



# THE LATEST DIRT

HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER

November &  
December

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## Upcoming Classes

\*Pre- registration is encouraged to ensure adequate supplies.  
Please call (502) 569-2344 to reserve your spot!

- ~~Planning Your Spring Bulb Garden~~

~~Thursday, November 21 2024 from 5p-6p @Jefferson County  
Cooperative Extension Office~~

- Herbs: Teas, Infused oils, Herbal vinegars

Wednesday, December 04 2024 from 12p-1:00p @ Jefferson  
County Cooperative Extension Office

- Making Evergreen Garlands

Thursday, December 19 2024 from 5p-6p @ Jefferson County  
Cooperative Extension Office

- {Introducing} Fun Fridays!!

Kick the Winter Blues! Join us for fun, garden-inspired crafts  
every other Friday in January and February from 3:00-4:00  
PM.

- Building DIY Bug Hotels (1st Fun Friday!)

Friday, January 10th 2025 from 3:00-4:00 @ Jefferson County  
Cooperative Extension Office



## Landscape Sanitation

Autumn has arrived in Kentucky and, as leaves change color and fall from trees, it is time to focus on landscape sanitation. Good sanitation practices can help reduce disease-causing pathogens. These organisms can survive for months or years on dead plant material or in soil, causing infections in subsequent years. Elimination of disease-causing organisms reduces the need for chemical controls and can improve the effectiveness of disease management practices. Following these sanitation practices both in autumn and throughout the growing season can reduce disease pressure in home and commercial landscapes.

- Remove diseased plant tissues from infected plants
- Prune cankers (Figure 1) and galls from branches by making cuts well below visible symptoms (Figure 2).
- Clean tools between each cut with a sanitizer, such as rubbing alcohol or household bleach.
- Rake and remove fallen buds, flowers, twigs, leaves, and needles (Figure 3).
- Discard all above- and below-ground portions of heavily infected perennial and annual plants. Severely infected trees and shrubs should be cut down and stumps removed/destroyed.
- All discarded plant material should be burned, buried, or removed with yard waste. Do not compost diseased plant material. Exercise caution when storing limbs and trunks as fire wood or using for mulch.
- Soil from containers should be discarded and not reused.
- Remove weeds (including roots), which may serve as alternate hosts for pathogens.
  - When treating infected plants with fungicides, remove infected tissues prior to application.

By Kimberly Leonberger, Extension Associate, and Nicole Ward Gauthier, Extension Plant Pathologist

The growing season for 2024 has come to a close, and now many of us are preparing for the holidays and the long winter nights ahead. Gardens rest, and trees shed their summer foliage in anticipation of snow and ice. The fall checklist may be brief, but a little effort now can make a big difference when winter gives way to spring.



Figure 1: Cankers can provide an overwintering site for plant pathogens. (Photo: Nicole Ward Gauthier, UK)



Figure 2: When removing cankers, make cuts well below visible symptoms or at the base of branches. (Photo: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)



Figure 3: Fallen leaves, and other plant parts should be gathered and discarded. (Photo: Nicole Ward Gauthier, UK)

# Landscapes Still Need Some Attention

## After First Frost

“There are still a few important activities left to do before you put your landscape and garden to sleep for the winter.” --Rick Durham, UK Extension horticulturist

Writer: [Aimee D. Heald](#) 859-257-4736, ext. 267

Source: [Rick Durham](#) 859-257-3249

Most people look forward to the first frost of fall because it usually signals the end of lawn and garden work for a few months. However, University of Kentucky Consumer Horticulturist Rick Durham cautions the work is not always finished with the first frost.

“Don’t be too quick to put away the garden tools,” he said. “There are still a few important activities left to do before you put your landscape and garden to sleep for the winter.”

First off, fall is a good time to clean up the landscape and it is important for many reasons. Many insects will spend the winter on the same plants they used for food during the summer, especially fallen leaves, flowers or fruit. Disease also can be a concern.

“The black spot that plagued your rose foliage all summer is waiting patiently on those fallen leaves,” Durham said. “It will resume growth and infect new foliage in the spring.”

To protect the landscape from future insect and disease problems, Durham suggests raking up fallen foliage and removing it from the landscape. If plants were infected with black spot, other diseases or insects, remove the foliage, directly take it to the trash bin and don’t even risk composting it, he said. Excessive weed growth in late fall and winter can contribute to next year’s pest problems, so it’s important to remove weeds from the landscape as soon as possible.

“Weeds also can provide food and shelter for overwintering insects,” Durham said. “And, don’t forget about all the seeds they will produce to plague you in the future. Get rid of the weeds.”

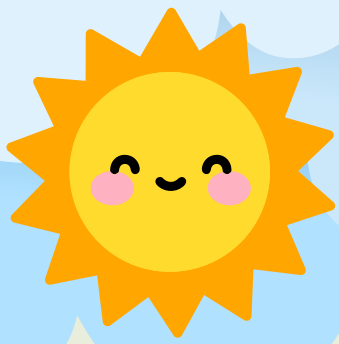
Another important thing to do for landscapes in the fall is to apply mulch around perennials to protect them from winter temperatures. Most perennials will die back after the first few frosts and the foliage can be discarded to the compost bin if they were not heavily infected with disease, Durham added. When the foliage is removed, make sure there is a shallow mulch layer around the base of overwintering perennials.

“Spring flowering bulbs laying dormant under the soil will also benefit from a layer of mulch,” he said. “Mulch is not really to keep the soil warm, but to keep the soil temperature even. So wait until the soil temperatures have cooled a bit in mid-to-late fall and then apply a few inches of your favorite organic mulch such as wood chips, bark or compost.”

Mulch helps shade the soil and moderate soil temperatures and may help prevent heaving of shallow-rooted perennials from the soil.

“Just remember that there is still a little work to be done after the first frost of the fall,” Durham said. “You’ll be glad you took the extra time to prevent problems in the future.”





Bulb Basics: Plant Now for Spring Color

Share

# bulb basics: plant now for spring color

WITH SHARON FLYNT

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Watch on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faC4eNENjZs>

**Like videos like these? Find more Webinar Wednesday Episodes here!**



**<https://kentuckyhortnews.com/horticulture-webinar-wednesdays/>**



# Bug Out!

Before settling down for your winter's nap, be sure to pest proof your home against the 'critter' invasion. Whether they have 4, 6 or 8 legs you probably would prefer to live without them; exclusion is the easiest, cheapest and least toxic way to control pests. The link below includes pest proofing for the whole house, and even apartment dwellers can use these ideas to keep unwanted guests outside.

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/entfactpdf/ef641.pdf>

## Keep It Clean - Part 2

Clean and sharpen all garden tools before storing for the winter. Don't forget the lawn mower either! Sharpen or replace old blades, winterize the engine and change the air filter. The turf specialists at UK have an excellent video in mower maintenance including cutting heights for Kentucky lawns (Yes, UK does have a video series of horticulture topics available!):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5\\_nhpchMyfs&list=UUMFY6zEWe6uJEYakzOofhlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_nhpchMyfs&list=UUMFY6zEWe6uJEYakzOofhlg)



# Soil Testing

Did you know, There are more microorganisms in a single teaspoon of healthy soil, than there are people on Earth?

Soil samples can be collected through much of the year, although fall (September to December) or spring (February to April) are the best times. Fall sampling will often result in a faster return of results and recommendations. Fall sampling will also allow the grower time to have the fertilizer applied well before planting the next crop.



**Read UK Publication - Taking Soil  
Test Samples here;**

**[https://publications.ca.uky.edu/files  
/agr16.pdf](https://publications.ca.uky.edu/files/agr16.pdf)**

# Upcoming Jefferson County Horticulture Events



**Martin-Gatton**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

**Herbs**  
TEA, INFUSED OILS & VINEGARS  
*and other practical ways to use them*

**DECEMBER 4TH 2024 12:00PM-1:00PM**  
**JEFFERSON COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
4200 GARDINER VIEW AVENUE  
LOUISVILLE, KY, 40213

ALL CLASSES ARE FREE TO ATTEND, PLEASE PRE-REGISTER TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!  
CALL (502)569-2344 OR EMAIL KEISHA.BRUCE@UKY.EDU

**Cooperative Extension Service**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development

**MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT**  
Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodations of disability may be available with prior notice. Programs Information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Cooperative Extension, Lexington, KY 40506



**UK Cooperative Extension Service**

**MAKING EVERGREEN GARLANDS**

Join us for a fun, hands-on demonstration that will get us into the holiday spirit! Learn tips and tricks for making beautiful decorations that will brighten up your home, while we work together to create a holiday garland for the office!

**DECEMBER 19TH FROM 5:00-6:00**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
4200 Gardiner View Ave  
Louisville, Kentucky, 40213  
Seating is limited. Please call to reserve your spot! (502)569-2344 or email Keisha.Bruce@uky.edu

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

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

**Let's Get Crafty**

Kick the Winter Blues and Let's Get Crafty!  
Join us for fun, garden-inspired crafts every other Friday in January and February from 3:00-4:00 PM.

Shake off the chill with hands-on projects that will brighten your winter days. All skill levels welcome!

**JEFFERSON COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
4200 GARDINER VIEW AVE.  
LOUISVILLE, KY, 40213  
2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

FIND DATES AND TOPICS ON OUR EVENT PAGE.  
[HTTPS://JEFFERSON.CA.UKY.EDU/](https://jefferson.ca.uky.edu/)

**Cooperative Extension Service**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development

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**UK Martin-Gatton**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

**Building DIY Bug Hotels**  
with Upcycled Materials

Shake off the chill and join us for our 1st Fun Friday Garden Craft!  
Feel free to bring additional materials!  
(Suggestions: pine cones, broken flower pots, bricks, bamboo and sticks)

January 10th 2025 from 3:00-4:00  
All classes are free to attend!

**Jefferson County Cooperative Extension**  
4200 Gardiner View Ave.  
Louisville, Ky, 40213

Pre-registration is required to ensure we have enough materials for this craft.  
Please sign up in advance to secure your spot!  
Please call (502)569-2344 or email keisha.bruce@uky.edu

**Cooperative Extension Service**  
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Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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PLAN.  
EAT.  
MOVE.

UK College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups brown rice, cooked
- 1 small head broccoli, cut into bite-size pieces
- 3 medium carrots, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cans (15.5 ounces) chickpeas rinsed, drained, and patted dry
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese, optional
- \* 3 tablespoons olive oil
- \* 1/8 teaspoon salt
- \* 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- \* 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- \* 3/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- \* 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder



Find the full recipe here;  
<https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes/recipe/hearty-harvest-bowl/>

#### Ingredients:

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 pounds boneless pork loin chops, 3/4-inch thick
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 carton (32 ounces) low-sodium chicken broth
- 3 large carrots, sliced in 1/4-inch rounds
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 3 medium potatoes, diced
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes with green chilies



Find the full recipe here;  
<https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes/recipe/hearty-harvest-bowl/>



# Q&A

**Why are my pear trees flowering in November?**

**Trees experiencing stress, such as from the drought we experienced this summer, may exhibit unusual flowering patterns, such as blooming outside of their typical season.**

**Is it too late to plant my Winter Mix cover crop?**

**Most winter cover crop mixes will germinate at temperatures as low as 34° F. Be sure to plant before the end of November, but also be mindful of the forecast!**

**When is the best time to prune my Holly trees?**

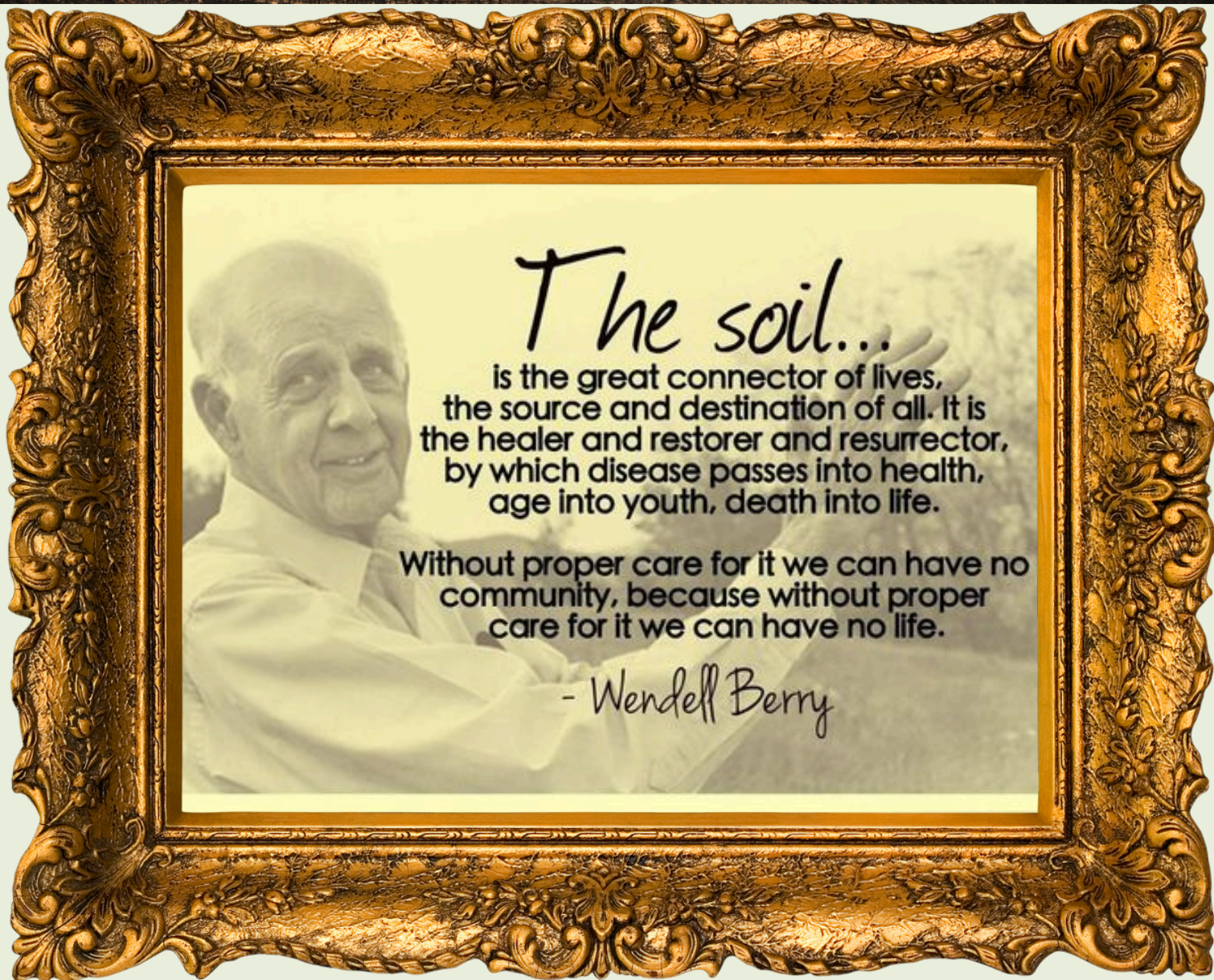
**Late winter or early spring, when the tree is dormant and before new growth begins. Trees restore themselves more rapidly if they are pruned in early spring before they leaf out.**

Please submit any Horticulture/ Insect questions by emailing me at [keisha.bruce@uky.edu](mailto:keisha.bruce@uky.edu). I'll select 3 questions per newsletter and answer any questions that aren't selected privately. If you have any horticultural issues during the season, please reach out to me at [keisha.bruce@uky.edu](mailto:keisha.bruce@uky.edu).

Happy Planting!  
Keisha Bruce

Keisha Bruce, Horticulture Tech ~ [keisha.bruce@uky.edu](mailto:keisha.bruce@uky.edu)

# Final Thoughts



Our office will be closed from  
December 25th to January 2nd, 2025  
Wishing you all a joyful holiday season filled  
with celebration and warmth. May the new year  
bring excitement and new opportunities for  
everyone! Take care and keep warm!



*Keisha Bruce*

Jefferson County ~ Horticulture  
Keisha.Bruce@uky.edu