

Weed It and Reap

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



Phytophthora Root Rot of Blueberry

Source: Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist and Brandon Bell, Agriculture Extension Agent

Importance: Most of the diseases that affect blueberry crops in commercial or residential production cause minor damage. However, there is one commonly occurring blueberry disease that seriously impacts plant health and yields: Phytophthora root rot. This disease has been so devastating in some Kentucky fields that entire plantings have had to be abandoned. Blueberry root rot results in root decay, stunting, and severe dieback (Figure 1), often leading to plant death.

Symptoms: Symptoms of Phytophthora root rot begin as lesions on small feeder roots (Figure 2). As infection spreads, larger roots (Figure 3) and eventually the root collar (where trunk meets roots) become decayed (Figure 4). Infected roots become brown or black compared to healthy white roots. Plants in poorly drained soil and those in lower lying areas are generally the first to be affected. Initial root decay symptoms

(Continued on pg. 2)

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largely go unnoticed until there is sufficient root loss to impact water and nutrient uptake to foliage. As root processes become impaired, aboveground symptoms become noticeable, including leaf yellowing and/or reddening (Figure 5), followed by marginal leaf scorch (browning). Affected plants appear stunted, lack new growth, and terminal buds die. Advanced symptoms include defoliation, branch dieback, and plant death.



Cause & Disease Development: Blueberry root rot is caused by a soilborne fungus-like organism, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. It is also known as a water mold because of its requirement for water to complete its life cycle.

The pathogen overwinters as chlamydospores, structures capable of surviving adverse environmental conditions for 6 or more years. Once temperatures become favorable (68°F to 90°F) and soil becomes saturated, chlamydospores germinate and produce sporangia (capsule-like structures) containing infective zoospores (motile “swimming” spores with flagella). Zoospores require free water to move into root zones, so wet soils provide the ideal conditions for infections.

Disease spreads short distances when zoospores move in water to nearby plants. Long distance spread occurs when infested soil or infected plants are moved to new sites.

Disease Management: Management of *Phytophthora* root rot requires an integrated approach, which begins with following good cultural practices. Fungicides do not cure infections, and therefore should not be relied upon as the sole means of disease management.

Cultural Practices:

- Purchase disease-free plants. Examine roots carefully and avoid installing plants with darkened roots or roots that feel mushy.
- Select a planting site with loose soil and good internal drainage. Avoid low-lying areas (Figure 6).
- Plant into raised beds (Figure 7) at least 12 inches high to facilitate drainage when necessary
- Avoid these planting practices:

Using an auger for digging planting holes; augers often create a compacted “bowl” with glazed sides that retains water.

Overusing peat moss, which results in excessive water retention in the root zone.

- Slope soil away from rows and do not allow surface water to puddle or collect around plants.
- Do not over irrigate.
- Nurseries should:

Avoid placing pots in areas prone to flooding or water retention.

Use a potting mix that promotes good drainage.

Fungicides: While this pathogen is not a true fungus, certain fungicides do have efficacy against Phytophthora. Refer to Commercial Fruit Pest Management Guide (ID-232) for current fungicide rates.

New planting: If infected plants are nearby or risk for infection is high, apply a phosphorus acid-based systemic fungicide (FRAC 33) as a preventative foliar spray twice a year for the first 2 years until plants are established. Make the first application when foliage is fully expanded (after flowering) and then again 4 weeks later. Blueberry planted in well-drained beds should not require fungicides once established.

Replanting into a site with a history of disease: Avoid planting into a site that has a history of Phytophthora root rot for at least 5 years. Before replanting, treat soil by drenching with a mefenoxambased fungicide (FRAC 4). Apply a phosphorus acidbased systemic fungicide (FRAC 33) four times per year for the first 2 years, then preventively two times per year indefinitely.

Infected plants within an existing planting: Infected plants cannot be cured, but a combination of cultural practices and fungicides may help protect emerging plant roots from new infections and sustain plants that are in early stages of disease development. Lift (dig and raise) plants into raised beds. Drench with a mefenoxam-based fungicide (FRAC 4) at budbreak. Apply a phosphorus acid-based systemic (FRAC 33) fungicide four times per year for the first 2 years after disease was identified. Additional sprays should be applied twice per year indefinitely. Not all plants will respond to this treatment regime, so growers must evaluate individual situations. Determine costs associated with fungicides to evaluate whether fungicide applications are cost effective.



AGR-55

Turf Care Calendar for Cool-Season Lawns in Kentucky

Gregg C. Munshaw, Plant and Soil Sciences

Management Practice	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Aerify ¹												
Lime ²												
Mow ³												
Mower maintenance ⁴												
Nitrogen fertilization ⁵												
PRE-herbicides for annual grassy weeds ⁶												
POST-herbicides for annual grassy weeds ⁷												
POST-herbicides for broadleaf weeds ⁷												
Seeding for renovation or initial establishment ⁸												
Sodding ⁹												
Curative white grub control ¹⁰												
Preventive white grub control ¹⁰												

Note: Cool-season lawns include Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, fine fescues, and perennial ryegrass.

■ Best time to perform activity
 ■ Second-best time to perform activity
 □ Do not perform activity

1. Not all lawns need to be aerified or dethatched. These only need to be done if the soil is excessively hard or a great deal of thatch exists. For more information on aerification and dethatching, see AGR54, *Aerifying and Dethatching Lawns*.

2. Lime only needs to be applied if indicated by a soil test report. Applying lime when it is not needed, as indicated by a soil test, could result in reduced nutrient availability and turfgrass health. For more information on liming, see AGR-214, *Liming Kentucky Lawns*.

3. Lawns can be mowed any time of the year if the grass is growing. Mowing height should be increased in the summer to reduce stress from heat and drought. For more information on mowing, see AGR-209, *Mowing Your Kentucky Lawn*.

4. Mower maintenance, including blade sharpening and oil and filter changes, should

be done in the winter so the mower will be ready to use for the lawn growing season. For more information on mower maintenance, see the “Your Kentucky Lawn” videos *Blade Sharpening* and *Seasonal Lawn Mower Maintenance* (<https://ukturf.ca.uky.edu/videos>).

5. Nitrogen fertilizer should only be applied in the spring to lawns if it was not applied in the fall. Excessive nitrogen applied in the spring and/or summer reduces turfgrass health and promotes insects, diseases, and weeds. For more information on fertilizing, see AGR-212, *Fertilizing Your Lawn*.

6. Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied in early April in southern and western Kentucky and by April 15 for central, eastern, and northern Kentucky. A second application may be necessary in late May to insure grass control all summer. Summer annual grassy weeds include crabgrasses, goosegrass, and foxtails. An autumn pre-emergent application

may be necessary for annual bluegrass and winter annual broadleaf weed control. The autumn application should be avoided if the lawn will be seeded with desirable species. For more information on weed control, see AGR208, Weed Control for Kentucky Home Lawns.

7. Post-emergent herbicides work best when weeds are young, succulent, and actively growing. For more information on weed control, see AGR-208, Weed Control for Kentucky Home Lawns.

8. Late-summer/early autumn is the ideal time for planting seed, seed germination and grass seedling development. Although spring lawn seedings can be successful, irrigation and extra care are likely necessary for juvenile grass plants to survive the summer. For more information on seeding, see AGR-50, Lawn Establishment in Kentucky and AGR-51, Renovating Your Lawn.

9. Sod can be laid at any time during the year as long as the soil is not frozen. For more information on sodding, see AGR50, Lawn Establishment in Kentucky.

10. Insecticide applications for white grub control should only be made if a history of grubs exists in the lawn or if grubs are present. For more information on controlling white grubs in the lawn, see ENT-10, Controlling White Grubs in Turfgrass.



KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Farm City Field Day

07.10.25

5 pm - 8 pm

SAVE THE DATE & TIME



Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners' Plant Market

Saturday, April 26
9 am - 1 pm

**Lakeview Park
Farm Bureau Pavilion**
**118 Park Avenue
Frankfort, KY**



Webinar Event

Living with Alpha-gal Syndrome

Learn more about AGS (red meat allergy) and how to reduce your risk with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension

Topics Covered

- ✓ AGS basics
- ✓ Tick bite prevention
- ✓ Diet & lifestyle management
- ✓ Q/A session



Thursday, May 29th
6-7:30pm CDT
7-8:30pm EDT

Register Now!
ukfcs.net/AGS

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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Extension 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 request for reasonable accommodations for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodations of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.



Flooded Farmers and Landowners

Farmers and landowners, please let us know what is needed dealing with the aftermath of the flood. While we have no news yet of what assistance will be available, knowing what the damage is and what the needs are will help the groups that may be able to offer assistance when and if available.

***Please call 502-695-9035 or
email franklin.ext@uky.edu to let us know the
damage, impact and assistance you need!***



PLANT AUCTION

Trees, Shrubs, Perennials & Annuals

A Portion of the Proceeds Fund 2 Forestry
Scholarships at UK.

Auction Open to the Public.

April 12, 2025 | Sale Starts at 10AM

Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504



KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY

THIRD THURSDAY THING

Grow, Buy, Eat Local

April 17, 2025

10:00 AM

**Harold R. Benson Research and
Demonstration Farm**
1525 Mills Lane Frankfort, KY 40601

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

Easy Cut Flowers From Seed



**Wednesday, April 16
6 PM**

**This class will cover the basics for
easy-to-grow flowers, perfect for creating
stunning bouquets from your garden.**

RSVP:
502-695-9035 or
franklin.ext@uky.edu

101 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY

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



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



2025 CAEMG Lunch & Learns

Join the Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners for monthly educational talks to enhance your gardening skills. Bring your lunch and enjoy a casual atmosphere while learning from knowledgeable speakers.

**April
16**

Botanical Gardens of Kentucky

Join us for an enlightening session where Extension Master Gardener volunteers will be highlighting their favorite gardens across the region. Discover the beauty and diversity of these gardens through the eyes of passionate experts.

**May
28**

Gardening with Climate Change

Discover how climate change is affecting gardens and learn practical strategies to help your plants adapt and thrive. Join us for an insightful discussion led by Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK Faculty Extension Specialist.

**June
18**

Smart Irrigation Solutions for Your Garden

Join us for a dynamic session where you'll learn innovative techniques and smart solutions to efficiently water your plants, conserve resources, and create your own garden oasis.

**July
16**

Botanical Sleuthing: Expert Tips on Plant Identification

Dive into the fascinating world of plant identification and enhance your gardening skills. We'll discuss how tips and tricks to recognize plants, guided by Dr. Rick Durham, UK Faculty Extension Specialist

Classes begin at 11:30 AM

No registration required.

101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort KY

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Veggie Container Giveaway

JOIN OUR HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS TO CREATE YOUR OWN VEGETABLE CONTAINER GARDEN! LEARN TO GROW FRESH TOMATOES, LETTUCE, AND HERBS RIGHT AT HOME, PERFECT FOR ANY SPACE. REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED. SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED.

May

TUESDAY, 13
1ST CORINTHIANS
214 MURRAY ST.
6 PM

THURSDAY, 15
LIBERTY HALL
202 WILKINSON ST.
6 PM

SATURDAY, 17
THORN HILL
700 LESLIE AVE.
10 AM



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FRANKLIN & WOODFORD

2025 MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

AUGUST 21 - DECEMBER 11
9 AM - 12 PM

EVERY THURSDAY

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Botany, Entomology, Plant Pathology,
Proper Care and Maintenance, and Disease Diagnosis

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE JUNE 2
APPLICATION DEADLINE JULY 25



Franklin County
502-695-9035
franklin.ext@uky.edu

Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

Woodford County
859-873-4601
woodford.ext@uky.edu

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FRANKLIN COUNTY SPRING CLEAN 2025



DUMPSTER DAY

Saturday, April 19
from 730 AM - 230 PM
At the following
locations



Old Peaks Mill School
Evergreen Road Fire Station
Bald Knob Fire Station
Owenton Road Fire Station
Lakeview Park

Anyone found dumping outside these hours may be held liable for illegal dumping



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Saturday, April 19
from 8 AM to 12 PM
At 309 Rouse Avenue

Accepted Items include:

Poisons, herbicides, batteries, aerosol cans,
propane/helium canisters, oil-based paint,
solvents/gasoline/thinners, antifreeze, fluorescent
tubes, fire extinguishers, adhesives, asbestos, corrosive
acids/bases/cleaners, dioxins, fertilizers, organic
peroxides, reactive solids, oxidizers, flammable solids,
mercury, freon/acetylene, electronics (including TVs!)

We will NOT accept:
water-based paints,
motor/hydraulic
oil, or medications



SCRAP METAL COLLECTION

With the Franklin County
Conservation District
at Lakeview Park
Thursday - Saturday
4/17-4/18 from 8 AM to 430 PM
4/19 from 8 AM to Noon



LANDFILL DISPOSAL

Voucher needed to dump at the
landfill on Saturday.
Sign up for free at
[www.franklincounty.ky.gov/
trash-vouchers](http://www.franklincounty.ky.gov/trash-vouchers)

YARD WASTE WEDNESDAY

Begins 4/23 and runs every Wednesday through 11/5
8 AM to 12 PM at the Road Dept: 100 Lewis Ferry Rd



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.FRANKLINCOUNTY.KY.GOV/SOLID-WASTE-MANAGEMENT

2025 MARKET SEASON

WINTER MARKETS



10:00am-11:30am

3/8, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19

OPENING DAY OF REGULAR SEASON



April 26th 8:30am-Noon

THURSDAY PRE-ORDER/ CURBSIDE DELIVERY



April 24th-November 20th 8:30am-10:00am

www.fcmarket.localfoodmarketplace.com

TUESDAY MARKET



May 13th- September 23rd 8:30am-Noon

HOLIDAY MARKET



December 13th 10am-1pm



KIDS DAYS

April 26th & 2nd Saturday of each month

5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13



FRESH. LOCAL. LIVELY.

www.franklincountyfarmersmarket.org

Twilight Tour

Horticulture Research Farm



July 22, 2025
6-8pm

4321 Emmert Farm Ln,
Lexington, KY 40514

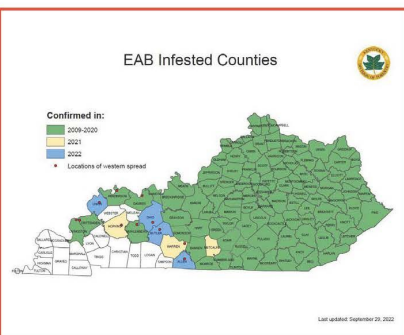
Details and registration info to come.

INVASIVE FOREST PESTS OF KENTUCKY:

Bad Bugs that eat Good Trees



(Figure 1)



Kentucky is home to nearly 13 million acres of some of the nation's most diverse woodlands. Yet, this valuable resource is under attack! Did you know that the most severe threats to our forests are insects, diseases, and invasive plants? Read on to learn more about Kentucky's least wanted insects - invasive forest pests. Invasive means they're not from here and aren't supposed to be here. The following bad bugs are unlucky for Kentucky because they kill our native tree species. They feast upon our precious trees until there's nothing left, leaving millions of dead trees upon the landscape.

Emerald Ash Borer:

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a beautiful jewel beetle, but it's deadly! Since its discovery within US borders in 2002, this pest has continued to cover new ground throughout the country and can now be detected in 36 states. These expansions in territory are often aided by humans through the movement of firewood or other infested material. EAB has been confirmed in 103 Kentucky counties to date (Figure 1). Ever since its arrival, EAB activity has led to mass mortality of green and white ash throughout our northeastern counties and decline continues to spread westward. In 2022, EAB was confirmed in four new counties: Allen, Butler, Ohio, and Union, and will eventually impact ash resources across the entire state as the infestation continues to spread into western Kentucky.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid:

The eastern hemlock is under attack from the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). These insects appear as tiny cotton balls attached to the base of hemlock needles during the winter. This pest is an exotic species with origins from Japan and was first detected in the eastern United States during the 1950s. It wasn't until 2006 when this insect invader was first discovered in Kentucky. Infestations currently occur in 32 counties resulting in decline and mortality of the foundational native tree species.



(Continued on next page)

Kentucky Division of Conservation, Protecting the Forest Together, 2024



(Continued from previous page)

The Kentucky Division of Forestry's Forest Health Program has a field crew responsible for treating hemlocks to prolong the survival of this ecologically significant tree. Chemical insecticide treatments are employed to suppress HWA populations. Since chemical treatments began in 2009, KDF has chemically treated approximately 250,000 hemlock trees! KDF also uses biological control to keep HWA at bay. This is where you use one organism to control another. Two species of predatory beetles that feed especially on HWA have been released in the Daniel Boone National Forest, and in 2020, KDF made their first recovery of one of these species.

Spotted Lanternfly:

Kentucky's newest invasive threat is the spotted lanternfly (SLF) with origins from Asia. It was only first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 and arrived in northern Kentucky in October 2023. It can be described as beautiful, but it is also dangerous. Don't be fooled by its name, this insect isn't a fly at all. It uses its piercing and sucking mouthpart to steal nutrients right out of its host plant. It is thought that the tree of heaven (another invasive species) is their primary host species, but they also attack red maple, black walnut, and various other fruiting trees and vines. Damage from this insect's feeding behavior can weaken the plants, leaving it susceptible to other stress agents. These insects also produce large amounts of honeydew, or liquid excrement, that transforms into black sooty mold. KDF is working with various agencies to educate the public on SLF identification and signs of infestation.



Asian Longhorned Beetle:

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) continues to be a potential pest of concern for Kentucky. Although ALB has not been found within the Commonwealth, here are the common signs of ALB activity. The females chew pits on host trees, most commonly maple, and lay a single egg beneath the bark. Then the larvae hatch and feed on the sapwood for a short period of time before moving into the heartwood. When adults emerge, they create noticeably round exit holes that can be as large as a dime. KDF continues to work with various agencies to educate the public on ALB identification and signs of infestation.



WITH THE GROWING NUMBER OF INVASIVE FOREST PESTS TO KENTUCKY, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please contact the Kentucky Division of Forestry if you believe you have spotted one of these bad bugs. Pictures and precise locations will help us in the fight to keep our forests healthy for many years to come!

FORESTRY FUN FACTS & WEBSITES!



A full-grown oak tree can have as many as **1 million leaves!**



arborday.org/kids/

Visit the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Education Hub for online forestry activities!





FRANKLIN CO. 4-H WEEKEND MINI CAMP

June 27-29, 2025

Registration Open!



**One campfire wasn't enough for
Summer 2025!**

Cost: \$175 Ages 9 +



**J.M. Feltner 4-H Camp
London, KY**

4-H Summer Camp fun packed into ONE weekend!

Questions?
502-695-9035



Yes Card Accepted!

Registration Link:
<https://franklin.ca.uky.edu/4-h-mini-camp-weekend-2025>



Roasted Beet and Orange Salad

- **3 medium** fresh beets (about 1 pound)
- **4 medium** navel oranges, peeled and sectioned
- **4 ounces** crumbled feta cheese
- **1/2 cup** chopped walnuts (optional)
- **1/4 cup** minced fresh mint

Orange Vinaigrette:

- **2 tablespoons** olive oil
- **1 teaspoon** grated orange zest
- **2 tablespoons** orange juice
- **1/2 tablespoon** apple cider vinegar
- **1 teaspoon** honey
- **1 teaspoon** Dijon mustard
- **1/2 teaspoon** salt
- **1/4 teaspoon** pepper

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. **Wash** hands with warm soap and water, **scrubbing** for at least 20 seconds. **Scrub** beets and **trim** tops to 1 inch. **Wrap** in foil; **place** on a baking sheet. **Bake** 50 to 60 minutes or until tender. **Remove** foil; **cool** completely. **Peel** beets and **chop** into bite-sized pieces. In a small bowl, **whisk** oil, orange zest, orange juice, vinegar, honey, mustard, salt, and pepper until blended. In a large bowl, **combine** cooked beets and orange sections. **Add** the vinaigrette and **toss** gently to coat. **Spoon** mixture on serving plate and **top** with feta cheese, walnuts, and fresh mint.

Yield: 4 servings. **Serving size:** 1/4 of recipe.

Nutrition Analysis: 330 calories, 23g total fat, 6g saturated fat, 25mg cholesterol, 510mg sodium, 27g total carbohydrate, 5g fiber, 18g total sugars, 1g added sugars, 8g protein, 0% DV vitamin D, 15% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 10% DV potassium.




Adam Leonberger

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