

# Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE  
July 2025

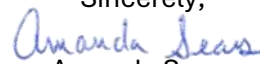


## Hello Horticulturalists!

As we turn towards the second half of the summer, consider planting a fall garden. Cool season plants such as lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, kale and spinach can be planted now. Some of the best quality vegetables are produced during fall's warm days and cooler nights.

Another option is to plant a cover crop. 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. For more information on cover crops, check out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgqBzNq21Ws>

Sincerely,

  
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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. \$10 Sprout Vouchers are available to those under 18 through October. Follow their Facebook page for distribution dates & other updates. <https://www.facebook.com/bereafarmersmarket>; website:

### Madison County Farmers' Market

Saturdays at White Oak Pond Church from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; Tuesdays from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at Tasty Tuesdays at Irvine McDowell Park in Richmond; Thursdays on ECU's campus at the A.B Carter Building across from the stadium 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The market offers a kid's event the second Saturday of each month, a basket giveaway the last Saturday of the month and there is music once a month. For more info, check out their website at [mc-fm.org](http://mc-fm.org). You can also find them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MadisonKYFarmersMarket>

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## Did your hydrangeas bloom this year?

One common reason people have trouble with their hydrangeas is that they are being pruned at the wrong time of year. There are four main types of hydrangeas: mophead, oakleaf, paniculata and snowball. They each have different requirements.

Mopheads are easy to identify as they bloom pink, blue or purple. Oakleaf hydrangeas, the second type of hydrangeas are also easy because they have a distinctive oak-like leaf and pointed, rather than rounded blooms. They always bloom white. These first two types of hydrangeas are pruned the same way. They bloom on last year's wood, which means that the flower buds

are formed in August to bloom the next summer, usually June and July. So, pruning in the fall, early spring or late summer can take off flower buds. The best time to prune this type of hydrangea is before August just as flowers are fading in mid to late July.

Another type is called paniculata. It is the largest of the hydrangeas and is often pruned to grow as a small tree. The blooms are creamy white and fade to a greenish brown. This type is also called Pee Gee. The snowball flowers in the spring and starts out as a green flower and gradually turns into a white bloom. Both of these can be pruned in the fall, winter or spring because they flower on the new stems. The only time they should not be pruned is in the summer, just before they bloom.

The last big reason I can think of that you may not have blooms is the cold temperatures we had this winter. Flower buds can get frozen in extremely cold weather, especially with mopheads and oakleaves. The plant will survive but not the flower buds.

For more information, check out: <https://extension.psu.edu/why-doesnt-my-hydrangea-bloom>



### support you local farmer with kentucky grown flowers

#### Purchasing local flowers:

- supports your local flower farmer's livelihood
- keeps revenue in the community
- encourages sustainable farming practices
- contributes to a beneficial environment for pollinators (& you!)
- provides a feel-good endorphin from purchasing a product locally



# It looks like there's powder on the leaves!

That powdery look on your shrubs and ornamental plants is called powdery mildew. I've spoken to several people recently who have been experiencing this fungal infection in their landscape.

Powdery mildew is a common fungal disease that can attack a wide range of plants. There are thousands of species of powdery mildew fungi; most are very specific to their plant host, meaning powdery mildew of lilac will not spread to phlox or other annual and perennial flowers. Most commonly grown annual and perennial flowering plants, grasses, shrubs and trees can be affected.

Powdery mildew can take several forms:

- Infected plants may appear to be sprinkled with baby powder or covered in cobwebs.
- White to gray, powdery spots, blotches or felt-like mats on leaves, stems and buds.
- In some plants, leaves turn purple to red around the infection.
- If young leaves are infected, they may become distorted or twisted as they grow.
- Severely infected leaves may turn yellow and fall off.
- Tiny, round, orange to black balls may form within white fungal mats often at the end of the growing season.



Though it looks unsightly, in most cases the plant will not be harmed by the infection. If you are experiencing an issue with powdery mildew, I'd leave the plant alone until it naturally fades this fall, then remove any leaves (or plant if it is an annual). If leaves are left in the area, it may lead to infection the following year.

Do not compost the diseased material.

This disease is most severe on plants or plant parts in shaded areas with poor air movement. Cultural practices aimed at alleviating high humidity can help prevent the disease or decrease its severity. Such practices involve increasing air circulation and light penetration by pruning and thinning plants to reduce overcrowding in the landscape. When selecting new plants, choose those that have resistance to this disease.

For more information:

- <https://extension.umn.edu/plant-diseases/powdery-mildew-trees-and-shrubs>
- <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/bp/bp-5-w.pdf>



# Are Your Trees in Shock?

When woody plants are moved from one site to another, they undergo stress. Woody plants may take as long as three to five years to establish in their new location and to recover from the stress of being transplanted. Transplants are not considered established until primary roots expand into the surrounding soil.

As trees and shrubs acclimate to their new surroundings, they may exhibit some symptoms of stress such as premature fall color, thinning of the canopy, tip burn of the leaf, leaf spots, dieback of branches, and general decline.

There are some ways to avoid and lessen transplant shock.

## Before planting

- Choose a planting location suitable for the type of plant. Does the plant prefer full sun or partial shade? Does it require good drainage or can it tolerate wet conditions
- Only choose healthy plants. If there is a problem at the nursery, it most likely will not get better once planted at your house
- Larger trees and shrubs take more time to acclimate than smaller specimens.
- Make sure the root ball is big enough to support the amount of top growth present. The larger the tree or shrub, the bigger the root system needs to be.



Branch dieback



Leaf scorch

## At Planting

- Dig a big enough hole. It should be three times the width of the root ball. The hole should be no deeper than the soil they were growing in.
- Do not use just peat moss or potting soil when filling in the hole when planting. Instead use the native soil. I know we have a lot of clay in our soils. But if you use something more porous than the surrounding soil, it will effect how water drains in the area.
- Remove the burlap or wires. Even biodegradable burlap takes a while to break down. If you cannot remove them completely, then at least pull them back so that the roots will be able to grow freely.

## After Planting

- Trees with thin bark, such as cherry and maple, benefit from being wrapped in the winter. This will prevent their bark from cracking.
- Use a hardwood mulch around trees. This conserves moisture and helps to avoid mower and string trimmer injury.
- Water correctly. Dig into the soil with a trowel, hand shovel, or screwdriver and check your soil at a depth of about six inches. Soil that is moist or damp to the touch is fine. If the soil feels dry, water the plant thoroughly. For more information on irrigating trees, go to <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/watering-trees-and-shrubs/>
- Use fertilizer correctly. Do not over fertilize, which can lead to too much growth above ground and not enough underground. Do not fertilize after mid-July, as this may affect winter hardiness.
- Staking is usually not needed. In fact, trunk diameter and overall strength increases when plants are allowed to move with the breeze. As a result, roots develop more deeply and more rapidly.

For more information on transplant shock, go to <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-or-w-19.pdf>