

A Word from the Agent...



Hello everyone and happy March to you! Did you know....that Sardis City, Alabama has their own version of Groundhog Day? Sand Mountain Sam is a weather predicting possum that has accurately predicted the weather 30 out of 31 times


since the tradition began in 1993. Sam predicted an early spring this year back in February and, fingers crossed, it's looking like he is going to be correct again. Yes, the groundhog said it too, but I'll be watching for Sam's predictions from now on because a possum is much more fun.

But, we all know how quickly it can change in March, so let's keep hoping for all the good spring vibes. Daffodil and tulip blooms will be here before you know it! If you planted bulbs from the Fall Fest, send me pics of any blooms you get.

Be sure to keep an eye out in this newsletter for class advertisements as they are planned! And as always, reach out with your questions!!

Carrie Spry

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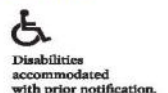
Clark / Powell
Beekeepers Association Meeting

Monday, March 11
6:30 pm
Clark County Extension Service
1400 Fortune Drive
Winchester, Kentucky
~ **POT-LUCK MEAL** ~



Check out the upcoming **Vegetable Gardening Class** flyer in this newsletter.

Be on the lookout in future newsletters and our Facebook page for information on other classes being planned for this year (i.e. Herb Gardening, Succulents, Plant Propagation, and more!)





Tree Seedling Give-A-Way

The Clark County Conservation District will be holding its annual Tree Seedling Give-A-Way. The seedlings consist of:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| ◆ Pawpaw | ◆ White Pine |
| ◆ Shellbark Hickory | ◆ Pin Oak |
| ◆ Yellow– Poplar | ◆ Pecan |
| ◆ Eastern Redbud | ◆ Black Walnut |
| ◆ Rough leaf Dogwood | ◆ Wild Plum |

Wednesday, March 27

8:30 am to 4:00 pm
(or as supplies last)

Clark County Conservation District
(667 Tech Drive; Winchester, KY)

Note
Location

The seedlings will be given away free on a first come / first serve basis, with a limit of 15 per person. Please bring wet newspaper or cloth and a plastic bag to transport seedlings to ensure that the roots will stay moist.



Get Your Home Garden Off to a Good Start

Springtime in Kentucky is the perfect time to get outside and start your home garden. A few tasks will help you have a successful season.

Planning your garden on paper before you begin allows you to visualize the plants you want to grow and when they will be ready to harvest.

Next, select a good gardening site. Plan a site in full sun, relatively level, well-drained, close to a water source, and dries quickly from morning dew. You may need to get a soil test to best prepare the soil. Add fertilizer according to soil test results.

Remember to only plan a garden as large as you can easily maintain. Beginning gardeners often overplant and fail because they can't keep up with the required tasks. You must manage weeds and pests and apply water so your plants will be ready to harvest on time.

A few other important tips:

- 1) Grow vegetables that will produce the maximum amount of food in your available space.
- 2) Plant during the correct season for the crop.
- 3) Choose varieties recommended for Kentucky.

Harvest vegetables at their proper stage of maturity. Consider how you will store them if you don't use them right away.

Consult the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Home Vegetable Gardening publication ID-128, available online at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id128/id128.pdf>.

For more information about gardening or other horticulture topics, contact the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service at 859-744-4682.



 Cooperative Extension Service

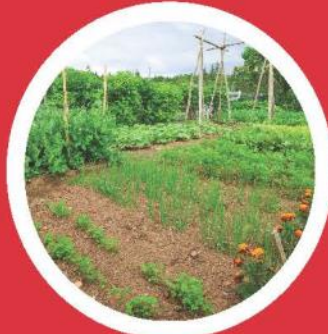
VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS

Tuesday, March 26

***6:30 pm**

Clark County Extension Service

(*Due to amount of information, class will last longer than 1 hour)



Pre-registered attendees will take home a surprise assortment of things to plant in their vegetable garden!

This year's vegetable class is an all-in-one class. We will cover the basics on every step of vegetable gardening from how to begin, how to plant, proper maintenance, and harvesting. We will also cover some crop specifics if time allows.

To register:



859-744-4682



cynthia.carr@uky.edu

Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

On the Way Out

By Lee Townsend, Extension Entomologist

Several insects that overwinter in protected places, including houses and other buildings, are on their way out now. There is not a lot to do at this point other than clean up any accessible accumulations of dead individuals that could contribute to a carpet beetle problem. Here are some of the common problem species.

Common Home Invaders

► Face Fly

The face fly (*Figure 1*) breeds only in fresh cow manure. Adults closely resemble house flies so this species occurs in rural areas near pastured cattle.



Figure 1. Face flies.
(Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

► Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle



Figure 2. Multicolored Asian lady beetles have orange wing covers with variable patterns of black spots. (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

The multicolored Asian lady beetle (*Figure 2*) occurs in both rural and urban areas. These insects tend to be most common near wooded areas. Besides being a nuisance, the beetles emit an acrid odor and can stain surfaces with their yellowish secretions when disturbed. The secretions are volatile compounds used in defense against bird and other vertebrate predators.

► Boxelder Bugs

Adult and immature boxelder bugs (*Figures 3 & 4*) are common insects that feed on sap from leaves, twigs, and seeds of boxelders, as well other members of the maple family. Large numbers of these red and black insects can be seen on tree trunks, on branches, or sunning themselves on the south or west sides of buildings in spring. These harmless accidental invaders may be a temporary nuisance as they move into and out of sheltered overwintering sites.



Figure 3. Boxelder bug adult
(Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

► Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

The brown marmorated stink bug (*Figure 5*) has become a major nuisance pest to homeowners in some parts of the state. Large numbers aggregate in homes, and when disturbed, they will produce a foul odor. Fortunately, they pose no threat to human or animal health inside the home.



Figure 5. Adult brown marmorated stink bug.
(Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

Management:

Fall invaders are leaving their shelters to resume their lives. The main options for dealing with them are preventive. Two useful things at this point are:

- 1) Locate and remove any accumulations of dead insects that can be found. The attic is a good place to check. Dead insects are sources of problems with carpet beetles and other scavengers that can subsequently attack stored products and garments made of natural products (e. g. silk, cotton, wool).
- 2) Look for entryways that can be screened or sealed to prevent pest entry in fall.



Figure 4. Boxelder bug nymph with wing pads on shoulders and orange spot in middle of back. (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

Removing a Tree Stump

Submitted by Kelly Jackson, Agent for Horticulture, Christian Co. Cooperative Extension



Tired of that unsightly tree stump in the landscape? Here's a summary of the many ways to remove a stump:

- **Grind it** – By far the quickest and best, but also the most expensive, way is having a tree company grind out the stump and its major roots. If the area is to be sodded, have the stump ground to a depth of 12 inches. If another tree is planned to be planted nearby, grind the stump deeply enough to remove most if not all of it.
- **Pull it** – Not as common for urban sites, but the norm for those with access to a tractor is to pull out the stump. In this case, leave a foot or more of the tree trunk intact when its cut so a chain can be wrapped around it. Be aware that roots travel beyond the drip line of the tree and may be under sidewalks, home foundations, driveways, etc., and damage could occur to these structures when pulling out the stump.
- **Dig it** – Not a practical solution for big trees but shrubs and trees smaller than 15 inches in diameter can be dug out of the soil using a spade, pick mattock, digging bar, and lots of elbow grease.
- **Treat it** – There are several products sold as “stump removers” containing chemical solutions which claim to break down stumps faster. These products use phosphorous or potassium nitrates which encourages micro-organisms to digest the stumps quicker. However, they have mixed reviews online and they still take years to work.
- **Burn it** – Although not a recommended practice, some people have tried to burn out stumps by building a charcoal fire on the

stump. Because stumps contain a lot of moisture, they will burn slowly and this process is probably very time consuming. It is also illegal within most city limits to set fires outside of your fire-pit or barbecue grill and burn laws also govern what, where, and when items can be burned in the county. The liability that comes from open burning makes this a less than ideal solution.

- **Leave it** – Stumps will rot down on their own given enough time. Cut the stump as close to the ground as possible. Decay organisms will begin rotting the wood. You can accelerate the process by covering the stump with a few inches of soil and keeping it moist. You could also bore several vertical holes in the stump using a large diameter bit or a ship auger. Fill the holes with a slow-release fertilizer before covering with soil to hasten decay. If not grinding out a stump, this is probably the next best solution.
- **Use it** – Maybe removing the stump isn't always necessary. I've seen several that were cut level right at the soil line and used as a solid surface to place a birdbath. With landscape plants you can also hide the stump. If you are really creative, you could consider leaving the stump much taller and cutting it into a unique shape such as a garden seat.

Keep in mind, it is not uncommon for mushrooms and other fungi to appear in the landscape or lawn for 10 years or more as remaining wood chips or roots decay. These will eventually dissipate. Also, watch for new shoots to grow from the roots and promptly remove these. A woody brush herbicide could be sprayed on the new foliage of these shoots to stop their development. Shoots should cease after a few years.



Gus'

QUICK TIPS

for

MARCH march

- 1 If you need to sow grass seed, the first half of the month is ideal but you can seed all month with reasonable results. Turf type tall fescue is THE best choice for our area in all conditions.
- 2 Feed flower bulbs a balanced fertilizer now to promote nice blooms next year. Do not cut leaves down after flowering. They provide food for the plant, so let them die naturally.
- 3 Vegetable gardens are awakening. Only work soil when the conditions are right. To help determine this, squeeze a handful of soil into a ball and drop it from waist height. If it crumbles easily the soil is dry enough to work. If not, wait for drier times as wet soils form hard clods.
- 4 Remove old stems from rhubarb and asparagus and fertilize with nitrogen, compost or rotted manure.
- 5 Time to plant cool crops in the garden. These include: asparagus, beets, broccoli plants, cabbage plants, carrots, chard, collards, kale, lettuce seed and plants, onions, peas, potatoes, radishes, spinach, and turnips.
- 6 Spring is the time to repot houseplants that are in need of it. Do not increase the pot size too drastically though. Also, start feeding houseplants a weak fertilizer solution (one quarter strength).
- 7 Plant pansies and other cold tolerant flowers to help liven up your landscape beds.
- 8 Use sunny days to begin bed clean up, but be careful not to tread on emerging plants.
- 9 Cut back perennials and ornamental grasses before they emerge this year. Most grasses can be divided at this time as well, if needed. But get your muscles ready, grasses can be very woody almost and may require an ax.
- 10 Prune and fertilize brambles and blueberries.
- 11 Clean out birdhouses or if you don't have any, now is the perfect time to hang a few.
- 12 Seeds of hardy annuals such as larkspur, bachelor's buttons, Shirley and California poppies should be directly sown in the garden now.
- 13 Spray peach trees with a fungicide for the control of peach leaf curl diseases. See [HO-57](#) for more info on peaches.





Spinach Slaw

<p>2 cups chopped iceberg lettuce</p> <p>2 cups chopped red cabbage</p> <p>2 cups chopped green cabbage</p> <p>1½ cups fresh spinach</p> <p>¼ cup canola mayonnaise</p>	<p>¼ cup hummus, original flavor</p> <p>2 tablespoon local honey</p> <p>½ teaspoon garlic powder</p> <p>½ teaspoon salt</p> <p>½ teaspoon pepper</p>
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1. Wash, quarter, and core lettuce, red cabbage and green cabbage.

2. Thinly slice lettuce and cabbage quarters; chop slices into small pieces.

3. Wash and tear spinach leaves into small pieces.

4. Whisk together mayonnaise, hummus, honey, garlic powder, salt and pepper until ingredients are mixed well. **Toss** dressing with vegetables until coated thoroughly. **Refrigerate** for 30 minutes before serving.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis:
70 calories, 3.5 g fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 135 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 6 g sugar, 2 g protein.



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