

# Taylor County Horticulture Newsletter

## January 2025

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## Gourds

By: Kara Back-Campbell, Horticulture Agent

Gourds are in the same family as squash and pumpkins. Cucurbitaceae or cucurbits for short, are also from the family that watermelons and cucumbers belong to. Gourds are often grown for their hard outer rind. Once it is dried it can be used for many functional or ornamental purposes.

Gourds have been grown for thousands of years by many cultures. Estimated 4,000 year old gourds were found in Egyptian tombs. Native Americans and the pioneers used gourds for dishes, bottles, cooking utensils, dippers, toys, instruments, ornaments, etc.

The lagenaria group of gourds (*Cucurbita lagenaria*) are utilitarian. An example of these gourds is the Martin or birdhouse gourd. These gourds are green on the vine. Then when they are dried they turn brown with thick hard shells. This month come to the bird club to paint your very own Martin birdhouse gourd and receive free seeds to plant this spring to create even more summer homes for your feathered friends.



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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

# January 2025

## Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Happy New Year</i> Office Closed	2	3	4
5	6 KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Busy Bloomer Garden Club 1:00 PM	14	15	16 Green River Beekeepers 7:00 PM	17	18
19	20 MLK - DAY - Office Closed	21 4-H Horticulture 3:30 PM	22	23 Plant Botany 101 10:30 AM or 5:30PM	24	25
26	27 Bird Club 1:00 PM	28 4-H Entomology 3:30 PM	29	30 Plant Botany 101 Continued 10:30 AM or 5:30 PM	31	

**\*All 4-H Events require registration on Eventbrite.\***

To RSVP for the classes, call the Extension office at 270-465-4511.



# Edema

By: John Hartman, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist & Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

Edema (or oedema) is a nonparasitic disorder that, under the right environmental conditions, can affect a wide variety of herbaceous plants. This problem is most frequently observed in greenhouses on ornamentals and vegetable transplants, but it may also occur on potted plants in homes and offices. Crops in fields and gardens, such as cabbage, may also be affected.

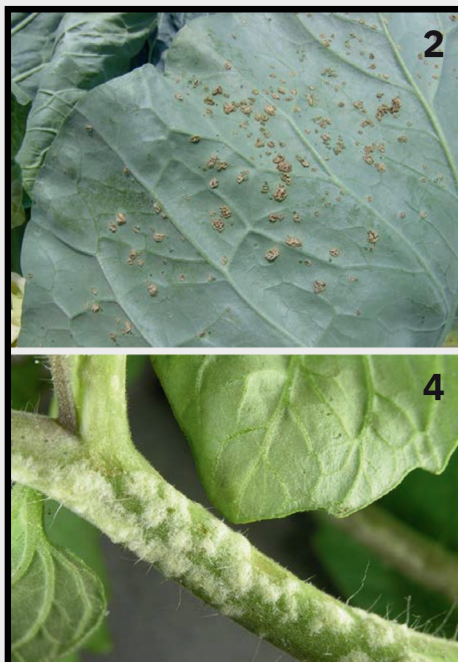


**Figure1.** Shown here on geranium, (A) Edema results in the formation of corky areas on leaf undersides. (B) When severely affected, leaves can turn yellow and die.

Edema occurs when plant roots absorb water from the soil more rapidly than is lost from the leaves through transpiration. It is likely to develop when the soil is moist and warm, and the air is moist and cool. These conditions are likely to exist in homes and greenhouses during periods of prolonged cool, cloudy weather in winter and early spring. A drop in air temperature after several warm, muggy days provides ideal conditions for edema to develop outdoors in field plantings.

## Management

Edema can be controlled in homes and greenhouses by following proper cultural practices. Overwatering, high humidity, and low light intensities promote the development of edema. Mildly affected plants usually recover under favorable growing conditions. Avoid overwatering plants, especially during periods of cloudy weather. Improve the airflow around plants by providing adequate spacing and by regulating ventilation to help reduce humidity. Increase the plant's exposure to light.



**Figure2.** While more common on greenhouse crops and potted plants indoors, edema may also develop on crops in the field, such as cabbage. **Figure3.** Edema developed along the veins on this tomato leaf. **Figure4.** In severe cases, edema may also develop on stems and petioles.



**2025  
KENTUCKY  
FRUIT &  
VEGETABLE  
CONFERENCE**

**LEXINGTON, KY  
JANUARY 6-7**

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# Busy Bloomer Garden Club

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1:00 PM**  
**TOPIC: GROWING & PAINTING GOURDS**



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# 4-H HORTICULTURE

## GOURD PAINTING



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 | 3:30 PM**  
**TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**  
**FREE & OPEN TO YOUTH 9-18 YEARS OLD**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED ON EVENTBRITE**

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Kentucky Extension  
Master Gardener

# GARDENING PROGRAM

.....  
**BASIC BOTANY &  
PLANT IDENTIFICATION**  
.....

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23**  
**10:30 AM OR 5:30 PM**

**PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING THE EXTENSION OFFICE**  
**270-465-4511.**

TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
1143 SOUTH COLUMBIA AVENUE  
CAMPBELLVILLE, KY 42718



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# Bird Club

**Monday, January 27, 1:00 PM**

**Topic: The Big Year Contest & Creating Purple Martin Gourd Houses**



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# 4-H ENTOMOLOGY

## GRASSHOPPERS



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 | 3:30 PM**

**TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**

**FREE & OPEN TO YOUTH 9-18 YEARS OLD**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED ON EVENTBRITE**

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# GARDENING PROGRAM

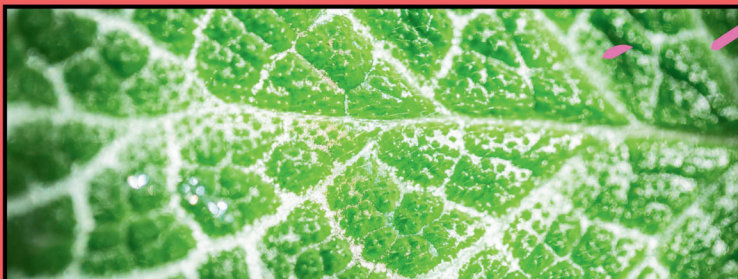
## BOTANY CONTINUED

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 30**

**10:30 AM OR 5:30 PM**

**PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING THE EXTENSION OFFICE  
270-465-4511.**

TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
1143 SOUTH COLUMBIA AVENUE  
CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY 42718



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or US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.



## Greek Style Spaghetti Squash

1 spaghetti squash  
(2-3 pounds)  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 cup chopped onion  
¼ cup chopped green  
bell pepper

2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 cup fresh spinach leaves  
1½ cups chopped tomatoes  
1 teaspoon dried oregano  
1 teaspoon lemon no-salt  
seasoning blend

¼ teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons  
chopped fresh  
basil  
¾ cup crumbled low-  
fat feta cheese

**Preheat** oven to 350 degrees F. **Prepare** the squash by carefully **cutting** it in half lengthwise with a sharp knife and **scooping** out the seeds. **Place** on a lightly greased baking sheet, cut-side down and **bake** for 30 to 35 minutes, or until a sharp knife can be easily inserted into the rind. **Remove** the squash from the oven and allow to **cool**. When cooled, use a fork to **scrape** out the stringy flesh from the shell and **place** in a colander. **Press** out as much liquid as possible. **Place** squash in a medium bowl and keep warm. **Heat** the oil in a skillet over medium heat. **Sauté** the

onion and bell pepper until tender. **Add** the garlic and continue to **cook** 2-3 minutes. **Add** the spinach; allow to wilt. **Stir** in tomatoes and **cook** until tomatoes are heated through. **Toss** the cooked vegetables with the warm spaghetti squash. **Stir** in seasonings, basil, and feta cheese. **Serve** warm.

**Yield:** 8, ½ cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 120 calories, 6 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 280 mg sodium, 14 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 6 g sugars, 4 g protein.

