



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

Bullitt County Extension Office
384 Halls Lane
Shepherdsville, KY 40165
502-543-2257
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JANUARY

Horticulture
Newsletter

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(Removable tri-fold)*

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Connect with us, program
updates, and daily
horticulture tips:



Upcoming Classes

*Pre-registration is required to ensure adequate supplies.
Call 502-543-2257 or email tlme234@uky.edu to register*

February 2025

Wednesday, 2/26: Air Plants, 6pm

Learn about the life cycle and care of various air plants.

March 2025

Friday, 3/7: Pruning Fruit Trees, 6pm

Learn about best practices and techniques for pruning fruit trees in the spring.

Monday, 3/17: Starting Seeds, 6pm

Learn the basics on starting seeds at home to get you prepared for the gardening season.

*See what other classes and events we have planned for the year: bullitt.ca.uky.edu/horticulture

Meetings

Master Gardeners' Association & Horticulture Council, 6pm

(1st Tuesday of each month)

- February 4th, March 4th

Beekeepers' Association & Class, 7pm

(2nd Wednesday of each month)

- February 12th, March 12th



January Garden Calendar

Rosie Lerner, Purdue University



Home

- Dig and repot herbs, or take cuttings, for growing indoors over winter.
- Store leftover garden seed in a cool, dry place. A sealable jar with a layer of silica gel in the bottom works well.
- Bring houseplants moved outside for summer indoors before night temperatures fall below 55°F. Gradually decrease light to acclimate the plants and help reduce leaf drop. Check and control insects and diseases before putting these plants near other houseplants.
- Poinsettias saved from last year can be re-flowered for this year's holiday by providing complete darkness for 15 hours daily from about Oct. 1 until about Dec. 10.

Garden

- Dig onions and garlic after tops fall over naturally and necks begin to dry.
- Plant radishes, green onion sets, lettuce and spinach for fall harvest.
- Thin fall crops, such as lettuce and carrots, that were planted earlier.
- Harvest crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons and sweet potatoes before frost, or cover plants with blankets, newspaper, etc., (but not plastic) to protect them from light frost.
- Mature green tomatoes can be ripened indoors. Individually wrap fruits in newspaper, or leave them on the vine, pulling the entire plant out of the garden. Store in a cool location – about 55-60°F.
- Harvest winter squash when mature (skin is tough) with deep, solid color, but before hard frost. Some cultivars will show an orange blush when mature.
- Plant, transplant or divide peonies, daylilies, iris and phlox only if you can apply irrigation during dry spells.
- Save plants such as coleus, wax begonias, impatiens or fuchsia for indoor growing over winter. Dig plants and cut them back about halfway, or take cuttings of shoot tips, and root them in moist vermiculite, soil mix or perlite.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs beginning in late September. Planting too early can cause bulbs to sprout top growth before winter. However, allow at least four to six weeks before the ground freezes for good root formation.
- Dig tender bulbs, such as cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias and gladiolus, before frost. Allow to air dry, and store in dry peat moss or vermiculite.

For more gardening resources, tips, and information, check out ID:128, Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky here:



Yard

- Fall is a good time to plant many container-grown or balled-and-burlapped nursery stock. Prepare a good-size planting hole wider than the ball, but plant at the same depth it grew in the nursery and water thoroughly. Mulching will help protect against large fluctuations in soil temperature and moisture.
- Do not be alarmed if your evergreens, particularly white pine and arborvitae, drop some older needles. All evergreens shed needles at some time, but not all at once as deciduous plants do.
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes, and everbearing strawberries and raspberries. For most fruits, flavor is the best indicator of ripeness, although color change also can be a good indicator. However, pears are best ripened off the tree, and grapes change color long before they are fully flavored, so sample the fruit to be sure.
- Remove raspberry canes after they bear fruit.
- Clean up fallen fruits, twigs and leaves around apple (including crabapple) and other fruit trees to reduce disease and insect carryover.
- September and October are appropriate months to apply broadleaf weed killers to the lawn. Be sure to follow all label directions, and choose a calm day to prevent spray drift.

Need your soil tested? Drop off 8 dry oz. at our office to receive a free analysis report with recommendations. For more information, call 502-543-2257



2024 HORTICULTURE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

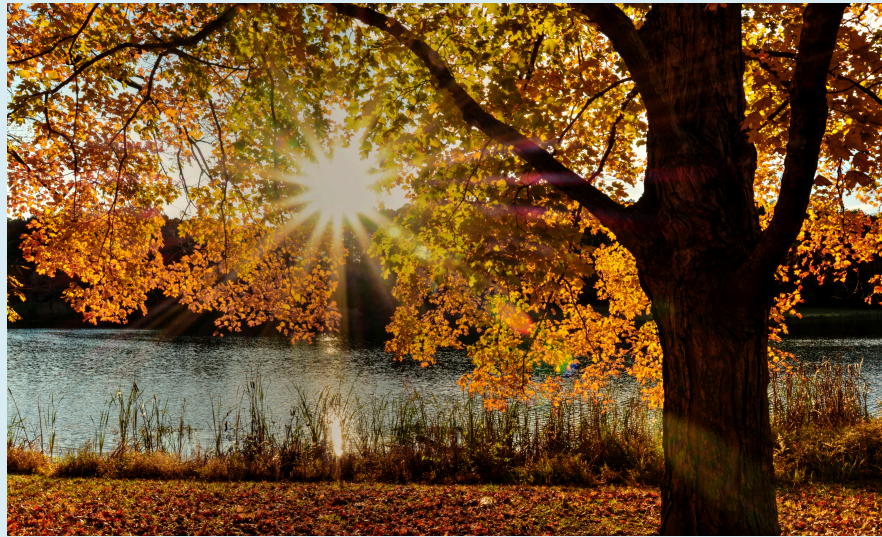


Congratulations!

1ST

Golden Sunset at
Lake Nevin

Sarah Wetmore



2ND

Ruby Throated
Hummingbird with
Liatris Flower

Sarah Wetmore

3RD

Ice Encased Berries
on Hawthorn Tree

Don Wolff



Thank you to all who participated!
Our 2025 Master Gardener calendars are now available.
To reserve yours for pickup, call 502-543-2257.



WINTER:

A good time to prune trees & shrubs

By: Julie Weisenhorn, University of Minnesota



February and March are good months for pruning some of our woody landscape plants. By now, trees and shrubs are dormant and with the exception of evergreens and oaks, they have dropped their leaves providing a clear view of their structure.

Why we prune plants:

- We prune to improve plant form.
- Pruning allows for the removal of dead or dying branches as well as branch stubs and branches injured by disease, severe insect infestation, animals, storms, or other mechanical damage.
- Crossing branches tend to rub against each other and develop wounds. These wounds allow for disease and pests to get under bark and into stems, causing issues for the plant down the road.
- Pruning opens up tree canopies, increasing airflow and light to stems and branches.
 - More light means more flowers, leaves and fruits.
 - More light and air reduce moisture and potential disease caused by bacteria and fungal pathogens.

When to prune:

Late winter is a good time to prune most plants. Because plants and their pests are dormant this time of year, pruning cuts can be made without the risk of pests and pathogens entering the tree through the wound.

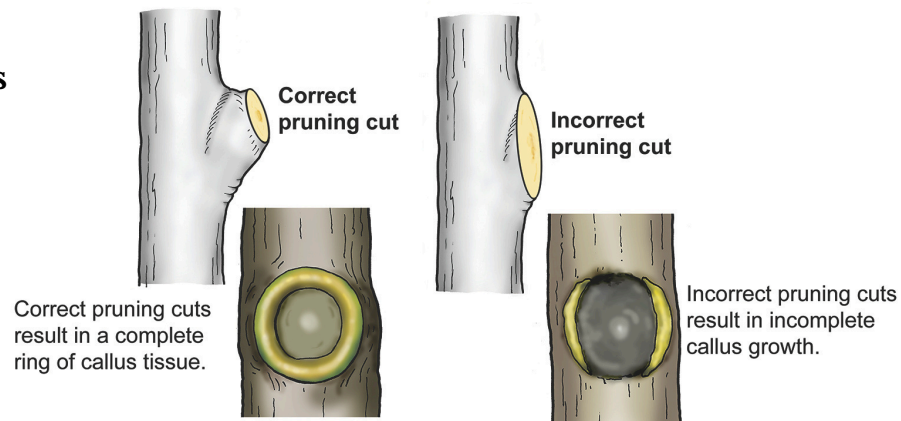
What plants can be pruned now?

Deciduous trees

- Maple
- Oak
- Elm
- Crabapple, apples
- Hawthorne
- Mountain ash
- Ash
- Butternut, walnut
- Birch
- Beech
- Ironwood
- Linden

Deciduous shrubs

- Alpine currant
- Barberry
- Buffaloberry
- Burning bush
- Dogwood
- Honeysuckle
- Ninebark
- Peashrub
- Purpleleaf sandcherry
- Smokebush
- Sumac



Evergreens like spruce, pine and fir rarely require pruning. However, spruce, arborvitae, juniper, cypress, yews and hemlocks can be pruned in late winter or early spring if necessary.

Our Councils

Master Gardeners' Association & Horticulture Council

Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6pm. Open to the public.



Beekkeepers Association & Educational Classes

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm.



Questions?
Lorilee Kunze
lorilee.kunze@uky.edu
Bullitt Co. Extension Horticulture Agent
502-543-2257

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
Human Resources Development
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Extension programs of KY Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race or color. We are not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, sex, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, 1999. KY Department of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Kentucky, 1999. KY Department of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Kentucky, 1999. KY Department of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Kentucky, 1999.



Interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

The Kentucky Master Gardener program is designed to expand horticultural knowledge in the community by training volunteers through a hybrid of classroom lectures, labs, and demonstrations. Volunteers assist the extension service to reach more residents with horticultural information through local events and classes.

Course Topics May Include:

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



For more in-depth information about the program and to access application, contact our horticulture agent or visit the Bullitt Co. Extension website at:
<https://bullitt.ca.uky.edu>

Applications due August 31, 2025



 Cooperative
Extension Service

2025

Gardener's Toolbox

Bullitt County Extension Office
384 Halls Lane
Shepherdsville, KY 40165
502-543-2257

2025 Class Schedule

To supply adequate materials, we ask you to RSVP to all classes by calling 502-543-2257. Classes may be cancelled if there are not enough participants registered. In cases of severe weather and school closings, classes are cancelled.

February

2/26, 6pm: Air Plants

Learn about the life cycle and care of various air plants.

March

3/7, 6pm: Pruning Fruit Trees

Learn the best practices and techniques for pruning fruit trees.

3/17, 6pm: Starting Seeds

Learn the basics of starting seeds at home to get you prepared for the gardening season.

April

Monday, 4/14, 6pm: Grafting

Learn the best techniques to graft apple trees and practice with a hands on activity.

May

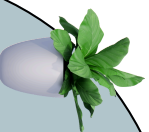
Friday, 5/16, 6pm: Urban Foraging

Learn about edible plants common in urban areas and how to safely identify and forage them.

Friday, 5/30, 6pm: Moon Gardens

Learn about green spaces that flourish at night, plants that reflect moonlight, and attracting nocturnal pollinators.

Bullitt County Master Gardeners' Plant & Art Sale



**Saturday,
April 26th
8a - 2p**

- Shop local vendors
- Plants, art, food & fun
- Proceeds used by BCMG for community projects



Community Seed Exchange

**Saturday,
October 11th
10a - 2p**

- Trade seeds
- Giveaways
- UK horticulture resources
- Chat with Master Gardeners



2025 Class Schedule

Detailed class & event information:
bullittcountyextensionhorticulture



June

Thursday 6/27, 6pm: Cut Flowers

Learn about plants that make great cut flowers and the best practices for growing and arranging them.

July

Friday, 7/18, 6pm: Carnivorous Plants

Learn about the life cycle and care of various carnivorous plants.

August

Friday, 8/1, 6pm: Gardening with Toddlers

Learn about garden activities for children and the benefits for their development.

September

Monday, 9/22, 6pm: Apple Tasting

Sample and evaluate many different varieties of apples and learn about what types are ideal for certain recipes.

October

Saturday, 10/11:

Community Seed Exchange

Trade your vegetable, perennial, and native seeds with the community. To reserve a table, call our office.

November-December

Hibernation

New classes returning in 2026!



Grilled Sweet Potatoes

Ingredients: (6 servings)

- 6 medium sweet potatoes
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh basil
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Directions:

1. Prepare grill for hot, direct heat.
2. Peel sweet potatoes and cut lengthwise or on a diagonal into ½-inch slices.
3. Coat each slice with olive oil.
4. Lay sweet potato slices on hot grill.
5. Cook about 5 minutes on each side until slices are tender and crisp, being careful not to char.
6. Mix all dressing ingredients together.
7. Baste sweet potato slices with dressing and serve hot.



Kentucky Sweet Potatoes

SEASON: All year — the peak season is October through March.

NUTRITION FACTS: Sweet potatoes are a good source of fiber, complex carbohydrates and vitamins A and C.

SELECTION: Two varieties of sweet potatoes are grown in Kentucky. The pale sweet potato has a light yellow skin and pale yellow flesh that is dry and crumbly. The darker variety has a dark skin and orange sweet flesh that cooks up moist. Choose small to medium-sized sweet potatoes with smooth, unbruised skin.

STORAGE: Store unwrapped in a cool (50 degrees F), dry, dark place with good ventilation for up to 2 months or at room temperature for 2 weeks.

PREPARATION: Scrub well. Leave whole or peel, then slice, dice or shred.

To Bake: Pierce skin in several places and rub with margarine, if desired. Arrange on a baking sheet in a single layer and bake uncovered in a 375 degree F

oven until soft when squeezed (45-60 minutes.)

To Boil: In a 3-quart pan, boil four whole medium-sized potatoes, covered in 2 inches water, until tender when pierced with a fork or knife. Drain.

To Microwave: Pierce skin, place on a paper towel in microwave. If cooking more than two at a time, arrange like spokes of a wheel. Microwave on high, turning halfway through cooking time. Allow 4-5 minutes for one potato.

KENTUCKY SWEET POTATOES

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

September 2014

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit www.uky.ag/fcs

COOPERATIVE
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College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Upcoming Events at the Bullitt Co. Extension Office

Call 502-543-2257 or visit our website for more information.

Family & Consumer Sciences

- **Beeswax Candles:** 1/27, 1:30-3:30
- **Tuna Can Pin Cushion:** 1/28, 1:00-3:00
- **Make your Own Extracts:** 2/11, 10am-12pm or 6pm-8pm
- **Live Simply:** 2/24, 3/24: 2:30-4:30pm or 6:30-8:30pm

Agriculture

- **Bullitt Co. Cattlemen's Meeting (ft. Educational Speakers) 7-9pm**
Tuesday's on 1/4 and 3/11

4-H (contact 4-H agents to register*)

- **Green Giants Club** - 1/28, 2/25, 3/18 6:30-7:30p
- **Communications Day** - 3/25 6:00-7:00pm



Go
paperless!
e-newsletter
sign-up:



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Bullitt County Cooperative Extension
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Return Service Requested

HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2025