

BY THE YARD

HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service
Fayette County Extension
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504
(859) 257-5582
fayette.ext@uky.edu
<http://fayette.ca.uky.edu/>

September
2022

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Iron weed is a beautiful native that blooms in September. Here are a few others; Cup plant, mountain mint, white wingstem, brown eyed susan, and swamp mallow.

Happy September everyone!

It's hard to believe that summer is already over, and for us here at the Extension Office it has gone by far too quickly. I for one am excited for the fall and the activities that come with it. While it's easy to get wrapped up in garden cleanups and fall decoration, don't forget to take a step back and enjoy the palette of the season: songbirds foraging for ripening seeds and fruits, ironweed and goldenrod swaying in a wildflower meadow, or the crisp cool morning air.

Just as a reminder there two Gardener's Toolbox classes this month: Native Trees to Consider (in-person) on Thursday, September 15th at 6:00 pm and Woody Invasives Management (in person) on Tuesday, September 27th 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,
jamie.dockery@uky.edu

Tyson Gregory, Fayette County Horticulture Technician,
tyson.gregory@uky.edu



**FAYETTE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2022**



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Late Season Oak Symptoms

Oaks are mighty trees that we love to have in the landscape. Due to the fact that they are mostly native, and they are long-lived and sturdy, we can find many different kinds of insects and mites feeding on them. Overall, these oak feeders rarely cause significant harm, but they can create interesting and distressing symptoms that might frighten the average tree owner. Here are just a few of the critters that bug our oaks and the symptoms they leave behind.

Oak Lace Bug

Lace bugs are true bugs, and they feed using their needle-like mouthpart to suck juices from the leaves of plants. One species, the oak lace bug, feeds specifically on oak leaves. Our colleagues with the Kentucky Division of Forestry have noted that in 2021, we have seen high numbers of these insects and noticeable damage to oaks across the state. Oak lace bugs are beautiful looking insects as adults; they resemble lace doilies that just happen to have six legs. As they feed, they cause stippling to leaves. With enough feeding activity, the whole leaf may eventually become bronzed. Lace bugs also have distinctive feces; their frass looks like black motor oil has been splattered on the leaf's surface.



Figure 1: Adult lace bugs have a distinctive doily-like appearance while immatures are dark in color with small spikes. Lace bugs create speckling as they feed, and they also leave behind black, motor oil-like, frass as seen in the upper left of the image. (Photo: Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org)



Figure 2: Oak shothole leafminer can create two kinds of distinct damage: one is a blotch like leaf mine produced by the larvae; the other is the almost symmetrical holes left behind by females. They pierce young buds and as the leaf expands, these holes expand and become apparent. (Photo: Steven Katovich bugwood.org)

Oak Shothole Leafminer

Leafminers are usually small insects that as immatures will live and feed between the top and bottom layers of a leaf. Oaks can host several species of leafminer, but one is more noticeable than others—the oak shothole leafminer. These leaf mining flies spend their maggot stage in leaves feeding; their activity creates a blotch mine that can be mistaken for anthracnose. The mines are most obvious in May. However, as adults, they create damage that can be seen throughout the season. The females of these small flies will stab at new leaves and then drink the sap that is produced by this damage. As the leaf grows, these punctures will also expand creating a Swiss cheese-like appearance. This can be seen from summer to fall.

Late Season Oak Symptoms (continued)

Oak Leaf Skeletonizer

These small caterpillars can be hard to notice, but their damage is hard to miss. Reaching only about a quarter inch in length before they pupate, the caterpillar is also pale yellow-green. As they develop, they produce silken pods that they will hide in as they molt. The caterpillars will feed on leaves until there is only the upper layer of leaf left. This makes paper thin, brown leaves or brown patches. There are two generations, one in April and May and one that develops between August and the end of September.



Figure 3: Oak leaf skeletonizers create thin, papery, oak leaves that are almost translucent. The immature form of this pest has fed on all layers of the leaf except for the top, creating their distinctive symptoms. (Photo: Ryan Armbrust, Kansas Forest Service, Bugwood.org)



Oak Bullet Galls

Oaks can be home to many different species of galls, including apple galls, jumping galls, horned oak galls, and midrib galls. Most galls are mere curiosities; they tend to pose little to no hazard to a tree. Insects that live in galls have adapted to trick trees into providing them a free house that protects them and provides them food. This is done with secretions from the mother insect or from the saliva of immatures causing the plant to form a tumor like growth around them. The bullet gall is no different. The wasp that induces these galls have a complex life cycle, but in the fall many noticeable round-to-acorn-shaped galls can be found on oak. Inside, an immature wasp is feeding and developing. As they feed, they excrete out honeydew, a sugary fecal material that other insects love to devour. Yellowjackets, paper wasps, bees, ants, and many other hungry insects will visit galls to drink up. These congregations of stinging insects are often what people notice before they find the galls.

Figure 4: Oak bullet galls are usually green, brown, and in some cases slightly red. They can be easy to miss as they appear outwardly like a natural part of the plant's anatomy.

They do drip honeydew, though, which recruits other insects to the tree. (Photo: Steven Katovich, Bugwood.org)

Summer Is Wrapping Up

Since we have reached the end of the growing season and most of these insects only cause minor or cosmetic damage, no insecticides need to be applied. Pruning out some of the most affected branches for bullet galls can reduce the population for next year. Fall sanitation can help reduce harborage for some of the others listed here.

Source: Jonathan L. Larson, Entomology Extension Specialist, Kentucky Pest News

Plant Pansies in the Fall

Your spring display of pansies will be even more spectacular if you set out plants in early fall. This gives plants time to become well established before cold winter weather.

Fall planting will reward you with three seasons of colorful blooms. You should have some blooms from now until Christmas and again from late February to late March, depending on winter and spring weather. The peak show will be from about mid-April to mid- to late-spring. Summer heat causes a decrease in flower production and size as plants start to decline in mid- to late-June.

Few flowers can match the pansy for diversity in colors. The standards are combinations of yellows, blues and bronzes with black and white markings that resemble a face. However, also look for nearly solid whites, yellows, blues and some maroons that are almost red. Most varieties will do well in Kentucky.

For best results, plant pansies in a well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade. Plants put in partial shade generally will produce flowers later into the spring; but will produce fewer blooms.

Keep plants well-watered, but not too wet.

Avoid excess fertilizer in the fall, especially nitrogen, because it produces rapid, succulent growth that is less winter hardy. Too much fertilizer also results in excessive foliage at the expense of flower production. A few applications of a soluble fertilizer at planting and several weeks later will get pansies through the fall and winter. Fertilize with a soluble plant food again in mid-March as the plants begin to resume active growth.

Put a mulch of straw, bark or other organic matter around pansies to conserve soil moisture and prevent alternate freezing and thawing of soil during the winter that can lift plants out of the ground.

As winter weather approaches, you will notice the foliage has turned a dull green and leaves have started to wilt. Although this is a natural response to cold weather, it also is a signal for you to take protective measures to ensure that the pansies make it through the winter.

Frozen soil and winter winds can rapidly dry out plants and chances are they might not recover. Snow cover protects plants from harsh winter weather. However, in the absence of snow cover, apply a two-inch thick layer of straw to protect plants from drying out. Apply and keep the straw on pansies as long as temperatures consistently are below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pull back straw when the weather warms up; otherwise, the plants might suffocate as they resume growth in the spring.

Source: Richard Durham, Extension Professor,
Department of Horticulture



Pansies such as these Matrix Scarlet come in a wide range of colors and styles. (Photo: MSU Extension/Gary Bachman)

Featured Plant: Seven-son Flower

The Seven-son Flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*) is an unusual and very interesting large shrub to small tree. This tree is not well known outside of botanical gardens and specialty collections. Its obscurity is largely because it was only introduced to the horticulture industry in the early 1980's. The seven-son flower is native to China and is quite rare in its native habit. Despite its rarity in the wild, the seven-son tree performs phenomenally in the landscape, and it is quickly gaining traction in home gardens.

This plant naturally develops a multistem growth habit with an open spreading form. At maturity it can reach 15 to 25 feet tall with a spread of up to 12 feet. Occasionally one might find a specimen trained to a single stem, but these are uncommon and judicious pruning must be followed to maintain this form.

Seven-son flowers are very adaptable and perform well in many garden situations. The plant performs best in full sun, but partial shade is tolerated at the expense of flower product. Moist well drained soils are preferred, but the seven-son tree is very tolerant of our heavy clay soil. It is also remarkably cold hardy tolerating temperatures down to -22 to -24°F with only minor tip dieback.

The reason why the seven-son flower is becoming more well known in the gardening world is its outstanding display of white, jasmine-like, fragrant flowers in late August and early September. The flowers arrive at a time when few other woody plants are in bloom and serve as a large nectar source for pollinators late in the growing season. In fact, many have observed this plant to be a favorite of monarch butterflies during their fall migration.

The seven-son flower has one more trick up its sleeve after it finishes blooming. Once the flowers mature, they will begin to develop small, inconspicuous fruits surrounded by a persistent calyx (the ring of leaves that forms the outer layer of a flower). The calyces turn a bright raspberry red, resulting in another spectacular, eye-catching display. These ornamental calyces will persist on the plant through leaf drop and partially through the winter.

It is important to note that this is not a tree that you can plant and forget about. The seven-son flower requires regular pruning to develop and maintain a good form. Pruning should be performed in the late winter before the buds break. Seven-son flowers bloom on new growth so pruning in the summer will reduce the number of blooms produced in the fall.



The showy raspberry-red calyces of the Seven-son flower are frequently confused for flowers. (Photo: NC State University, Cooperative Extension)

September Quick Tips

- Add fall blooming perennials to your garden. Good candidates include: Japanese anemone, Hardy ageratum, non-invasive Goldenrods, Hardy begonia, Toad lilies, Asters, Montauk daisy, Perennial mums, Joe-Pye weed, and a wide variety of ornamental grasses. Make sure to keep plants well-watered and try to have them planted early enough to allow establishment before freezing weather.
- Continue to seed and renovate lawns this month. Good seed to soil contact is critical. Consider renting a power seeder if you are working with a large area.
- Begin preparations to move overwintered tropical and cold sensitive plants inside before the temperature get too cold. Insect pests are much easier to manage outdoors versus indoors.
- Order spring flowering bulbs now or shop garden centers for the best selection. Bulbs may be planted right away or stored in a cool place for later planting.
- Plant cover crops in the vegetable garden after plants have been harvested. These can be tilled in next spring to add valuable organic matter. Or consider killing the plants and rolling flat to serve as an effective mulch you can plant through excellent organic weed control. For more information on varieties go to: <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id113/id113.pdf>
- Begin early garden cleanup with the removal of diseased plant materials. This will help prevent problems next year. Healthy plants can be left for late fall or early spring cleanup.
- Plant fall vegetables. You still have time to direct sow radishes, turnips, spinach and lettuces. You can still succeed with transplants of broccoli, and fast maturing cabbage varieties if planted right away.
- Plant trees and shrubs. Fall is a wonderful time to plant woody ornamentals. Try to allow plants time to establish before the onset of severe weather.
- Divide peonies, iris, and daylilies through the middle of this month.
- Visit a local orchard or farmer's market for apples, pears, fall raspberries, and other seasonal treats.
- First day of Autumn is Friday, September 22nd

Apple Sage Pork Chops

- **1 tablespoon** flour
- **1 teaspoon** dried sage
- **2 tablespoons** garlic powder
- **1/2 teaspoon** ground thyme
- **1 teaspoon** salt
- **4** boneless center cut pork chops
- **2 tablespoons** oil
- **1/2** large onion, thinly sliced
- **2** thinly sliced red apples
- **1 cup** unsweetened apple juice
- **2 tablespoons** brown sugar (optional)

Wash hands with soap and warm water, **scrubbing** for at least 20 seconds. **Gently clean** all produce under cool running water. **Mix** flour, sage, garlic, thyme, and salt together in a small bowl. **Sprinkle** 1 1/2 tablespoons of the mixture over both sides of the pork chops. Remember to **wash** hands after handling raw meat. **Heat** oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. **Sear** pork chops for 2 to 3 minutes on each side. Pan will smoke a little. **Remove** pork chops from the pan and set aside. **Reduce** heat to medium. To the same skillet, **add** onion and **cook** for 2 minutes, or until soft. **Add** apples, and **continue cooking** until tender, about 2 minutes. **Add** apple juice, brown sugar, and remaining spice mixture and stir to dissolve. **Return** pork chops to the skillet by nestling them in the pan. **Bring** the liquid to a boil, **reduce** heat to low, and **simmer** for 5 minutes or until the pork is cooked through and reaches 145 degrees F on a food thermometer. **Refrigerate** leftovers within 2 hours.

Yield: 4 servings. **Nutrition Analysis:** 310 calories, 10g total fat, 1.5g saturated fat, 50mg cholesterol, 660mg sodium, 35g total carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 25g total sugars, 7g added sugars, 22g protein, 6% DV vitamin D, 2% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 15% DV potassium.





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



Find us on Facebook
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



Fayette County Cooperative Extension
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County Extension Agent for Horticulture
Cooperative Extension Service
Fayette County Extension Service
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504-1383
(859) 257-5582

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