

Horticulture

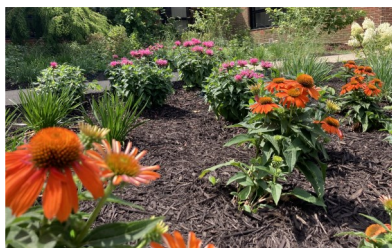
Newsletter

Campbell County
3500 Alexandria Pike
Highland Heights, KY 41076
Phone: (859) 572-2600
Fax: (859) 572-2619
Email: campbell.ext@uky.edu

July / August 2024
Volume 2, Issue 4

Lots going on at the Extension Office

Summer is in full swing with hot humid Kentucky temperatures and colorful flowers blooming here at the Lakeside Commons Educational Gardens. We welcome you to come visit the gardens to see a few new additions that we've made this year.



Our main entrance has had a face lift, which was past due and much needed. The perennials selected for this space will provide color, variety of texture and landscape interest for all four seasons. We added a water bubbler feature to the space. This adds a nice inviting water sound as people enter our office and also invites birds and insects to indulge in some water after a hard days at work collecting pollen or doing their "bug" duties.

(see page 2 & 3 for additional information)

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Lots going on at the Extension Office

(continued from page 1)



The main garden space behind the office has completed Phase 1 of the garden renovation project. The vegetable garden which includes a small fruit display and cut flower garden is in full bloom and looks healthy and strong. We are looking forward to utilizing this space for demonstration purposes but also space for teaching. All produce harvested will be donated to St. Bernard's Food Pantry in Dayton, KY.






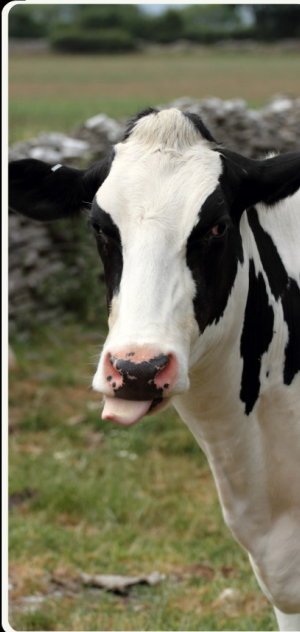
One of largest projects of Phase 1 was connecting the garden spaces to the walk path around the pond and to be ADA compliant. This vision was accomplished and is now open for park users to walk from space to space in a safe way.

Our next phase will begin in Fall 2024 with the goals of: demolition of the current gazebo, replace gazebo with a space for outdoor learning and gathering with seating, install an ADA fishing pier, address some erosion concerns, and implement some planting tactics to deter geese. All of which will provide a welcome safe space to engage in nature.



 Cooperative Extension Service

UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING HEAT STRESS IN DAIRY COWS



Heat stress is a major problem for dairy cows. It happens when cows can't get rid of all the heat they produce and absorb from the environment. This makes them stressed, reduces milk production, and increases diseases. Cows start to experience heat stress at temperatures lower than humans, so farmers need to take steps to keep them cool.

Ways to manage heat stress

- Shade
- Ventilation
- Water
- Sprinklers or misters

By managing heat stress, dairy farmers can keep their cows healthy and productive. For more information on heat stress in dairy cows, visit your local county extension office!

*Source: Larissa Tucker, animal and food sciences extension associate
An Equal Opportunity Organization.*

GARDEN CALENDAR: JULY-AUGUST

General

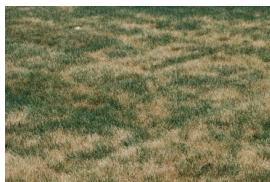
- Most landscape plants require 1" of rainfall every 7 days. If rainfall has not been adequate, supplement watering. A rain gauge is a handy tool to track rainfall in your yard.

Lawns



- White grub damage becomes evident in August and September. Curative grub controls should be applied early to mid-August. To learn more, visit <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ent10>

- Kentucky Bluegrass is susceptible to Summer Patch Disease. Circular or crescent dead spots appear in late July-August. More information is available at <http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-or-t-06.pdf>



- Brown Patch disease infects all species of turf in Kentucky but tall fescue and perennial ryegrass are most susceptible. This disease occurs in hot, humid weather. Look for tan lesions with a dark border. To learn ways to control brown patch, visit <http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-or-t-12.pdf>

Flowers

- Annual flowers such as tall zinnias, cosmos, marigolds, bedding geraniums, and petunia benefit from removing spent flowers or deadheading. If spent blooms are not removed, these plants use their energy to produce seeds and not new flowers.

- Late July to early August is a good time to divide iris rhizomes. When dividing check the rhizomes for evidence of iris borers. Visit <https://www.ksuhortnewsletter.org/newsletters/dividing-iris#:~:text=Iris%20may%20be%20divided%20from,rhizomes%20and%20smaller%20feeder%20roots>, for more information.

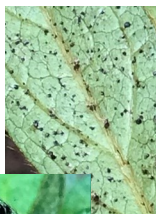
- Powdery mildew may be evident on such plants as zinnia, peony, phlox, monarda. Powdery mildew can also affect woody plants, vegetables and fruit. To learn more visit, <http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-02.pdf>



Trees & Shrubs

- Avoid fertilizing trees and shrubs at this time. Fertilizing will encourage new growth that may be damaged by an early frost.

- Monitor for Azalea lace bug. Symptoms of lacebug damage include bleached leaves. Lacebugs are usually found on the underside of leaves. They leave dark, tar-like excrement on the leaves. If you do not want to use chemical controls.



- Consider releasing beneficial insects, such as ladybugs and lacewings. For more information, visit <https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2018/07/31/lace-bugs-one-potential-cause-of-bleached-leaves/>

- Japanese beetles are now in the landscape. Grapes, roses, linden trees, purple-leaf plum are favorites. There are several options for controlling them. Japanese beetle traps are not recommended. The pheromones in these traps may actually attract more beetles to your yard. For more information, visit <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef451>



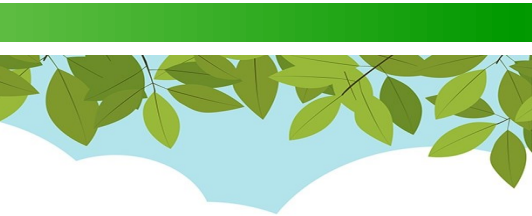
- The second generation of fall webworm is not active. These are often misidentified as bagworms or tent caterpillars. Fall webworm encase the branch tips in fine webbing and feed on the foliage of a wide



- variety of trees. A healthy tree can tolerate light feeding. Heavy infestations may require treatment for vulnerable trees. More information can be found at <https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2018/07/17/fall-webworm-2-0/>

- Pine needle scale are easily recognized by their white coating and yellow head. They line the pine needles and feed off the plant sap. Heavy infestations can give the plant a silver glow. This insect has two generations per year. The first-generation hatch in spring. The second generation of pine needle scale emerges in July. When newly hatched, they are known as "crawlers." The crawlers lack the white waxy coating that protects the body. Control is most effective at this stage. Visit <https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2015/01/27/armored-scales-are-challenging/>



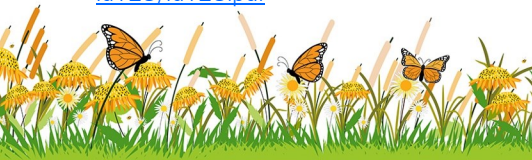
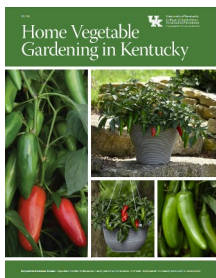


Vegetables

- Potatoes may be dug when the vines have yellowed and died. Skin will be delicate if dug immediately. You can wait two weeks to let the skin thicken.
- Blossom end rot on tomato is not actually a disease. It is a physiological disorder caused by inadequate watering and calcium deficiencies. It can also occur on other vegetables such as pepper and watermelon. To learn more visit, https://kentuckypestnews.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/blossom_end_rot.jpg



- Fungal diseases of tomatoes are more prevalent during warm, humid weather of summer. Early blight and Septoria are the two most common and often occur simultaneously. <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-vg-26.pdf> The fungicide chlorothalonil is a broad spectrum fungicide.
- Now is the time to start planning and planting your fall garden. Cool season crops such as kale, collards, bibb lettuce, turnips, and cole crops such as kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky is an excellent reference for all your gardening questions. Recommendations for planting a fall garden can be found on **page 18**. <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id128/id128.pdf>



Grilled Pepper and Portabella Mushroom Sandwich

1 large red bell pepper	½ cup extra virgin olive oil	4 whole wheat buns
1 large tomato	Salt and pepper to taste	4 1-ounce slices fresh mozzarella cheese
1 small sweet onion	4 portabella mushroom caps, ¾ inch thick	4 tablespoons garlic hummus
16 fresh basil leaves		

Preheat outdoor grill to medium heat; **spray** grill grid and grill skillet with non-stick cooking spray. **Cut** pepper in half; **remove** core and seeds. **Cut** lengthwise, in ½ to 1 inch strips. **Cut** tomatoes and onion into ½ inch slices. **Wash** basil and remove stems. **Whisk** salt and pepper with olive oil. **Brush** both sides of mushroom caps with seasoned oil. **Place** on grill grate and cook until tender. **Remove** and keep warm. **Brush** pepper strips and onion slices with seasoned oil; **put** in grill skillet and **place** on grill. **Cook** until tender. **Separate** the buns and lightly **brush** halves with seasoned oil; **place** halves, oil

side down, on grill grate; **grill** until warm with grill marks. On the bottom bun, **add** 1 slice mozzarella cheese. **Heat** until slightly melted. **Remove** from grill. On top of the cheese, **add** one grilled mushroom cap, one tomato slice, one slice grilled onion, four grilled pepper strips and four basil leaves. **Spread** top half of bun with one tablespoon hummus and **add** to sandwich.

Yield: 4 sandwiches

Nutritional Analysis: 470 calories, 29 g fat, 7 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 549 mg sodium, 36 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 10 g sugars, 16 g protein.

Kentucky Peppers

SEASON: June to September

NUTRITION FACTS: Sweet and hot peppers are low in calories, high in vitamin C and are a good source of vitamin A. One raw, medium sized pepper has around 20 calories. Red peppers are higher in vitamins A and C than green peppers. Hot peppers also contain capsaicin, an antioxidant found in its membranes and seeds. Removing these will make the pepper milder.

SELECTION: Select peppers that have firm, smooth skin. Avoid flabby, wrinkled or soft peppers.

STORAGE: Store unwashed in a paper towel then refrigerate in a plastic bag for up to ten days. Rinse before using.

PREPARATION: Wash carefully without bruising. Peppers can be served raw, grilled, stuffed or roasted. Add them to salads, casseroles or Mexican dishes.

PRESERVING: Peppers can be preserved by freezing, drying or canning.

To freeze: Wash, stem and seed peppers. Package, leaving no head space. Seal and freeze.

KENTUCKY PEPPERS

Kentucky Proud Project
County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students
July 2017

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

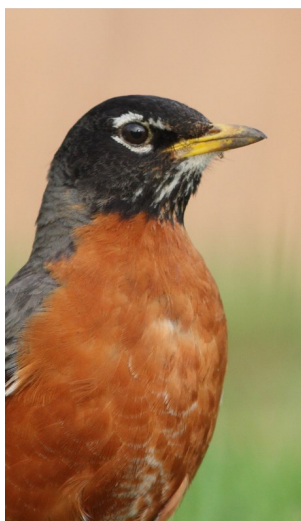
Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers market, or roadside stand. <http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



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



Keeping Birds Away from Ripening Small Fruits

Birds that feed on ripening small fruit can be a problem for homeowners with plantings of blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants, and grapes.

The following techniques may be effective in keeping them away! Birds will eventually become accustomed to scare devices, so repositioning them frequently is necessary.

- Use bird scare balloons with large eyes on the sides
- Place rubber snakes or owls around plants
- Hang aluminum pie pans or old CDs that blow in the breeze
- Have reflective tape over and around the plants
- Use exclusion netting

Source: Delia Scott, Department of Horticulture Extension Associate
An Equal Opportunity Organization.

Master Gardener News...



Campbell County to Host the next Master Gardener Class

Do you have a passion for gardening?

Do you want to volunteer in your community?

If you answered yes to both these questions, the Master Gardener Volunteer Program may be for you.

The NKY Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a partnership between Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties. This is a two-part program. The first is an extensive 12-week training program. Participants will learn about a wide variety of horticulture subjects. They will then take that knowledge to volunteer in the community.

If you are not interested in becoming a volunteer, the extension service offers a variety of homeowner gardening programs free of charge.

Campbell County Extension Office will be hosting the next session. Classes begin Friday, January 3, 2025 and end March 28. We meet every Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuition is \$150.

For more information and to get an application, contact Terri Turner at 859-572-2600.



UK Cooperative Extension Service
Northern Kentucky Master Gardener Program

Cost: \$150.00
\$50 refund if your volunteer hours are completed within one year.

Fridays—10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
January 3, 2025 thru March 28, 2025

For more information call (859) 572-2600

Registration deadline: November 1, 2024

Join other gardeners for this 12-week volunteer training program. Subjects include botany, tree identification, soils, propagation, disease and insect identification and much more. Complete the program requirements and use your new knowledge by volunteering 40 hours at Extension-approved sites in order to become a *Certified Master Gardener*.

Classes will be held at:
Campbell County Extension Office
3500 Alexandria Pike
Highland Heights, KY 41076

This class has limited space.




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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506

KENTUCKY MASTER GARDENER

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Bermudagrass Control for Kentucky Lawns

Jason Vaughn, Beth Wilson, and Andy Rideout, Cooperative Extension Service, and Kenneth Clayton, Plant and Soil Sciences

Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), a warm-season perennial grass, increasingly has become a problem in Kentucky cool-season turfgrass. Over much of the lower Southeastern United States, bermudagrass is the king of the turfgrasses. Celebrated for its aggressive growth habit, quick recovery, and ability to tolerate low mowing heights, bermudagrass can be found everywhere from high-end golf courses and prestigious sports stadiums to home lawns.

When bermudagrass is introduced into a cool-season lawn, it can be a highly invasive weed. As a warm-season grass with a fast growth rate, bermudagrass is often able to outcompete cool-season grasses during the heat of the summer. Bermudagrass, which spreads aggressively by aboveground and belowground stems, can choke out desirable grasses and spread each season. Another problem with bermudagrass is that as temperatures begin to drop in the fall, it becomes dormant, turning a broom-straw brown color, which stands in stark contrast to the green color of cool-season turfgrass (Figure 1). Finally, bermudagrass frequently spreads into landscape beds, tree mulch rings, and even across concrete, causing more complex weed control scenarios (Figure 2). For more information on the biology of bermudagrass, please see UK Extension publication [AGR-216: Turfgrasses of Kentucky](#).



Figure 1. The broom-straw brown color of bermudagrass stands in stark contrast to the cool-season grasses in the winter.

Cultural Control

The first part of controlling bermudagrass in Kentucky's cool-season lawns is using cultural practices. The goal of any cultural control practice is to make the environment less suitable for a particular pest. Due to the aggressive growth and ability to adapt, bermudagrass control will fail without manipulating the environment to favor the desirable cool-season grasses. The use of herbicides alone is not recommended for management of this weed.

The most important step in creating an environment where cool-season grasses are competitive is to raise the mower height to 4 inches or greater. Since bermudagrass thrives in full sun, a tall, dense lawn can capture sunlight and shade out the bermudagrass. Research shows that mowing heights of 4 inches can decrease the spread of bermudagrass in cool-season lawns.

Additionally, fertilizing with nitrogen in the late summer to early fall favors cool-season grasses as the bermudagrass enters dormancy and is not actively growing. Avoid applying fertilizers while the bermudagrass is green and actively growing to reduce competition with the desired cool-season grasses. With high nitrogen availability and temperatures above 80°F, bermudagrass can out-compete cool-season turfgrasses during the heat of Kentucky summers.

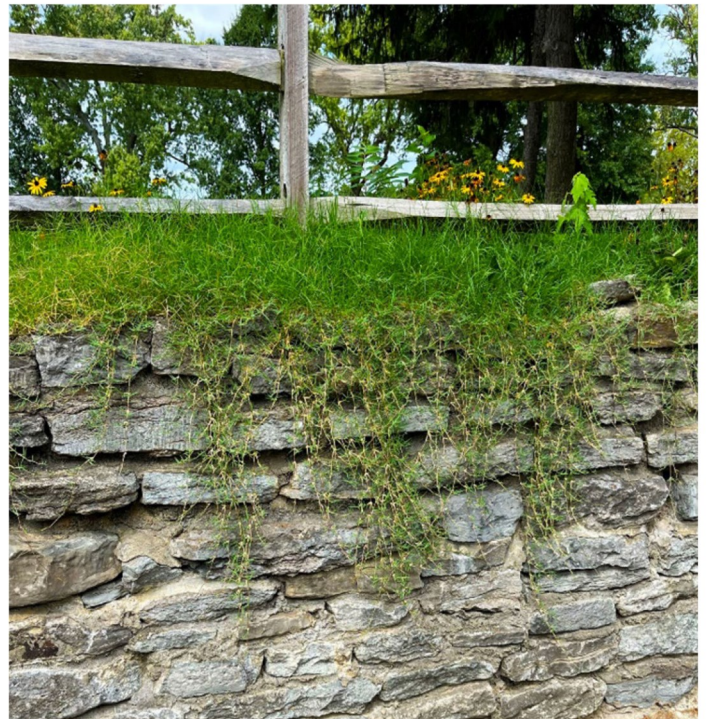


Figure 2. The aggressive growth of bermudagrass is demonstrated in a flower bed overtaken by the grass and 4-foot-long stolons growing over the landscape wall.

Campbell County Extension Plastic Pot Collection



The horticulture industry uses plastic in many forms such as pots, trays, irrigation, weed control, packaging and more. While it is useful in production, most of this plastic has ended up in landfills.

There have been recent efforts to recycle more of this plastic and avoid the landfills.

This year, Campbell County Extension and a group of NKY Master Gardeners hosted collection days for people to bring in unwanted plastic pots and trays. Our volunteers sorted the pots and got them ready for transport to the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub. "The Hub" as it is commonly known recycles many products that curbside recycling will not accept including nursery pots and trays. They also have some items that are free to be "re-used".

We were pleased that we collected **172 pounds of plastic pots and trays** that otherwise would have ended up in the landfill. We hope to have another collection day this fall.

To learn more about Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub, visit

<https://www.cincinnati recyclingandreusehub.org/>



Sarah Imbus

Sarah Imbus

Campbell County Extension Agent for Horticulture Education

Terri Turner

Campbell County Extension Technician for Horticulture Education

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-- UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032, or

-- US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

UK Cooperative Extension Service

HOW TO REMOVE A TICK SAFELY

UK Cooperative Extension Publication ENTFACT-618

STEP ONE

Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. The goal is to remove the entire tick.

Identification of ticks is available through your local Cooperative Extension Service office.

STEP TWO

Pull up with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick.

STEP THREE

Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine soap, or soap and water.



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