



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

Cooperative Extension Service

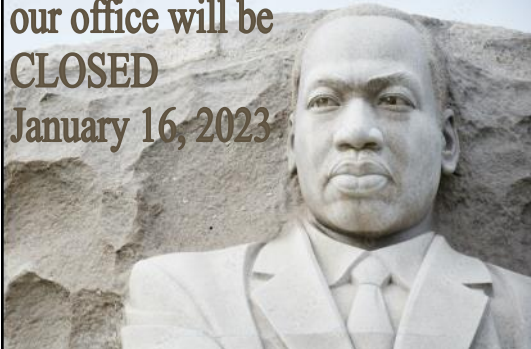
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In observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,
our office will be
CLOSED
January 16, 2023



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

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



JANUARY 2023



HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER

From the Ground Up

A Word from the Agent...



Happy New Year to you!! I hope this year has been off to a great start for everyone. I've been squirreled away in my office planning and ordering for upcoming programs in this new year. So be sure to continue watching this newsletter for the latest and greatest! If you have any topics you are just itching to learn more about, be sure to let me know. Be sure to walk like a penguin when it comes to ice and snow: flat footed, short steps, and keep your center of gravity over your feet! But try not to overdo it with de-icing salt on sidewalks with plants beside them, this can be bad for them. And as always, let me know if I can be of any horticultural assistance to you!

Carrie Spry

Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture
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Clark / Powell Beekeepers Association



Monday, **January 9, 2023**

6:30 pm

Clark County Extension Service
(1400 Fortune Drive; Winchester, KY)

~ **POT-LUCK MEAL** ~



What Makes Bobcats Special?

The bobcat is often confused with its cousin, the lynx, as both share a tannish brown coat with dark spots or lined markings. The differences between the two species are in the details. Bobcats have short, pointy dark tufts of hair on the tops of their ears and fluffy tufts of hair on their cheeks. Bobcats also have short, bobbed tails that are four to seven inches in length.

Bobcats are entirely carnivorous and like to prey on smaller mammals such as rabbits, mice, moles and squirrels. Sometimes birds and reptiles are included in their diets. The largest animals a bobcat has been known to kill are deer, usually in the winter months when small rodents are scarce. Bobcats only hunt from dusk to dawn.

Bobcats favor remote rocky outcrops and heavily wooded areas, though they are, at times, found on the urban edge. Rugged terrain, deep forests and caves make perfect dens and hunting grounds. The home ranges established by bobcats are vast and guarded. Bobcats are very territorial and will outline their space by scent markings. While male territories will sometimes overlap, females won't share their space with any other female bobcat.

As solitary and far-ranging mammals, interactions between humans and bobcats are rare, but humans are the bobcat's largest threat. Bobcats need large areas of interconnected wild lands to thrive. Land development, over-hunting and trapping bobcats for their fur are just a few reasons bobcat populations can decline.

Facts about Bobcats

- Bobcats emit an eerie scream that can be heard for miles.
- A bobcat's personal territory can span out up to 30 square miles for males and five square miles for females. These territories are clearly marked by the bobcat's urine and/or feces.
- Bobcats have excellent vision and hearing and a well-developed sense of smell.
- Unlike the domesticated house cat, bobcats enjoy the water and are very good swimmers.
- As incredibly skilled climbers, bobcats easily maneuver around rocky terrain and climb up tall trees when pursuing their prey.
- Bobcats are quiet hunters who pounce on their prey and kill it with one bite. These large cats are known to leap up to ten feet in the air.
- Bobcat tracks are easy to distinguish - roundish paw, four toes and no claw-markings.

American Bobcat Quick Facts

- **Scientific name:** *Lynx rufus*
- **Length:** 24-48 inches long
- **Height:** 18-24 inches tall
- **Weight:** 15-30 lbs. (males larger)
- **Coat coloration:** tannish with dark spots; lighter coloring on belly
- **Distinguished by:** short (4-7 in) tail with a black tip on the top side; tufts of hair on top of ears and on cheeks

Here Come the Seed Catalogs

By Carrie Spry, Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture



January often arrives with mixed blessings: cold, dreary weather and seed catalogs that remind us that spring is only a couple of months away.

Garden catalogs, whether they arrive in the mail or pop-up in our favorite social media apps, can be enticing, luring us with their bright images of beautiful blooms, intriguing shrubs and trees, and mouthwatering vegetables. To manage their lure, it's a good idea to approach seed catalogs with three things in mind: an idea of how you want your flower garden to look or what you want your vegetable garden to produce, what kind of gardener you are, and, most importantly, a budget.

Are you the type of gardener who likes to get things started and then move on to other things or do you enjoy tinkering in the garden all season? Are you planning any trips this summer, which might leave you trying to find someone to water or harvest your garden during the height of summer?

If you had a vegetable garden last year, think about which plants succeeded and which may have struggled. Consider the fruits and vegetables your family enjoys eating and also your planting location. Does it get full sun or partial shade? Does it get hot afternoon sun or gentle morning sun? Do you want to start your plants from seed or are you more inclined to buy young plants for transplanting? The former is less expensive and often gives you more varieties to choose. Some plants, like tomatoes, may need a protected environment to start seeds, and others, such as lettuces, can be direct-sown when the soil heats up enough in spring.

When it comes to planting a flower or foliage garden in your landscape, plan your design first. It's easy to fall for that picture of the lovely flowering tree, but it may mature to a size that's not right for your landscape. Things to think about when deciding which plants to buy for your garden include your growing zone, width and height of the plant at maturity, whether you get more sun or shade, terrain, soil type and soil moisture levels. Try searching for plant reviews online and see how others used the plant in their landscapes.

If you are planning to plant a garden for the first time, take this year to try your hand with one or two types of plants and explore what it is you enjoy about gardening. If you are a more experienced gardener, seed catalogs offer new and different varieties to try. With an abundance of heirloom vegetable varieties and an ever-expanding list of flowering cultivars available, you can experiment by mixing in something new among your tried-and-true plants.

Remember, when leafing through a seed catalog, your eyes can be bigger than your budget or the time you have to spare planting and tending to everything you buy. Dream big but move cautiously. You might end up with a garden that is the envy of the neighborhood.



Winter Equipment Maintenance



By Andrew Rideout, Agent for Horticulture, Henderson Co. Cooperative Extension

Just because it is cold outside, doesn't mean your lawn and landscape work is complete. There are many chores that can, and should be done during the winter months. Cold weather is the time to service your tools and power equipment, build a new compost bin, calibrate your sprayer, or even identify some winter annuals for proper control methods later.

Starting your mower, tiller, weed eater, or blower next spring can be easy with a few winter preparations. Gasoline breaks down over time, leaving a gummy residue inside your equipment's carburetor and fuel tank. When you start up your equipment in the spring, this residue gets sucked into tiny holes inside the carburetor called "jets" and stops them up. When this happens, it takes a skilled mechanic to clean the tank and carburetor. To prevent this, always drain fuel and add a fuel stabilizer to the tank. Pull the cord or turn the engine a couple of revolutions to work the stabilizer through the fuel system for best protection.

Many times our equipment gets neglected during the year while it is used regularly. Winter is the best time to make sure you have a fresh oil change. Drain the oil using the drain plug typically on the side or underside of the engine. Add new oil per manufactures recommendations and change filter if applicable. Make sure you dispose of oil properly and do not leave the equipment without oil (you might forget to add it in the spring causing serious damage to the engine).

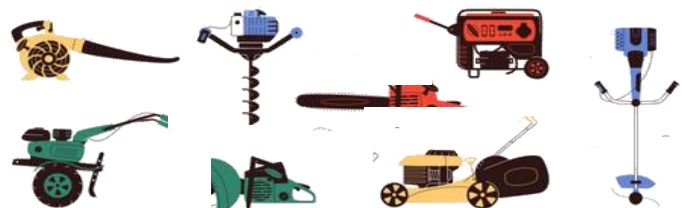
Air filters are often overlooked and arguably, the most important maintenance item on many pieces of equipment. A precise mixture of air and fuel is needed for combustion engines to run smoothly. The air filter will ensure only clean, dust free air enters the combustion chamber. Many filters are disposable and will need to be replaced but some are the washable sponge type. Wash them with warm water and a small amount of soap; rinse and

allow to dry thoroughly; and then add a little engine oil to the sponge. This will allow the filter to collect dirt and debris even better! If you use your equipment in a dusty environment, you probably should clean it much more often.

Look over all of your equipment for signs of wear. Often, cables get worn or rusty. A little lubricating oil will help tremendously on rusty cables before they get too stiff and break. Check for debris built up in the tines on your tiller or around your blade(s) of your mower. A clean piece of equipment is a happy piece of equipment. Engines produces a lot of heat which wears on the metal and decreases the life of the engine. A dirty engine retains more heat than a clean one. Take some time to clean debris and built up grime from all surfaces.

Winter is a great time to take a look at the underside of you mower. Grab the blade and push it up and down opposite the direction it turns. If you feel movement, you could have bearings bad in the spindle. Repairing them now will prevent even costlier repairs later.

Many of these maintenance items are fairly simple and will add to the useful life to your equipment. Some maintenance will prevent the need for a skilled mechanic often correlating to costly repairs. If you find problems that you are familiar with, make sure to get some expert advice from a local repair shop. Whether you do it yourself or have a repair shop do it, take a few hours this winter and take care of the equipment that takes care of your lawn and gardens!





February 16: BEEF NIGHT

- *Beef Health Update*
Dr. Patrick Reister, Boonesboro Animal Clinic
- *Beef Mineral Needs*
Dr. Jeff Lemkuler, UK Beef Specialist
- *Heavy Use Feeding Pads*
Levi Berg, Clark County ANR Agent

~ Meal sponsored by Clark County Cattlemen ~

February 21: FARM NIGHT

- *Fencing Laws*
Clint Quarles, KDA Attorney
- *Drones*
Dr. Josh Jackson, UK Biosystems Engineering
- *Building Structure Water Management*
Dr. Morgan Hayes, UK Biosystems Engineering

~ Meal sponsored by Clark County Farm Bureau ~

February 23: HORT NIGHT

- *Getting Ready for Garden Pests*
Dr. Jonathan Larson, UK Entomologist
- *Perennial Vegetables for Home Garden*
Carrie Spry, Clark County Horticulture Agent

~ Meal sponsored by Clark County Extension ~

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR**



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To register, call the Clark County Extension Office at 859-744-4682
or email Cynthia Carr at cynthia.carr@uky.edu

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

- 1 If you need to melt ice on sidewalks or steps be very careful as most products are harmful to plants. Consider using sand instead, your plants will thank you for it.
- 2 Evergreen plants can be seriously damaged by snow accumulation. After heavy snowfall use a broom to sweep snow from branches. Sweep in an upward direction as cold will cause plants to be more brittle than typical.
- 3 Winter is an excellent time to prepare pots and planters for next spring. Soak pots in a solution of vinegar and bleach, one cup of each per gallon of water. Heavily soiled pots may require scrubbing. Come spring you will be ready to go.
- 4 If you have time this winter paint the handles of garden tools a bright color. This will save lots of time next year when you can't remember where you laid them down in the garden.
- 5 Place orders now for asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries. Plants can be shipped at the proper planting time, usually mid-March for us.
- 6 Continue to monitor house plants for pest problems.
- 7 Have your soil tested now for spring gardens ([Taking Soil Test Samples AGR-16](#))

what's **cooking**



Roasted Root Vegetables

- 6 medium beets
- 2 large sweet potatoes
- 3 parsnips
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- Dressing** (recipe follows)

Dressing

- 1/3 cup white wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons horseradish
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

Stir together and set aside.

Preheat oven to 400° F.

Peel beets, sweet potatoes and parsnips. Cut into 1/2 inch thick cubes.

Toss vegetables with olive oil and place in a single layer on a greased baking sheet.

Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Bake at 400°F for 20 to 25 minutes, or until tender. Cool. Arrange vegetables on a serving dish and drizzle with dressing.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 210 calories, 10 g fat, 1.5 g sat fat, 3 g protein, 30 g carbohydrate, 0 mg cholesterol, 750 mg sodium, 7 g fiber.

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



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