, nonprofit professionals, federal and state agency partners, allied service providers and conscious consumers working collectively to build a local, resilient and healthy food system.

The primary focus of OAK Conference programming is on-farm production systems, techniques and practices - and yet the interwoven threads of community, conservation and conscious choice-making are inseparable from the sustainable agriculture movement.

STAY INFORMED!

Please check the Bourbon County-UK Horticulture Extension Facebook page or visit the Extension website at www.bourbon.ca.uky.edu to stay up-to-date.



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Ray Tackett

Plate It Up! Kentucky Proud Recipe



Kentucky Red Velvet Muffins

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 1/4 cups whole-wheat flour | Zest of one orange | 1 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 1/3 cup cocoa powder | Juice of one orange | 1 cup finely chopped |
| 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder | (about 4 tablespoons) | cooked beets (see back |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | 2 large eggs, at room | of card for cooking |
| 1/2 cup sugar | temperature | instructions) |
| 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, | 1/2 cup unsweetened | 1/2 cup semisweet |
| softened | applesauce | chocolate chips |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. **Line** 12 muffin cups with paper liners. **Mix** flour, cocoa, baking powder, and salt together in a medium bowl. In a separate large bowl, **beat** sugar, butter, and orange zest until smooth. **Add** orange juice, eggs, applesauce, and vanilla to the sugar mixture; **beat** until smooth. **Stir** about one-third of the flour mixture into the sugar mixture to fully incorporate it into a batter; **repeat** with remaining flour mixture in two even additions. **Fold in** beets and chocolate chips. **Divide** batter

equally into the lined muffin cups using a 1/4-cup measuring scoop. **Bake** about 25 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. **Cool** in pan for 10 minutes before **removing** muffins to cool completely on a wire rack.

Yield: 12 muffins

Serving size: 1 muffin

Nutrition analysis: 170 calories, 7g total fat, 4g saturated fat, 40mg cholesterol, 190mg sodium, 26g total carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 15g total sugars, 12g added sugars, 4g protein, 0% DV vitamin D, 2% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 4% DV potassium.