

# BY THE YARD

## HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER



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August  
2022

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Candy Store Bubblegum Pink Phlox is a newer mildew resistant variety. No trace of the disease in late July, 2022.

Happy August everyone!

I can't believe I'm saying it already! Despite the heat and lack of rain, this summer has flown by. August is still a busy month in the garden with plenty of tasks to do and garden pests to scout for. Now is a great time to have soil tests performed in time for fall lawn fertilization. Soil tests have been taking longer than normal to receive results so plan accordingly and don't wait till the last minute. We've had a few nice instances of rain in the past month, but we are still abnormally dry here in Fayette County. Keep watering newly installed plants to aid in establishment. You can also celebrate the summer with National Watermelon Day on August 3. Be sure to pick one up at your local Farmers Market for the best quality and flavor. Fayette County Public Schools are scheduled to start on Wednesday, August 10th. Plan for some extra time in your morning commute with the increased traffic. We also have two Gardener's Toolbox classes this month: [Dividing Perennials](#) (video only) on Tuesday, August 2nd and [Native Flowers for Pollinators](#) (in person) on Thursday, August 25th at 6:00 p.m. Both classes are free, [but you must pre-register to attend.](#)

As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to stop by with your samples, email us your pictures, or call us with your questions.

Thank you,  
Jamie Dockery, Fayette County Extension Agent for Horticulture,  
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## Spider Mite Problems

The two-spotted spider mite is the most common and destructive mite on deciduous ornamentals. It feeds on many varieties of trees, shrubs, flowers, weeds, fruits, and garden crops. Immature stages and adults are yellow to green with two dark spots on either side of the body. The spherical eggs are translucent. Strands of webbing spun by the mites can cover infested leaves and stems.

Two-spotted spider mites overwinter as adult females in the soil or under the bark of host plants. They become active during the spring and may feed and reproduce throughout the summer and into fall provided conditions remain favorable for plant growth. It is considered a warm season mite that thrives under hot, dry summer conditions. Damaging populations seldom develop during wet, cool weather.

### Scouting for Spider Mites

Timely inspection of susceptible landscape plants, especially during periods favoring mite outbreaks is key to preventing serious damage. Pay particular attention to plants having a history of mite problems. Spider mites often re-infest plants year after year.

Inspect stippled and distorted leaves to determine if mites are present. Thrips, leafhoppers, and lace bugs can cause similar symptoms. Spider mites prefer to feed on the lower leaf surface, so examine there first. A 10X to 20X hand lens is essential for clearly seeing the mites. Also visible on the leaf surface may be pale-colored cast "skins" shed by developing mites, as well as the eggs.

An efficient way to sample vegetation for mites is to hold a sheet of white paper or foam board under a branch and tap or shake the foliage sharply. If mites are present, some will be dislodged and appear as slow-moving, dark specks on the paper.

### Management

Spider mite infestations are easiest to control when detected early, before the mite populations have reached very high levels.

- Spraying plants with a strong stream of water from a garden hose can dislodge many. The approach is generally more effective on smaller plants with open foliage and low mite populations. Water sprays should be directed upward against the lower leaf surface. Repeat as needed.
- Low populations of spider mites may be held in check by naturally occurring predatory mites that feed on both eggs and active stages.



Figure 1. Two-spotted spider mites and eggs (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK, Entomology)

## Spider Mite Problems (continued)

- Homeowner options include horticultural oils, and insecticidal/miticidal soaps. Products such as Bon-Neem Insecticidal Soap, Green Light OMRI Listed Insect/Disease Control, Bayer Natria Insect, Disease, and Mite Control (with sulfur) and Ortho Elementals Garden Insect Killer with pyrethrins and canola oil can be used for mite control on ornamentals and vegetables. Bayer 3-in-1 Insect, Disease, and Mite Control is an option for trees, shrubs, and flowers. Spectracide Triazicide Insect Killer Once & Done is labeled for spider mite control on a range of ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- Good spray coverage is essential when treating for mites. Thoroughly wet the foliage and try to contact as many mites as possible. Pay particular attention to leaf undersides where most mites are living. In most cases, two or more applications at 5 to 10 day intervals will be needed for satisfactory control.
- Multiple applications of carbaryl or many of the pyrethroid insecticides can trigger mite outbreaks, as can systemic use of imidacloprid drenches.

By: Lee Townsend, U.K. Extension Entomologist

## Grafted Tomato Harvest

In late July one of our Master Gardeners harvested a monster 2 lb 13.7 oz tomato from our demonstration garden behind the extension office. The plant is a Jackson Oxheart heirloom which had been grafted onto a non-specified rootstock. Anecdotal evidence from growers suggests that grafted tomatoes have increased disease resistance and can also produce larger and more abundant fruits. Research is currently being conducted at universities around the country see if grafted tomatoes really do live up to the hype. Whether it be through the dedicated care of our Master Gardeners or the increased vigor of a grafted plant, this 2.85 lb tomato is nothing to scoff at. All the produce, like this tomato, harvested from our demonstration garden is donated to local food pantries. Thank you, Master Gardeners, for all your hard work!



2.85 lb Jackson Oxheart tomato

## Heat, Drought and Blossom End Rot

Normally, a hot dry year would favor vegetable production as long as growers have adequate irrigation. However, when daytime temperatures inch up over 100 degrees Fahrenheit like we've seen several days this year, we begin to see problems with many vegetable crops.

Pollen begins to die and that affects fruit set and several disorders become apparent. One thing growers might see is blossom end rot, which is simply a rot at the blossom end of a fruit. Tomatoes usually suffer most, but eggplant, cucurbits and peppers can all succumb to the problem. It is technically caused by a calcium deficiency in the plant or the fruit. But in many cases, it's not a lack of calcium in the soil, but rather an environmental factor that stops the plant from taking up calcium. Plants take up calcium via their transpiration system. As plants move water through the roots to the leaves and out the stomata, calcium moves into the plant. But in areas of severe drought, blossom end rot will appear because there is no water to move the calcium to the plant. To make matters worse, calcium is immobile in the plant, meaning it can't move from an area of low demand to an area of high demand, so even temporary deficiencies can cause permanent damage.

When temperatures exceed 100 degrees, many plants will close stomata to conserve water, thus closing the path for calcium to get inside. So don't be surprised if you are seeing blossom end rot on your tomatoes that were developing during the most recent heat wave.

Unfortunately, there's nothing you can do to correct the problem; once blossom end rot appears it can't be reversed. The fruit is safe to eat, just cut off the bottom part and remember you are not able to commercially sell them.

Since summer is only two-thirds over, meteorologically speaking, there are some things you can do to prevent future occurrences of blossom end rot. If we see high temperatures again, try to mitigate them for the plants by providing some kind of shade and giving them adequate water.

For more information about how extreme weather can impact your vegetables, contact Fayette County Cooperative Extension Service.

Source: Tim Coolong, University of Kentucky, Extension Horticulture Specialist



Source: University of Georgia Extension

## Magnolia Scale

The magnolia scale, about 1/2 inch in diameter, is a soft scale that feeds on magnolias. Undetected infestations steal sap and vigor from landscape trees while covering foliage with honeydew and the resulting sooty mold. Heavily infested trees can suffer branch dieback or even die.

### Insect Description

Mature female scales appear in late summer as pink-orange bumps covered with white waxy powder. Each one produces a batch of eggs that hatch in late summer. Tiny crawlers settle on branches and remain there during winter. Later nymphal stages are dark gray with a reddish-brown ridge along the middle of their backs. Development resumes the following spring to complete the single generation that occurs each year.

### Management

Controlling soft scales can be challenging and may require a combination of measures over several seasons.

**Cultural** – This pest prefers stressed trees. Implement proper plant healthcare practices to reduce stress on infested plants: watering as needed, proper mulching, ensuring the root flare is not buried, and minimal to no fertilizing.

**Physical** – If practical, remove heavily infested branches or gently scrub infested areas with a soft brush and soapy water to remove as many females as possible before egg hatch.

**Dormant Oil** – Apply dormant oil to overwintering nymphs during early spring, but before buds open. This is a contact spray, so thorough coverage is needed for good results. Dormant oil applications are less likely to harm beneficial predatory insects than conventional insecticides.

**Insecticides** – Sprays of insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, or insecticide sprays also can be directed at crawlers during late summer. Proper timing of insecticide applications is a major key to success. Applications must target newly hatched scale crawlers, which are very susceptible to control measures while moving over plant surfaces to find a feeding spot. Once settled, crawlers begin to secrete a waxy covering that shields them from sprays. Systemic insecticides containing either imidacloprid or dinotefuran can be applied as a soil drench several weeks before crawlers become active. **Only use systemic insecticides as a last resort when other control methods are not providing adequate control. Systemic insecticides have a long residual effect and are directly responsible for the decline of pollinators and other nontarget insects.**

**Evaluating Control** – The success or failure of control efforts may not be readily apparent but here are some things to check.

- Live scales should produce a liquid when mashed, dead scales will be dry and not "bleed" when crushed.
- New foliage should have a healthier appearance once the scale burden has been removed. Buds should break a little earlier than when the plant was infested, and expanded leaves should have normal color and turgor.

Source: Lee Townsend, University of Kentucky, Extension Entomologist



## Fall Lawn Maintenance

With Autumn quickly approaching now is the time to start planning for fertilizing and renovating your lawn. Our cool season turfgrass species put on their best growth during the fall and winter with cooler temperatures and increased rainfall. The cool autumn months are the ideal time to establish grass seed and fertilize your lawn.

### Soil Testing

Whether you are doing maintenance on an established lawn or renovating your lawn, having a routine soil test performed at your local County Extension Office is essential for proper lawn care.

Soil tests will let you know precisely which nutrients your lawn needs, and which ones are already available in the soil. By only applying the nutrients your turf needs, you not only save money, but you also reduce pollution from fertilizer runoff which greatly impacts the health of our waterways.

When taking a soil test, collect soil from 10 to 15 random spots throughout the lawn. The goal in collecting soil is to get a comprehensive sample, which represents the entire lawn. Take samples to a depth of 1 to 2 inches (4-6 inches on newly tilled soils) and remove the plant material. Break the samples up in the bucket and thoroughly mix the soil together. You need a total of 2 cups (unit) of soil per sampled area for accurate results. Be sure to test flower beds or areas of known soil variations separately as to not skew the test results. Many homeowners will also submit separate samples for front and back yard as conditions can sometimes vary greatly between the two. You can then take the samples to the extension office and the results will be returned to you within a few weeks. Soil tests should be taken every three to 5 years on established lawns and may be taken at any point during the year.

### Fertilizing your Lawn

The optimal time to fertilize cool season turfgrass lawns in Kentucky is September through very early December.

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 and promote better drought tolerance in summer.
- Reduce disease.
- Develop a more heat-tolerant, weed free turf.
- Develop much better late fall and early spring color.

The soil test measures several important elements; however, it does not measure nitrogen. Nitrogen changes forms in the soil very rapidly so it is difficult to predict its availability to plants with a soil test.

Turf growth is highly dependent on nitrogen fertilization but applying nitrogen at the wrong time or in heavy amounts may severely damage your lawn.

	Pounds N/1,000 sq ft/year†	Fertilizer Timing
<b>Cool-season grasses</b>		
Fine fescues*	1-2	Autumn
Kentucky bluegrass	2-4	Autumn
Perennial ryegrass	2-4	Autumn
Tall fescue	2-4	Autumn
<b>Warm-season grasses</b>		
Bermudagrass	3-4	Summer
Zoysiagrass	1-2	Summer

\* Includes sheep, hard, and red fescues.

Table 1. Recommended fertilizer rates for various lawn grasses in Kentucky. Source: Gregg Munshaw, University of Kentucky Plant and Soil Sciences

## Fall Lawn Maintenance (continued)

A general recommendation is to apply 1 pound actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet at any given application. Depending on which species of turfgrass your lawn consists of you should apply anywhere from 1 to 4 pounds of Nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. To reduce risk of runoff or fertilizer burn, you might need to make more than one application of nitrogen fertilizer per year to reach the recommended nitrogen rate.

Please note that for the home lawn, the lowest recommended rate of fertility should be used. For example, a tall fescue lawn should receive 2 pounds of Nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year for optimal growth. Higher fertility rates will require more inputs via mowing, irrigation, dethatching, etc.

### Seeding Your Lawn

Depending on the stresses of summer and the quality of your lawn going into fall you might decide that reseeding your lawn is necessary to maintain a dense stand of turfgrass. The best time to seed cool-season grasses is from mid-August to late-September. Early fall is best due to cooling temperatures, fall rains, less weed competition, and 7 to 8 months of root development and maturation before the summer.

When thinking about seeding your lawn it is important to pick the right species of grass for your specific growing conditions. Choosing a turfgrass based on its suitability to your site conditions will take less work and fewer inputs (water, fertilizer, pesticides). For most this will be a turf-type tall fescue. Turf-type tall fescues are finer textured, darker green, and denser than pasture-type tall fescues like Kentucky-31. Other cool season turfgrass species like Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass are not well adapted to our summers temperatures and require significantly more work to keep looking good in the summer.

In many cases, overseeding the existing turf is enough to maintain a quality stand. However, simply broadcasting fresh seed into the lawn will not provide the necessary conditions for adequate germination. Grass seedlings cannot survive and establish without reducing competition with the existing turf or breaking up the seedbed and existing thatch. To improve germination and establishment a dethatching machine should be used to thin out the existing turf and remove excess organic material. Dethatching machines also have the added benefit of breaking up the soil surface allowing for improved seed to soil contact. Excess thatch should be removed before seeding, and seeds should be gently raked into the soil for best results.

Remember to keep the grass seedlings well-watered. Seedlings should be kept consistently moist, but not puddled in water. Continue to monitor and irrigate accordingly for 2 to 3 weeks after germination. After this, the young seedlings can begin to be hardened off and watered only when the soil is dry.



*The underside of a dethatching machine showing the sling blades that remove thatch and create small furrows in the soil. Source: Gregg Munshaw, University of Kentucky Plant and Soil Sciences*

## August Quick Tips

- Many short season vegetables can be planted now for a fall crop. Look at beans, cucumbers, squash, radishes, lettuce etc. Keep in mind the shortening days will cause plants to mature more slowly. Allow at least two weeks longer than the predicted days to harvest.
- Clean and refresh hummingbird feeders regularly. They will readily spoil in the summer heat.
- Plant cool season crops like broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprouts and cauliflower now for best results. These crops perform better for us in fall than spring.
- Finish trimming shrubs and hedges this month to allow time for re-growth to mature before winter.
- Do not spray pesticides in the heat. Wait until late evening or early morning when temperatures are cooler. Always read labels thoroughly for additional precautions.
- Divide crowded perennials now through mid-September.
- Harvest vegetables as they mature. Allowing fruits and vegetables to ripen seed on the plant will reduce further yields.
- Monitor plants in the squash and pumpkin family for squash bug and squash vine borer. Treat as necessary before a significant problem develops.
- Bagworms are still a problem on evergreens. Monitor plants closely as small bagworms are much easier to control than the more mature larvae.
- Late summer brings the common tomato blights to forefront. Inspect plants regularly and remove any infected leaves as they appear. This will help control the spread of the disease. Also be careful not to wet foliage when watering as splashing water often spreads disease organisms.



### Farmer's Market Skillet Bake

½ small onion, finely chopped	<b>2 cups</b> shredded mozzarella cheese, divided	<b>4</b> medium sized tomatoes, sliced
<b>2</b> cloves garlic, minced	<b>1</b> medium summer squash, sliced	<b>1 teaspoon</b> salt
<b>4-5</b> small red potatoes, sliced	<b>1</b> medium zucchini, sliced	<b>1 teaspoon</b> pepper
<b>1 tablespoon</b> olive oil		<b>5</b> fresh basil leaves, finely chopped, divided

**Preheat** oven to 375 degrees F. **Prepare** onion, garlic and sliced potatoes (about ¼ inch thick). **Heat** olive oil over medium heat in a 10 or 12-inch oven safe skillet. **Add** onion, garlic, and potatoes to pan and **stir** to coat with oil. **Cook** over medium heat, **stirring** occasionally until golden brown and tender. **Add** 1 cup mozzarella cheese. In a bowl, **toss** together the squash, zucchini and tomatoes with salt, pepper, and half of the finely chopped basil. **Layer** squash

and tomato slices over the potato and cheese layer. **Top** with remaining mozzarella cheese. **Bake** 35 minutes or until vegetables are tender and cheese is melted. **Remove** skillet from oven and **top** with remaining basil.

**Yield:** 8, 1 cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 200 calories, 8 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 490 mg sodium, 24 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 10 g protein.







Grandparents As Parents of Kentucky

www.gapofky.org

Thursday, September 22, 2022

Embassy Suites  
1801 Newtown Pike  
Lexington, KY 40511

\$10 for grandparents,  
relatives or caregivers

\$50 for professionals  
(includes for CEUs)

# 19th Annual Bluegrass Regional Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference

**Registration required:  
Deadline - September 15, 2022**  
For complete program and  
registration forms visit:  
<http://gapofky.org>  
or call: (859) 257-5582  
to have the program packet mailed

Grandparents, caregivers, relatives and professionals are invited to the 19th GAP (Grandparents and relatives As Parents) Conference to acquire relevant information regarding the primary care of children.

8:00 AM-3:30 PM - **Resource & Benefits Fair**  
(Limited number of legal consultations available throughout the day)

8:00 AM - **Registration**

- 8:30 AM **Welcome**  
**Successfully Raised**  
*Maddie Stiles*
- 9:00 AM **The Impact of Trauma & Loss in Kinship Families**  
*Beth Tyson - Beth Tyson Trauma Consulting*
- 10:45 AM **Workshop Session One**  
1. **Legal 101: An Introduction to Navigating the Legal System**  
*Carl Devine, Fayette County Family Court Judge & Denotra Gunther, Fayette County District Court Judge*  
2. **Media & Technology for Young Children**  
*Holly Ackerman - KET Early Childhood Education Consultant*  
3. **E-Cigarettes, Vaping & Addiction: What Adults Who Care for Adolescents & Young Children Need to Know**  
*Angela Brumley-Shelton, UK College of Public Health*  
4. **Mindful Movement - Mindful Moments**  
*Wendy Jett - LFUCG Aging Services*
- 12:00 PM **Lunch & Door Prizes**

- 1:00 PM **Workshop Session Two**  
5. **Supporting Children Through Grief**  
*Emily Johnson - Kentucky Center for Grieving Children & Families*  
6. **Protection and Advocacy 101 - Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Kentuckians with Disabilities**  
*Kevin McManis - Staff Attorney Supervisor, Kentucky Protection and Advocacy*  
7. **Opioid Overdose Response Training and Naloxone Distribution**  
*Scott Luallen - LFUCG - Substance Use Intervention Program*  
8. **Kinship Benefits & Support**  
*Shelia Rentfrow - UK College of Social Work*
- 2:10 PM **Keynote Session**  
9. **Understanding Ambiguous Loss and How to Help Your Grandchildren Recover**  
*Beth Tyson - Beth Tyson Trauma Consulting*

Online registration available:  
Scan the QR code



\*For full workshop descriptions please visit [www.gapofky.org](http://www.gapofky.org)



Grandparents As Parents Conference

### Conference Committee:

Joan Brandenburg, Grandmother  
Maranda Brooks, Fayette County Cooperative Extension Office  
Ann D'Ambruoso, Family Law of Kentucky, PLLC  
Mary Jo Dendy, Sandersville/Meadowthorpe Family Resource Ctr.  
Carl Devine, Fayette County Family Court Judge  
Anna Dominick, Osborne Fletcher, PLLC  
Sandra Flynn, Grandmother  
Regina Goodman, Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging  
Arion Jett-Seals, University of Kentucky

Kelly Justice, Division of Youth Services  
Martha McFarland, LFUCG Aging Services  
Kate O' Ferral, Deep Springs Family Resource Center  
Donna Rash, Raised by Relatives  
Sheila Rentfrow, UK College of Social Work  
Dale Sanders, Grandfather  
Kristy Stambaugh, LFUCG Aging Services & Independent Living  
Mary West, KET



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# Newsletter Enclosed Fayette County "By the Yard"



  
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AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING

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