

Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE
December 2024



Cooperative Extension Service
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Hello Horticulturalists!



It's hard to believe 2024 is nearly over! As the year wraps up, be sure to not just reflect on the challenges you've faced, but try to remember the everyday, ordinary miracles of each day.

I recently saw a neat craft. Find a pine cone. Then, on small pieces of paper, write what your hopes are for the new year. You could also write things that you are thankful for. The important thing is that you are taking time to reflect on something good or hopeful. Roll or fold the paper up and tuck it into the pinecone. Once your thoughts are tucked away, you can put the pinecone on your Christmas tree or even add it to your fire on a cold day.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sears
Amanda Sears

County Extension Agent for Horticulture
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Visit <https://madison.ca.uky.edu/> and click on "Program Areas" and then "Horticulture"

By taking time to reflect in a positive way, it can help recenter you in this hectic world.

Partridge in a Pear Tree!

Learn more about winter birds and make an ornament for your feathered friends!

Wednesday December 4, 2024 - 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Madison County Extension Office, 230 Duncannon Lane,
Richmond, KY 40475

We may not have partridges in our pear trees here in Madison County, but there are still plenty of birds to enjoy this time of year!

If you are interested in attending this class, let us know by calling 859-623-4072 or email amanda.sears@uky.edu.



Cooperative Extension Service

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Lexington, KY 40506

2025 Fruit and Vegetable (and Flowers too!) Conference

This premier, state-wide event annually brings together approximately 600 growers, researchers, and technical support providers. The conference is devoted to **fruit, vegetable, and cut flower** production, handling, harvesting, marketing, storage, and related topics.

The conference kicks-off with pre-conference events including fruit and vegetable

grower roundtable discussions with university specialists where the group debriefs on the production year, challenges are discussed and questions are answered. The main conference program has more than 20 different educational tracks with more than 70 speakers. The trade show offers more than 60 vendors featuring horticulture products and services.

Here is a link to the program: https://kyhortcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2025-FV-Conf-Program_10Nov2024.pdf

Link to registration: <https://kentuckyhorticulturecouncil.ticketspice.com/2025-kentucky-fruit-vegetable-conference-attendee-tickets>



Once You Get Your Poinsettia Home...

- Do not allow the leaves to touch a cold window.
- Place your plant in indirect sunlight, preferably in a location that receives about six hours of light a day.
- Avoid warm or cold drafts from radiators, air registers, open doors and windows.
- Water when the soil is dry.
- If there is foil around the pot, make sure there are drain holes for water to properly drain.



Berea Farmer's Market Moving Indoors for the Winter!

Berea Farmers' Market

Open Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm. The market has moved indoors for the winter. Their new location is 207 North Broadway Street in Berea. That is in Old Town between Berea Tourism and the Skating Rink.

<https://www.facebook.com/bereafarmersmarket>

Kentucky's 2025 Periodical Cicada Emergence



2024 was famous for the Double Brood Emergence, but Kentucky will see more cicada action in 2025. Nearly every county east of Ohio County in western Kentucky will see some periodical cicada activity. These amazing insects have been below-ground for 17 years, what can we expect when they start to emerge?

Things will start around mid-May...

Periodical cicada nymphs start moving out of the ground when soil temperatures reach about 64 degrees. This matches up with the spring bloom of irises. Then, Brood XIV will arrive!



May
Nymphs emerge from the ground



June
Adults sing, mate, and lay eggs



July
Periodical cicadas die out for the year, and will be gone for the next 17 years



Periodical cicada fast facts



There are three different species that will emerge in 2025

The cicadas that emerge next year were born in the year 2007

Cicadas "count" the seasons below ground to know when to emerge



Brood XIV is mostly concentrated in Kentucky, call them the "bourbon brood"!

Snakes, turkeys, foxes, and lots of wildlife devour them

Common questions and concerns about periodical cicadas



When millions or billions of bugs come out of the ground, people have questions! Luckily, there is very little to worry about with these insects but let's cover some specific FAQs.



17

Why seventeen years?
The long period between emergences means nothing only eats these cicadas.



Safe for pets?
Dogs and cats can safely consume cicadas in moderation.



Why so loud?!
Male cicadas sing together to attract females, the noise is a bug concert.



Managing dead cicadas?
Usually they can mulched or mowed into landscape.



Safe for people to eat?
If you don't have a shellfish allergy, eat them after cooking and in moderation



Where to find?
Most commonly found near oaks by streams, creeks, and rivers. Also by fruit trees.



Cicadas and new trees

Periodical cicadas lay their eggs in tree branches by cutting slits in the bark. Big, mature trees can handle this. New trees or fruit trees should be protected though. The best option is to purchase "cicada netting" which is gauged to exclude females from trees. Secure excess netting to the tree around the trunk where there are no branches. It will look a bit like a lollipop when finished.

