

Weed It and Reap



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FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



Succession Planting

by Beth Wilson, Agent for Horticulture, Pulaski County
Cooperative Extension Service

Do you get plumb ill when your tomatoes (or insert any vegetable name) become diseased and it seems like you just started harvesting? Or the lettuce you planted is done and you still want salad. Many gardeners make the mistake of relying on one planting of a vegetable to be sufficient for the entire growing season. There's a 'thing' called succession planting that may help out. Succession planting is a gardening practice that involves planting tomatoes (or any vegetable) at intervals throughout the growing season. It's also described as planting a new crop after an old crop is done. Planting this way, successively, ensures that, as older plants mature and end their production cycle, new ones start to produce. This article will focus on planting vegetables at intervals during the season. Using this technique requires planning and maybe adjusting varieties based on days to maturity or heat/cold tolerance.

Lettuce and radishes are popular vegetables to successively plant. Sow seeds every week into prepared soil, the reward is a good supply of fixings for salads during the spring months. For summer harvests, heat-tolerant varieties are recommended.

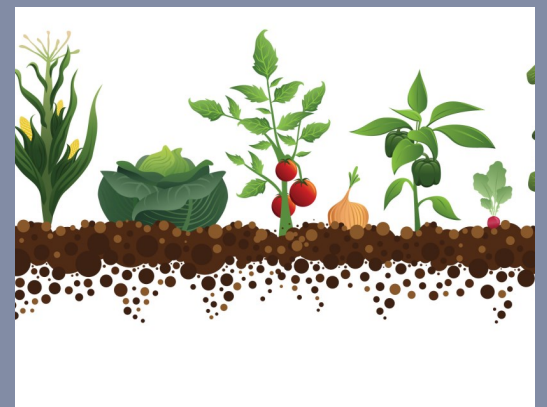
For vegetables like tomatoes or peppers, 2 to 4 plantings during the season is a good suggestion. However, this means you must have transplants ready to go in the ground on those dates. Planning is a must for this type of gardening.

For tomatoes and pepper, the first safe planting date for Central KY is May 5-May 15. The last planting date for central KY is June 15 to July 1. Many gardeners push these dates on both the early and late ends.

(Continued on pg. 2)

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(Continued from pg. 1, Succession Planting)

An example would be planting tomatoes on April 30 (cold protection needed), May 30, and June 30. A fourth planting could be attempted on July 30 (or earlier) using a tomato variety with 50-55 days to maturity. This last planting would potentially need cold protection as well (see Table 1).

Beans, sweet corn, squash, cucumbers, and carrots are other vegetables that are easily planted in succession. See the Table 2 for recommended intervals.

This method works well for those gardeners wishing to enjoy fresh garden produce for as long as the season allows. For gardeners wanting to preserve, more garden space should be devoted to larger plantings with roughly the same harvest date.

Using succession planting, a gardener can harvest more and better quality produce from a garden site during a given growing season. Gardeners know their garden site and can adjust planting and seeding times in the table below. Here's to a great 2021 vegetable gardening season!



Lettuce is an easy crop to start succession planting. Start new seeds every week to keep fresh lettuce all season long. In the summer grow them under the shade of your tomatoes to beat the heat.

Table 1: Tomato or pepper planting and seed starting dates for succession planting

Plant outside Start seedlings Notes

April 30	March 15	May need cold protection Any maturity date
May 30	April 15	Any maturity date
June 30	May 15	Any maturity date
July 30	June 15	May need cold protection 50-55 days maturity

Table 2: Seeding/transplanting intervals for vegetables and herbs

Crops	Interval between sowings/plantings
Leaf or baby lettuce Radish Spinach Cilantro	7 days
Sweet Corn Bush beans Head lettuce	10 days
Beets Turnips Parsley Basil Dill	14 days
Cucumbers Melons Carrots	21 days
Summer squash	30 days

Recommended intervals from Johnny's Seed (<https://www.johnnyseeds.com/growers-library/vegetables/succession-planting-interval-chart-vegetables.html>)



Reforest Frankfort 2023

Join us for a day of FREE EARTH FRIENDLY EDUCATION!

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

 April 15, 2023 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information, contact acuningham@frankfort.ky.gov | (502) 875-8575





Not a pet friendly event. Service Dogs Only.



Community Gardens WORKSHOPS

-  **COMPOSTING 101**
 February 25th @ 10am
 Location: Thornhill Education Center
-  **STARTING TRANSPLANTS INDOORS**
 March 11th @ 10am
 Location: Thornhill Education Center
-  **GROWING YOUR OWN MUSHROOMS**
 April 22th @ 10am
 Location: Thornhill Education Center
-  **POLLINATOR GARDENS**
 May 13th @ 10am
 Location: Dolly Graham Park/Fantasy Forest
-  **CONTAINER GARDENING**
 May 20th @ 10am
 Location: Thornhill Education Center

**Commonwealth
gardens**

THORN HILL EDUCATION CENTER

WALTON COUNTY ADULT EDUCATION



FOLLOW US:

CONTACT US:

CGNFRANKFORT@GMAIL.COM
<https://franklincenterforinnovation.com/thorn-hill-garden-1>

Thornhill Education Center
 700 Leslie Ave., Frankfort, KY
 Dolly Graham Park
 125-199 Logan St, Frankfort, KY



SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY SEED SWAP

Saturday, March 25, from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Paul Sawyer Public Library
 319 Wapping Street | Frankfort, KY 40601


If you would like to help support the event by donating seed packets in advance, drop them off at the PSPL Check-Out Desk anytime during the month of February!







For more info, visit www.pspl.org/event/community-seed-swap, or contact Diane Dehoney at diane@pspl.org.



Tax Aides Prepare 2022 Income Tax

WHEN: Tuesdays, Feb 7—April 11
WHERE: Paul Sawyer Public Library
HOW: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

On January 23 or after, between 9 am and 6 pm: Call 502-783-7035 on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday to schedule an appointment.

1. Leave your name and phone number; your call will be returned in the order tax aides receive it.
2. After tax aides have scheduled your appointment, and in advance of your appointment, you will pick up a packet at the library so you can complete the paperwork prior to your appointment.

March Gardening Calendar

Houseplants

- **Weeks 1-4:** Two handsome houseplants that provide fragrant blossoms indoors this month are the Confederate jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) and Japanese pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira*). Both thrive in average home conditions and are easy plants to grow.
- **Weeks 1-4:** As day lengths increase, plants begin new growth. Repot rootbound plants, moving them to containers 2 inches larger in diameter than their current pot. Check for insect activity and apply controls as needed. Leggy plants may be pruned now.

Ornamentals

- **Weeks 1-4:** Trees, shrubs and perennials may be planted as soon as they become available at local nurseries.
- **Weeks 1-4:** To control iris borer, clean up and destroy the old foliage before new growth begins.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Fertilize bulbs with a "bulb booster" formulation broadcast over the planting beds. Hose off any granules that stick to the foliage.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Dormant mail order plants should be unwrapped immediately. Keep the roots from drying out, store in a cool protected spot, and plant as soon as conditions allow.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Loosen winter mulches from perennials cautiously. Re-cover plants at night if frost returns. Clean up beds by removing all weeds and dead foliage at this time.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Heavy pruning of trees should be complete before growth occurs. Trees should not be pruned while the new leaves are growing.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Seeds of hardy annuals such as larkspur, bachelor's buttons, Shirley and California poppies should be direct sown in the garden now.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Summer and fall blooming perennials should be divided in spring.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Ornamental grasses should be cut to the ground just as the new growth begins.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Spring bedding plants, such as pansies and toadflax (*Linaria* sp.), may be planted outdoors now.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Apply a balanced fertilizer such as 6-12-12 to perennial beds when new growth appears.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Apply sulfur to the soils around acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, hollies and dogwoods. Use a granular formulation at the rate of 1/2 pound per 100 square feet.
- **Week 4:** Gradually start to pull back mulch from rose bushes.

Lawns

- **Weeks 1-4:** Mow lawns low to remove old growth before new growth begins.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Apply broadleaf herbicides now for control of cool-season perennial and annual weeds. These must not be applied to areas that will be seeded soon.
- **Week 2:** Apply controls for wild garlic. It will take several years of annual applications for complete control.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Thin spots and bare patches in the lawn can be overseeded now.

Vegetables

- **Weeks 1-4:** Any root crops such as horseradish, parsnips, Jerusalem artichokes, or carrots still in the ground from last year should be harvested before new green top growth appears.

- **Weeks 1-4:** Cultivate weeds and remove the old, dead stalks of last year's growth from the asparagus bed before the new spears emerge.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Fertilize the garden as the soil is being prepared for planting. Unless directed otherwise by a soil test, 1 to 2 pounds of 12-12-12 or an equivalent fertilizer per 100 square feet is usually sufficient.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Delay planting if the garden soil is too wet. When a ball of soil crumbles easily after being squeezed together in your hand, it is dry enough to be safely worked.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Asparagus and rhubarb roots should be planted as soon as the ground can be worked.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Plant peas, lettuce, radishes, kohlrabi, mustard greens, collards, turnips, Irish potatoes, spinach and onions (seeds and sets) outdoors.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Plant beets, carrots, parsley and parsnip seeds outdoors.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Set out broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, Chinese cabbage and cauliflower transplants into the garden.
- **Week 4:** Start seeds of tomatoes, peppers and eggplants indoors.

Fruits

- **Weeks 1-4:** Gradually remove mulch from strawberries as the weather begins to warm.
- **Weeks 1-3:** Continue pruning apple trees. Burn or destroy all prunings to minimize insect or disease occurrence.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Continue pruning grapes. Bleeding causes no injury to the vines. Tie vines to the trellis before the buds swell to prevent bud injury and crop loss.
- **Week 2:** Cleft and splice grafting can be done now. This must be completed before rootstocks break dormancy.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Aphids begin to hatch on fruit trees as the buds begin to open.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Apply dormant oil sprays now. Choose a dry day when freezing temperatures are not expected.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Spray peach trees with a fungicide for the control of peach leaf curl disease.
- **Week 4:** Mulch all bramble fruits for weed control.
- **Week 4:** Peaches and nectarines should be pruned just before they bloom.

Miscellaneous

- **Week 1:** Red maples begin to bloom.
- **Week 1:** Set up nesting boxes for bluebirds.
- **Week 1:** Watch for the harbinger of spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*) blooming in rich wooded areas.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Spicebush is blooming in moist woodlands.
- **Weeks 2:** Raise purple martin houses this week.
- **Weeks 3:** Purple martins return to the St. Louis area.
- **Weeks 4:** The white flowers of serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) and wild plum (*Prunus americana*) are showy in wooded areas.
- **Weeks 4:** Watch for the fuzzy blooms of the pussy willow (*Salix* sp.).

Source: William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO



Blueberry French Toast Bake

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| ¼ cup whole wheat flour | 3 eggs | 1 cup fresh blueberries |
| ¼ cup all-purpose flour | 6 egg whites | ½ cup chopped almonds |
| 1½ cups skim milk | 1 loaf (12 ounces) French bread, cut into 1 inch cubes | Honey, if desired |
| 1 tablespoon sugar | 3 ounces fat free cream cheese, cut into ½ inch cubes | |
| ½ teaspoon vanilla | | |
| ¼ teaspoon salt | | |

Generously **grease** a 13x9x2-inch baking dish. **Beat** flours, milk, sugar, vanilla, salt, eggs and egg whites in a large mixing bowl with a hand mixer until smooth. **Stir** in bread cubes until they are coated. **Pour** bread mixture into baking dish. **Top** evenly with cream cheese, blueberries and almonds. **Cover** and **refrigerate** for at least 1 hour, but no longer than 24

hours. **Heat** oven to 400 degrees F. **Uncover** and **bake** 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. **Sprinkle** with honey, if desired.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 420 calories, 6 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 70 mg cholesterol, 860 mg sodium, 69 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 9 g sugar.



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



Broccoli Pizza

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1½ cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese | ½ medium red bell pepper, cut into strips |
| 1 12-inch whole wheat pizza crust | 1 medium tomato, thinly sliced |
| 1 cup chopped broccoli florets | 2 cloves minced garlic |
| 1 medium zucchini, thinly sliced | 1 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning |
| 1 medium onion, sliced into strips | 2 tablespoons vegetable oil |

- 1. Sprinkle** half of the cheese evenly over crust; set aside.
- 2. Sauté** vegetables, garlic and Italian seasoning in hot oil 3-5 minutes or until vegetables are crisp-tender.

- 3. Spoon** vegetables evenly over pizza crust.
- 4. Top** with remaining cheese.
- 5. Bake** at 450° F 5 minutes or until cheese melts.

Yield: 8 slices

Nutrition Analysis: 320 calories; 23g fat; 11g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 65mg cholesterol; 540mg sodium; 18g carbohydrates; 3g dietary fiber; 3g sugars; 15g protein.

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





Capital Area Extension
Master Gardeners'

Saturday, April 29th

9am - 2pm

Lakeview Park
(Farm Bureau
Pavilion)

118 Park Avenue
Frankfort, KY

Plant Market

Tomatoes, peppers,
herbs, perennials
and MORE!

SAVE THE
DATE!!!



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener
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Franklin County
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Frankfort, KY 40601-8750



Woodford County Extension Master Gardeners

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 13 • 1pm-3pm
Red Barn • Falling Springs Park



*Tomatoes, Hot & Bell Peppers,
Cucumbers, Herbs and Marigolds*



Plus Seeds, Books & Ironweed Nursery Native Plants

Please note – we can only accept payment by cash or check.



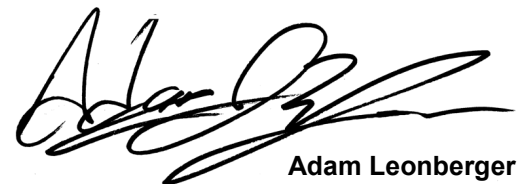
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with prior notification.



Adam Leonberger
County Extension Agent for Horticulture Education

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