

Taylor County Horticulture Newsletter

Cooperative Extension Service
Taylor County
1143 South Columbia Ave.
Campbellsville, KY 42718
(270) 465-4511
Fax: (270) 789-2455
www.taylor.ca.uky.edu

April 2023



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



Upcoming Events

Eastern Standard Time



Tuesday, April 4	Homebased Microprocessor Training	9:30 AM
Monday, April 10	Busy Bloomer Garden Club - Air Plants	1:00 PM
Monday, April 10	Hanging Basket Flowers	5:00 PM
Tuesday, April 11	Succulent Class	1:30 PM
Friday, April 14	Hanging Basket Flowers - at the Extension Office. Please call (270) 465-2562 to RSVP	10:30 AM
Friday, April 14	Jr. Conservation Board Tree Giveaway at Taylor County High School Ag Shop	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturday, April 15	Jr. Conservation Board Tree Giveaway at Taylor County Extension Office	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Thursday, April 20	Green River Beekeepers - Taylor County Extension Office	7:00 PM
Saturday, April 22	Spring Festival at the Taylor County Farmers' Market	8:00 AM -2:00 PM

For questions, and to RSVP, please
call the Extension Office at
(270) 465-4511.

Kara Back
County Extension Agent
for Horticulture Education

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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Proper Vegetable Garden Planning for Disease Prevention

Warmer temperatures mean spring is right around the corner, and gardeners everywhere are ready to get plants in the ground. However, prior to planting, growers should develop a plan for this year's vegetable garden. A thoughtful approach to garden layout and preparation can influence disease pressure as well as the overall success of the crop. Here are few areas to consider to get ahead of diseases as you make your vegetable garden plans.

Planting Site

The best vegetable garden sites are sunny with adequate moisture and fertile, well-drained soil. Avoid low spots, which can worsen soilborne diseases, and shady locations, which can worsen foliar diseases. Prior to planting, it is advisable to draw a planting map. This allows consideration into site limitations and succession planting. Scale models of the garden space can be drawn on graph paper, or simple maps may be made using a virtual spreadsheet (Figure 1). Choose perennial locations carefully to make tilling more convenient. Taller crops, such as sweet corn or tomatoes, should be planted on the north or west side of the garden to avoid shading shorter plants. Retain these maps from year to year and refer when planning next season.

Crop Rotation

If the same garden site is used each year, avoid planting the same or closely related crops in an identical place each year. A three-year rotation is recommended, however, even a year or two out of a certain plant family can be beneficial. Crop rotation prevents disease-causing pathogens from building up in soil. Multiple vegetable crops are closely related and are prone to many of the same disease issues. Closely related crops are listed below.

- Tomatoes, Peppers, Potatoes, and Eggplant
- Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Squash, Watermelons, and Muskmelons
- Peas, Broad Beans, Snap beans, and Lima Beans
- Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale, Collards, Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, Kohlrabi, Turnips, Rutabaga, Chinese Cabbage, and Mustard
- Lettuce, Endive, and Salsify
- Chives, Garlic, Leeks, Onions, and Shallots
- Beets, Swiss Chard, and Spinach
- Carrots, Parsley, Celery, Celeriac, and Parsnip



Compost Piles

Avoid composting diseased plants or produce, since home compost piles typically do not reach temperatures high enough to kill pathogens. Accelerate the rate of decomposition by turning compost piles at least once per month. Avoid adding fresh material to current compost piles, as new material will not break down in time for this season. Water should be added to very dry compost piles at turning to allow for more complete decomposition.

Gardening Apps

Tech-savvy gardeners may enjoy utilizing one of the many mobile applications available for both Android and Apple platforms. Apps can be used to map out vegetable gardens and maintain records from year to year. Several apps allow users to enter information about cultivar, planting date, and plant growth. Some apps provide an estimated date for harvest from this information. A few apps have been designed to diagnose common disease and insect issues. However, diagnosis of plant problems can be a challenging task, even with the assistance of an app. Thus, if plant problems arise in the garden, reach out to a local County Extension Agent for assistance.

Keep Records

Each garden season is like a school year, with lessons to be learned. Whether by app or a physical garden journal, keep track of disease and pest issues as they occur, to help develop strategies to prevent or manage these issues. Also include varieties grown, how they performed, and common weather patterns.

Peach Leaf Curl

Peach leaf curl results in disfigured leaves during spring and summer; twigs and fruit may also become infected. Successful management of peach leaf curl begins in fall or early spring, even though symptoms are not seen until leaves emerge.

Peach Leaf Curl Facts

- Symptoms begin to appear shortly after bloom and are characterized by thick, folded, puckered and curled leaves (Figure 1). Infected leaves typically exhibit a red or purplish coloration (Figure 2). Diseased leaves develop a powdery gray coating, turn brown, and wither before dropping from the tree.
- Twigs and fruit may become infected.
- Repeated defoliation from this disease can increase the sensitivity of trees to cold injury.
- Initial infection occurs in late winter or spring prior to bud swell. There is no further spread of the disease during the growing season.
- Rain and temperatures between 50° and 70° F are required for infection.
- Caused by the fungus *Taphrina deformans*.

Management Options

A single preventative fungicide application prior to dormancy (50% leaf drop to 100% leaf drop) or in early spring (delayed dormant, just before bud break) often

provides sufficient management. In severe cases, both fall and spring applications may be necessary. Homeowners can apply fungicides that contain chlorothalonil or copper. Always follow label directions when utilizing fungicides.

Once the disease is present, the following management techniques can be used.

- Thin fruit heavily to reduce stress on the tree.
- Provide good growing conditions and irrigation to reduce tree stress.
- Replant with cultivars with an increased tolerance of the disease, such as 'Redhaven' varieties.
- Fungicides will not be effective once the disease is present.

By Kimberly Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist



JR. CONSERVATION BOARD TREE GIVEAWAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

TAYLOR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL AG SHOP



SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 8:00 AM–12:00 PM

TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Gardening in April

Vegetables

- Finish transplanting broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and cauliflower plants into the garden. High phosphorous fertilizers help get transplants off to a quick start.
- Plants started indoors should be hardened off outdoors in cold frames before being transplanted into the garden.
- Start cucumber, cantaloupe, summer squash, and watermelon seeds indoors in peat pots.
- Finish sowing seeds of all cool-season vegetables not yet planted.
- Plastic films can be used to preheat the soil where warm season vegetables are to be grown.
- Asparagus and rhubarb harvests begin.
- Handpick and destroy asparagus beetles.
- Keep your hoe sharp! Don't allow weeds to get an early start in your garden.
- Flower stalks should be removed from rhubarb plants, if they develop.
- Try an early sowing of warm-season crops such as green beans, summer squash, sweet corn, New Zealand spinach and cucumbers.
- Thin out crowded seedlings from early plantings of cool season crops such as beets, carrots, lettuce, onions and radish.
- Sow seeds of luffa and hard-shell gourds indoors in peat pots. Soak seeds overnight before planting.
- Make succession sowings of cool-season crops.
- Begin planting lima beans, cucumbers, melons, okra and watermelons.
- Begin setting out transplants of tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and sweet potatoes.

Fruits

- Blemish-free fruits unmarred by insect or disease injury can rarely be produced without relying on regular applications of insecticides and fungicides.
- Wooden clothespins make useful spreaders for training young fruits limbs. Place pins between the trunk and branch to force limbs outward at a 60 degree angle from the trunk.
- A white interior latex paint may be brushed on the trunks of newly planted fruit trees to prevent sunburn. This will gradually weather off in time.
- Stink bugs and tarnished plant bugs become active on peaches.
- Leaf rollers are active on apple trees. Control as needed.
- Prune peaches and nectarines now.
- Plant bare-root or potted fruit trees as soon as the soil can be worked.
- Remove tree wraps from fruit trees now.
- Protect bees and other pollinating insects. Do not spray insecticides on fruit trees that are blooming.
- Destroy or prune off webs of eastern tent caterpillars. "B.t." (Dipel) is a safe biological spray.
- Orange, jelly-like galls on cedar trees spread rust diseases to apples, crabapples and hawthorns.
- Begin sprays for fire-blight susceptible apples and pears using an agricultural streptomycin.
- Spider mites and codling moths become active on apples.

Ornamentals

- Study your landscape for gaps that could be nicely filled with bulbs. Mark these spots carefully and make a note to order bulbs next August.
- Enjoy, but do not disturb the many wildflowers blooming in woodlands.
- When buying bedding plants, choose compact, bushy plants that have not begun to flower.
- When crabapples are in bloom, hardy annuals may be transplanted outdoors.
- Fertilize established roses once new growth is 2 inches long. Use a balanced formulation. Begin spraying to control black spot disease.
- Examine shrubs for winter injury. Prune all dead and weakened wood.
- Groundcovers can be mowed to remove winter burn and tidy plants up. Raise mowers to their highest settings. Fertilize and water to encourage rapid regrowth.
- Shrubs and trees best planted or transplanted in spring, rather than fall, include butterfly bush, dogwood, rose of Sharon, black gum (*Nyssa*), vitex, red bud, magnolia, tulip poplar, birch, ginkgo, hawthorn and most oaks.
- Winter mulches should be removed from roses. Complete pruning promptly. Remove only dead wood from climbers at this time. Cultivate lightly, working in some compost or other organic matter.
- Look for flowering dogwoods in bloom.
- Break off rims from peat pots when transplanting seedlings, otherwise they can act as a wick to draw moisture away from the roots.
- Transplant Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) after bloom, but before the foliage disappears.
- Do not prune boxwoods before April 15.
- Evergreen and deciduous hedges may be sheared. Prune the top narrower than the base so sunlight will reach the lower limbs.
- Oaks and hickories bloom.
- Easter lilies past blooming can be planted outdoors. Set the bulbs 2 to 3 inches deeper than they grew in the pot. Mulch well if frost occurs.
- Apply controls for holly leaf miner when the new leaves are just beginning to grow.
- Balloon flower (*Platycodon*), hardy hibiscus, gasplant (*Dictamnus albus*) and some lilies are slow starters in the spring garden. Cultivate carefully to avoid injury to these tardy growers.
- Prune spring flowering ornamentals after they finish blooming.
- Begin planting out summer bulbs such as caladiums, gladioli and acidanthera at 2 week intervals.

Miscellaneous

- Termites begin swarming. Termites can be distinguished from ants by their thick waists and straight antennae. Ants have slender waists and elbowed antennae.
- Look for morel mushrooms when lilacs bloom and the forest floor turns green.
- Mount a rain gauge on a post near the garden to keep track of precipitation so you can tell when to water. Most gardens need about 1 inch of rain per week between April and September.
- Mole young are born in chambers deep underground.
- Honeybees are swarming. Notify a local beekeeper to find a new home for these beneficial insects.
- Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems help you save water and money.
- Hummingbirds return from their winter home in Central America.
- Wasp and hornet queens begin nesting.
- Frost is still possible this month. Do not uncover plants or plant tender plants too early. Little can be done to protect large trees and shrubs but you may be able to give some protection to small plants closer to the ground. Winter burn on broadleaf evergreen may also be noticeable at this time of year.

Lawns

- Start mowing cool season grasses at recommended heights.
- Topdress low spots and finish overseeding thin or bare patches.
- Aerate turf if thatch is heavy or if soil is compacted.
- Apply crabgrass preventers before April 15. Do not apply to areas that will be seeded.

Happy Easter!





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

Spring Festival

at the Taylor County
Farmers' Market

Saturday, April 22

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Off Highway 210 on Animal Shelter Road, past Wal-Mart

- Seed Planting for Kids
- Photo Booth
- Free Lemonade
- Crafts for Kids
- Book Mobile





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

Taylor County
1143 South Columbia Avenue
Campbellsville, KY 42718

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY
PERMIT 1067

Red Potato Salad

6 medium red potatoes
cut into 1½ inch pieces
4 cups fresh green beans
cut into 1½ inch pieces
1 small red onion,
chopped

1 red bell pepper,
chopped
1 yellow bell pepper,
chopped
1 cup chopped
cherry tomatoes

¼ cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons red
wine vinegar
2 teaspoons fresh
oregano
Salt and pepper

1. Wash vegetables in warm water.
2. Boil potatoes until tender and drain.
3. Boil green beans until tender crisp and drain.
4. Place the potatoes and green beans in a bowl.
5. Add chopped red onions, peppers and tomatoes.
6. In a small bowl, **mix** mayonnaise, red wine vinegar and chopped

oregano.
7. Add to potato mixture and mix lightly.
8. Season with salt and pepper. **Mix** well. **Serve** cold.
Yield: 16, ½ cup servings
Nutritional Analysis:
140 calories, 1.5 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 35 mg sodium, 26 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 3 g sugar, 5 g protein.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

