

Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE
June 2025



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Hello Horticulturalists!

It's been a stormy spring.

I am from London, Kentucky. Thankfully my family was safe through the storms. But seeing the sheer destruction to the area, as well as the loss of life, was really difficult. I found myself checking news and Facebook constantly to see if there were any updates.

I think a lot of us are desensitized to storm warnings (and probably news in general). But don't let your guard down! Be weather aware! Check out this website for more information on preparing for tornadoes: www.ready.gov/tornadoes.

Be vigilant and look out for one another!

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"

Looking for local food and products?

Check out the farmer's markets! We are fortunate enough to have two markets here in Madison County.

Berea Farmers' Market

The market is open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays at the Chestnut Street Pavilion at 635 Chestnut Street in Berea. For more information, check their website at <https://www.bereafarmersmarket.org/> or their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bereafarmersmarket>

Madison County Farmers' Market

Every Saturday at White Oak Pond Church from 9 am to 1 pm. Tuesdays from 5 to 8 pm at Tasty Tuesdays at Irvine McDowell Park in Richmond and every Thursday starting June 12 on the ECU campus at the A.B Carter Building across from the stadium 9 am to 1 pm. For more info, check out their website at mc-fm.org. You can also find them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MadisonKYFarmersMarket>

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Cicadas are Here, Now What?

The cicadas have arrived! These insects have lived underground for seventeen years. They have finally emerged to find a mate! The sound we are now hearing is part of the mating ritual of this insect. First, the males sing to recruit other males to a tree. Then the males will sing together in an ear blasting chorus that attracts the females. Finally, when romance is in the air, the male will sing a courtship song to a special female cicada. While she cannot sing, she will click her wings to accept him as a mate. The females will lay eggs in the small branches of trees and shrubs. A couple of months later those branches will break and the immature insect will fall and burrow underground. There it will feed on the sap of tree roots for seventeen years.

The adults only live four to six weeks, so our cicada emergence will probably end around the end of June.

Some interesting facts about cicadas:

- Some periodic cicadas have a mutation that gives them blue eyes instead of the usual red. All periodic cicadas are white when they emerge from their exoskeleton. Their white body paired with their red eyes, some people may mistake them for “albino cicadas”. Eventually they will darken and harden. Contrary to the internet rumors, the University of Kentucky is not collecting either of these nor are they paying a bounty for them!



There are three separate species of periodic cicada emerging this year. Each look and sound differently.

different species of seventeen-year cicadas emerging. Each look and sound different. The pharaoh cicada got its name because it sounds like someone saying the word “pharaoh”. The dwarf periodical cicada are smaller than the pharaoh and have a black abdomen. Their call is a bursting noise followed by some clicks. The third cicada is nicknamed the little 17 year cicada. It is similar in size to the dwarf and also has a black abdomen. However they have thin orange stripes and make a ticking call.



Once the immature cicadas hatch and drop to the ground, the branch they were laid in will break. This is called flagging.

- Whether it’s a periodical or annual variety, cicadas do not bite and cannot harm people, either as nymphs (immatures) or adults. It’s safe to pick them up or to get up and take a closer look. They can “sing” in your hands though, which can be very loud!

- Sometimes people mistakenly call cicadas katydids or locusts, but those are two different types of insects.

- There are actually three



Cicada on my hand