

Horticulture

Newsletter

**Cooperative Extension Service
Campbell County**

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SOW App Available for Kentucky Gardeners

Source: Rick Durham, UK horticulture extension specialist

Kentucky gardeners have a new tool available in Apple and Google Play app stores to assist with planting, sowing and harvesting decisions for their home garden.

SOW—A Planting Companion is a free app based on University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension’s [publication ID-128 Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky](#). The app also incorporates information for Alabama and North Carolina and other areas in U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zones 6a -9a. Kentucky is primarily in zone 6b, with a few areas

in 6a or 7a. After downloading the app, enter your state and county to get customized plant information based on your hardiness zone. You can always change the information later in the settings menu.

The app has three main sections: My Garden, Journal and Library. The library currently has information and photos of about 36 popular home garden vegetables. You may sort the vegetables alphabetically, by harvest date or by planting date. Clicking on a vegetable in the library will open information about that vegetable, including estimated days to harvest, expected yield, plant spacing, planting depth, soil pH range and average number of plants per person you need to include for a good harvest.

You can add vegetables to the My Garden section. You can develop more than one garden, for example, a spring garden, a summer garden and a fall garden, and keep them separate. My Garden helps you keep track of planting dates, seed or transplant planting method, the specific cultivar or variety you planted and when you should be able to harvest it. You can even plan ahead and enter a planting date for the future and the app will give you the option to add this date to your phone’s calendar as a reminder.



After you harvest a crop, you the Journal section to record yield, harvest date or any other notes you may need to help plan next year’s garden.

The app can also link you to your local Cooperative Extension office,

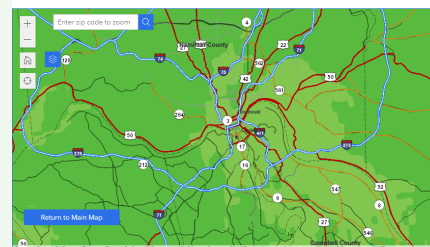
where you’ll find staff information and ways to contact extension agents with questions. Download the app through Apple, <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sow-a-planting-companion/id840347996>, or Google, https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.aces.SOW&hl=en_US&gl=US&pli=1, or search for it in your mobile device app store.

For more information about gardening or other horticulture topics, contact the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service.

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USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map



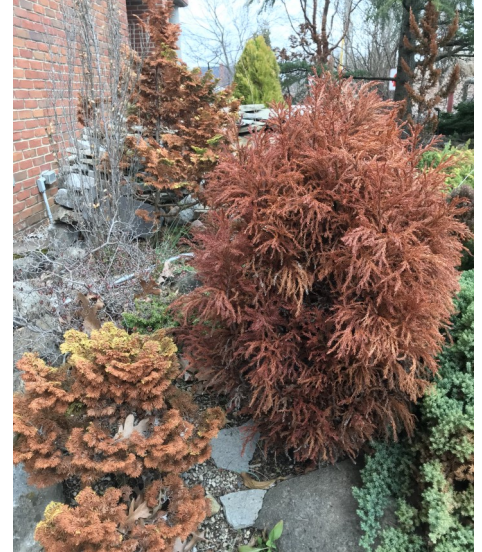
Frost-Free Date
May 15th
Hardiness Zone: 6B



From the Garden

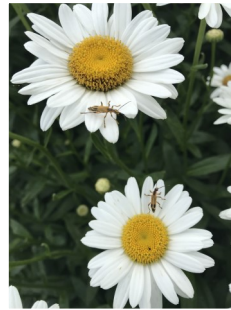
Our volunteers have been hard at work in the garden. The flower beds have been cleared out in preparation for our big annual planting in mid-May. Our flowering annuals will be planted throughout the garden in our butterfly, pollinator and cutting gardens. Since we strive to grow organically whenever possible, we select plants that require little maintenance and have reasonable disease resistance.

We also have a large variety of peonies and iris blooming currently. Our peony collection was donated from the University of Kentucky. They were selected for stronger stems, so they do not require staking.



Our iris collection continues to grow. We recently added some iris. Iris 'Harvest of Memories' and 'Jurassic Park' are labelled as "repeat blooming." We will be observing them this year to see the number of blooms produced.

We are still dealing with damage that occurred during December. Many of our evergreens had significant browning of foliage. After watching them for several months, we removed the plants that did not show regrowth.



The Lakeside Educational Garden is located behind the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service. The garden is open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk.





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

CAMPBELL COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

2023

Highland Heights*— Tuesdays

Senior Citizens Activity Center

3504 Alexandria Pike

May 16 thru October 24

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Fort Thomas**— Wednesdays

Mess Hall in Tower Park

801 Cochran Avenue

April 12 thru December 13 (no market on 11/22/2023)

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Hours extend to 7:00 p.m. June-September
(Senior shopping begins at 2:45 p.m.)*

Alexandria*— Fridays

Southern Lanes Sports Center

7634 Alexandria Pike

May 19 thru October 27

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Newport*— Saturdays

Next to Pepper Pod Restaurant

709 Monmouth Street

May 20 thru October 28

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

* Accepts WIC, SNAP and Senior Farmer's
Market Nutrition Program

** Accepts SNAP only
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Large variety of
home grown produce,
breads, honey and other
KY Proud commodities.
For more information,
call 859-572-2600.



GARDEN CALENDAR: MAY-JUNE

General

- **Campbell County residents can have their soil tested free of charge.** Testing will determine soil pH and fertilizer recommendations. Learn how to collect a proper sample at https://campbell.ca.uky.edu/files/instructions_for_soil_testing_samples.pdf
- **Carpenter bees** are actively digging holes in wooden structures to lay eggs. The males can be aggressive but lack a stinger. Visit <http://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef611>
- In the spring, **swarming termites** may appear outside or in the home. Termites are often confused with ants. To learn more, visit <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef604>
- **Mulch plants 2" deep.** Do not let mulch touch the trunks or crowns of plants. To learn more about mulch visit, <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ho/ho106/ho106.pdf>

Houseplants

- As **houseplant** come out of winter, it is a good time to propagate them. Visit <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ho/ho67/ho67.pdf> for helpful tips.
- **Repot houseplants if needed.** Use a pot 1-2" larger than the previous pot.
- Houseplants can be taken outside after danger of frost.

Lawns

- For a **healthy turf**, make sure to mow at the recommended height. Tall fescue lawns are best mowed at 2.0-3.5" tall. <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/AGR/AGR209/AGR209.pdf>

- **Refrain from adding fertilizer to lawns** at this time. Fertilizing now can increase disease pressure and increase the frequency of mowing. <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id154/id154.pdf>
- **Red Thread fungal disease** usually occurs when temperatures are between 40-70°F. Look for <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/bp/bp-104-w.pdf> <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/bp/bp-104-w.pdf>
- **Watch for Brown Patch** and Anthracnose in June. Brown Patch favors high temperatures (highs above 85°F, lows above 60°F) <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id112/id112.htm>

Flowers

- **Plant warm season flowers** after frost-free date (May 15).
- **Plant summer flowering bulbs** (dahlia, canna, gladiolas, etc.)
- **This is a good time to plant perennials.** Make sure to check watering until plants are established.



Trees & Shrubs

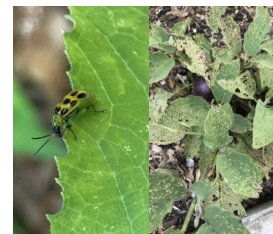
- Pine needle scale, sawfly, bladder gall, oystershell scale, tent caterpillar, bagworm



- Roses should be blooming. Take time to smell the roses and check for Japanese beetles, rose sawfly and aphids.
- After you've smelled the roses, spray a preventive fungicide to control **black spot**.

Fruits and Vegetables

- Plant the summer vegetable garden.
- Warm season vegetables can be planted after frost free date (usually May 15).
- Beans, melons, corn are best directly seeded.
- Continue spraying fruits for insect and disease prevention. Consult Disease & Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in Kentucky (ID-21) to properly time sprays. <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id21/id21.pdf>

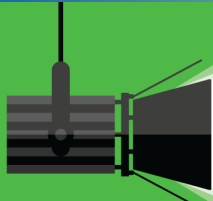


- **May:** Squash Vine borer, Cucumber beetle, flea beetle, Colorado potato beetle, aphids.

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/vegetable-calendar>

- **June:** plant sweet potatoes.
- **Succession planting:** Plant your first batch tomatoes approximately May 15, plant another a month later another crop of fresh tomato transplants. Do not select plants that have been languishing in the pots for a long period of time.





Plant Spotlight: Peony (*Paeonia* sp.)



Peonies have been nicknamed “The King of All Flowers” for good reason. While it has been a staple in the American gardens since

the early 19th century, it has been known in China since the 9th century. There are approximately 30 species of peony native to parts of Asia and Europe.



Peonies are prized for their showy, sometimes fragrant flowers. They perform well in the landscape but also make a great cut flower. Peonies are also

known as the “100 year plant” due to their long life span.

The most common are the herbaceous peony which die down in the winter. Tree peonies are not trees but they do have woody stems. Their leaves die off in the winter, but the woody stems remain.

In the 1940s Japanese breeder, Toichi Itoh, crossed the herbaceous peony and the tree peony. These hybrid plants are known as Intersectional or Itoh peonies. These new hybrids die down in the winter, but their flowers are larger and they bloom longer than the traditional herbaceous peony. A well-known Itoh peony is ‘Bartzella’. It’s prized for its large yellow flowers. The Itoh peonies have become quite popular in recent years and have become easier to find.

In our garden we have a large collection of herbaceous peonies. The plants were donated by the University of Kentucky. They were part of a plant trial to find peony varieties with stronger stems. This would avoid the need to stake or cage them every year. Our peonies have been standing up without the need to stake them.



Peonies bloom in May-June. Early, mid and late blooming peonies can extend the bloom time. It is very common to see ants along the flower buds. While people

may find their presences annoying, it is beneficial for the plant. Peonies have nectaries on the outside of their flower buds. The ants feast on the nectar and at the same time, protect the peony flower from plant-eating insects. This is known as “Biological Mutualism.”

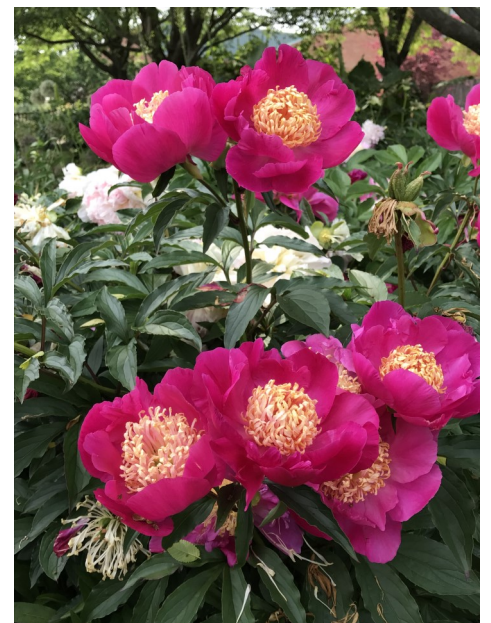
Plant peonies in moist, fertile soil with good drainage. Peonies are best in full sun receiving at least 6 hours of sun a day. Shelter from harsh wind as this can damage the large flowers. Do not plant too close to trees or large shrubs. These larger plants will compete with the peonies for light, moisture, and nutrients. The best time to plant peonies is in late summer or fall. This is also a good time to dig and divide peonies. It is important to make sure you have several “eyes” on each division. When replanting, make sure the eyes are 1-2” below the soil. Planting too deep will prevent flower production. Peonies do not like to be disturbed so it may take 2-3 years for your new division to bloom.



Powdery mildew is a common fungal disease found in peonies. This is usually not fatal but can weaken the plants. It is also not cosmetically attractive. Preventative fungicides can help prevent the disease but must be applied repeatedly. For

organic controls concentrate water on the soil and keep the foliage dry. Prune out some stems to create better air flow. Cut back and remove diseased foliage in late summer or fall.

With proper planting and care, you can enjoy the beauty of peonies for generations.



Annual Flowers Bring Beauty to the Landscape



The second Sunday in May is synonymous with two things... Mother's Day and the average frost-free date.

For gardeners, this means they can now begin planting their warm season plants. Vegetable gardens will begin to fill with tomato, pepper, and melon plants. For the flower gardeners, it is time for non-hardy, herbaceous plants to join the garden.

Many people have opinions about planting annual flowers. Some argue that it is a waste of money to purchase flowering plants every year when perennial plants come back year after year. While this is true, most perennials have a shorter bloom time. A good mix of perennial and annual flowers will bring a continuous bloom from late spring to frost.

When selecting the right annuals for your garden, consider the location. Is your site sunny or shady? A minimum of 8 hours is considered full sun. Most annual flowers require full sun for the best bloom. The plant performance and number of blooms may diminish if your plants do not receive enough sun. If your landscape is mostly shady, consider begonias, caladiums, or coleus. What is your soil like? Most annuals require good drainage and will suffer root rot in

poorly drained soil. If your soil is mostly clay, drainage will be poor. Amending the soil with organic matter such as compost can improve drainage.

Another consideration is maintenance. Geraniums (*Pelargonium*) benefit from removing spent flower stems from the plant also known as deadheading. If not, the plant will use energy to produce seeds instead of new flowers. Plants such as zinnia, lantana, bemyne. Our cutting Zinnias typically get powdery mildew do not require deadheading for continued bloom. Diseases can also be an issue. Impatiens Downy Mildew has ravaged our shade impatiens but Sunpatiens have been imdery mildew, but Zahara Zinnia remain unaffected.



Zinnia

Many pollinators and beneficial insects are attracted to annual flowers. Avoid "double" flowers with extra petals. While they may be considered more decorative, they are not good for pollinators. Many double flower plants are sterile or nearly sterile. In our pollinator garden, Blue Saliva, Cuphea, Lantana and Zinnia see many pollinators coming to them. If you have the space, consider the Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia*). This plant can reach 6' tall but attracts a wide variety of bees, butterflies, and songbirds.

Selecting the right annuals can give you a showstopping display of blooms all through the growing season.



Zinnia



Tithonia

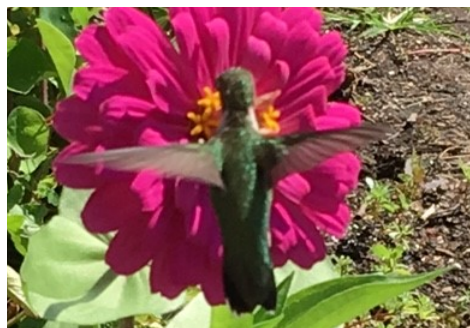


Zinnia

Garden & Pond Renovation Project



Cuphea



Zinnia

University and SD1 to best cultivate the projects needs to be sustainable for many generations to come. We anticipate that breaking grounds will begin Summer 2023. Continue to come and enjoy the spaces in our garden during renovation and watch the transition come to life. Extension is looking forward to utilizing the new spaces to offer more educational programming to our communities.

Campbell County Extension District Board has been awarded a grant from the NKY Urban Forestry Council to plant trees and perennials. We are selecting diverse plant species to create wildlife habitat and to help reduce soil erosion and improve poor soil drainage around the pond. We will also be working with Williams Creek Management to help create a buffer planting zone around the pond to decrease soil erosion, deter Canadian Geese population, create a safe space for fishermen and to reduce mow zones. We anticipate to begin installing trees Spring 2023 and another planting this fall.

We are excited to be working with Williams Creek Management Corporation (<https://www.williamscreekmgt.com>) as our design and build partner for our four phase garden and pond renovation project. We are integrating better accessibility spaces around the gardens, incorporating sustainability and best management practices into our design, and a safe and welcoming space for everyone to enjoy the gardens and green spaces. Campbell County Horticulture Team has been working with the Extension District Board, Extension Renovation Committee, Campbell County Administration, City of Highland Heights, Northern Kentucky

Tomatoes: The Most Popular Fruit/Vegetable

The one fruit I must grow and eat from my vegetable garden is the tomato. Yes, tomatoes and many other plants we call vegetables are technically fruits. A fruit is a plant developed ovary that comes from a flower and contains seeds. Thus, a myriad of our vegetables are fruits.

However they are classified, I grow them in my vegetable garden and I believe tomatoes are becoming more difficult to grow. I remember the days when I could put out 5 tomato plants and supply my family and several neighbors with fruit all season long. The main culprit to my decline in productive tomato longevity is the fungal disease Early Blight. Early Blight disease in my garden seems to be infecting my tomatoes earlier in the season than ever before. It starts on the lower foliage closest to the soil and quickly spreads up the plant and destroys any hopes you have of a long harvest season. Left without any chemical or cultural controls you can have a pitiful plant with few leaves and no fruit by August. Before focusing on controlling this disease we need to make sure we have all other successful tomato cultivation methods met.

Varieties: You should grow whatever tomato you prefer. However some tomato hybrids offer more disease resistance than some heirlooms. The tomato Amish Paste has great flavor but it gets diseases very early in the season and can be a source of infection for my other tomato plants. I have eliminated this one from my garden.

In my garden I grow the large red tomatoes Big Beef plus and Celebrity plus, Sun Sugar and Sweet 100 are the cherry types included. I also like German Johnson and Brandywine heirlooms. In order for me to ensure I can get these I have to order seed and grow them to transplant size myself.



Where to Plant: Tomatoes need full sun to grow at their best. Morning sun is critical to dry off wet foliage caused by rain or dew. Locate your garden close to a water source. Try to rotate where you plant your tomatoes every year. Research has proven many diseases overwinter in the soil. Moving the location of tomatoes in your garden from year to year helps starve out the diseases by not providing the host they need. For example plant squash or beans where you had tomatoes the year before.

Soil Type: Tomatoes are a deep rooted crop so improving your soil as deeply as possible helps. Individuals with really poor soil should consider raised beds. Start improving your garden soil from year one and every year thereafter. Add compost every year and especially heavy applications in the fall. After applying organic matter I sow a cover crop of wheat or rye. These are incorporated



back into the soil in spring.

Plant Spacing : Preferably provide your tomatoes with as much space as you can afford. Four feet between plants is not excessive if your garden is large enough. Wide spacing improves sun exposure, air circulation, and lessens competition between plants.

Fertility: Good organic soil will provide plenty of nutrients to get your plants off to a productive start. When the first fruit on your plants is the size of a dime or

nickel apply an organic liquid fertilizer according to directions. I prefer fish emulsion because it is higher in nitrogen and has low amounts of the other nutrients. Fertilize again in mid July with the same product.

Healthy, actively growing plants are resistant to diseases and will keep setting fruit.

Insects: Rarely do I encounter serious insect problems with my tomatoes. Correctly identifying the insect is key.

Take pictures and send them to your extension office. We will identify them and provide the safest and best way to control. I use Insecticidal Soap and Spinosad organic insecticides.



Diseases: Being able to control diseases in your tomato crop is paramount to having a long season of quality harvests. Early Blight disease should be our primary focus. Spacing plants for ample air movement and not allowing the foliage of one plant to touch another. Remove the lower foliage on your plants as they begin to grow. This pruning doesn't hurt the

plants or affect yield. Early Blight fungus starts on the lower foliage and moves up so by removing some this you lessen the chances of infection. Another task I perform on my plants is adding a thick layer of mulch around each one. My choice of organic mulch is wheat straw. Mulch slows down the splash created by rain. When rain hits bare soil the early blight spores are splashed up on the foliage. A heavy mulch layer lessens the impact and lessons infection. Starting early in the season use sulfur and copper fungicides. When using these sprays direct them to the underside of foliage as well as the top. Even though these sprays are considered organic be sure to read and follow all label directions. The label is the law.

The last step I use to having tomatoes in September is planting a second set in June. I plant the June plants as far away from the May ones as possible. If you try this technique be sure to get transplants grown for June planting. You do not want to use plants leftover from May. Leftover transplants will be rootbound, yellow and could have picked up diseases.



Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays

Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays



Dr. Shawn Wright, specialist with the University of Kentucky, teaches how to grow black raspberries.



Lindie Huffman, ANR Extension Agent for the University of Kentucky in Pendleton County, helps you decide if beekeeping is for you.



Sharon Flynt, Horticulture Extension Agent for the University of Kentucky in Scott County, talks home asparagus production from site prep to harvest.



Adam Leonberger, Horticulture Extension Agent for the University of Kentucky in Franklin County, shows you how to turn garden waste to valuable compost.



Andy Rideout, Horticulture Extension Agent for the University of Kentucky in Henderson County, talks lawns and managing problem weeds.



Sarah Extens Univer Compl some landsc

<https://anr.ca.uky.edu/horticulture-webinar-wednesdays>

Enjoy the freshness, flavor and excellence of Kentucky Proud Produce

It really makes a difference when you purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables. You provide your family with garden fresh taste and quality, while also helping the community by keeping your food dollars close to home.



Colorful Eating

Color-code your shopping and be on your way to better health. Each color group of produce offers different phytochemicals, antioxidants and nutrients that help you stay healthy in a variety of ways.



Get the blues (and purples)

Brain/memory, healthy aging, urinary tract

Fruits

- Blackberries
- Blueberries
- Grapes
- Plums

Vegetables

- Eggplant
- Kohlrabi
- Purple asparagus
- Purple cabbage
- Purple carrots
- Purple peppers

Great greens

Vision, bones, teeth

Fruits

- Apples
- Grapes
- Paw paws
- Pears

Vegetables

- Asparagus
- Beans
- Broccoli
- Brussel sprouts
- Cabbage
- Cucumbers
- Kohlrabi
- Leafy greens
- Lettuce
- Okra
- Onions (green)
- Peas
- Peppers
- Zucchini

Wonderful whites

Heart, maintain healthy cholesterol

Fruits

- Pears (brown)
- White peaches

Vegetables

- Cauliflower
- Kohlrabi
- Onions
- Potatoes
- White corn

Outstanding oranges (and yellows)

Vision, immune system, heart

Fruits

- Cantaloupe
- Peaches
- Yellow apples
- Yellow pears
- Yellow watermelon

Vegetables

- Carrots
- Corn
- Golden potatoes
- Peppers
- Pumpkins
- Squash
- Sweet potatoes
- Yellow tomatoes

Radiant reds

Heart, urinary tract, brain/memory

Fruits

- Apples
- Grapes
- Pears
- Raspberries
- Strawberries
- Watermelons

Vegetables

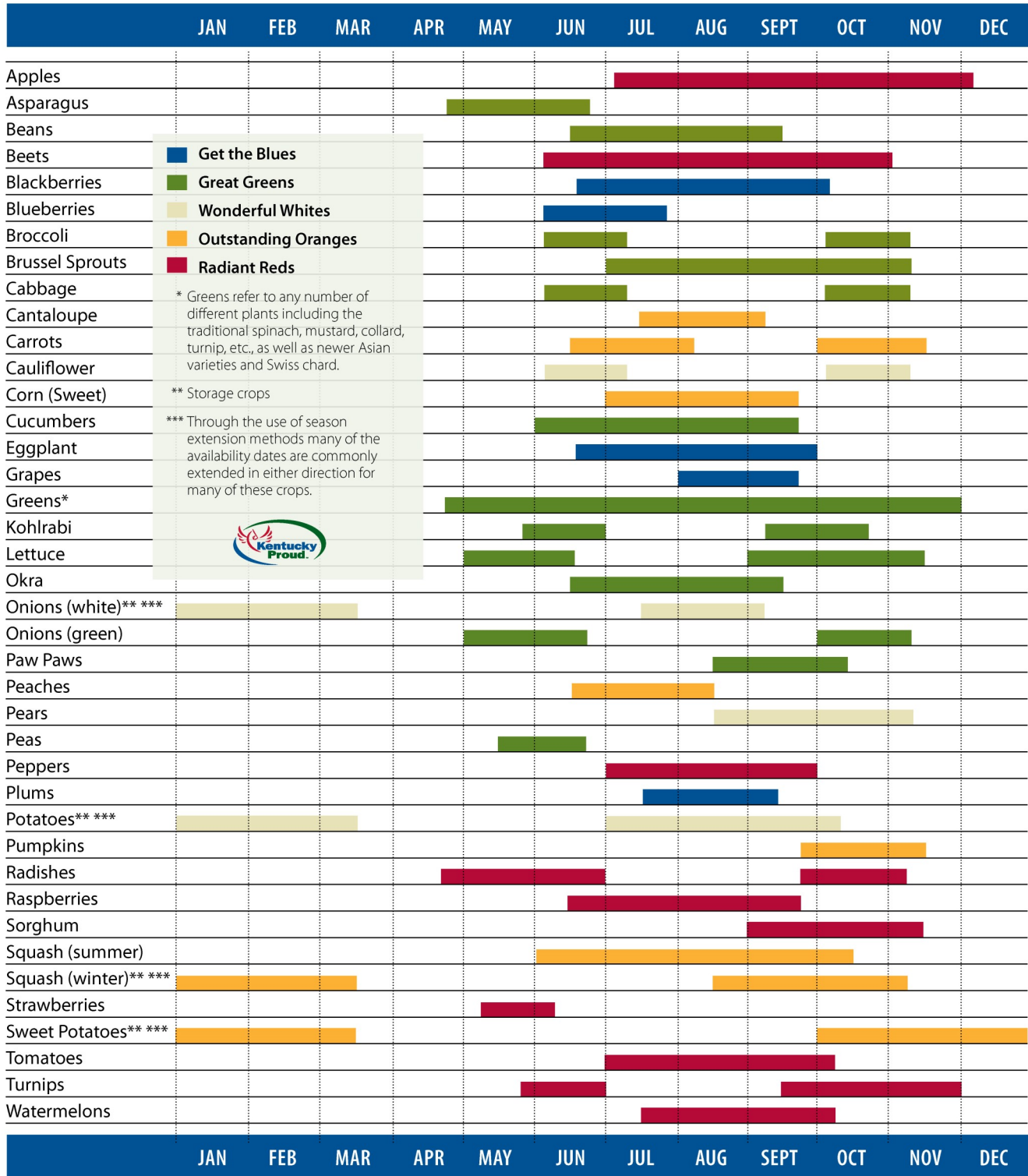
- Beets
- Radishes
- Red peppers
- Sorghum
- Tomatoes
- Turnips





Kentucky Proud Produce Availability

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand. Our secret ingredient is the hard work and dedication of Kentucky's farm families. Find out why "Nothing else is close."




- Get the Blues
- Great Greens
- Wonderful Whites
- Outstanding Oranges
- Radiant Reds

* Greens refer to any number of different plants including the traditional spinach, mustard, collard, turnip, etc., as well as newer Asian varieties and Swiss chard.

** Storage crops

*** Through the use of season extension methods many of the availability dates are commonly extended in either direction for many of these crops.



Beneficial Insects

Webinar

with Janet Meyer from Berea College

THURSDAY
MAY 11TH
2023
6:00pm ET/
5:00pm CT

Janet Meyer will discuss the relationship between organic production & beneficial insects on the farm at Berea College.

REGISTER FOR **FREE** ON
EVENTBRITE



This webinar series is part of a Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) project.



Asian Asparagus Salad

1 pound fresh asparagus
1½ tablespoons low sodium soy sauce

2 teaspoons sugar or artificial sweetener
1 tablespoon olive oil

2 teaspoons sesame seeds

- 1. Snap** off and discard the root ends of the asparagus.
- 2. Wash** remaining stalks thoroughly.
- 3. Slice** stalks into 1½ inch lengths on the diagonal.
- 4. Blanch** asparagus for 1-3 minutes in boiling water, until bright green in color.
- 5. Cool** immediately

- under cold water and drain.
- 6. Combine** soy sauce, sugar, olive oil, and sesame seeds in a small glass bowl. **Mix** dressing until sugar is dissolved.
- 7. In** a gallon zip-seal bag, add asparagus and dressing. **Turn** bag to coat asparagus with

dressing and chill in the refrigerator for 15 minutes. **Turn** bag again and chill for an additional 15 minutes before serving.

Yield: 4, ½ cup servings.
Nutrition Analysis: 70 calories, 4.5 g fat, .5 g sat. fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 250 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 3 g protein.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.



Kentucky Asparagus

SEASON: April through May.

NUTRITION FACTS: Asparagus is a good source of vitamin A and folate. One-half cup of fresh, steamed asparagus has 22 calories, 2 grams of protein, and 4 grams of carbohydrate.

SELECTION: Choose bright green stalks with tightly closed tips. The most tender stalks are apple green in color with purple-tinged tips.

STORAGE: Fresh asparagus will keep 1-2 weeks in the refrigerator. Refrigerate upright with cut ends in water or with cut ends wrapped in wet a paper towels in a plastic bag.

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

PREPARATION: One pound of asparagus will yield 4 one-half cup servings, about 6 spears per serving. Wash asparagus thoroughly in cool, running water. Eat asparagus raw or lightly boil, steam, stir-fry, or grill. Overcooked asparagus will be mushy. Try seasoning it with herbs, butter, or Parmesan cheese.

ASPARAGUS

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Nutrition
and Food Science students

March 2011

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit www.ca.uky.edu/fcs.

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE



Sarah Imbus

Campbell County Extension Agent for
Horticulture Education

David Koester

Campbell County Extension Technicians
for Horticulture Education

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