



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

Cooperative Extension Service
Fayette County Extension
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2023 Gardener's Toolbox Classes

Greetings and Happy New Year to all,

Another year has passed us by and with that comes a new and exciting list of gardening programs planned for this year's Toolbox classes.

We have heard your cries for a return to live sessions and are excited to announce a full-fledged return to in person classes after a long hiatus. All Toolbox programs will be held in person here at the Fayette County Extension Office. As such, we will not be offering recorded lectures, but instead will have printed information available for anyone who registers but cannot attend in person.

You may notice a theme in this year's offerings. There is great interest in pollinators and native plants, so our summer classes reflect this. Of course, we have not abandoned all the routine horticulture practices, nor the fruit and vegetable classes. We have tried to create a list that offers something for everyone. We look forward to hosting all of you for classes in 2023.

Here's to reconnecting with old friends and meeting many new ones as well. Cheers!

Thank you,

Jamie Dockery

Fayette County Extension Agent for Horticulture

jamie.dockery@uky.edu

(859) 257-5582

IMPORTANT!!

- ***Sign up early for classes to avoid being turned away because a class is full.***
- **ALL classes, including the "Free" ones, are "PRE-REGISTRATION" only.** If there is a fee for the class, the fee must be paid to hold your space.
- **If you need to cancel, you must do so two (2) weeks prior to the class time to receive a refund.**
- **Plants/seeds not picked up at the Fayette County Extension Office by 3:00pm on the Friday of the week the class is held will be donated.** (Unless otherwise stated in the course description.)

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

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, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Starting Natives from Seed ~ Tuesday, January 17th at 6:00pm: Native plants are all the rage right now, but you might have noticed how complicated they are to grow from seed. Scarification, stratification, double dormancy, etc....to even the most experienced gardener these terms can make your head spin. We will discuss these processes and shed some light on why native species have such complex germination requirements. You'll also learn tips and tricks to grow those new seedlings into healthy transplants ready for the garden. Participants will receive seeds of a handful of species to take home. **Cost: \$10.00**

Marigolds ~ Thursday, January 26th at 6:00pm: Most everyone is familiar with marigolds, but many view them as common or pedestrian. Marigolds are wonderfully easy garden plants that offer a much wider range of options than many realize. In this class we will discuss all things marigold from the tiny little ones to the massive giants. We will provide seeds for some exciting and unusual varieties. **Cost: \$10.00**

Backyard Bird Count ~ Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00pm: Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. We invite people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to us. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations. Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online citizen-science project (also referred to as community science) to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. Local Audubon club president, Tony Brusate, will discuss the event and prep attendees to participate. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

Low Input Lawn Care ~ Thursday, February 16th at 6:00pm: We will cover the basics of caring for a lawn with an emphasis on lower input, sustainable methods. Learn why late summer is the best time to seed and why common fertilization practices are often not the best approach. We will also discuss alternatives to grass monocultures. This is always hugely popular so sign up early. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

Pruning Trees and Shrubs ~ Tuesday, February 21st at 6:00pm: Proper pruning is an integral part of landscape management. Many homeowners are daunted by the task or plunge ahead hacking mercilessly. Join us to learn the basics of proper pruning including how to make proper cuts, appropriate timing, and even when to call a professional. Door prizes of pruning tools. **Cost: \$5.00**

The Early Vegetable Garden ~ Thursday, March 9th at 6:00pm: There are many great reasons to grow some of your own food. We will teach the very basic concepts of growing vegetables. This class will focus on the early spring crops that can be planted and harvested before the main spring planting window. It is far easier than you might think. Participants will receive a copy of our vegetable growing guide and some plants to grow at home. **Cost: \$10.00**

Growing Decorative Gourds and Pumpkins ~ Tuesday, March 21st at 6:00pm: Decorative gourds and pumpkins are not overly difficult to grow, and the wild array of shapes and sizes can really make fall decorating fun. Children are drawn to them like magnets. They are large vining plants that require space or trellising (I am picturing a gourd teepee for kids). We will discuss the various types of gourds, pumpkins, and squashes and how to grow them. We have a fun assortment of seeds you can grow at home. **Cost: \$10.00**

Growing Great Zinnias ~ Thursday, March 30th at 6:00pm: The wildly popular zinnia is a favorite no brainer but often succumbs to disease problems. We will introduce you to improved varieties that will have friends and neighbors drooling. You will be amazed at the bloom size, disease resistance and super bright colors. You will take home seeds of several bright colors. **Cost: \$15.00**

Asparagus ~ Tuesday, April 4th at 6:00pm: There are few vegetables that excite cooks to the degree asparagus does. Freshly harvested spears are certainly a delicacy after a long winter without fresh produce. It is not only nutritious and delicious, but also ridiculously easy to grow. The only difficult part is waiting for your planting to yield. Discussion will cover planting and growing this perennial vegetable. You will receive plants for your home garden. **Cost: \$20.00**

Growing Dahlias ~ Thursday, April 13th at 6:00pm: Many people shy away from tender bulbs because of the hassle associated with digging and winter storage. This is not overly difficult, and many are affordable enough to treat as annuals. Dahlias are spectacular in bloom and come in a wide variety of colors, shapes and sizes. We will teach you to grow beautiful dahlias and send you home with an assortment for your garden. **Cost: \$15.00**

iNaturalist in Action: A hands-on demo ~ Tuesday, April 18th at 6:00pm: Prepare for the 2023 City Nature Challenge by joining staff of Fayette Co. Extension and Floracliff Nature Sanctuary for this hands-on demonstration using iNaturalist in the field here at the extension office. We will cover the benefits of nature observations, basics of the app, and effective photos for species identification. Then we will spend some time exploring the grounds of the extension office and the nearby Addison Park. Limited number of seats available. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

Blackberries ~ Thursday, May 4th at 6:00pm: Growing fruit at home can be challenging to say the least. Blackberries are one of the lower maintenance options homeowners can try. We will discuss growing and trellising techniques and some tips to help keep birds away. You will take home 3 plants of a newer disease resistant variety to grow. **Cost: \$20.00**

Growing Great Tomatoes ~ Thursday, May 11th at 6:00pm: A whole class about everyone's favorite summer vegetable. We will discuss techniques for growing great tomatoes and how to avoid common pitfalls. There will be an emphasis on disease prevention. Each class member will take home a couple of varieties for their home garden. You must attend the class to receive the plants. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

The Truly Hardy Fall Mums ~ Tuesday, May 16th at 6:00pm: We have all had our hopes dashed by beautiful mums that fail to return in the spring. The lack of hardiness may relate to variety, but often the very late planting date is to blame for our failures. We will discuss mum culture, provide tips related to pruning and winter survival. Participants will receive plants to take home. **Cost: \$10.00**

Elephant Ears ~ Thursday, May 25th at 6:00pm: One of the classic groups of tropical plants. They are well known for their wide range of sizes and forms, from colossal outdoor plants to compact indoor treasures. This class will expose you to unusual varieties covering both Alocasias and Colocasias. These are sure to amaze visitors, and most can be overwintered easily. Their recent popularity has led to an explosion of varieties available on the market. We will have a few of these varieties as door prizes. **Cost \$5.00**

Growing Sweet Potatoes ~ Tuesday, June 6th at 6:00pm: Sweet potatoes rarely make it into the home garden. Understandable, as they take up lots of room, but unfortunate as they are very easily grown and nutritious. These tasty and versatile vegetables have few pests. We will provide slips to grow in your home garden. **Cost \$10.00**

Native Ornamental Grasses ~ Thursday, June 15th at 6:00pm: Ornamental grasses are integral parts of the home landscape for the structure and texture they provide. With the current native plant trend there has been an increased effort to find and select native grasses for ornamental use. Some native species like switchgrass are staples in the horticulture industry, but there are many more up-and-comers that are showing excellent ornamental qualities. We will highlight some of the species that deserve a spot in the garden and provide a few different plants for you to take home. **Cost: \$15.00**

Milkweeds for the Garden ~ Tuesday, June 20th at 6:00pm: With the recent addition of the Monarch Butterfly to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ it has never been more important to plant milkweed in your home garden. However, not all milkweeds belong in the garden. We will highlight some species of milkweed that are best suited for use in the garden and go over some tips to successfully raise monarchs in your backyard. Everyone will receive one of the recommended varieties to plant at home. **Cost: \$5.00**

Garden Phlox ~ Thursday, June 29th at 6:00pm: Tall garden phlox are invaluable for late summer color in the garden but have historically been plagued by powdery mildew. Many recent introductions feature compact habits, extended bloom times and are resistant to powdery mildew. We will cover all types of phlox and their uses in the garden. You will take home a plant of a newer tall variety for your home garden. **Cost: \$10.00**

Native Sunflowers ~ Thursday, July 13th at 6:00pm: Everyone instantly recognizes the giant annual sunflower, but many are unaware we have numerous perennial sunflowers with many being native. They are very easy to grow and are popular with pollinators and songbirds. We will discuss several perennial sunflower varieties and send you home with a plant for your garden. **Cost: \$10.00**

Asters ~ Thursday, July 20th at 6:00pm: After a long hot summer with few flowers, asters offer a breath of fresh color in the fall. Their blue or white flowers also provide great benefit to pollinators. We will provide an aster tutorial with an emphasis on our native species. These often overlap the bright yellow goldenrods - a match made in heaven. Take home a couple of plants for your little autumn oasis. **Cost: \$10.00**

Goldenrods ~ Tuesday, August 8th at 6:00pm: Kentucky's state flower. We have over 30 species in Kentucky, and many are known to be terribly aggressive garden guests. We will steer you to the better garden candidates and provide small plants of a couple of our favorites. If pollinators are high on your list, this class should be as well. **Cost: \$10.00**

Collecting and Saving Seeds ~ Thursday, August 17th at 6:00pm: Whether you are trying to preserve a family heirloom vegetable or save a favorite flower; collecting and saving seeds is an easy and cost-effective way to ensure a plant can be grown in the garden for seasons to come. From common garden veggies to native trees and wildflowers, we will cover the basics of how to properly collect, clean, and store seeds for personal use or to share with friends and family. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

Native Bees ~ Tuesday, August 22th at 6:00pm: Few topics in the gardening world have created as much buzz as pollinators and their importance. Perhaps the most iconic group of pollinators are bees, and here in the US, we are lucky to have around 4,000 different species of bees. In this class you'll learn about some of the more commonly found species in Kentucky and how to make your yard more welcoming to these important organisms. Presented by Dr. Jonathan Larson, UK Extension Entomologist. **Cost: Free but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

Viburnums ~ Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00pm: The humble viburnum is one of the most adaptable and utilized shrubs in the garden. With such a broad range of size, form, and appearance there is a viburnum suitable for almost any garden. We will touch on some of the garden classics and hopefully introduce you to some of the more unusual species that can be found on the market. There will be a selection of sizeable plants as door prizes. **Cost: \$5.00**

The Wacky World of Carnivorous Plants ~ Thursday, September 28th at 6:00pm: Often thought of as aliens from another planet or rare treasures from deep in a tropical jungle, carnivorous plants are one of the most unique groups of plants that have evolved on Earth. In this class we will talk about the diverse types of carnivorous plants, where they grow, and how you can grow them yourself. We will also provide a small plant for each attendant to take home. **Cost: \$10.00**

How to Plant Woody Plants ~ Thursday, October 12th at 6:00pm: Planting a new tree or shrub sounds easy enough. All you need to do is dig a hole and toss the plant in...right? While digging a proper hole is important, it is not the only thing you should consider when planting a new plant. We will teach you how to properly plant a woody plant and give tips on how to ensure it establishes into the landscape. We will also have a handful of Kentucky Native trees as door prizes. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

Diagnosing Problems in Landscape Trees ~ Tuesday, October 17th at 6:00pm: Trees are a foundational part of the landscape. They are long-lived and provide many benefits in addition to their aesthetic appeal. However, sometimes things can go wrong, and the health of our beloved trees can start to decline. Learn how to diagnose some common problems our landscape trees face, how to address those problems, and ways to prevent them from occurring in the first place. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

Spring Bulbs: Lesser-known Treasures ~ Thursday, October 26th at 6:00pm: An introduction to wonderful bulbs far less common than the typical tulips, crocus and daffodils. Many of the smaller varieties are ideal for planting in natural areas or mixing into perennial borders. Participants will take home a sampler of several unique bulb varieties to plant at home. **Cost: \$20.00**

Stump the Hort Agent: Ask Anything Q&A Session ~ Tuesday, November 7th at 6:00pm: Question and answer session: an opportunity for the audience to steer the conversation to whatever topics you desire. Put the experts in the hot seat and hopefully we will know the answers. Vegetables to perennials. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

Easy Houseplants ~ Thursday, November 16th at 6:00pm: We all yearn for lush indoor plants yet often fail to keep them healthy. We will discuss which plants are easier to grow and maintain indoors, and provide basic information about indoor plant care. At the very least, I will try to convince you it is ok to occasionally kill your houseplants. They last for months and are often cheaper than cut flowers. Participants will receive a plant to take home. **Cost: \$20.00**

Attracting Birds ~ Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00pm: There is great joy in observing birds in the garden during the gray winter days. We will focus on plants you may want to include in your landscape that attract them. We will also discuss the importance of habitat, nesting sites, water, and feeders. **Cost: Free, but must register in advance to reserve a seat.**

Orchids for Beginners ~ Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00pm: Orchids have a reputation as difficult to grow. They are not necessarily difficult but do require different care than other types of plants. Some varieties make better choices for the beginner. This is an introduction to some of the easier species for the novice. We will have a few plants to give away as door prizes. **Cost: \$5.00**

Winter Weather Policy:

In case of inclement weather, please call the Fayette County Extension Office at (859) 257-5582 (before 4:30pm), to verify if the class will be held.



~ 2023 GARDENER'S TOOLBOX CLASSES ~

Keep this chart for your Records

Classes will be held at 6:00pm at the
Fayette County Extension Office, 1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington.

✓	Class and Time	✓	Class and Time
	Tuesday, 1/17: Starting Natives from Seed. Cost: \$10.00		Thursday, 1/26: Marigolds. Cost: \$10.00
	Tuesday, 2/7: Backyard Bird Count. Cost: Free		Thursday, 2/16: Low Input Lawn Care. Cost: Free
	Tuesday, 2/21: Pruning Trees and Shrubs. Cost: \$5.00		Thursday, 3/9: The Early Vegetable Garden. Cost: \$10.00
	Tuesday, 3/21: Growing Decorative Gourds and Pumpkins. Cost: \$10.00		Thursday, 3/30: Growing Great Zinnias. Cost: \$15.00
	Tuesday, 4/4: Asparagus. Cost: \$20.00		Thursday, 4/13: Growing Dahlias. Cost: \$15.00
	Tuesday, 4/18: iNaturalist in Action: A hands-on demo. Cost: Free		Thursday, 5/4: Blackberries. Cost: \$20.00
	Thursday, 5/11: Growing Great Tomatoes. Cost: Free		Tuesday, 5/16: The Truly Hardy Fall Mums. Cost: \$10.00
	Thursday, 5/25: Elephant Ears. Cost: \$5.00		Tuesday, 6/6: Growing Sweet Potatoes. Cost: \$10.00
	Thursday, 6/15: Native Ornamental Grasses. Cost: \$15.00		Tuesday, 6/20: Milkweeds for the Garden. Cost: \$5.00
	Thursday, 6/29: Garden Phlox. Cost: \$10.00		Thursday, 7/13: Native Sunflowers. Cost: \$10.00
	Thursday, 7/20: Asters. Cost: \$10.00		Tuesday, 8/8: Goldenrods. Cost: \$10.00
	Thursday, 8/17: Collecting and Saving Seeds. Cost: Free		Tuesday, 8/22: Native Bees. Cost: Free
	Tuesday, 9/19: Viburnums. Cost: \$5.00		Thursday, 9/28: The Wacky World of Carnivorous Plants. Cost: 10.00
	Thursday, 10/12: How to Plant Woody Plants. Cost: Free		Tuesday, 10/17: Diagnosing Problems in Landscape Trees. Cost: Free
	Thursday, 10/26: Spring Bulbs: Lesser- known Treasures. Cost: \$20.00		Tuesday, 11/7: Stump the Hort Agent: Ask Anything Q&A Session. Cost: Free
	Thursday, 11/16: Easy Houseplants. Cost: \$20.00		Tuesday, 12/5: Attracting Birds. Cost: Free
	Tuesday, 12/12: Orchids for Beginners. Cost: \$5.00		

2023 GARDENER'S TOOLBOX - REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

TOTAL Amount Enclosed \$ _____

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

- Sign up early for classes to avoid being turned away because a class is full.
- ALL classes, including the "Free" ones, are "PRE-REGISTRATION" only. If there is a fee for the class, it must be paid when you register to hold your space.
- If you need to cancel, you must do so two (2) weeks prior to the class to receive a refund.
- Plants/seeds must be picked up at the Fayette County Extension Office by 3:00pm on Friday of the week the class is held, unless otherwise stated in the description. Any plants/seeds not picked up will be donated, no exceptions!
- To register and pay online, go to <https://fayette.ca.uky.edu/events/horticulture>
- To mail in your registration, complete this form and return it along with your payment.

Make check payable to: Fayette County Master Gardener Association (FCMGA)

Mail check & completed registration form to:

*Gardener's Toolbox ~ Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way ~ Lexington, KY 40504*

For more information, please call (859) 257-5582.

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