

Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE

September 2017



Cooperative Extension Service
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Having Problems in Your Landscape or Garden? Consider Soil Testing

If the pH of a soil is too high or too low, then plants can not take up nutrients, even if the nutrients are available in the soil.

High pH is a common problem for gardens and landscapes here in Madison County. Why does pH get high? People often apply lime to areas that do not need it. Lime increases the pH of soil. Wood ash can also increase the pH of the soil. It is not as strong as lime, but if you put your wood ash in the same spot continually over time it can effect the pH of the soil.

If you find that the pH of your soil is too high, sulfur may be able to bring it down.

If you are experiencing trouble with your garden or landscape, we do offer free soil testing for the residents of Madison County (up to 10 samples per home per calendar year).

Fall is a great time to soil sample! Turnaround time at the UK soil testing lab is less due to lower demand during this period of the year (results come back quicker).

For more information on how to test your soil, go to <https://madison.ca.uky.edu/content/horticulture> and on the left side, click on "Taking and Preparing Soil Samples for Testing". We need two cups of dry soil for each sample to be tested. This soil can be brought to our office in any clean container.



Bagworms Noticeable On Trees

Bagworms are becoming more visible on our trees and shrubs this time of year. These insects are small caterpillars that wrap themselves in pieces of the tree or shrub they inhabit. Needless to say, they blend in with their



surroundings very well. Their covering also protects them from any form of chemical control. In fact, chemical control will only be effective while the caterpillar is very small and has not yet covered itself, which is in June. The best thing to do this time of year is to pick them off the tree or

shrub. Eggs overwinter in the bags. If left, it will lead to a greater infestation next year. For more information on bagworms, go to <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef440>

Hello Horticulturalists!

Its hard to believe that Autumn is here. As we transition to fall and then to winter in our "yardens", be sure to clean up debris from this past year's plants. If left, it could lead to increased disease or insect problems next year. If you haven't already, make a map of where everything is currently planted to help you plan for next year. If you are like me, you will forget by next spring.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sears

Madison County Extension Agent for Horticulture

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Farm City Banquet

Be sure to attend this year's **Farm City Banquet** on Monday, November 6th, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Service Office, 230 Duncannon Lane, Richmond. This year's speaker is Tim Hughes, Deputy Executive Director of the Office of Agricultural Marketing and Product Promotion. He will present "Agriculture's Role in Growing Kentucky's Economy."

Tickets are \$10 and go on sale September 25th. You must purchase your ticket before the event, tickets **will not** be sold at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office at 230 Duncannon Lane in Richmond, Kentucky.

Get your tickets early and join us for this annual community event! Watch this newsletter for details, or if you have questions, call 859-623-4072.

Pumpkin Palooza... Save the Date!

Do you love pumpkins? Want to learn how to carve and decorate them? How about new pumpkin recipes? Then join us on **Thursday, October 12th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**, at the Madison County Extension Office! This program is meant for all ages. Please let us know if you would like to attend so we can have enough supplies. We will provide one pumpkin per household. Check next month's newsletter for more information. **Space is limited, so call 859-623-4072 to register.**



Be Sure to Check Out the Farmers' Markets!

Madison County Farmers' Market - Saturdays from 8 am to 12 noon at the Lowes Parking Lot in Richmond and Thursdays at Irvine McDowell Park on Lancaster Avenue from 10 am to 1 pm.

Berea Farmers' Market - Tuesdays from 3 to 6 pm (Note: beginning September 5th hours will change to 10 am to 1 pm) and Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm at 416 Chestnut Street in Berea.

Downtown Richmond Farmers' Market - Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm on First Street in Richmond.

****New Farmer's Market** Harvest 859 Farmers' Market** - Open Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm in the Richmond Kohl's Parking Lot, off the Robert Martin By-Pass, Richmond.

Mark Your Calendars...

Gardeners of Madison County

September 17, 4:00 pm *Note - meeting is a different day and location this month*

The Gardeners of Madison County will meet September 17 at 4:00 pm for the annual picnic. For details and instructions, please call Jerry Cook, (859) 200-7884. Directions will be provided in an e-mail to all members.

Madison County Beekeeper's Association

Monday, September 25, from 6 pm to 8 pm; Madison County Cooperative Extension Center

This group meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Please call Randy at 859- 376-0332 or Debbie at 859-200-0090 for more information.