



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

May

**Bullitt County Extension Office**

384 Halls Lane

Shepherdsville, KY 40165

(502) 543-2257

facebook.com/

BullittCountyExtensionHorticulture

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**Beekeepers' Association Meetings  
(Second Wednesday of each month)**

- May 11th, 7pm
- June 8th, 7pm
- July 13th, 7pm

**Master Gardener's & Horticulture  
Council Meetings**

**(First Tuesday of each month)**

- May 3rd, 6pm
- June 7th, 6pm
- July 5th, 6pm



**Upcoming Classes**

To RSVP, call 502-543-2257

**May**

- **Friday, May 6:**  
Container Gardening, 6pm
- **Thursday, May 19:**  
Summer Wildflowers, 6pm

**June**

- **Friday, June 3:**  
Rain Barrels, 6pm \$20 per person  
(Check or Money Order)
- **Thursday, June 16:**  
Native Wildflowers, 6pm

**July**

- **Thursday, July 7:**  
Perennials for Dry Shade, 6pm
- **Friday, July 15:**  
Home Lawn Care via Zoom, 6pm
- **Monday, July 25:**  
Cool Weather Crops, 6pm



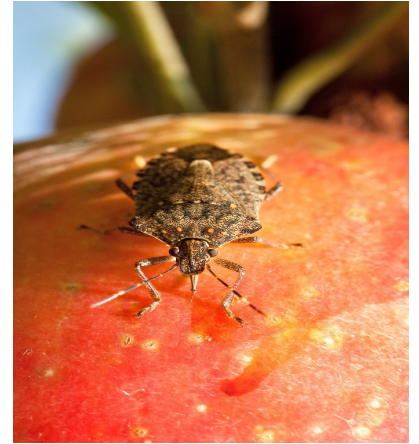
For a more detailed list of upcoming events at the Bullitt County Extension office, scan the image to head to our website.



## Ways to Minimize Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Damage

Source: Jonathan Larson, UK extension entomologist

Not only do they stink, as their name suggests, but brown marmorated stink bugs can do a number on crops. No matter the size of your garden or field, you will need to take action to keep this pest at bay. Brown marmorated stink bugs have been in the eastern half of the state for some time but have been appearing in an increasing number of Western Kentucky counties since 2019. While they look similar to native stink bugs, this invasive species has a brown, mottled top, a gray belly and white bands on their antennae.



Stink bugs can severely damage crops.

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These stink bugs will feed on all kinds of crops. Some of their favorites include tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers and eggplant. They also attack field crops like soybeans and ornamental trees like redbuds. Their feeding causes crop discoloration, makes the insides of crops corky and most importantly, inedible. Due to their ability to quickly decimate crops, home gardeners and commercial growers should take action to control brown marmorated stink bugs as soon as they appear. Because of their strong scent, you likely do not want to smash them. But if you do accidentally crush them, their scent will not attract other stink bugs to your crops. However, you can sweep them off of plants and into buckets of soapy water to kill them in large numbers.



Physical barriers work well to deter stink bugs.

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Homeowners can control the stink bugs when they are small with insecticidal soap or the larger stink bugs with products containing pyrethroids. You can also use physical exclusion methods like row covers or netting to exclude the stink bugs. Timing is everything with row covers as you don't want to hinder pollination by using them. Commercial producers can focus their monitoring efforts along field edges, where the brown marmorated stink bug is most often found infiltrating. Pyrethroid products can also help in these situations.

Keep a close watch over your crops because you will likely see two generations of stink bugs during the summer. The first generation will appear in early summer and the second shows up in late summer or early fall. When the weather gets cooler, you may start finding brown marmorated stink bugs in your home as they seek shelter from the colder temperatures. For more information on controlling brown marmorated stink bugs or other pests, contact the Bullitt County Cooperative Extension office.

# Horticultural



# Photography Contest

1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes!

## Step One

### Enter your photo in the contest

Call 502-543-2257 to register and turn in a completed entry form

## Step Two

### Submit photo digitally to

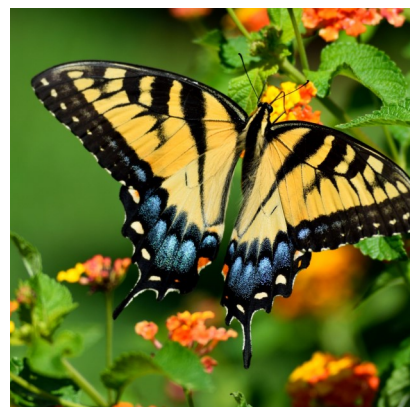
[hortphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:hortphotocontest@gmail.com)

Be creative. Include variety.

## Step Three

### Turn in your photo by September 30th

Top three photos will receive prizes. Top 12 photos will be selected and featured in our 2023 calendar



Win \$100 for first place, \$75 for second or \$50 for third. Photos that do not place may be selected for use in our 2023 calendar!

## 2022 Rules in Brief

1. Topic of horticulture must be evident.
2. Must be submitted electronically in jpeg format, must have signed legal conditions and contest rules form.
3. If contest deadline is not met or paperwork is missing entries submitted will be void.
4. Once submitted, photos become the property of The University of Kentucky and/or Bullitt County Extension, both entities reserve the right to use them in any way.
5. No name brands, people or time and date signature can be present on or in any entries.
6. Photos judged on creativity, adherence to the rules, photographic value, and interest of subject.
7. Must be original work of submitting individual. Full rules available at the Bullitt County Extension Office.

## Starting a Garden: Hardening Off Indoor Seedlings

Source: Katie Parker, Illinois Extension College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

After being cooped up all winter, plants require acclimation to the outdoors prior to being transplanted outside; for plants this is termed hardening off. Hardening off is the process of slowly introducing plants to outdoor conditions after being started indoors. Growing conditions inside your home or a greenhouse are quite different than that outdoors. Transplants require time to adjust to this change, so they aren't damaged or killed. When transferred outdoors, plants experience wind, colder temperatures, more direct sunlight, and fluctuations of precipitation. If transferred too quickly, plant stems can snap due to strong winds, or leaves can become sunburned from being exposed to direct sunlight.



Indoor seedlings require acclimation prior to being transplanted outside.

The goal of hardening off is to slowly expose the plants to the elements of the outdoors to strengthen them.

Hardening off reduces the growth rate and thickens the waxy layer on the leaf surface. It also stimulates root development, increases the amount of carbohydrates in tissues for food reserves, reduces the amount of freeze prone water in cells, and develops lignin in the cell walls. About 2 weeks prior to transplanting plants outside, it is recommended to start the hardening off process. Start by placing plants outside during the warmer part of the day (typically between 12-5 PM) for about 2-3 hours; gradually increasing the amount of time each day. After working the plants up to being outside for 10-12 hours a

day for a few days, leave the plants outside for 24 hours for a couple days. Once you complete this, your plants are ready for transplanting. During this period of hardening off, gradually reduce how often you water; however, don't allow the plants to wilt. It is also not recommended to fertilize the plants before or during the hardening off period.

Hardening off differs for plants, so it is important to know the hardiness of your plants. Cool season crops such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce are well adapted to grow in cooler weather making them hardier and capable of being transplanted outside sooner. As the name suggests, warm season crops such as tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and cucumber prefer warmer weather and are less cold hardy than cool season crops; these are the plants that hardening off is most important for. Warm season crops should not be transplanted outside until after the last frost for our area, which traditionally falls around May 10th.

Hardening off is most important for warm season crops, such as tomatoes.





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**APPLY NOW!**

**The Bullitt County Extension  
 Master Gardener Volunteer  
 Training Program is now  
 accepting applications!**

Designed to expand horticultural knowledge in the community through the use of trained volunteers, the program is taught through a hybrid of classroom lectures, labs, and demonstrations. Master Gardener volunteers help the extension service reach more residents with gardening information and resources.

**Course topics may include:**

- ◇ Botany
- ◇ Entomology
- ◇ Plant Pathology
- ◇ Soils & Fertilizers
- ◇ Pesticides
- ◇ Lawn Care
- ◇ Tree & Shrub Care
- ◇ Fruit & Vegetable Gardening
- ◇ Organic Gardening

**A Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Volunteer:**

- ◇ has an interest in any type of gardening, such as vegetable or ornamental
- ◇ wants to teach others to garden
- ◇ wants to enhance their communities and the environment with service-oriented projects
- ◇ is trained by Cooperative Extension Service personnel
- ◇ uses writing, photography, and other talents to benefit others

*For more in-depth information about the program and requirements, visit*

*<https://bullitt.ca.uky.edu/content/bullitt-county-master-gardeners>*

*Or contact Lorilee Kunze at [Lorilee.kunze@uky.edu](mailto:Lorilee.kunze@uky.edu) or 502-543-2257*



## Mulch Myths

William M. Fountain, Horticulture

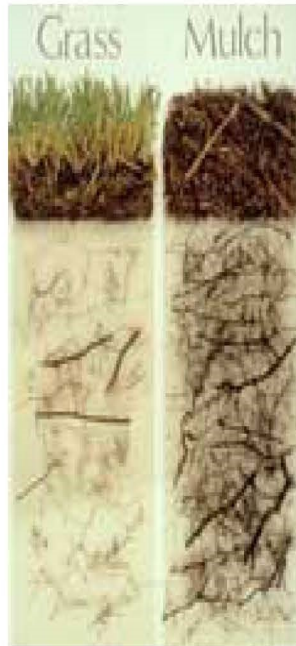
Mulch is one of the essentials of good landscaping. It can be used to protect trees, suppress weeds, fertilize plants and retain soil moisture. Like many traditional practices, the use of mulch has some myths attached to it. You can improve the look of your landscape as well as the health of your plants and trees by learning the facts—and discarding the myths—about mulch.

**Myth 1:** Mulch will attract termites to my house. **Fact:** Termites are not attracted to mulch. They may feed on mulch if and only if they are already present. Termites prefer better quality wood such as construction debris buried in the backfill. Pine bark and cypress are the least attractive to termites.

**Myth 2:** Freshly chipped wood will suck the nitrogen out of the soil. **Fact:** Nitrogen does not move up into the mulch, and mulch sitting on the soil surface will not take large amounts of nitrogen from the soil. However, organic matter such as sawdust incorporated into the soil can tie up significant amounts of nitrogen. Over time compost and mulch will release nitrogen and other mineral elements for plant use.

**Myth 3:** If some mulch is good, more is better. **Fact:** Three inches of mulch is all that you need on the soil surface and only two inches if you are using a finely ground mulch. More mulch than this keeps oxygen and water from getting to the plant roots and causes roots to grow up into the mulch.

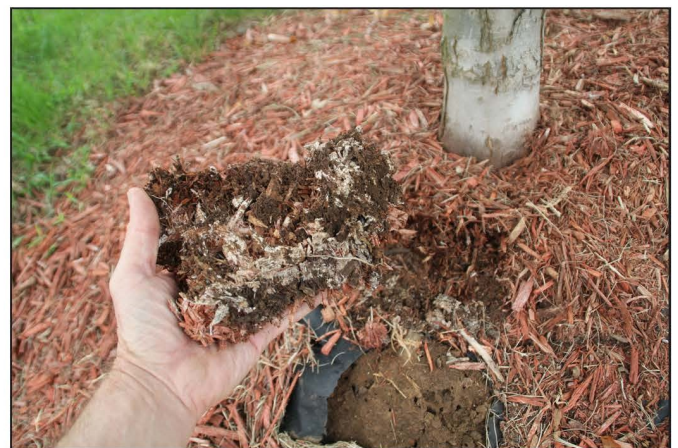
**Myth 4:** Piling mulch against the trunk of a tree will protect the trunk. **Fact:** Mulch piled against the trunk of a tree will keep the trunk moist, causing the bark to decay. The moist trunk is a more attractive food



Mulching can be one of the best things that we can do for plants in our landscapes if done properly. Proper mulching encourages the development of fine roots enabling the plant to take up more water and mineral elements than is possible under turf. This image shows samples of roots taken from opposite sides of the same white oak. One side was under turf, the other had been mulched for only one year. (image used with permission of G. Watson, Morton Arboretum)



Fresh wood chips should be composted for a minimum of 4 to 6 weeks. This is especially important if the chips are mixed with leaves.



Finely ground mulch lasts a shorter time because it decays more rapidly than coarse mulch. The rapid decomposition results in the mulch becoming hydrophobic (afraid of water). Hydrophobic mulch sheds water keeping it from entering the soil.

source for mice, insects and fungi. Keep mulch four (4) inches from the trunk.

**Myth 5:** You need to add fresh mulch every year.

**Fact:** You only need to replace mulch if it has completely broken down. The amount of time this breakdown takes varies with the type of mulch. Always check the depth of the mulch on top of the soil before adding more. Remember, three inches maximum! Scratching the surface of the mulch with a cultivator will freshen its appearance.

**Myth 6:** Putting landscape fabric under mulch makes your mulch last longer. **Fact:** You actually want the mulch to break down and slowly become incorporated into the soil. Decomposed mulch improves drainage in heavy clays and helps retain moisture in sandy soils. The gradual decomposition of mulch is Mother Nature's way of fertilizing plants.

**Myth 7:** Landscape fabric/weed mats prevent weeds from growing. **Fact:** Many weeds (Bermudagrass, nut sedge, nimblewill and others) can poke through landscape fabric. Weed seeds that land on the surface of landscape fabric will root through the fabric and are extremely difficult to pull.



Mulching too deep killed this rhododendron.



Piling mulch up against the trunk is called "volcano mulching" and will result in damage to the trunk, development of surface roots and prevents water from getting to the soil.



Mulch should be no deeper than 2 or 3 inches and should go out to the dripline of a tree.



Surface roots on a red maple resulting from volcano mulching.



# Zunicotti

**1 cup** ricotta cheese

**1 cup** finely grated  
Parmesan cheese,  
divided

**1** large egg, lightly beaten

**1** clove garlic, minced

**2 cups** whole  
spinach,  
roughly torn

**½ teaspoon**

Italian seasoning

Salt to taste

Freshly ground black pepper  
to taste

**4** medium zucchini

**1 cup** marinara sauce

**¾ cup** shredded mozzarella  
cheese

**Preheat** oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Spray** 13-by-9-inch baking dish with cooking spray. In a medium bowl, **combine** ricotta, ½ cup Parmesan cheese, egg, garlic, spinach, and Italian seasoning. **Add** salt and pepper to taste, and **mix** until well combined. **Set** aside.

**Wash** zucchini and **cut** off ends. Use a mandolin or sharp knife to **slice** zucchini thinly lengthwise. To reduce water, **place** zucchini on a microwave-safe plate lined with paper towels and **cover** with a paper towel. **Microwave** 1 minute. **Pat** excess moisture away with paper towels. On a clean work surface, **place** three slices of

zucchini so they are slightly overlapping and place a spoonful of ricotta mixture on top. **Roll up** and **place** in baking dish.

**Repeat** with remaining zucchini and ricotta mixture. **Spoon** marinara on top of zucchini. **Sprinkle** with remaining Parmesan and mozzarella cheese. **Bake** until zucchini is tender and cheese has melted, about 30 minutes.

**Yield:** 10 servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 130 calories, 7 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 40 mg cholesterol, 410 mg sodium, 8 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 0 g added sugars, 9 g protein



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

