

# Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE  
April 2024



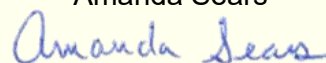
## Hello Horticulturalists!

I was scared to say it too early in case the weather turned, but hello spring!

As you start to work on your lawns, gardens and landscapes, be careful. Gardening is an excellent form of exercise, But that means it can be hard on your body. This video from Utah State Extension about safe gardening techniques is very helpful:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZanK34Evp-A>

Sincerely,  
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”

## Home Landscape Basics

Have you ever asked yourself...

- What should I plant?
- What's the difference in compost and mulch?
- Is my soil OK?
- What's the deal with native plants?
- How much do I need to water?

This program will cover these topics plus much more! We will not cover landscape design but focus on how to keep things alive and thriving. Each participant will receive a rain gauge and garden trowel.



**Class will be held on Tuesday April 16th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office.**

Seating is limited so if you would like to attend please let us know by calling 859-623-4072 or email [amanda.sears@uky.edu](mailto:amanda.sears@uky.edu).

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accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Farmers' Market Update

## Madison County Farmers' Market

The market will have a meeting on Thursday, April 11th, at 5:00 pm, at the Madison County Extension Office. To see updates on what the market is doing, check their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/MadisonKYFarmersMarket>

## Berea Farmers' Market

The market will be moving back to the Chestnut Street Pavilion, located at 635 Chestnut Street on Saturday April 6th. Hours for the month of April will be 10:00 to 1:00. <https://www.facebook.com/bereafarmersmarket>

## Commercial Growers



### Produce Best Practices Training

Training is via ZOOM and on Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. You need only attend one session. If you have questions or would like to register for one of the sessions, email Amanda Sears at [amanda.sears@uky.edu](mailto:amanda.sears@uky.edu).

### Scale Certification

Thursday April 11th at 4:00 to 6:30 pm at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office

### Homebased Microprocessing Workshop

Wednesday April 10, 2024 from 9:30 to 2:30 pm at the Madison County Extension Office  
To register call 859-257-1812 or go to [ukfcs.net/HBM](http://ukfcs.net/HBM)

## Wild Onion vs Wild Garlic

Can you tell the difference between the two plants in the pictures? If not, you are not alone! These two plants are very similar. One is wild garlic (bottom photo) and the other is wild onion (top photo). These plants can grow in a variety of areas, both shade and in the sun. They are common in the lawn but may also pop up in your flowerbeds.

While closely related (both are in the Lily plant family), there are a couple of ways to tell them apart. Wild onion has a flatter blade while garlic has hollow leaves that are more rounded and pointed at the top. So if you are unsure, cut the blade in half horizontally. If it appears hollow, then the plant is wild garlic. Garlic's leaves can also appear curved or curled. If you have a keen sense of smell you may also be able to detect the difference as each has an odor similar to its domesticated cousin.

For more information on these plants (including controls), go to <https://extension.psu.edu/wild-onion-and-wild-garlic>.



# What is the Difference in Cool Season and Warm Season Plants?

Cool season plants grow best with a relatively cool air temperature (50 to 60F). These plants are the first ones to be planted in the garden year and then again in the fall. They can be planted several weeks up to a couple of months before the last frost date (around the first week of May).

Plant cool season crops as soon as the soil is workable in the spring. If planted too late in spring, the heat of summer will reduce their quality. They may become bitter, have lower yields or bolt (form flowers and go to seed). Light frost will not injure them.

To plant cool season plants for the fall garden, they must be planted early enough to reach maturity before winter weather, although there are a few winter hardy vegetables. Some of the best quality vegetables are produced during fall's warm days and cool nights because they have a higher sugar content and better flavor.

Examples of cool season vegetables include asparagus, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, chives, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Swiss Chard, kale, leek, lettuce, onion, parsnips, peas, radishes, spinach, and turnips.

Warm season vegetables should be planted after the threat of frost has passed. These plants require warm soils and air temperature for growth and fruiting. They grow best with long warm days and mild nights.

The growing season in our area is too short to allow for some warm season crops to be directly seeded in the garden. For example, if you plant a tomato seed, it will take 60-80 days to reach maturity depending on the variety. To be able to get tomatoes earlier in the season they are started indoors and then transplanted to the garden once the danger of frost has passed.

Examples of warm season vegetables include beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, zucchini and summer squash, pumpkin and winter squash, sweet potato and watermelon.

<b>Earliest and Latest Planting Dates for Central Kentucky Gardens</b>		
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Earliest Date</b>	<b>Latest Date</b>
Asparagus (crowns)	Mar. 15	(Spring only)
Beans (snap)	Apr. 25	July 25
Broccoli (plants)	Apr. 5	Aug. 1
Cabbage	Mar. 25	July 15
Cauliflower (plants)	Apr. 5	July 20
Sweet Corn	Apr. 20	July 10
Cucumbers	May 1	July 1
Kale	Mar. 20	Aug. 1
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar. 25	Aug. 15
Muskmelons	May 10	July 1
Okra	May 10	July 15
Onions (sets)	Mar. 10	(Spring only)
Peas	Mar. 1	(Spring only)
Peppers (plants)	May 10	July 1
Irish Potatoes	Mar. 15	July 1
Sweet Potatoes	May 10	June 10
Pumpkins	May 5	June 15
Spinach	Mar. 1	Sept. 1
Summer Squash	May 10	Aug. 1
Tomatoes (plants)	May 5	June 15
Watermelons	May 5	July 1
Winter Squash	May 10	July 1



# Disease Control in Your Garden

Whether you grow vegetables or flowers, plant health is important. Don't wait until a problem pops up! A little extra planning and work now will go a long way towards a happy gardening season

## Before Planting

- Select a site that is sunny, drains well and has good air movement.
- Use raised beds to improve drainage.
- Remove or plow under old crop debris well before planting
- Practice crop rotation (yes, it can be done in small gardens, but it is a bit trickier)

## At Planting Time

- Plant at the correct time. Know if your plant prefers cool or warm weather.
- Check transplants before you buy them. Do not bring anything unhealthy into your garden.
- Space plants to assure air movement between plants.
- Put mulch around plants to conserve moisture and reduce competition from weeds.

## During the Growing Season

- Regularly inspect plants for disease.
- Control nearby weeds. They can harbor insects and disease organisms
- Don't overwater! Plants need one inch of water a week. If possible water at the base of the plant and not overhead. The longer foliage of plants stays wet the more likely it is to get sick.



## Name that Pest!

This class will look at insect and disease problems and steps to prevent and control them. Focus will be on lawn, landscape and garden pests.

Each participant will receive a magnifying glass and taught how to use it to identify problems in the garden..

**Class will be held on Monday May 6th from 10:00 to 11:30 am at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office.**

Seating is limited so if you would like to attend please let us know by calling 859-623-4072 or email [amanda.sears@uky.edu](mailto:amanda.sears@uky.edu).