Clark County Extension Service • 1400 Fortune Drive • Winchester, KY 40391 • 859-744-4682 • clark.ext@uky.edu • http://clark.ca.uky.edu/

A Word from the Agent . . .

Happy June my friends! There's been a lot going on and it's been so good to see so many of you! We got some new friends here and I'm glad you have joined us!

As we move in to the official summer season, I want to take a moment to do my annual reminder that I am here to help YOU with all things horticulture. Insect ID, plant disease troubleshooting and ID, plant ID, tree health and concerns, vegetable garden tips and advice, landscape plant problems and issues, lawns, and many more things. For any commercial growers out there, or anyone thinking about going commercial level, I can help you too! So, call me.

We have some great things coming up, be sure to check out this newsletter and watch our social media. Get your things ready to enter into the fair as well! I'll see y'all around the county!

Carrie Spry
Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture
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Clark / Powell

Beekeepers Association

Monday, June 9
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.

KEEPING YOU Informed

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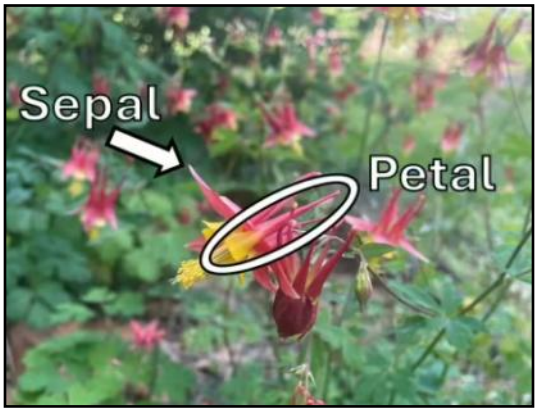
Columbine In the Garden: Beauty and Pollinators

By: Ken Johnson, Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension

Columbines are popular garden plants. They can be found in a variety of colors, ranging from red, pink, yellow, white, purple, and blue, and they can help fill the gap between early spring blooming plants like tulips and daffodils and the summer blooming plants that dominate our landscapes.

Columbine flowers are unique and instantly recognizable. They have five petals that extend upwards, forming a tubular spur and five petal-like sepals. The flowers will often nod towards the ground, but some species, and many hybrids, will have upright-facing flowers.



Columbine flowers have five petals that extend upwards, forming a tubular spur (oval) and five petal-like sepals (arrow).

Growing Columbine In the Garden

Columbines belong to the genus *Aquilegia*, which contains around 65 different species. One of the most popular columbines to grow is the native wild/Canadian/eastern red columbine, *A. canadensis*. It has yellow and red flowers. However, several other species and numerous hybrids are available.

Depending on the species, columbines can range in size from 6 inches to 3 feet tall. They prefer moist, well-drained soils in light to partial shade, but will grow in full sun if the soil is kept moist. However, they will not tolerate poorly drained soils. While they are perennials, they are often short-lived. However, some, like wild columbine, will readily self-seed and may spread throughout a landscape.

Columbine can also support a variety of wildlife. Not only are the flowers of columbine attractive to us humans, but they are also attractive to several different pollinators. The nectar is located deep in the spurs, so it is visited by pollinators with long tongues, like ruby-throated hummingbirds (columbine is often blooming as hummingbirds migrate north in the spring), bumble bees, and hawk moths.

Columbine is relatively pest-free; deer and rabbits may nibble on the foliage, but rarely feed heavily on it.

GROWING ORCHIDS

Cooperative Extension Service

Thursday, June 12

6:30 pm

Clark County Extension Service

Have you never been brave enough to try growing an orchid because you fear you will kill it? Are you one of the millions who have had an orchid, and then thought it died or that you killed it? You are not alone!!

Join us as we learn the tips and tricks to growing these beautiful timeless and classic flowers.

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Register:

859-744-4682

cynthia.carr@uky.edu

FREE!

We will have a few beautiful orchids as door prizes for REGISTERED participants!

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

Lexington, KY 40506

Watch for Spider Mites on Vegetables

By: Ric Bessin, Extension Entomologist

As we move into the summer, keep in mind that hot and dry conditions can lead to some specific pest problems. Two-spotted spider mite (Figure 1) is a common pest of many vegetable crops during prolonged hot and dry periods. This pest rapidly builds up in numbers during these conditions, and some pesticides used to control insect pests may reduce natural enemies that help to keep populations below economic levels. Mites can injure tomatoes, beans, muskmelons, eggplant, watermelons, and sweet corn. Infestations usually first occur at the edge of a field, typically near rank weed growth or dusty roads.

Symptoms & Life Cycle

Generally, mites feed on the undersides of leaves. They use their sucking mouthparts to remove sap from plants, giving upper leaf surfaces a speckled or mottled appearance. Leaves of mite-infested plants may turn yellow and dry up, and plants may lose vigor and die when infestations are severe. The undersides of affected leaves appear tan or yellow and have a crusty texture. Heavy infestations of the two-spotted spider mite produce fine webbing, which may cover entire plants. Mites can be identified by shaking leaves onto a sheet of white paper or by observing leaf areas with a hand lens. In hot dry weather, mites can cause plants to drop leaves in a few weeks. Fruit from severely infected plants are often unmarketable because defoliated plants tend to yield small, poor quality fruit. Under optimum conditions of high temperature and low humidity, the life cycle may be completed in 7 days. Females can lay 200 eggs.

Management

Miticides

Miticides are available for some vegetable crops but should be used only where justified. As with aphids, mark infestations with flags, and check them again every 3 or 4 days. Mites can easily be moved to infested plants on clothing, so always examine infested areas last during inspections. If the infestation is not spreading, treatment will not be required. Because mite populations are often localized, spot spraying may be effective. If you spray only a portion of the field, treat a buffer zone of 100 to 200 feet beyond the mite infested area.

Resistance to pesticides has increased the difficulty of controlling these pests. Because mites primarily occur on the undersides of leaves, applications of contact miticides need to be directed at both lower and upper leaf surfaces. Mite eggs are resistant to some miticides, so repeated applications are often necessary to control infestations. Two applications spaced a week apart may be necessary with some miticides. See, 2024-2025 *Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (ID-36), for a complete list of available miticides for vegetable crops and their restrictions.

Protect Natural Enemies

Natural enemies of mites are present in and around fields and usually can keep mite populations low. Many insecticides used for control of insect pests severely reduce numbers of beneficial insects that keep mite populations in check. Therefore, apply insecticides only as-needed, rather than at regularly scheduled intervals. When possible, select pesticides which will have the least impact on beneficial insects.

Manage Weeds

Management of weeds adjacent to and within fields should be done routinely and throughout the season. Grass should be mowed regularly. Spraying or mowing of weeds after growth has become rank may increase the movement of mites to cultivated plants.

Identifying and Taming Poison Ivy

Source: Shawn Wright, UK Extension Specialist

Poison ivy is a common perennial plant notorious for causing itchy rashes and allergic reactions in humans. It can be challenging to control due to its ability to spread rapidly and its resilience in various environments. With proper knowledge and effective strategies, you can manage and control poison ivy.

Learn how to identify poison ivy. It is a deciduous vine, shrub, and ground cover that typically grows in clusters of three leaflets, although leaf count may vary. Its leaves are glossy, oval-shaped, and may have serrated or smooth edges. The plant's color ranges from light green to reddish orange, depending on age and time of year.. Birds love the white, waxy poison ivy berries.

The pesky plant poses health risks through its oily resin called urushiol, which causes allergic reactions. Direct contact with any part of the plant—leaves, stems, roots or even the smoke from burning it—can trigger a rash, accompanied by itching, redness, swelling and blisters. The oil can remain on clothing, pets, or tools that touch it.. Avoid unprotected contact with poison ivy and take necessary precautions when attempting to control it. Reponses may range from mild to severe depending on the person, the amount of oil contacted, the method of contact (touching, inhalation from burning, etc.) and the time of year.

Here are some effective strategies for controlling poison ivy growth:

1. Wear protective clothing. When dealing with poison ivy, wear long sleeves, long pants, gloves and closed-toe shoes to minimize skin exposure. Eye protection and a hat may be necessary. Use disposable gloves and turn them inside out when removing them. You may need to use disposable garment such as those used by pesticide applicators, or make sure to wash clothing separately from other items to prevent urushiol transfer.
2. You can manually remove small infestations of poison ivy by digging up the roots with a garden trowel or gloved hands. Ensure you remove the entire plant, including the roots, to prevent regrowth.
3. For larger infestations or difficult-to-reach areas, you may find herbicides effective. These herbicides can be selective to broadleaf plants, or a non-selective herbicide such as those containing glyphosate. The use of glyphosate-based herbicide is recommended in late summer through fall when the plant is preparing for winter and sending reserves to the roots and the chemical is transported with it to kill the root. Carefully read and follow the instructions on the product label and consider using a targeted application method like a paintbrush to minimize damage to desirable plants in the same area.
4. Smothering it with a barrier. Try using layers of newspaper or cardboard covered with mulch or soil to block sunlight and prevent the plant from growing. Regularly monitor the covered area for any new sprouts. Unfortunately, poison ivy can travel as a vine for a considerable distance so this method will not usually be very effective.
5. Don’t be afraid to call in a professional. In severe cases, or if you are unsure about dealing with poison ivy yourself, consider seeking professional help from landscapers or pest control services experienced in poison ivy removal.

Now that you’ve removed the pest, you want to prevent it from regrowing. Remain vigilant with a few preventative measures:

1. Regularly inspect your property for new poison ivy growth, especially in areas where it is known to thrive, such as fence lines, wooded areas, neglected corners, and areas where birds roost.
2. When you spot new poison ivy plants, promptly remove them using the methods mentioned earlier to prevent their spread.
3. Educate yourself and others about poison ivy identification and precautions to avoid contact. Knowledge will empower you to take proactive measures and prevent accidental exposure.

Controlling poison ivy requires a combination of identification, protective measures, and effective removal strategies. By understanding the plant's characteristics and using appropriate methods, you can minimize the risks associated with poison ivy and regain control over your environment. Remember to prioritize safety and, when in doubt, seek professional assistance to ensure effective and long-lasting control.

Gus' QUICK TIPS for June

1. Prune evergreen shrubs now through late August. The longer you can tolerate leaving this year's growth on the plant, the more energy the plant will create equaling a healthier plant. This also means less of a chance of a second trimming.
2. Mound soil around potato plants to improve quality. We call this hilling.
3. Thin fruits on fruit trees when they reach the size of a dime. Leave one fruit for every 6- 8" of branch.
4. Mow grass at three inches for a healthier lawn. Leave clippings on lawn for a natural source of fertilizer.
5. Use chemical controls as a last resort. Patrol plants regularly for insects and hand pick before populations explode. If you must resort to chemicals avoid spraying during the heat of the day and ALWAYS read and follow label directions.
6. Remove flower buds from culinary herbs to keep them growing and productive.
7. Keep mower blades sharpened. Clean cuts make for less disease problems and easier mowing for you. And we are all about keeping things easy!
8. Mulch plants for the summer. It will conserve moisture in hot weather and prevent weeds from growing.
9. Keep gardens and beds well weeded. Weeds compete for light and nutrients, reducing yields. By preventing weeds from setting seed you will lessen weed problems in future years.
10. Pinch chrysanthemums back every few weeks until mid July. This will promote fuller bushier plants that are less likely to fall over when in bloom.
11. Start planning your fall vegetable plantings now. Many cool season crops like lettuce, peas, and cole crops will be finished from the spring planting and can be planted again in

RECIPE

Lean Green Lettuce Tacos

8 large lettuce leaves
1½ cup cooked brown rice
¾ cup fresh corn kernels
1 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed
1 tablespoon olive oil
¾ pound extra lean ground beef
1 small zucchini, chopped
1 ounce packet low-sodium taco seasoning
4 ounces low sodium tomato sauce
1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro
1 teaspoon lime juice
1 tomato, chopped
1 small red onion, chopped

Wash and **dry** lettuce leaves. **Prepare** rice according package directions. **Cut** corn off cob. **Drain** and **rinse** black beans. In a skillet, **heat** the oil to medium; **add** ground beef and begin to **cook**. When beef begins to brown, **add** zucchini, corn and black beans to skillet. Continue to **cook** until vegetables are tender and beef is done. Do not overcook. **Add** in taco seasoning and tomato sauce and heat through. **Add** cilantro and lime juice to the cooked rice. **Place** equal amounts of rice mixture and taco mixture into lettuce leaves. **Top** each taco with chopped tomato and onion.

Yield: 8 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 180 calories, 4.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 350 mg sodium, 23 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 12 g protein.

Kentucky Lettuce

Season: Early to late spring.

Nutrition Facts: Lettuces have 5 to 15 calories per cup depending on variety. Lettuce provides vitamins A and C, calcium and iron.

Selection: Choose crisp, brightly colored lettuce with no blemishes, slime, browning or wilted leaves.

Storage: Store washed and dried lettuce in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for three to five days, depending on the variety.

Preparation: Wash well and dry before using. Add dressing just before serving to prevent wilting. Lettuce is almost always eaten raw in salads or on sandwiches. Lettuce can also be steamed or added to soups at the end of cooking.