

Weed It and Reap

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER**

Franklin County
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Frankfort, KY 40601-8750
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Native Trees Add Variety To Your Landscape

Source: William Fountain, Extension Professor, Department of Horticulture

Sure, we love our dogwoods and redbuds in the spring, but why limit ourselves to using only those two trees? There are many native trees that could add beauty and variety to your landscape over all four seasons. Plus, a diversity of plantings will attract and sustain more native wildlife. Well-landscaped homes can improve resale value by 7% to 10%.

Here are some native trees that could work well in your landscape.

Yellowwood is thought to be our best medium-sized, native flowering tree. Its white, fragrant, pea-like flowers hang in 15-inch-long clusters in spring, and the tree offers attractive yellow fall foliage. Its fruit is a yellow-green legume pod and ripens in the fall. Yellowwood also has a beautiful framework of branches with smooth, gray bark that provides winter interest, but the tree's multiple trunk habit can make it prone to

(Continued on pg. 2)

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limb breakage at the crotch. It must be pruned to ensure good branch angles.

Allegheny serviceberry is a multi-stemmed small tree reaching up to 25 feet tall. It produces large white flowers very early in spring and bluish green fruit that attracts birds. Allegheny serviceberry grows best in partial shade; it will show signs of stress if grown in full sun in dry areas. The cultivar *A. laevis* 'Cumulus' usually grows from a single stem and has a moderately columnar growth habit. It is offered more commonly than the species. Allegheny serviceberry is especially attractive when planted in front of an evergreen background. There are many other types of serviceberries. You can't go wrong with any of them.



Blackgum, with its waxy spring foliage, brilliant orange to scarlet red to deep purple fall color and striking winter form, has great ornamental value. As it grows older, its graceful, drooping branches add to the distinct form and beauty of this tree. Blackgum adapts to extreme climates,

tolerates wet conditions and is resistant to drought. Although it will grow in full sun or partial shade, its fall color is enhanced by sunny conditions. Flowers are small and insignificant. The bitter, half-inch blue-black drupes are not particularly ornamental but are favored by wildlife.

Sourwood. Truly a tree for all seasons, sourwood is one of our most beautiful natives and is ideal as a small specimen tree. It has lovely flowers that open in mid-summer, excellent fall color and hanging clusters of fruit in the winter. Fall color ranges from red to purple to yellow, and all three colors are often on the same tree. It has the best red of any of our natives. The tree can be grown in full sun or partial shade although flowering and fall color are best in full sun. Sourwood trees are very attractive to bees and sourwood honey is common in the South. In order to grow well, it requires an acidic soil high in organic matter. Limestone in the soil or soils derived from limestone are a prescription for failure.



Green hawthorn is an adaptable, urban-tolerant tree that offers winter interest with its abundant and attractive orange-red fruit. It has pretty red to gold foliage in fall and

handsome silver-gray peeling bark that shows orange underneath. Its lower branches need to be pruned to a height of 6 to 8 feet in high-traffic areas because of the tree's inch-long thorns. 'Winter King' is an excellent cultivar for the landscape and is superior in flower and fruit production.



Carolina silverbell is a good small tree for shrub or woodland borders. It may have a rounded, pyramidal or vase-shaped habit. Its white, bell-shaped flowers bloom in April and May and are best seen from below the tree, since they hang on pendulous stalks. Carolina silverbell is relatively pest resistant as long as it is in a good soil and not stressed by drought. The tree is especially attractive when set off against an evergreen background. Rhododendrons, which also require a good, organic soil, grow well beneath it.

Information about these and other native trees can be found at <https://www.uky.edu/hort/Native-Trees-of-Kentucky>. For more information on how to train or prune a tree for a good branching habit, consult an ISA Certified Arborist. You can find one near you at <https://www.treesaregood.org/>.

502-875-8751

Save the Date

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
WASTE DROP-OFF

4.27.2024

8-12

309 Rouse Ave

Eight Tips to Get Your Home Garden Growing

Source: John Strang, UK horticulture extension specialist

Springtime in Kentucky is a great time to get outside and enjoy the home garden. Every aspiring gardener should do a few things to have a successful season.

Plan your garden on paper before you begin. Think about the things you want to grow and when they will be ready to harvest. Draw it out on paper so you can get a visual of what the garden might look like at planting and harvesting times.

Select a good gardening site. You need to plan for a site that is in full sun, relatively level, well-drained, close to a water source and dries quickly from morning dew.

Prepare the soil. You may need to get a soil test and then add fertilizer as recommended.



Plan only as large a garden as you can easily maintain. Beginning gardeners often overplant and then fail because they can't keep up with the required tasks. You have to manage weeds and pests and apply water so your plants will be ready to harvest on time.

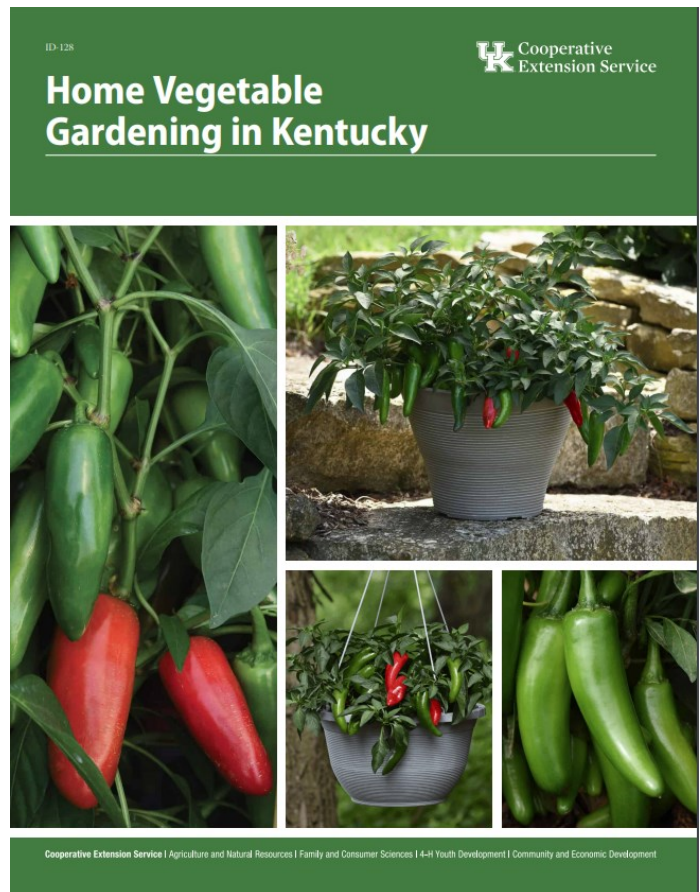
Grow vegetables that will produce the maximum amount of food in your available space.

Plant during the correct season for the crop you want to grow.

Choose varieties recommended for Kentucky.

Harvest vegetables at their proper stage of maturity. Consider how you will store them if you won't use them right away.

Consult the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Home Vegetable Gardening publication ID-128, available online at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id128/id128.pdf>.



**Be sure to follow our Facebook page
for all the up-to-date
information and articles.**



@FranklinCountyKyCooperativeExtension

GROW IT, EAT IT, COOK IT

GROW YOUR OWN FOOD, COOK DELICIOUS RECIPES,
AND ENJOY A TASTY MEAL TOGETHER!
EACH PARTICIPANT WILL GET TRANSPLANTS
OR SEEDS TO GROW AT HOME.

@ 6PM

- Mar 14** -Potatoes
- April 18** -Broccoli & Cauliflower
- May 16** -Tomato
- June 20** -Pepper
- July 18** -Summer Squash
- Aug 15** -Spinach
- Sept 12** -Radishes
- Oct 10** -Garlic



SCAN THE QR CODE OR
ENTER THE LINK TO
REGISTER.

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/SGBQOKHNX93JMJKQ6](https://forms.gle/SGBQOKHNX93JMJKQ6)

YOU MAY ALSO CALL TO REGISTER:
502-695-9035



FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
101 LAKEVIEW COURT, FRANKFORT, KY 40601
502-695-9035

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Extension Service**

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

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Lexington, KY 40506



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

Soil Test

A [soil test](#) is a chemical analysis of your soil. The basic test provides information on the nutrients available to plants that are in your soil. Some plants, such as blueberries, are pH sensitive, and a soil test can help determine if your soil's pH is appropriate for the particular crop you want to grow.

Soil samples are analyzed for important plant nutrients such as phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), and zinc (Zn). Soil test results help inform fertilizer recommendations for your lawn, garden, or flower beds and are made based on the type of plant you are growing and growing conditions.

The process to collect a soil sample for testing is outlined in the steps below.

Step 1 - Gather Sampling Materials



Grab a shovel/garden trowel or a soil probe (available for loan at many county Cooperative Extension Service offices), a clean dry bucket, a sharpie, and clean, spill-proof bags.

Step 2 - Identify Sampling Locations



Identify areas of your lawn, vegetable garden, or flower beds with plants requiring specific soil conditions such as blueberries, azaleas, and rhododendrons. Look for different environments in your yard and collect separate samples from areas that are mostly sunny versus those in deep shade, or dry areas versus wet areas.

*Do not sample compost areas, under the dripline of trees, or near sidewalks and driveways.

Step 3 - Collect Samples



Work by area (e.g., lawn, vegetable garden, flower bed, etc.) and collect samples from 6-8 random locations within that area, keeping the soil from each area separate (i.e. in one bucket). Collect about 2 cups of soil for each area (e.g., lawn, vegetable garden, flower

bed, etc.) that you sample. For example, in different locations in your vegetable garden, you would take eight separate, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup samples to make up a total of 2 cups of soil.

For lawns and untilled areas, insert your sampling instrument (soil probe or shovel/trowel) to a depth of about 4". If using a shovel or trowel, move the blade back about an inch and again insert it into the soil. Collect soil from in-between your two shovel marks. For an area that has been tilled or turned, such as a vegetable garden, you will want to sample to a depth of 6" to 8". Remove turf, rocks, sticks, and plant debris from your sample and place debris-free soil in the bucket.

Step 4 - Mix Soil by Area



After collecting 6-8 soil samples for one area (e.g., lawn, vegetable garden, flower bed, etc.), mix the soil in the bucket by breaking up large clods. If the soil is wet and difficult to mix, allow it to air dry for a day or two. Once well mixed, remove a portion of the sample and place it in a labeled sample container (i.e., clean spill-proof bag). Repeat the mixing step for each area sampled.

*Note: You may transport your samples in

your container/containers and transfer them to soil test bags available at the County Extension office. You will need about 2 cups of soil to reach the "fill" line of the soil test bag.

Step 5 - Label your Samples



Label each soil test bag with your name and address and provide a unique 4-character name for each location. For example, if you collect a sample from your front yard (FY) you might choose FY01. A sample from your vegetable garden (VG) might be called VG01. Remember, each soil test bag is a mixture of 6-8 samples from one location on your property. The soil test bag, labeled with your unique code, is what you bring to your Cooperative Extension Agent. Note where each sample was collected, plant type grown (grass, perennials, annuals, evergreens, trees, or shrub) and growing conditions (shade or sun). This information is important to match nutrient recommendations with plant needs.

Deliver your soil samples to your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Cost varies by county but is usually less than \$10 per sample.

Paw Paw Grafting Class

LEARN TO GRAFT YOUR OWN PAW PAW TREES

CLASS BEGINS AT 6PM
\$10 PER PERSON



TO REGISTER,
SCAN THE QR CODE ,
ENTER THE LINK BELOW,
OR CALL 502-695-9035.
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/33SAT2J3](https://tinyurl.com/33SAT2J3)



APRIL 23

101 LAKEVIEW COURT
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502-695-9035

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Cooperative Extension Service

HORTICULTURE WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

APRIL CLASSES

12:30PM ET/11:30AM CT

- April 3 – Chaos Gardening
- April 10 – Hostas:
Not What You Think
- April 17 – Cicadas
- April 24 – Beyond Begonias,
New Plants for 2024

You must register before the class. Register at:

[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/24APRHWW](http://tinyurl.com/24APRHWW)

Click on the class you want to attend. You will then get an email with the class link.



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Reforest Frankfort 2024

TREE PLANTING. MUSIC. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES. FOOD.
FREE FOR THE COMMUNITY!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 | 8 AM - 12 PM
WEST SIXTH FARM

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!



Franklin County Conservation District

Backyard Conservation Program
Urban Cost Share Program

August 1, 2023 to August 1, 2024

Raised Garden Beds, Rain Barrels, Compost Bins,
Pollinator Gardens and Bees

- First come, first serve
- Franklin County Residents only
- One application per household
- 50% cost share up to \$250 maximum

**Must have approval before you
begin project**

Franklin County Conservation District
103 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-352-2701



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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT, LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Recipe

ASPARAGUS TOMATO STIR-FRY

- **¾ pound** fresh asparagus
- **¼ cup** chicken or vegetable broth
- **1 tablespoon** lite soy sauce
- **½ teaspoon** ground ginger
- **1 clove** garlic, minced
- **¼ teaspoon** black pepper
- **1 teaspoon** cornstarch
- **4** green onions
- **2** Roma tomatoes
- **1½ cups** fresh mushrooms
- **1 tablespoon** olive oil

- 1. Trim** asparagus and cut into 1 inch pieces.
- 2. Combine** broth, soy sauce, ginger, garlic, pepper and cornstarch in a small bowl to make sauce.
- 3. Chop** green onions and tomatoes into ½ inch pieces. **Slice** mushrooms.

- 4. Pour** oil into a wok or large skillet and **preheat** over medium-high heat.
- 5. Add** asparagus and green onions; **stir-fry** 4 minutes.
- 6. Add** mushrooms; **stir-fry** 1 additional minute or until asparagus is tender-crisp.
- 7. Push** vegetables to the outer sides of the wok. **Add** sauce in center, **cook** until thick and bubbly. **Add** tomatoes.
- 8. Stir** well and **heat** through.

Yield: 4, ¾ cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 70 calories, 4 g fat, 0.5 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 210 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 3 g protein.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

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Adam Leonberger

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