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# Clark County Horticulture Newsletter

## October 2024



### A Word from the Agent . . .

Well hello there! I hope this greeting finds you *overjoyed* that October is almost here! Because I am feeling *optimistic* that October is going to be an *outstanding* month! I'm getting this month's newsletter out to you early in an effort to remind you

one more time about our upcoming Fall Fest that you must plan to attend! Free food, free games, free crafts, and free plants .... essentially all the things you do not want to miss out on! Plus, it's a prime chance to visit with your favorite Extension Office and your favorite Extension employees!

Tree Week is October 13<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup> here in Clark County this year! Some wonderful groups in Clark County have worked hard to bring Tree Week to this county and have coordinated a lot of programs for you that week. We are joining in as well! Be sure to not only check out the flyer in this newsletter for our program contribution, but go to their Facebook page at Tree Week Clark County or find more info at <https://ufi.ca.uky.edu/treeweek> where you can sort it by location!

Make this a great month and I'll see you around!

**Carrie Spry**

Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture  
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**Look Inside**



### KEEPING YOU Informed



## Clark / Powell Beekeepers Association Meeting

**Monday, October 14**  
**6:30 pm**

**Powell County Extension Service**  
169 Maple Street, Stanton, Kentucky

**~ POT-LUCK MEAL ~**

Zoom option available for those who cannot attend in person. Call 859-744-4682 to be added to the email list to receive the link.





# Choosing the Right Tree Species

You have finally decided to plant a tree in the front yard. Congratulations! The big question now: Which tree?

First, there is no perfect tree. All trees have both good and bad characteristics. Most trees are more or less adaptable to your specific site. Some are more susceptible to disease and insect damage than others. The best advice is to plant a diversity of species. Choose trees for shade, some that bloom and a few just to be ornamental.

The first characteristic to think about is the mature size of the tree. The goal is to find a tree that will fill the space without pruning to control its size. Plant the biggest tree possible to return the highest environmental impact. Be aware of overhead and underground utility lines that may run through the property. If you need help in locating these lines, contact your local utility company.

Also, consider other landscaping around the house. Does your selected tree fit into the overall look? A larger tree like an Oak will look better planted farther from house when it reaches its maturity. A smaller tree can be planted closer and not overwhelm the house. It all depends on how much space you have in your yard.

Second, how much water is available for the tree on a regular basis? Trees can be sorted as wet-tolerant or dry-tolerant. Planting a native, creek-bottom tree on the top of the hill, next to a brick house may not receive the amount of water that tree needs for survival. The rule-of-thumb for watering trees is to replicate a one inch rainfall each week. To water a ten by ten foot square area, you would have to apply 62 gallons of water. That's for an average-size tree. All trees need to be watered weekly (if there is no rainfall) until they are established, usually two to three years.

Third, what are the common diseases and insects that may attack the tree? Planting a tree that needs a yearly spray schedule automatically increases the

maintenance on that tree. Multiply that by several trees = a lot of time and money. For example, Junipers commonly have bagworms. If your neighbor's trees already have bagworms, you can treat your new shrubs or trees to control bagworms. The best choice would be to not plant a bagworm susceptible plant. Some crabapples are susceptible to cedar-apple rust. To control this problem, all the cedars and junipers in a one-mile radius would have to be eradicated and that is a little impractical. Spraying the crabapples every 10-14 days is costly and time consuming. The best alternative is choosing a crabapple that is resistant to cedar-apple rust. That will eliminate all the extra time and spray equipment that you would need to maintain a healthy tree.

Other maintenance factors to think about: falling fruit, leaf litter, germinating seeds and suckering.

If you enjoy outdoor work, these factors may not affect your decision, but if you have little time or desire to tackle the maintenance and care of the new trees, these factors will have a distinct impact on your choice of tree variety.


The rest are personal choices. Do you want a specific fall color? Should you choose flowering trees; their color should complement and not clash with the house color and any resulting seeds should not be invasive. Do you want the fruit to attract wildlife? Does it matter if the tree is native or non-native? All of these questions can narrow the list of available plants that can grow around your house.

Now that you know what will fit in your site, a stroll through your local nurseries can give you more ideas about what is available for your area. There are lots of plant lists, descriptions and pictures to help you decide which tree is the perfect fit for your yard.

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*Submitted by Amy Aldenderfer, Agent for Horticulture, Hardin County Cooperative Extension .*

# PROPER TREE PRUNING

 Cooperative Extension Service

**Thursday, October 17**

5:30 pm

Legacy Grove Park

*(On the front lawn beside the old helipad)*

This "in the field" class will cover the basics of proper tree pruning for trees in the lawn and landscape situations.

THANKS to Legacy Grove Park for allowing this class to take place on their property so that we can get hands-on for this event!



 **Tree Week**  
Clark County

Join Clark County Extension Horticulture Agent Carrie Spry to learn about:

**Registration is NOT required, just show up and participate.**

*Please watch our Facebook page in case of any inclement weather!! Any cancellations will be posted there or on the Tree Week Clark County page!*

- ✓ Proper pruning cuts
- ✓ What and when to prune
- ✓ What NOT to do
- ✓ When to leave it to the professionals

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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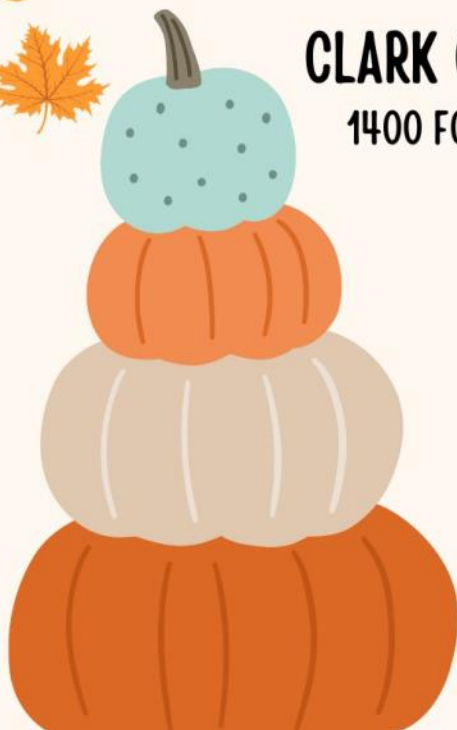
CLARK COUNTY EXTENSION  
**FALL FESTIVAL**

October 5 | 5PM - 7PM

*Free Fun  
for Everyone!*

Games - Food - Give Aways  
Crafts- Pumpkins- Photo Booth

CLARK COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
1400 FORTUNE DRIVE, WINCHESTER, KY 40391



# THEY'RE HERE!!!!



## *Stink Bug Invasions Have Begun!*

By Jonathan L. Larson, UK Entomology Extension Specialist

Brown marmorated stink bugs have begun their annual trek to get inside of your home. This yearly annoyance is something that parts of the state have been experiencing for a while, but other counties may have just started to deal with this. Here is a primer on what's happening and what you can do to try and curtail these stinky houseguests.



**Figure 1:** Brown marmorated stink bugs are speckled with brown, grey, and gold. They also have white bands on their antennae. When outside they can be pests of numerous crops. But, in the fall and winter they take on a new role as a home invading pest. (Photo: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln).

### What is a brown marmorated stink bug?

Brown marmorated stink bugs (also known as BMSB) are an invasive species as well as “true bugs”-meaning they have needle-like mouthparts. Overall, these pests are shield-like in shape and a little over ½ inch in length. They get their name from their mottled brown and grey coloration. BMSB may damage garden plants, such as tomatoes and peppers, as well as tree fruits, such as apples and peaches, amongst others.

### Why are they coming into my house?

Insects don't like the cold. Some insects are able to survive being frozen and others prevent being frozen by producing antifreeze compounds internally. Others try to escape the cold. In this group we have some species that migrate away from cold weather in order to survive. The most famous example of this is the monarch butterfly, which spends the winter in Mexico before they migrate north the following year. Then there are others that hide from the cold by finding somewhere that stays just warm enough to keep them safe. Usually this is done by hiding in leaf litter, getting under rocks, or burying into the soil. Other times, they might discover that humans have big, heated domiciles that they can easily sneak into!

BMSB falls into this last group. They overwinter as an adult and our homes mimic their natural hiding spaces with added amenities. Once they enter a home, they aren't looking to feed or mate. They are simply waiting until spring. They usually enter a sort of arrested phase where they don't move much. Occasionally though, on warm winter days, they will “wake up” and start crawling around the home.

Once winter is over, they leave their overwintering site in April and May to mate. The female lays eggs from May until August. After hatching, BMSB will develop through five nymphal stages before becoming an adult. Nymphs start out 1/8th inch and red and black; they become larger, darker, and browner as they develop. In September and October, adults begin searching for overwintering sites to start the cycle anew next year.



**Figure 2:** Brown marmorated stink bugs use our homes and other building to escape from exterior temperatures. Hundreds of them can invade a single home, a major annoyance for the humans also just trying to get through the winter months. (Photo: Leske, from Texas A&M [AgriLife Extension](#))

### What can I do?

The best thing to do is to start preparing in late summer.

- Inspect your home and check for cracks around windows, doors, pipes, and chimneys and seal openings with silicone or silicone-latex caulk. You can consult another [KPN](#) article for more information on pest-proofing and using insecticides on the outside of the home.
- Turning off exterior lights or switching to non-insect attracting bulbs will reduce stink bug interest in your structure.
- If stink bugs are found inside, simply vacuum up living specimens and dispose of them outside.
- Using bug bombs or other insecticides in the home will not help to deal with stink bugs and will only serve to expose the people inside to residues.



# Gus'

# QUICK TIPS

# for

# October october

- 1 Make it a point to be thorough in cleaning up any diseased plants. Many diseases over-winter in plant debris. Diseased perennials and annuals should be removed from the garden in the fall. Similarly, any trees that have had disease problems should have all the leaves raked and removed from the garden to lessen the chance of infection next year.
- 2 October is prime bulb planting time. Plant tulips, daffodils, crocus and other spring favorites now for a beautiful early display.
- 3 Feeding lawns is best done in the late fall. The end of this month and all of November are great times to fertilize your turf.....if you want to.
- 4 House plants should be treated as necessary for insects before coming indoors for the winter.
- 5 Store any pots or containers that may be damaged by freezing temperatures.
- 6 October is an excellent time to plant most trees and shrubs. Make sure to plant at the proper depth. The root flare of trees (the point where the roots branch off the trunk) should be at soil level.
- 7 Needled evergreens drop their old needles in the fall. Yellowing, browning, and subsequent needle fall is normal if it is only occurring in the interior of the plant.
- 8 Many insects find their way indoors in the fall. Most are not harmful, just annoying. Your vacuum cleaner is an easy way to get rid of an occasional insect.
- 9 Make notes of your gardening successes and failures for reference next year. It is never too early to start planning next year's garden.
- 10 After the first hard freeze, remove non-hardy annuals and cut back perennials to near ground level. The removed plant material can be placed in the compost bin.
- 11 Clean up around fruit trees by raking leaves and removing dried fruit. This will help control several diseases and insects.
- 12 Remove and burn bagworm cases from evergreens. The cases contain eggs which will hatch in spring to produce next year's population.
- 13 Many insects can also be found in dead leaves in and around the garden and landscape. Getting rid of those dead tomato vines, bean bushes, and squash vines and fruit will lessen the chance that these pests will be able to overwinter in the garden and so will lessen the incidence of pest problems in the spring.
- 14 Don't forget to water newer trees and shrubs during fall and winter. Continue watering (in the absence of adequate rainfall) until the soil freezes. Keep the soil under your woody plants moist, not wet.
- 15 A layer of mulch applied at this time of year can have many beneficial effects in the home landscape. Mulch moderates the normal freeze/thaw cycle than can force many herbaceous perennial plants out of the ground. Mulch will also help conserve soil moisture and will serve as an insulating agent during severely cold temperatures.

## RECIPE

### What's Cooking?



### Fall Harvest Salad

<b>5 cups</b> torn leaf lettuce	<b>4 teaspoons</b> lemon juice	<b>2 tablespoons</b> balsamic vinegar
<b>2 ½ cups</b> spinach leaves	<b>¼ cup</b> dried cranberries	<b>1 ½ teaspoons</b> Dijon mustard
<b>1 medium</b> red apple, chopped	<b>¼ cup</b> feta cheese crumbles	<b>2 teaspoons</b> Kentucky honey
<b>1 medium</b> pear, chopped	<b>½ cup</b> chopped walnuts	<b>½ teaspoon</b> salt
	<b>Dressing:</b>	
	<b>2 ½ tablespoons</b> olive oil	

**Combine** leaf lettuce and spinach leaves in a large salad bowl. **Mix** apples and pears with lemon juice in a small bowl and add to lettuce mixture.

**Prepare** dressing by whisking together the olive oil, balsamic vinegar, Dijon mustard, honey and salt; **pour** over lettuce mixture and **toss** to coat.

**Sprinkle** salad with cranberries, feta cheese and walnuts. **Serve** immediately.

**Yield:** 8, 1 cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 130 calories, 9 g fat, 1.5 g sat fat, 240 mg sodium, 12 g carbohydrates, 3 g fiber, 7 g sugar, 3 g protein.



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