

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/>

May

2024

Inside this issue:

- Master Gardener Class
- Lantana Camara
- The Cicadas are Coming!
Sort of...
- What is a CSA
- Let's Talk Fertilizer
- What to Plant Now
- Upcoming Events
- May Quick Tips
- Recipe of the Month

Spring is Here

As I walk around the garden and mentally catalog the never-ending list of wishful projects and relentless to-dos, I think back to my angsty winter hibernation. I wanted this; I tell myself. I yearned for time to be outdoors and wondered how the season would play out. It humbles me. I try to realign my "stress" reaction to a mindful "one step at a time" enjoyable journey. Will it last? Who can say...

I hope this month's newsletter brings some encouragement and ease as we discuss some hot topics like fertilization, CSAs and the great cicada awakening. (Spoiler: Not much to fear here.) We'll also touch on what to consider for your garden this month as well as fun, nature-based happenings in and around town.

In appreciation,

Reena Martin, Fayette County Horticulture Assistant
Reena.martin@uky.edu

Jamie Dockery, Fayette County Extension Agent for Horticulture
Jamie.dockery@uky.edu

The city of Lexington wants your thoughts! LFUCG Environmental Services is updating their Greenway Plan and would appreciate your thoughts through a quick (10 question) survey on the plan priorities, greenspace opportunities and what you want to see in Lexington's Greenspaces. The survey can be found here: <https://www.lexgreenways.com/>. The survey closes on May 15th.



Follow us on
Facebook

[@fayettecohort](https://www.facebook.com/fayettecohort)

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Master Gardener Volunteer Training Information

Are you interested in learning the science behind what makes plants grow and a garden successful? Do you have a desire to share knowledge and skills with various communities and nonprofit organizations? Does becoming a community ambassador bring excitement and purpose to your life? Then the Master Gardener volunteer training program might be right for you!

This program is an extensive curriculum-based training program that will provide you with the tools and expertise to further the mission of Cooperative Extension by educating and assisting local communities in their horticultural efforts. It will cover a wide range of topics in approximately 11 weeks of classroom instruction. As program providers, we pride ourselves on presenting factual, research-based recommendations suitable to Central Kentucky, and we encourage participants to improve the quality of their home and community environments by using this information.

With completion of the course, participants become certified master gardeners after fulfilling 40 hours of volunteer service split between external nonprofit organizations and internal master gardener initiatives. The program will be held at the Fayette County Extension Office (1140 Harry Sykes Way).

We offer the program beginning in September of alternating years. The level of interest in our program far exceeds the number of seats available in each class. We will interview all candidates to identify those with the most interest in long-term volunteer commitments with Cooperative Extension.

Classes will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon for roughly 11 weeks beginning after Labor Day. In addition to class attendance, students are required to complete a homework assignment and quiz for each class session. Students will also prepare and submit insect and tree collections outside of class time. Students are allowed 2 absences from class, regardless of circumstances, and the third absence equates to dismissal from the program.

After the classroom portion, students are required to pass a comprehensive final exam with a minimum score of 70%. Students who successfully pass the classroom portion become apprentice Extension Master Gardeners for the following year while they complete 40 hours of volunteer service in assigned activities. After completing the 40-hour volunteer requirement, apprentices become fully certified Extension Master Gardener volunteers by the end of 2025. After the initial apprentice year, volunteers remain certified by volunteering a minimum of 20 hours and earning 10 Continuing Education Units (CEU) per year.

The cost of the Fayette County Extension Master Gardener training program is \$150.00 which includes textbooks and other materials. We do offer partial and full scholarships to the program in exchange for additional volunteer time. A full scholarship will require 80 hours of volunteer time throughout the following year. A partial scholarship requires 60 hours of volunteer time. Class fees are non-refundable if a student withdraws or is dismissed from the program.

Since our greatest need for volunteers coincides with our office hours, we do not offer this program as an evening or weekend class. If you feel up to the challenge and would like to join the ranks of our highly skilled volunteers, please consider applying for the 2024 Extension Master Gardener Program.

Complete the paperwork and mail or drop it off at the front office of the Fayette County Extension Office.

Deadline to apply is: July 1, 2024



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

KENTUCKY MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



Please answer each question thoroughly and thoughtfully. It is our objective to offer a quality program to committed, interested individuals. PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____
(FIRST) (LAST)

ADDRESS: _____
(STREET) (CITY) (ZIP)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CHECK IT OFTEN? Y or N

PHONE: Cell: _____ Best time to call: _____ a.m./p.m.

OCCUPATION: (CURRENT AND/OR PREVIOUS)

Indicate highest educational level you attained:

High School _____ Graduate School _____
Undergraduate School _____ List advanced degree _____

Do you have any special needs? If yes, please describe:

What is your interest or experience in horticulture (gardening)?

Why are you interested in becoming a volunteer?

Have you done volunteer work before? ____ Yes ____ No ____
If yes, when and what type:

Are you able to attend all 8-14 class sessions with only one excused absence? **YES NO**

Would you be available for tours, demonstrations, or volunteering on the weekends?

Yes ___ No___ If yes, when? Saturday: A.M. or P.M. (circle one)

In a few words, please state why you would like to become a Kentucky Master Gardener and any other relevant skills you might have.

I wish to become a University of Kentucky Master Gardener and agree to attend the training program. I understand that after attending all the training classes, I will participate in a forty (40) hours internship to the Cooperative Extension Service to be completed in the following 12 months. I also agree to honor the Master Gardener title and use it only in reference to Extension programs and activities and not for personal gain.

Signature _____ Date _____

Return Application to:

**Master Gardener Application
Fayette County Extension Service
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504**

Lantana Camara

While this broadleaf evergreen shrub can be a sprawling challenge in growing zones 9-11, it is a beautiful short-lived annual in our colder winter climate. However, some cold hardy varieties can serve as a tender perennial in zones 6-8.

A perfect addition to a pollinator or flower garden, lantana provides lush blooms from midsummer until the first frost. The wide color variety of showy blooms are attractive to butterflies, hummingbirds, and many other pollinators.

Lantana prefers full sun in moist, well-drained soil, but can tolerate poor soil and drought – perfect for hot summers. It grows 1 to 6 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide depending on variety. Caution should be taken as this plant can be harmful to children, pets, and livestock. The leaves can cause irritation and rash. The plant, especially the berries, are toxic, and potentially fatal, if ingested. Deadheading is encouraged to prevent berries from forming.



Lantana camara flower, Kathleen Moore.

Source: North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox, NC State Extension Service



A red-eyed periodical cicada.
ENTFACT-446

The Cicadas are Coming! Sort of...

You may or may not have heard some buzz (pun intended) about the massive emergence of cicadas expected this year. It's true. The 13-year Brood XIX and the 17-year Brood XIII have both lined up to surface with a cacophony of "song" from May through June. These periodical cicadas are different than the annual cicadas that lull us through the dog days of summer. They have black bodies, red eyes and red-orange veins on their wings.

Should we plan for the chaos of these two broods? Probably not. Brood XIII isn't even expected to reach Kentucky, as most of its territory is in the greater Chicago area of northern Illinois. Brood XIX will likely show up in the far western counties of Kentucky but is highly unlikely to make an appearance in Fayette County. Next year though, Brood XIV (17-year cycle) cicadas will emerge and traverse much of the central Kentucky region.

If you do come across any this year though, don't worry. They are harmless, just large and noisy. They may pose a small risk to young trees as females cut into them to lay eggs but that won't be much of a problem in our area.

Source: UK Entomology Fact Sheet 446; D.W. Johnson, L.H Townsend, Ric Bessin

What is a CSA?

'Tis the season! CSA season that is. It's a great way to support local farmers outside of a traditional farmer's market. Standing for Community Supported Agriculture, a CSA is a subscription to a farm's bounty ahead of the harvest season. You can purchase a membership from a farm who will then provide a weekly, biweekly or sometimes monthly box of items from the farm throughout the CSA season. In return, farmers have cash in hand early enough to purchase seeds, labor and equipment that they will need. We are fortunate enough to have a wide variety of farms in Kentucky offering CSAs each year. You can purchase a CSA for produce, eggs, flowers, meat, mushrooms and even dairy products! View farms offering CSA memberships near you at www.kyproud.com/campaigns/community-supported-agriculture.



Nathan Dumlao, Unsplash

Let's Talk Fertilizer

There are a lot of conversations and occasional misunderstandings when it comes to fertilizer uses and applications in our home lawn and gardens. We recognize that every individual has different needs and desires when it comes to their yard and what they want to see thrive there. We also know that there is a plethora of fertility products in every big box gardening center. Our goal is to provide as much clear and relevant information as possible to encourage responsible applications. Here are some things to know:

- A soil test determines if and how much fertilizer you should apply to different landscapes. Too much fertilizer can be harmful to your plants and the environment.
- The label on the fertilizer bag will show you the percent nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) in each bag. It will be written as N-P-K. If your fertilizer bag says 5-10-5 that means the bag contains 5% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus, and 5% potassium.
- Most Kentucky soils have enough phosphorus and potassium for most plants. Generally, you will only need to add nitrogen each year. The only way to know for sure is through a soil test.
- Root crops require less nitrogen fertilization than leafy crops. Nitrogen promotes leafy top growth; phosphorus encourages root and fruit production; and potassium maintains cold hardiness, disease resistance, and general durability.
- The best time to fertilize cool-season lawns (Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, etc.) in Kentucky is during the autumn. 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.
- Weed and feed products (fertilizers and herbicides in the same product) are usually not recommended. The ideal time to control weeds may not match up to the optimum time or applying fertilizer.

What to Plant Now?

Earliest Safe Planting Date*	Planting Method	Vegetables
APRIL 8	Start seeds indoors	Sweet corn, mustard greens, radishes, lettuce
MAY 15	Start seeds indoors	Green beans, lima beans
MAY 15	Move transplants to garden	Tomatoes, muskmelons, watermelons, squash

*Dates are approximate for the Central Kentucky region

Upcoming Events

Look out for these events happening at the Extension Office and across Lexington. Several of these require registration. Be sure to look them up ahead of time!

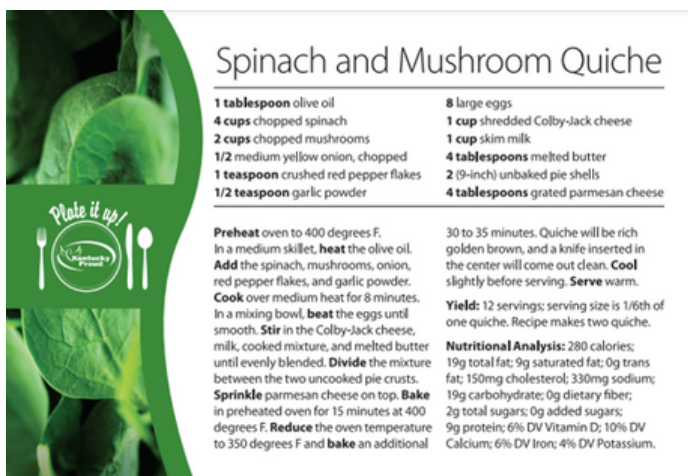
- May 2 – Wild Ones Native Plant Exchange
- May 2 – Arboretum Naturalist Series
- May 4 – Growing Community at Woodhill Community Center
- May 7 – Live Green Lexington Solar 101 Workshop at the Central Library
- May 7 – Gardener’s Toolbox: Tomatoes (FULL)
- May 11 – Lexington StreetFest
- May 16 – Gardener’s Toolbox: Sunflowers*
- May 18 – Living Arts & Science Center Discovery Saturday: Watersheds & Waterways
- May 12 – Arboretum Perennial Gardening Series
- May 31 – Bluegrass Greensource Green Business Innovation Forum
- June 6-16 – Bluegrass Fair

* Registration required at fayette.ca.uky.edu/classregistration

May Quick Tips

- Mulch beds for weed control and moisture retention. Make sure to keep mulch away from tree trunks and the bases of shrubs.
- Monitor evergreens for bagworms. Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is an effective chemical control if you catch the larvae while they are small. Do not wait for the large “bags” to appear, as control will be difficult on older insects.
- Plant and seed vegetable gardens. Most warm season vegetables can be planted early this month and heat-lovers like peppers, squash, and sweet potatoes can go in later in the month.
- Replace pansies and other cool season plants with appropriate summer choices.
- Plant flowers. We should be frost free and good to go, although vinca will appreciate warmer temperatures later in the month.
- Divide and fertilize pond plants that have become overgrown.
- Move house plants outdoors later this month. Make sure you place them in a shady spot, or they are likely to sunburn.
- Prune evergreens now through August.
- Register and pay online for Gardener’s Toolbox Classes: <https://fayette.ca.uky.edu/classregistration>

Recipe of the Month



Spinach and Mushroom Quiche

1 tablespoon olive oil	8 large eggs
4 cups chopped spinach	1 cup shredded Colby-Jack cheese
2 cups chopped mushrooms	1 cup skim milk
1/2 medium yellow onion, chopped	4 tablespoons melted butter
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes	2 (9-inch) unbaked pie shells
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder	4 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. In a medium skillet, **heat** the olive oil. **Add** the spinach, mushrooms, onion, red pepper flakes, and garlic powder. **Cook** over medium heat for 8 minutes. In a mixing bowl, **beat** the eggs until smooth. **Stir** in the Colby-Jack cheese, milk, cooked mixture, and melted butter until evenly blended. **Divide** the mixture between the two uncooked pie crusts. **Sprinkle** parmesan cheese on top. **Bake** in preheated oven for 15 minutes at 400 degrees F. **Reduce** the oven temperature to 350 degrees F and **bake** an additional 30 to 35 minutes. Quiche will be rich golden brown, and a knife inserted in the center will come out clean. **Cool** slightly before serving. **Serve** warm.

Yield: 12 servings; serving size is 1/6th of one quiche. Recipe makes two quiche.

Nutritional Analysis: 280 calories; 19g total fat; 9g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 150mg cholesterol; 330mg sodium; 19g carbohydrate; 0g dietary fiber; 2g total sugars; 0g added sugars; 9g protein; 6% DV Vitamin D; 10% DV Calcium; 6% DV Iron; 4% DV Potassium.



Plate it up!

Kentucky Proud

For More Plate It Up Recipes, Visit: <http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/plate-it-kentucky-proud>