

Weed It and Reap

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER



Make your home garden thrive! The five benefits of plant diversity

Source: Rick Durham, University of Kentucky
Department of Horticulture

A home garden filled with a variety of plants is not just beautiful—it's smart! Having different types of plants growing together can help gardeners enjoy fresh food much of the year, help manage pests, promote pollinators and even improve the soil.

Let's explore why a diverse garden is a great idea.

Seasonal Harvests: Fresh Food for Much of the Year

One of the best reasons to plant a mix of vegetables, fruits and herbs is that different plants grow best in different seasons. Some plants, like lettuce and spinach, thrive in cool weather and can be harvested in spring and fall. Others, like tomatoes and peppers, love the heat and grow best in summer. By planting a variety of crops, gardeners can enjoy fresh food throughout the year instead of just one season.

(Continued on pg. 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

**MAKE YOUR HOME GARDEN
THRIVE! THE FIVE BENEFITS OF
PLANT DIVERSITY 1-2**

HOW TO REMOVE A TICK SAFELY. . 3

**POISON HEMLOCK-WHAT THE HOME
GARDENER NEEDS TO KNOW 4**

FARM CITY FIELD DAY. 5

2025 CAEMG LUNCH & LEARN . . . 6

SAVE IT, SOW IT, SHARE IT 7

**2025 MG VOLUNTEER TRAINING
PROGRAM. 8**

HERBICIDE WORKSHOP 9

**PARTICIPATING LOANER POLE
LOCATION 10**

**A FOND FAREWELL FROM YOUR
HORTICULTURE AGENT. 11**

RECYCLING DROP-OFF IS BACK. . 12

**SUMMERTIME SENSATION
CASSEROLE 12**

(Continued from pg. 1, Make your home garden thrive! The five benefits of plant diversity)

Intercropping: Making the Most of Space

Intercropping involves planting different vegetables side by side to take advantage of the different times of maturity, heights, spread or rooting depths. A classic example of intercropping involves corn, [beans](#) and squash. A few weeks after sowing corn seeds, you plant pole beans close to the corn rows to use the corn stalks for support. The squash is a vining plant and will spread between the rows of corn and beans. As another example, you can set tomato transplants between lettuce plants; the lettuce matures and is harvested before the tomato plants grow very large.

Natural Disease and Pest Control: Creating Healthier Plants

A diverse garden can also help keep insect pests under control. When a garden has only one type of plant, insects that like that plant can quickly take over. But when there are many different plants, pests have a harder time finding their favorite food. Beneficial insects such as natural pest predators may be attracted to different plants in the garden.

Just like insects, plant diseases spread more easily when there is only one type of plant in a garden. If a disease attacks one plant, it can quickly spread to all the others of the same kind. But in a diverse garden, diseases have a harder time spreading because different plants have different levels of resistance. This helps keep the garden healthy and productive.

Gardeners should also consider rearranging the placement of similar plants from year to year to prevent insect and disease build-up in the soil.

More Pollinators: Helping Bees and Butterflies

A garden with many types of flowers and vegetables attracts helpful insects like bees and butterflies. These pollinators help plants produce fruit and seeds by spreading pollen from flower to flower. Without pollinators, many fruits and vegetables wouldn't grow well. By planting a mix of flowers and food plants, gardeners can support pollinators and enjoy bigger harvests.



Better Soil Health: Building Stronger Plants

Different plants use different nutrients from the soil. If a garden only has one type of plant, the soil can lose important nutrients quickly. However, when a variety of plants grow together, they help balance the nutrients they take from the soil. Some plants, like beans and peas, even add nitrogen back into the soil, making it healthier for future crops.

A home garden with a variety of plants is stronger, healthier and more productive. By planting different crops, gardeners can enjoy fresh food much of the year, reduce pests naturally, improve soil health, attract pollinators, and prevent diseases. Whether growing vegetables, herbs or flowers, diversity makes a garden better in every way.

So, next time you plan your garden, think about adding a mix of plants—it's a simple way to make your garden thrive!

HOW TO REMOVE A TICK SAFELY

UK Extension Publication ENTFACT-618

STEP ONE

Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick close to the skin to ensure complete removal.

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.

Identification of ticks is available through your local extension office.



*Source: UK Extension Publication ENTFACT-618
An Equal Opportunity Organization.*

Poison hemlock – What the home gardener needs to know

Source: Sharon Flynt, UK Extension
Horticulture Agent

County extension offices around the state have fielded many phone calls this spring and summer from homeowners and gardeners concerned about poison hemlock. The concern seems to be justified but only if the poison hemlock is ingested by humans or livestock.

Poison hemlock is one of the most toxic plants in the world. It is well known throughout history for accidental deaths of humans and animals. One of the most well-known poison hemlock deaths took place in 329 B.C. when Greek philosopher Socrates ingested the deadly plant.

Poison hemlock has been getting closer to populated areas recently and Kentucky isn't immune. Poison hemlock is a biennial flowering plant, meaning it takes two years to complete its biological lifecycle. The first year

the plant grows leaves, stems and roots. Low rosettes of parsley or fern-like shiny green, triangular leaves with a very pungent odor is noticeable. It will grow no taller than 2 to 3 feet the first year.

The second year of the plant's biennial season, plant growth completes with the formation of longer stems, flowers, fruit and seeds. It's easy to confuse poison hemlock with Queen Ann's Lace, which is in the carrot family and is not poisonous. In year two, the plant can grow from 2 to 10 feet tall, and the stems have purple splotches. The purple spots are what distinguishes it from other plants. Each plant can produce up to 40,000 seeds.

Poison hemlock is usually found in unmaintained disturbed sites along fence rows, field edges, ditches, roadsides and low-lying areas with moist soil and shade. Disturbances, such as construction, utility work, or people working the land where poison hemlock is present, help to germinate the abundant seeds. Keeping the plant from going to seed is the best way to prevent spread. You can use preemergent and post herbicides to prevent or kill poison hemlock, but timing is key when applying.



KENTUCKY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Farm City Field Day

07.10.25

**KSU Harold R. Benson
Research Farm**

1525 Mills Lane Frankfort KY

5PM- FREE MEAL
6-8PM FARM TOURS

TICKETS AVAILABLE HERE

For more details visit
<https://franklin.ca.uky.edu/field-day>





Gardening as We Age

July 16, 2025
12:30 pm ET
11:30 am CT



Register Here:
<https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/GGG90fZFRpuQFqalh8EF9q>



Ornamental Grasses

July 23, 2025
12:30 pm ET
11:30 am CT

Register Here:
<https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/GGG90fZFRpuQFqalh8EF9g>

2025 CAEMG Lunch & Learns

 Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

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.

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.

Class begins at 11:30 AM

No registration required.

101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort KY

SEED SAVING CLASS

*Save It, Sow
It, Share It***JULY 24, 6 PM**

Learn to collect and store seeds! This hands-on class covers collecting and storing seeds to cut gardening costs, promote sustainability, and foster community through sharing and swaps.

**Register at 502-695-9035 or
franklin.ext@uky.edu
101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort KY**

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Stop by the Franklin
County Extension Office
for an application and
information package or
download the PDF from
our website:
franklin.ca.uky.edu



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



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MAKING THE MOST OF PRODUCTION UNDER COVER: A CEA PATHWAYS WORKSHOP

JULY 9TH **AUGUST 21ST**
PHOENIX FARMACY **HINDMAN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL**
GREENUP, KY **HINDMAN, KY**
11 AM - 2 PM **5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

Are you a Kentucky grower interested in season extension? Thinking about investing in new technology for your greenhouse or high tunnel? The University of Kentucky Horticulture Extension team wants to help you build your CEA Pathway!

Join us for an informational session on this unique technical assistance and grower networking program. Hear from last year's cohort, walk away with helpful tools, and connect with other growers in your area! Refreshments will be provided.

Registration Required. Click the link or scan the QR code to RSVP:
bit.ly/CEAregister

For program details
 visit bit.ly/CEApathways

Questions? Reach out!

Arundathi Sharma, Extension Associate
 Greenhouse and Controlled Environments
Arundathi.Sharma@uky.edu



Martin-Gatton
 College of Agriculture,
 Food and Environment
 Department of Horticulture

UK Martin-Gatton
 College of Agriculture,
 Food and Environment
 Department of Horticulture



Save the Date

Twilight Tour

Horticulture Research Farm



July 22, 2025
 6-8pm

4321 Emmert Farm Ln,
 Lexington, KY 40514

Scan the qr code to register or follow the link
bit.ly/twilighttour25

Summer

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SERIES:

FRANKFORT'S TRAILS

Identify native species and invasive species with
 these guided tours: all ages welcome!

10:00 AM

Thorobred Trail: May 31, June 5th

Capitol View Park: June 19th & 21st

Cove Springs Park: July 24th & 26th



WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES
 BRING SUNSCREEN + BUG SPRAY

SIGN UP HERE

HERBICIDE WORKSHOP



What? When? Why?

Location

Harold R. Benson
 Research &
 Demonstration Farm
 Frankfort, KY

Speaker

Joe Omielan
 University of
 Kentucky

Date

Tuesday,
 August 19th
 9AM - 1PM

Join KSU Forestry and Natural Resources and UK's Joe Omielan for a morning learning about the specifics of herbicide selection.

This workshop will include indoor and outdoor sessions and CEUs are available to participants. Registration begins at 8:30AM and includes lunch.

Please register by August 15.



To register, scan the QR code or email anna.rogers@ksu.edu for a link.

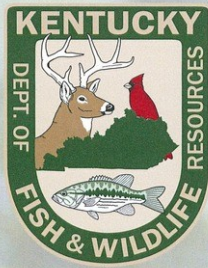
Reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities as well as language access services such as interpretation or translation of information will be provided free of charge upon request. Contact us by August 11 if you need reasonable accommodations to participate. Kentucky State University is an equal opportunity provider.



**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**
 Cooperative Extension Program



Martin-Gatton
 College of Agriculture,
 Food and Environment
 University of Kentucky



Participating Loaner Pole Location

BORROW and **RETURN**
fishing poles here!

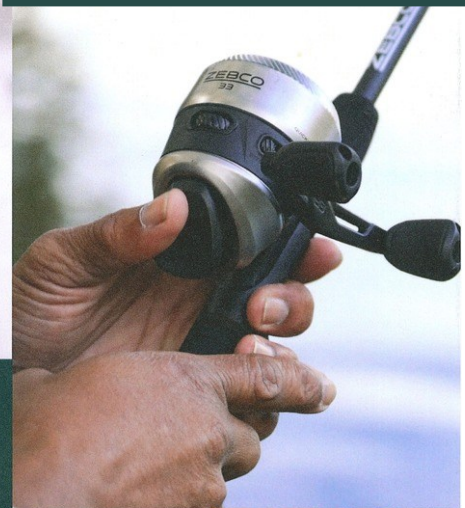


Learn to Fish!

Any person 16 years of age or older must
have a license to fish Kentucky waters.



Now at the
Franklin County
Extension Office



A Fond Farewell from Your Horticulture Agent

After more than a decade of serving the wonderful community of Franklin County, I will be stepping down from my role as Horticulture Agent effective July 31. It has been an incredible honor to work alongside so many passionate gardeners, farmers, educators, and residents who care deeply about the land and each other. Over the years, I've had the privilege of sharing knowledge, learning from you, and growing together—both literally and figuratively. The friendships and connections I've made here will stay with me always. I am deeply grateful for your trust, your collaboration, and your commitment to making Franklin County a thriving, green, and vibrant place.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your gardens, your farms, and your lives. Though I may be moving on from this position, I will always carry the spirit of this community with me.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Adam J. Leonberger

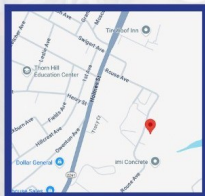
Franklin County Horticulture Agent



**ROUSE AVE.
RECYCLING UPDATE**



**RECYCLING
DROP-OFF
IS BACK!**



**WHEN:
JULY 14TH
24/7**

**WHERE:
309 ROUSE AVE.**

E-waste recycling will also resume on
Monday, July 14 for drop off.
The hours for e-waste recycling are 7AM-2:30PM
on Mondays only.



**FREE SUMMER
MEALS FOR KIDS**



GET A WEEK OF BREAKFAST & LUNCH!
ALL KIDS AGE 0 - 18 WELCOME
Choose the location that works best for you!

FRANKFORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Pick Up at FRANKFORT HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAYS, 3:15 PM - 5:15PM

June 11, 18 & 25; July 2, 9 & 16

Sign up at bit.ly/3H5i3Ty

Contact amy.stosberg@frankfort.kyschools.us for info.



OR

FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Pick Up at HEARN ELEMENTARY

or COLLINS LANE SCHOOL

WEDNESDAYS, 11 AM - 1 PM

May 28; June 4, 11, 18, 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Sign up at bit.ly/fcsletseat

Contact Christy at 502-695-6700 for info.



Have Summer EBT or SNAP? Shop at the Farmers Market
or Locals Food Hub and get extra SSS every time you shop



Summertime Sensation Casserole

4 strips turkey bacon

1/3 cup minced onion

3 tablespoons diced
green pepper

4 ears fresh sweet corn

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon black
pepper

1 teaspoon dried
sweet basil

2 cups tomatoes,
chopped

1/3 cup reduced fat
shredded cheddar
cheese

1. In a large skillet, **cook**
turkey bacon until crisp.

2. **Drain** turkey bacon on
paper towel, **chop** and
put aside. Do not drain
pan. **Cook** onion and
green pepper in bacon
drippings over medium
heat until tender.

3. **Cut** corn from cob and
add to onion and green
pepper mixture in skillet.

Add salt, black pepper,
basil and tomatoes.

Cook 5-10 minutes. **Add**
chopped turkey bacon
and cook an additional
minute.

4. **Pour** skillet contents into
a greased 1-1/2 quart
casserole dish.

5. **Top** with shredded
cheddar cheese.

6. **Bake** at 350°F for 30
minutes, or until cheese is
melted and bubbling.

Yield: 5, 1/2 cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 160
calories, 7 g fat, 2.5 g sat.fat,
25 mg cholesterol, 680 mg
sodium, 19 g carbohydrate,
3 g fiber, 7 g sugar, 8 g protein.



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

Adam Leonberger

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