



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

Bullitt County Extension Office  
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# hello SEPTEMBER

Horticulture  
Newsletter

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



## ➤ Upcoming Programs

\*Pre-registration is required to ensure adequate supplies.  
Call 502-543-2257 or email [tlme234@uky.edu](mailto:tlme234@uky.edu) to register\*

### October 2025

#### Monday, 10/6: Apple Tasting, 6pm

Sample and evaluate many different types of apples and learn about which are suitable for different recipes.

#### Saturday, 10/11: Community Seed Exchange 10am -2pm

Trade and giveaway seeds with others. Get free gardening resources from the University of Kentucky and chat with our master gardeners. All garden enthusiasts welcome! No registration or seeds required to attend.

### Winter 2025

We're hibernating! Check our website for our 2026 class schedule as our office building undergoes exciting new renovations!



## ➤ Meetings

#### Master Gardeners' Association & Hort Council, 6pm (1st Tuesday of each month)

- September 9th, October 7th, November 4th

#### Beekeepers' Association & Class, 7pm (2nd Wednesday of each month)

- September 10th, October 8th, November 12th



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

Educational programs of KY 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, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.





**Martin-Gatton**

College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky

**HORTICULTURAL  
PHOTOGRAPHY**

# 2025

## PHOTO CONTEST



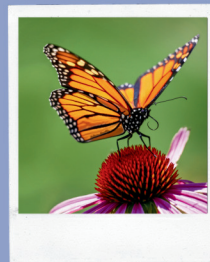
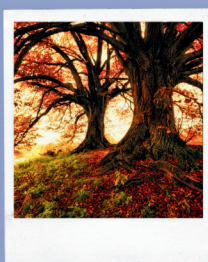
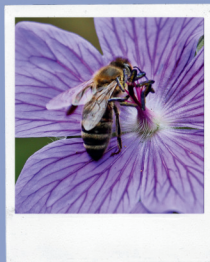
Sponsored by the Bullitt County Master Gardeners

**WIN \$100 FOR FIRST PLACE, \$75 FOR SECOND OR \$50 FOR THIRD. PHOTOS THAT DO NOT PLACE MAY BE SELECTED FOR USE IN OUR 2025 CALENDAR!**

**ENTRY DEADLINE : SEPTEMBER 30TH**

2025  
Rules  
in  
Brief:

1. Topic of horticulture must be evident.
2. Must be submitted in jpeg format and be at least 1 mb in size
3. If contest deadline is not met or paperwork is missing, entries will be void.
4. Once submitted, photos become 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 /date signatures on any entries.
6. Photos are judged on creativity, adherence to the rules, photographic value, and interest of subject.
7. Must be original work of submitting individual.
8. Individual may submit up to 10 photos each.
9. See registration form for detailed list of rules!



Contact Lorilee Kunze at 502-543-2257 with questions and email [horthphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:horthphotocontest@gmail.com) to enter your photo. Scan QR code or visit <https://bullitt.ca.uky.edu/horticulture> to access the registration form.







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# COMMUNITY SEED EXCHANGE

Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

10am-2pm

Bullitt County Extension Office

Join us for a communal gathering and seed exchange! Trade your vegetable, flower, and native seeds with others, chat with Bullitt County Master Gardener's, and get gardening resources from the University of Kentucky. This event is free and does not require registration. Seeds are not required to participate.

If you would like a table to set up for this event, contact us by phone.

Questions?

Contact Lorilee Kunze

Lorilee.kunze@uky.edu

Facebook:

[BullittCountyExtensionHorticulture](https://www.facebook.com/BullittCountyExtensionHorticulture)





# The Hidden Politics of Seed Saving: Reviving a Lost Art

*In a world threatened by climate disasters, there's a quiet revolution happening. It's the resurgence of seed saving, a practice that's about more than just agriculture—it's a practice of food sovereignty, corporate resistance, & environmental justice.*



**TIARRA MERCADO**

ENS STUDENT,  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



At the intersection of sustainability and horticulture, there exists a culturally significant and universal topic which often remains overlooked and unexamined. Humanities' historically profound relationship concerning the harvesting and safe-keeping of seeds dates back millennia—and yet, it rarely cultivates any interest in today's news. The study of this ancient practice reveals fascinating stories among every culture of how people and plants co-evolved with their native landscapes. The act of seed saving is not merely an agricultural “best practice”, the societal impact extends far beyond the sustenance provided by the crops. Seeds preserve tradition, fostering stories and connections to generations' past. Seeds have the power to shape cultural identities and strengthen the bond to our ancestral roots. Most importantly,

seeds represent tangible evidence of humanity's legacy on Earth. They empower us to rediscover man's symbiotic relationships with the environment and could offer an answer for mankind's perseverance into an uncertain future. As global citizens brace for the impacts of a warming world and come face to face with the realities of biodiversity loss, rising sea levels, and prolonged droughts, smaller communities are beginning to grasp the importance of indigenous seed saving. These kinds of seeds are adapted to thrive in specific eco-regions and provide specialized ecosystem services to people, landscapes, and wildlife. As landscapes endure the ongoing pressures of climate change, having access to indigenous seeds is a paramount, universal need because they are adapted to withstand the biotic stresses of

their environment. Yet, the deeper one dives into the politics of our modern seed culture, the quicker one will arrive at critical questions concerning ownership over the material basis of our existence (Seedways, p.8). — because if governments, seed banks, and corporations own all the seeds, then they own the food system, our stories, and our futures. Seed saving traditions which were once common practice in families and small communities have all but disappeared due to the commodification of seeds. Societies' complacent reliance on formal institutions to preserve heirloom and indigenous seeds of plants “has resulted in the loss of 75% of seed diversity among food crops since the 1900's” (Frisk, 2023). This loss is further exacerbated by the agricultural industry,





*25 years ago, ten corporations controlled 40% of the seed market, but today, just four – Bayer, Corteva, Syngenta and BASF – control more than half (globaljustice.org, 2024)*

which actively diminishes efforts to restore seed diversity. They've accomplished this by monopolizing and genetically modifying the global seed supply to secure ownership rights over major food-crop cultivars. A devastating truth is that 60% of the global seed stock is owned by four major seed companies (Chang, 2022). Their controlling interest perpetuates an egregious business model by which seeds are genetically designed to be disposable. Many seed varieties cannot be saved or replanted, which forces farmers to purchase new stock each year to maintain production.

In the same token, there are questionable ethical and political dimensions that surround global seed banks. Although they have claimed the sacred responsibility of protecting humanity's most treasured seeds from extinction, it remains a contradictory practice whereby the connection

between seeds and their origin is severed. Remote relocation of seeds from their native soil offers no perceived benefit to the ecoregional communities from which they were taken. Whisking away these plant materials and heirloom seeds for them only to be shelved in a gene bank halfway across the world raises important questions: does storing them really save them? Or are efforts to collect and store seeds part of a political strategy to reconfigure power relations?

Of the prevailing 1,700 seed banks that exist worldwide, there are two monumental repositories guarding the botanical remnants of human history. The most renowned is situated deep beneath the Norwegian permafrost in a facility known as the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (SGSV). The interior chambers house the world's largest backup food supply containing over 1.2 million seed samples from countries all around the world (Crop Trust, 2024). Referred to as the "doomsday vault", it is maintained at frigid temperature of  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  to keep the seeds in a state of stasis. SGSV's remote location and subterranean design were intended to withstand any catastrophe, whether natural or man-made. These claims were tested in 2017 as the escalating temperatures in the Arctic caused an unusually mild winter to direct melting ice water into the facility's tunnel system. This seemingly benign natural event nearly compromised a significant number of specimens (Karlsson & Rabo, 2021).

In a twist of irony, the one seed bank designed to withstand the most devastating of global disasters only narrowly endured the most fateful threat to our world—climate change. Just a few thousand miles away on the same continent is the Millenium Seed Bank (MSB) in the United Kingdom. It houses the largest botanical collection in the world and contains over 2.4 billion seeds for future conservation efforts. In 2018, researchers in direct partnership with the MSB at Kew Gardens made a startling discovery. Their study concluded 36% of critically endangered species produce recalcitrant seeds which are desiccation sensitive, meaning they do not survive the process of being dried out and therefore cannot be properly preserved (Wyse, et. al 2018). This finding underlines another major disadvantage of global seedbanks—despite their high-tech facilities and advanced methods of preservation, not every plant is compatible with this process. Additionally, growers' knowledge of seeds and their best practices often go unrecognized and undocumented in global seedbanking (Phillips, 2013). These critical parts of seed relations and traditional ways of agriculture essentially become

“Seeds are life. No life form should be patentable. It violates the fundamental respect that all life deserves.”  
—Catherine Phillips



discarded and forgotten. The need for more informal, communal seed banking becomes an obvious solution to a glaring problem. Community seed banks offer convenient access and availability of locally adapted plants and crops to farmers and serve to reinforce the indigenous knowledge and skills for proper plant management (Vernooy et. al, 2017). Unlike global seed banks, the very presence of communal seed banks actively strengthens the resilience of local farmers and family households most affected by the changing climate. Active community seed banks also redistribute power relations into the hands of common people, the most crucial being food sovereignty.

There is a harmful narrative circulating in our food system which conveys a theme of processed, genetically modified foods being superior to traditional foods. No other group is more familiar with the erasure of their indigenous ways of gardening and seed saving than native tribes of the United States. In response to the demise of traditional farming of native crops, Native American seed stewards have been working

diligently to establish regional seed systems spread across Indigenous trade routes. The mission of the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network (ISKN) is to nourish the growing seed sovereignty movement within tribal communities across the U.S., and they are succeeding at revitalizing ancestral gardening practices once lost to governmental oppression (Mihesuah & Hoover, 2019). The organization and dedication of the ISKN is a strong example of what is required to preserve human food heritage and seed diversity moving forward. These kinds of communal seed saving operations open possibilities for alternative food arrangements, and they represent a resistance to the controlling practices of corporations engaged in genetic engineering and intellectual property rights. Movements like the ISKN advocate for the seeds stored in public and private institutions to be returned to a living context and work cross-culturally with important community stakeholders to return them to their native origins. To Native Americans, this seed work represents a powerful form of healing from generational trauma that left their traditional food systems violently deconstructed. Seed saving may not seem like the most revolutionary task that the collective should take on during the global climate crises, but it is the true foundation of a durable and sustainable food system.



*Like the ISKN, The Andean Alliance for Sustainable Development (AASD) supports indigenous farmers by maintaining traditional seeds and farming methods (Global Giving).*

Moving forward, local seed banks will play a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change and improving human health through an increase in local, sustainable agriculture. Without indigenous seed diversity and accessibility, food security and human wellbeing will never be sustainable or resilient in the face of climate change. From a political standpoint, there is strong need for environmental policy to deliver climate justice to small farmers and seed savers from the threats of patents and intellectual property rights. The time for seed savers to come together and embody corporate resistance, to contest commodification, and to re-define self-sufficiency on their own terms is now.

“*The foundation of any durable and sustainable food system is held within the seeds; seed work is slow work, it is intergenerational work that is reliant upon the next generation to continue the stewardship.* - Devon Mihesuah”



*Svalbard Seed Vault (Crop Trust Fund)*



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## September is Pawpaw season!

Celebrate the unique, tropical like flavor of this lesser known native fruit with recipes from Kentucky State University, the only full-time pawpaw research program in the world. Pawpaws are not widely available in grocery stores because they are fragile, bruise easily, and have a short shelf life. Your best bet is to find them growing in the wild in forested areas, or at local farmers' markets and festivals during their late summer to early fall season. More info on this beloved fruit and recipes here:



Third Annual  
**Louisville  
Pawpaw  
Festival**  
Louisville Nature Center

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6  
11:00AM-4:00PM**



# A Soil Test is the First Important Step for Updated Lime and Fertilizer Recommendations



Source: John Grove, research and extension soils specialist; and Edwin Ritchey, extension soils specialist, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton

To maximize yield and economic return on every acre, begin with a soil test. A current soil test from the University of Kentucky ensures you will receive more accurate fertilizer recommendations, optimized for your crop, field history and production methods.

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service publication [AGR-1, Lime and Nutrient Recommendations](#), was recently updated for the 2025–2026 crop seasons, and new recommendations are a result of a review of soil fertility research and soil test data collected across the state. It covers nutrient recommendations for grain crops, forages, tobacco and several specialty crops.

To get reliable recommendations, it is important that the submitted soil sample accurately represents the field or area from which it was taken. Analytical results provided on the soil test report form are for the sample submitted, and the listed recommendations are based on those results. All recommendations are made on the assumption that a representative soil sample was taken. If soil sampling procedures are questionable, accurate nutrient and lime rate recommendations for the sampled field or area cannot be assured. Because results can vary between fall and spring sampling, it is better to consistently sample a given field at the same time of the year.

When sampling untilled fields in the fall, an equal number of cores should be collected from both between and close to the rows. For tilled areas, take soil cores to the depth of primary tillage (plow, chisel plow, big disc, etc.), usually six to eight inches. With pastures, lawns, no-tilled areas and turf, take soil cores to a depth of four inches. With changing fertilizer and commodity prices, each production field should be sampled every two years. Annual sampling is preferable for high-value crops or rotations that remove large amounts of soil nutrients, such as alfalfa, tobacco and double-crop silage. Sampling each year after manure application is also recommended.

Recommended nitrogen additions are made with an expectation of a yield response as measured for that crop under Kentucky soil and weather conditions. Yield responses to phosphate and potash rate recommendations are more likely when soil test levels “very low,” “low” and “low-medium.” When the soil test value is “medium” or higher, associated phosphate or potash rate recommendations are mostly intended to ‘maintain’ sufficient soil phosphorus and potassium availability.

Field research yield and soil test relationships measured by the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station were used to establish the phosphate and potash recommendations contained in AGR-1. Those recommendations strive to enable each soil/field to supply a sufficient level of available plant nutrients, regardless of seasonal weather and assuming good management practices.

Contact the Bullitt County Extension office for additional information, or view AGR-1 at <https://publications.ca.uky.edu/agr-1>.

The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment news and communications team provides monthly Extension Exclusives in the categories of Horticulture, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H and Family & Consumer Sciences. To see more exclusives, visit <https://exclusives.ca.uky.edu>.

## Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.





# Bullitt County Master Gardeners' Garden Grant

The Bullitt County Master Gardener's are offering an education grant to provide up to \$200 for gardening materials, supplies, for horticultural education and the installment of new gardens.

## Eligible Applicants

- ✓ Youth Programs
- ✓ Classrooms
- ✓ Daycares
- ✓ Community Centers

## Eligible Activities Include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Youth Plant Programs
- ✓ Botany Lessons
- ✓ Planting Activities
- ✓ Gardening Classes



**SCAN FOR APPLICATION**



**Bullitt County Extension Office**  
384 Halls Ln. Shepherdsville, KY 40165  
502-543-2257

**f** *bullittcountymastergardeners*



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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.





# Summer Veggie & Wild Rice Bake

1 (6 ounce box) wild rice with herbs and seasoning	1 green pepper, chopped	½ cup coarsely chopped fresh basil
1 tablespoon olive oil	1 medium onion, chopped	2 teaspoons salt
1 medium eggplant, peeled and diced	6 cloves garlic, minced	1 teaspoon pepper
2 yellow squash, cut lengthwise, sliced crosswise	3-5 tomatoes, coarsely chopped	1 cup low fat shredded Italian cheese blend

**Heat** oven to 350 degrees F. **Prepare** wild rice in saucepan according to package directions. **Remove** from heat; **drain** excess water; **stir** in packet seasonings. **Heat** oil to medium high in large skillet. **Add** eggplant, squash, pepper and onion; **stir** and cook 5 minutes or until tender crisp. **Stir** in garlic and cook 1 minute. **Add** tomatoes, basil, salt and pepper; **stir** occasionally and **cook** 2 minutes until heated through. **Stir** in wild rice and spoon into a 9-by-13 inch baking dish

that has been coated with cooking spray. **Top** with cheese and **cover** with aluminum foil. **Bake** 35 minutes or until bubbly. **Uncover** and **bake** an additional 5 minutes.

**Yield:** 16

**Serving Size:** ½ cup

## Nutritional Analysis:

90 calories, 2.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 469 mg sodium, 13 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 4 g protein.

Find more seasonal Ky Proud recipes cards here:



# Kentucky Eggplant

**SEASON:** Late June to October.

**NUTRITION FACTS:** Eggplant contains small amounts of several important vitamins that are needed daily. It is very low in sodium and calories, with only 15 calories for a half cup serving.

**SELECTION:** Select firm, heavy eggplant with smooth, shiny, deep purple skin. Choose medium size eggplant, about 3 to 4 inches in diameter.

**STORAGE:** Store soon after harvest or purchase in the vegetable crisper in the refrigerator. Use within one week.

**PREPARATION:** Eggplant is a versatile vegetable and can be baked, broiled, grilled, fried,

stuffed or used in a variety of casseroles in combination with other vegetables. It works well with tomatoes, garlic, onions and cheese. One pound equals 3 cups diced. Eggplant should be peeled before preparation, unless it is very young and tender.

**To broil or grill:** Cut into three-fourth inch slices and brush with margarine or Italian dressing. Broil or grill for about 5 minutes on each side, until eggplant is tender and browned. Remove from heat and sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese.

**To season:** Use marjoram, oregano, allspice, chili powder, curry powder, garlic, basil or rosemary.

## KENTUCKY EGGPLANT

### Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

July 2016

**Source:** [www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov)

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.  
<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



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](http://www.uky.ag/fcs)



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
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# Butternut & Acorn Squash Soup

Servings: 7 Serving Size: 1 cup

## Ingredients:

- 1 butternut squash, halved and seeded
- 1 acorn squash, halved and seeded
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/3 cup chopped sweet onion
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 3 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- Fresh parsley for garnish



## Directions:

1. Using a vegetable peeler, remove the skin from the butternut and acorn squashes and cut into 1-inch cubes.
2. In a large soup pot, heat the oil on medium high.
3. Add the onion, and cook 1 to 2 minutes until it starts to become translucent.
4. Add cubed squash, and cook 4 to 5 minutes.
5. Add chicken broth, and bring to a boil.
6. Lower heat, and simmer 30 to 35 minutes, until the squash is fork tender.
7. Allow to cool slightly, then blend until smooth in a food processor or blender.
8. Return mixture to the pot, and heat to medium low.
9. Add peanut butter, brown sugar, pepper, cinnamon, and nutmeg.
10. Stir until well blended.
11. Garnish with fresh parsley. Serve warm.

## Upcoming Events at the Bullitt County Extension Office

Pre-registration is required for all classes. Call 502-543-2257 and visit [bullitt.ca.uky.edu/events](http://bullitt.ca.uky.edu/events) for more information.

### Agriculture

- **Cattlemen's Association Meeting & Class** - Tue, 9/9, 7-9pm
- **Bullitt Co. Bird Watching Walk** - Fri, 9/12, 9-11am, Pine Creek Nature Preserve
- **Backyard Maple Syrup Class** - Thu, 10/2, 6:50-8:50pm
- **"What about Microplastics" Webinar Watch** - 10/13, 6:30 PM
- **Beginner Producer Class** - Tue, 10/28, 6-8pm

### 4-H

- **Green Giants Club** - Tue, 9/30 & Tue, 10/14, 6:30-7:30pm
- **Cloverbud Club** - Thu, 9/11 & Thu, 10/9, 6-7pm
- **Food O Rama** - 10/6, 9am-12pm

### Fine Arts

- **Stained Glass Class** - First Wednesday of every month @9:30am, 1:30pm & 5:00pm; call to register
- **Crazy Quilters** - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month @10:00am
- **Sew Busy** - 3rd Thursday of every month @10:00am
- **Broken Brushes** - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month @9:00am
- **Old Brushes** - Every Tuesday @1:00pm