

Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE
January 2025



Cooperative Extension Service
Madison County
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Hello Horticulturalists!

While the days are short and cold, use this time to start planning your garden and landscape. If you had problems last year, think about ways to make things better (and easier on yourself) this season.

And when we do have that occasional sunny day, be sure to get out and soak it in! When exposed to sunlight, the skin makes a compound that is converted to vitamin D in the liver and kidneys. This vitamin is essential for good health.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sears

County Extension Agent for Horticulture

amanda.sears@uky.edu

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

What are Baby Carrots?

The "baby carrots" we purchase bagged at the grocery store are actually peeled, shaped and polished slices. The shaping process was invented in the late 1980's by a California farmer as a way of making twisted and misshapen carrots more appealing.



Carrot material leftover after shaping is used for juice or animal feed.

As these carrots begin to dry out, they will take on a whitish appearance. They are still safe to eat.

Seed Swap

Thursday, February 27th ~ 10 am to 12 noon

Interested in learning more about saving seeds? Come to the Seed Swap! We will have a lot of information to share about seed saving and gardening.

If you have seeds to share, great! But if not, that's OK, come anyway! We should have plenty for everyone.

Acceptable seeds are those saved from open-pollinated varieties of plants or any unused seed from packets. If you have questions about types of seeds to bring, contact Amanda Sears, 859-623-4072 or Amanda.sears@uky.edu.

If you plan to attend the Seed Swap, let us know by calling 859-623-4072 so we can know how many handouts to prepare!



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Don't Top Your Trees!

When a tree grows too large for the space it is in, people often feel it should be topped. Topping is the drastic removal or cutting back of large branches in mature trees. These cuts often stimulate new vigorous growth. At one time, this was thought to be an acceptable way to reduce the height of a tree. Researchers have now found that this practice is extremely bad for the tree.

Topping is injurious to trees in many ways. By removing a major portion of the canopy, the delicate balance between foliage and the remainder of the tree is upset. Through the process of photosynthesis, leaves manufacture chemical energy required by the tree for growth and maintenance of branches, trunk, and roots. With large portions of leaf surface area removed, a tree's energy producing potential is severely reduced. Large reserves of stored energy in many stems and branches also are lost when trees are topped. These imbalances can lead directly to decline and death or can make the trees susceptible to invasion by canker and root rot diseases.



Topped trees frequently produce vigorous regrowth, called water sprouts, just below the pruning wound. These rapidly growing shoots can have very weak attachment to the remaining stub, making topped trees highly vulnerable to wind and ice damage.

So, what can you do if you have a tree that has outgrown its space? Thin out selected branches by removing them back to their point of origin, or prune to a side branch that is large.

Do your research about a tree before it is planted. Find out what it's size will be when mature. While still young, train and prune the tree as needed. If you feel the only solution to a tree that is outgrown its space is to top it, then the best approach would be to remove the tree altogether.

 Cooperative
Extension Service

BLACK

EYED PEAS



Black-eyed peas are traditionally eaten on New Year's Day for good luck! They are high in fiber, which lowers cholesterol and aids digestion. Opt for dried beans or low/no sodium canned varieties, ensuring they are dry, firm, clean, uniform in color, and not shriveled.

#UKYEXTENSION

Source: *Healthy Choices for Healthy Families, Jan/Feb 2025*
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Farmers' Market Updates!

Berea Farmers' Market

The market will reopen on Saturday January 11th and is located at 207 North Broadway Street in Berea between Tourism and the Skating Rink. Market is open Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm. <https://www.facebook.com/bereafarmersmarket>

Madison County Farmer's Market

Interested in joining the market? There will be a general meeting on February 10th from 6 to 8 pm at the Madison County Extension Office.

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

2025

48th Annual Kentucky Turf & Landscape Management Short Course

February 18-20, 2025

Hardin County Extension Center
111 Opportunity Way
Elizabethtown, KY



Kentucky Turf & Landscape Management Short Course

This program provides two full days of comprehensive turfgrass and landscape management education and is appropriate for anyone interested in turf, including professionals, Extension agents, and homeowners.

Presentations will be provided by faculty in the University of Kentucky's turfgrass program, other university programs, and industry representatives, and cover all aspects of turfgrass management for lawns, golf courses, sports fields, and other applications.

For more information, go to <https://kentuckyhorticulturecouncil.ticketspice.com/2025-ky-turf-landscape-management-short-course>

Homebased Microprocessing Workshop

Homebased Microprocessors are farmers who grow and harvest produce to use in their value-added products. Homebased microprocessors are required to grow a predominant ingredient in the products they make. The first step to becoming certified as a homebased microprocessor is to attend a Homebased Microprocessor (HBM) workshop presented by the University of Kentucky.

\$50
Fee

January 22, 2025
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Madison County Extension Office
230 Duncannon Lane
Richmond, KY 40475

Virtual Option Available

To register & for additional
dates/locations:
ukfcs.net/HBM

859-623-4072

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the UK Office of Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or

US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.



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**Applications due
February 1**



KY Farm Launch Beginning Farmer Training Program

Launch into your farming journey with accelerated, hands-on farm training, business planning, and customized mentorship

Applications are open now for our 9-month, in-person training program that prepares beginning farmers for sustainable, commercial production.

Interested?

Visit our website for more details & apply:
<https://bfrdp.ca.uky.edu/>

Houseplant Tips

Be sure to turn your houseplants periodically so they maintain their shape. If you don't, then the plant will noticeable grow on the side exposed to more sunlight more.

House plants and holiday gift plants should not be placed close to any heat source; appliances, space heaters, heating ducts, etc.

Check all house plants closely for insect infestations. Quarantine gift plants until you determine that they are not harboring any pests.