



THE LATEST DIRT

HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER

January &
February

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Upcoming Classes

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

- Building DIY Bug Hotels (1st Fun Friday Event!)
Friday, January 17th 2025 from 3:00-4:00
- DIY Penny Gazing Balls
Friday, January 24th from 3p-4:30p
- DIY Flower Frogs
Friday, February 7th from 3:00-4:30p
- DIY Seeded Gift Tags
Friday, February 21st from 3:00-4:30p
- Seed Starting Workshop
Wednesday, February 19th from 12:00-1:00 &
Thursday, February 20th from 5:00-6:00p

All Horticultural Programming is held at the
Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service
4200 Gardiner View Avenue Louisville, KY, 40213

Spring is ON It's way!

We may have frigid temperatures here in Jefferson County now, but spring is only 9 weekend projects away! That means getting out those seed catalogues and planning your garden or visiting your local nursery for ideas on warmer weather projects. Many stores are stocking their seed starting supplies, so now is the time to look for hard to find items.

Remember not only annual garden seeds are available; look for perennials, herbs and even cacti seed on store shelves. Many seed companies now offer online catalogues for your convenience.

Garden planning couldn't be easier. Starting your own vegetable plants for this year's garden is the way to go to get the varieties you want for an economical price. Minimum cost is not the only advantage to starting your own transplants at home. Disease resistance, unusual color; size and variety of taste are just a few things you can choose for a tailor-made harvest.

Recommended Vegetable Varieties for Kentucky and other Resources

for Home Growers:

<https://horticulture.ca.uky.edu/growers/home/vegetables>

Home Vegetable Gardening in

Kentucky ID-128

<https://publications.ca.uky.edu/id-128>



*The following tips can help you make this
your best garden yet!*

- **Read the seed packets closely**, note recommended planting and harvest dates.
- Decide on the square footage of your garden.
- **Be sure to save the seed packets for reference!** (I like to keep mine in a photo album for easy access and visibility)
- Note the space each plant will need and keep in mind the mature height and size of the plant.
- **Disease resistance** is worth the effort as it can save you both time and money.
- Check to see if there are any specific or unique plant needs.
- Most veggies need to be started 6 to 8 weeks before our frost-free date of May 10.
- Use clean seed starting mix, pots, and be sure to clean tools before using them to eliminate any pathogens that may be present from last season.

About Tomatoes...

A great tomato harvest is almost a religious experience for home gardeners. We love our backyard tomatoes! We want to do everything we can to be successful. Tomatoes and other plants in the solanacea family do need a little more consideration when deciding what and where to plant. (These include peppers, eggplant and potatoes.) Whether you start them from seed or purchase them as bedding plants remember:

Disease resistant varieties are best! Tomatoes should have the letters VFNTA.

These letters represent disease and nematode resistance.

V - Verticillium wilt.

F - Fusarium wilt, FF indicate 2 most common fusarium strains.

N - Nematodes (microscopic plant parasite).

T - Tobacco mosaic virus.

A - Alternaria leaf spot.



Disease resistant is not disease proof so good gardening sanitation and practices are still necessary! Indeterminate or determinate? Determinate tomatoes tend to ripen all at once, are bush like and are great for canning. Indeterminate varieties ripen off and on through the season, are vine like and the plants live a bit longer.

Rotate the crop. Do not plant them in the same place within a 3 year period. This includes any plants in the solanacea family! Rotation helps to prevent Verticillium wilt disease pathogens from building up in the soil. Use a fertilizer labeled for tomatoes or veggies, follow all label instructions.



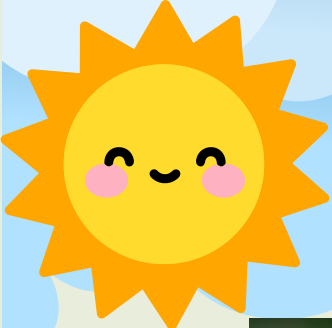
Better yet, get your soil tested and follow the recommendations for your particular garden plot! Be prepared to mulch the plants for soil moisture and temperature control. Mulching also creates a layer between the soil and plants which can aid in disease control. Be consistent with the watering to avoid cracking.



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

Come in soon to take advantage of a grant through the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District! Every household in Jefferson County is Eligible for 2 free Routine Soil Tests or 1 free Lead+Routine Soil test!!

Read UK Publication - Taking Soil Test Samples here;
<https://publications.ca.uky.edu/files/agr16.pdf>



Horticulture Webinar Wednesday's



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



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





Bloomin' Reminders

- Tender summer blooming bulbs like gladiolas are planted in spring, then dug up in the fall as they will not survive a Kentucky winter.
- Hardy early spring blooming bulbs like daffodils are planted in the fall.
- Spring is a great time to divide perennials and bulbs. Replant them in your yard or share them with friends!
- Prune early blooming woody ornamentals after they bloom (blooms before June). If you wait until fall you risk pruning off the next year's blooms.
- Sow seed for annual flowers after our frost free date of May 10th.
- Start perennial flowers from seed for a cost effective way to get blooms each year!
- Start a garden journal to record what and where you will be growing your veggies.
- Note through the season your success rates to aid your selections for next year. This also makes rotating crops easier year after year.
- The next window for planting grass seed is coming up. Here is a calendar for lawn care in Kentucky: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/agr/agr55/agr55.pdf>



More tips and Recommendations for Maintaining Home Lawns



<https://ukturf.ca.uky.edu/tips-and-recommendations-maintaining-home-lawns>



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.


We offer also Lead and Heavy metals testing as an add on to a routine soil test!

Check out this great publication by University of Minnesota Extension on building healthy, living soil!


<https://extension.umn.edu/managing-soil-and-nutrients/living-soil-healthy-garden>



Upcoming Jefferson County Horticulture Events



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment




WINTER SOWING: 101

As the winter chill settles in, it's the perfect time to start planning for a vibrant garden in the spring. Join us for a hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to sow seeds in milk jugs, an easy and sustainable way to get a head start on your garden!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 FROM 12:00-1:00
&
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16 FROM 5:00P-6:00P


JEFFERSON COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
4200 GARDINER VIEW AVENUE,
LOUISVILLE, KY, 40213

RSVP by January 14, 2025
Please be sure to reserve your spot to ensure enough supplies for everyone by calling (502) 569-2344 or by emailing 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, national 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 reprisal 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 Counties, Cooperating.



Disability accommodated with prior notification.



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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/)



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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 17th 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



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DIY PENNY GARDEN GLOBE

JANUARY 24, 2025
3:00-4:30

Are you looking to add a unique touch to your garden décor? Join us for a fun and creative DIY Penny Globe Workshop where you'll learn how to craft your very own stunning penny globe!

What to bring:

- \$10 worth of pennies (to cover Bowling balls)
- Other (lighter) balls. Ex. Baseballs, Basket balls, Styrofoam spheres, etc.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
4200 GARDINER VIEW AVE.
LOUISVILLE, KY, 40213

***Space is limited, so don't miss out on the chance to join in on the fun! RSVP by 1/22/24 by calling (502)569-2344 or emailing Keisha.Bruce@uky.edu



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Upcoming Horticulture Events, continued;

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DIY FLOWER FROGS

YOU'VE SEEN THOSE STUNNING BOUQUETS WHERE THE FLOWERS SIT JUST RIGHT, BUT HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW THEY DO IT?

JOIN US FOR THIS FUN FRIDAY EVENT AND LEARN HOW TO

- Make a clay flower frog for perfectly arranged Valentine's flowers
- Choose the right flower frog for your arrangements
- Create stunning bouquets that last longer



Please make sure to reserve your spot, supplies are limited. RSVP by calling (502)569-2344 or emailing Keisha.Bruce@uky.edu

**FRIDAY
7 FEBRUARY
3-4:30 PM**

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

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UK Cooperative
Extension Service



SEED STARTING WORKSHOP

Join us for the basics of starting seeds for more affordable, healthier, transplants at home! We will cover things like--How to read a seed packet, light/heat requirements, different types of growing mediums etc., while starting peppers and tomatoes for our 1st Annual Spring Plant Sale!

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 19TH
12:00PM - 1:00PM



THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 20TH
5:00PM - 6:00PM

JEFFERSON COUNTY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
4200 Gardiner View Ave
Louisville, Ky., 40213



PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
PLEASE SIGN UP IN ADVANCE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!
PLEASE CALL (502)569-2344 OR EMAIL KEISHA.BRUCE@UKY.EDU

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DIY SEEDED GIFT TAGS

HAVE YOU SEEN THOSE RECYCLED PAPER GIFT TAGS WITH SEEDS IN THEM? EVER WANTED TO BUY THEM BUT DIDN'T LOVE THE PRICE TAG? LUCKY FOR US, THEY'RE SUPER EASY TO MAKE!

Join us for a fun hands-on workshop where you'll create your very own DIY Seeded Gift Tags. These plantable, eco-friendly tags are a great way to add a personal, sustainable touch to any gift - while also giving the gift of flowers that will grow long after the wrapping paper is gone.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21 2025
3:00-4:30

JEFFERSON COUNTY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
4200 GARDINER VIEW AVE.
LOUISVILLE, KY, 40213

**PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED. RSVP BY CALLING (502)569-2344 OR EMAILING KEISHA.BRUCE@UKY.EDU



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Connect with us online!

<https://jefferson.ca.uky.edu/events>

<https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonCoExtension>

<https://www.instagram.com/jeffersoncoextension/>





PLAN.
EAT.
MOVE.

UK College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Ingredients:

- 12 cabbage leaves
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 cup cooked brown rice
- 1 (15 ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon water

Servings: Makes 6 servings

Serving Size: 2 rolls each



Find the full recipe here;

<https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes/recipe/cabbage-rolls/>



Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
- 1 cup cooked chicken, cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 (10 3/4 ounce) can low fat, condensed, cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup baking mix
- 1/2 cup skim milk
- 1 egg

Servings: 6 Serving Size: 1/6 of pie

Find the full recipe here;

<https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes/recipe/easy-chicken-pot-pie/>

Q&A

How should I fertilize my houseplants in the winter?

It's generally not necessary to fertilize houseplants in winter, as they are in a dormant or slower growth phase due to reduced light and cooler temperatures. You can resume fertilizing in spring when they start actively growing again.

When can I start seeds indoors for spring?

We can typically start seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last expected frost date, which is around mid-April - early May. So, starting seeds in late February to early March is ideal.

Can I prune my trees and shrubs in winter?

Yes, you can prune many trees and shrubs in winter! This is a good time to remove dead or damaged wood. However, avoid pruning spring-blooming shrubs until after they flower, as this can remove their buds.

Please submit any Horticulture/ Insect questions by emailing me at 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.

Happy Planting!
Keisha Bruce

Keisha Bruce, Horticulture Tech ~ keisha.bruce@uky.edu

Final Thoughts



Until spring arrives, we embrace the quiet beauty of winter. Now's the perfect time to plan your spring plantings and order seeds, tidy up your tools, and prune most trees and shrubs.

The

Keisha Bruce

Jefferson County ~ Horticulture
Keisha.Bruce@uky.edu

