

Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE
August 2024



Cooperative Extension Service
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●●● Madison County Cooperative Extension Presents: ●●●

FARM, HOME, & GARDEN

Expo



•Workshops
•Petting Zoo
•“Ask a Farmer” Station
•And much more!

Activities for
all ages!

Free food!

Learn more about Madison County Cooperative Extension through our Farm, Home, & Garden Expo! We will have educational activities, workshops on cooking, beef cutting/butchering, beekeeping, tending to animals, composting, and more! Free food will be available from 11AM-1PM for up to 1000 guests! We hope to see you for a day of family fun and education!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH FROM 10AM-2PM
AT THE MADISON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Hello Horticulturalists!

This was a tough year for gardeners! The heat and drought stressed our plants, leaving us with unproductive gardens and wilted flowers.

Finally (at the time I type this), we have gotten some rain. If you want one more shot at gardening, consider planting a fall garden. It is not too late to plant a few things.

Latest Dates to Plant Garden

Early August: beets, kale, kohlrabi, snow peas; transplant broccoli plants

Mid August: collards, lettuce, turnips

September: radishes, spinach

November: garlic

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”



Farmers' Markets Times and Locations

Madison County Farmers' Market

Open Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm White Oak Pond Christian Church located at 1238 Barnes Mill Road in Richmond and Thursdays at the Carter Building on EKU's campus from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm <https://www.facebook.com/MadisonKYFarmersMarket>

Berea Farmers' Market

No longer open on Tuesdays, visit the market on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at 635 Chestnut Street in Berea.

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

Dealing With Drought

Every year we go through a dry spell. It seems like it came early and stayed this summer. Below are some tips for dealing for dry weather.

- Don't encourage growth. No new plants, no fertilizing, no pruning, except to remove dead or dying branches.
- Manage mulch. Ensure all vegetable, flower, and landscape beds have a 4" layer of mulch to conserve water, keep soil temperatures cool, and prevent weeds from competing with desired plants.
- Remove weeds. Weeds compete with your plants for water.
- Allow your lawn to go dormant. It will turn brown. It is much less stressful for the turf to remain dormant than it is to be active and drought-stressed.
- Remove plants that are past their prime or stressed by disease or insects.
- Water slowly to prevent runoff. Consider installing an irrigation system, using soaker hoses, placing slow-release watering bags, drilling small holes in multiple five-gallon buckets or milk jugs and filling them with water. Water the entire root zone of the plant.
- Infrequent, deep watering promotes deeper roots and greater drought tolerance.
- Keep your vegetable garden just large enough to meet your needs.
- Trees and shrubs planted within the last 2 years will be most vulnerable to drought stress since their root system is not fully developed.
- Drought in the fall is particularly dangerous to evergreens like rhododendrons, boxwood, pine, and spruce that lose water throughout the winter as cold winds pull moisture from their needles and leaves. Once the ground freezes, the plant can not pull in any more water through its roots until the ground thaws. If the plant is already drought-stressed then needles and leaves may die. To prevent damage to evergreens ensure they receive an inch of water per week.



Cover Crops

Does your garden seem tired? After gardening in the same spot for many years, it may be time to rejuvenate the area by using cover crops.

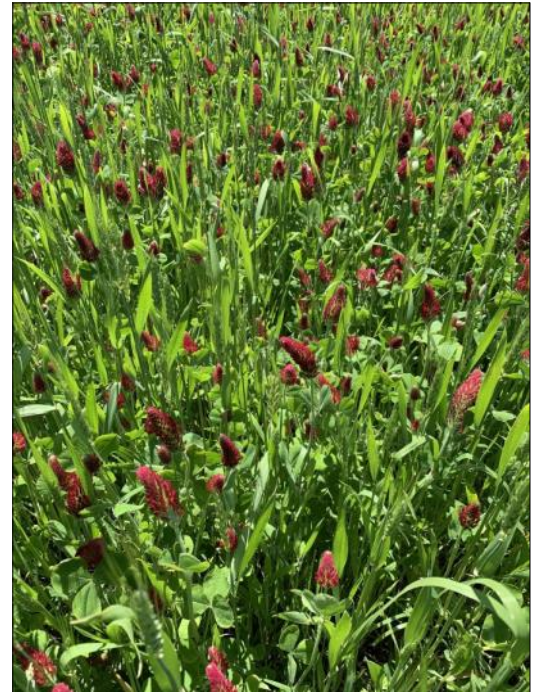
Cover crops, also called green manure, are an excellent tool for vegetable gardeners. They are grown not for harvest, but instead to improve the soil's physical structure and fertility.

There are a lot of cover crops to choose from, so look at each one's attributes to see which fits your needs. They can be broken down into two categories: legumes and non-legumes. Non-legumes such as grass, tend to establish easier than legumes. However legumes, add nitrogen to the soil.

Most cover crops are planted in the fall and allowed to grow until frost. If the cover crop begins to grow again as temperatures warm in late winter, they will need to be terminated. Once killed, they should be turned over with a rototiller or by hand. Allow a few weeks for the organic matter to decompose before planting.

For more information about cover crops check out:

- <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/HO/HO-324-W.pdf>
- <https://extension.umn.edu/managing-soil-and-nutrients/cover-crops-and-green-manures>



Crimson clover and wheat



In the Face of DISASTER

BLUEGRASS AREA FCS AGENTS PRESENT: ARE YOU PREPARED?
in recognition of National Preparedness Month



9/5/2024 5:00 PM

MADISON COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
230 Duncannon Lane
Richmond

Call to reserve your space:
859-623-4072

Cost: FREE
*Limited Emergency Kits available for \$20@

UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.



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BEGINNER CANNING DEMONSTRATION

Water bath and pressure canning

August 13th
5-7PM
Madison County Extension Office

Class is designed for beginners: learn the basics and differences of water bath and pressure canning.

SIGN UP NOW!
(859) 623-4072

for more info email Jessica at hunley.jessica@uky.edu

Season of the Itch: Chiggers Are Active

I have had chiggers three times this summer. Needless to say I have done a little research into these little pests!

For those of you who are unfamiliar with chiggers, they are the immature stage of certain mites that live in overgrown brushy or grassy areas, especially where small rodents are abundant. People pick up chiggers while in shady, humid areas near stream banks, under or around trees, or in berry thickets. Chiggers are more active in early summer but can persist much later.

Bites are usually located in areas with thinner skin or areas constricted by clothing. Classic sites are the ankles, behind knees, the groin area, the waistband area, in armpits, and around bra lines. The effects of being bitten may not appear for 12 to 24 hours after exposure to the chiggers. The afflicted area is usually inflamed and hardened, with a reddish hue. The center may have a red dot and be sunken; spots could be red and slightly raised. The bite may also develop a large pustule that can pop like a blister. Different individuals may react differently to bites from parasites. Chigger symptoms last 1 to 3 weeks, depending on the person.

Chiggers are almost imperceptible to the naked eye. It's extremely unlikely you will see them climb onto your body or even observe them feeding. A common misconception is that chiggers "burrow" into the skin and become an internal parasite. In truth, they are on the outside of your body pumping "saliva" into you. They feed on digested skin cells. When chiggers are on their host, they will insert a tube-like mouthpart into the skin. Then, they will pump in their saliva which will dissolve the nearby skin cells. After this, they will slurp up the resulting skin slurry. This can happen over the course of 2 to 4 days.

Avoid overgrown areas and stick to managed trails. Wearing longer pants and sleeves can also reduce chigger bites, especially if the pants are tucked into your socks. Finally, when you get inside, after an outdoor excursion, take a moment to wipe your legs down with a towel or take a shower to try and dislodge chiggers before they bite.

Using insect repellents on your skin can also protect you from chiggers. Skin-based repellents include DEET, picaridin, IR-3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus. These also help to repel ticks and mosquitoes. Depending on the percentage of the active ingredient in the product and the amount of time you plan to spend outside, you may need to make multiple applications to ensure protection.

If you do get chigger bites, they can be treated with over-the-counter medication (such as hydrocortisone, calamine lotion, etc.) or you may want to consult with a medical professional about prescriptions to help with relief.

Long-term solutions to chiggers include brush removal, mowing, and landscape management to cut down on suitable habitats. Insecticides won't provide permanent control over chiggers but can help to reduce populations quickly so you can get back outside and work or enjoy your landscape.

For more information on chiggers and their control, go to:

<https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2018/06/19/chiggers/>



Bites are usually seen on the ankle and lower leg. (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK).