

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS & NEWSLETTER

Kristin's Comments



Happy Gardening!

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Welcome to the Summer 2024 Edition of the Horticulture Happenings Newsletter! Here's a quick preview of what you'll find in this edition:

- Get gardening information delivered straight to your ears with the Sunshine Gardening Podcast! To see the most recent episodes and for more details on how to subscribe to The Sunshine Gardening Podcast, please look at page 2.
- Popularly planted crops like tomatoes and peppers are susceptible to common diseases throughout the gardening season. Check out page 3 to learn sustainable disease management practices for solanaceous crops in the home garden.
- Please mark your calendars to participate in our Pollinator Photo Contest! Discover the importance of native plants and how they attract native pollinators at the Warren County Extension Master Gardener's Certified Monarch Waystation and pollinator gardens! Check out page 4 to see how to enter this contest!
- Make the most of your garden with our monthly calendars! June's recommendations are on page 5, and July's are on page 6.
- An exciting new program for cut flower growers, The Business of Blooms Short Course, is scheduled for Monday, July 8th! To read more about this program and how to register, check out page 7.
- Lastly, enjoy the vegetable gardening season with the Plate it Up! Kentucky Proud recipe for Red Potato Salad with Creamy Pesto Dressing!



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The Sunshine Gardening Podcast with Host Kristin Hildabrand

Warren County Horticulture Extension Agent Kristin Hildabrand hosts the Sunshine Gardening Podcast. In each episode, Kristin interviews other Extension professionals and experts in their field on various topics related to gardening in Kentucky, such as vegetable gardening, flower gardening, insect pests, houseplants, and much more! Each segment lasts about 20 to 30 minutes in length.

Some of the most recent episodes include:

- E32- Effective Ways to Controlling Moles & Other Pesky Critters with Dr. Matthew Springer, UK Wildlife Specialist
- E31- How to Attract More Hummingbirds to Your Kentucky Garden with Annette Heisdorffer, Daviess County HORT Agent
- E30- A Comprehensive Guide on How to Make the Most of the SOW Garden App with Dr. Rick Durham
- E29- How to Grow Guide for Dazzling Dahlias in Kentucky with Dennis Morgeson, Washington County HORT Extension Agent
- E28- The Ultimate Guide to Growing Microgreens at Home with Ray Tackett, Bourbon County HORT Extension Agent
- E27- Unlock Successful Gardening with our Horticulture Webinar on Wednesdays with Kelly Jackson, Christian County HORT Agent

Search for "The Sunshine Gardening Podcast" on your preferred podcast platform to learn what information is covered in the podcast. You can find it on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, TuneIn, Deezer, Spotify, iHeart Radio, and Amazon Music. Remember to subscribe or follow to receive notifications whenever a new episode is published.

If you're a fan of The Sunshine Gardening Podcast, we'd love to hear from you! Leaving a review on your preferred podcast platform helps us expand our reach and grow our community. So, please consider leaving a review. We're also open to hearing from you if you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions for future episodes.

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here:**





Sustainable Disease Management for Solanaceous Crops in the Home Garden

SOURCE: PPFS-VG-21, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY EXTENSION

Solanaceous crops, including tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and potatoes, maybe the most popular garden plants, but many diseases commonly affect them. Early blight and Septoria leaf spot occur each year under even the best disease management, and bacterial spot may be spread easily under rainy conditions. A combination of approaches, such as resistant varieties, record-keeping, and cultural and chemical management, is the best practice for minimizing vegetable garden diseases.

When planting tomato and pepper plants, choose a site with well-drained soil and full sun. Transplant the plants deeply after the risk of frost has passed. Use moist soil for potato seed pieces and avoid storing untreated, cut potato seed pieces. Water the transplants and apply about an inch of compost to maintain soil moisture. Stake or cage plants to reduce soil contact and increase airflow. Avoid staking plants while they are wet to reduce plant injury.

Vegetable seed catalogs readily list varieties with resistance to different diseases. Choose resistant varieties based on diseases that have been problems or are common for the region. Early blight is arguably the most common disease of tomatoes in Kentucky. Tomatoes with some resistance to early blight are ‘Matt’s Wild Cherry’ and ‘Sun Gold’ (small cherry tomatoes), ‘Juliet’ and ‘Plum Regal’ (Roma size), and ‘Mountain Fresh Plus’ and ‘Iron Lady’ (slicing size). Try mid- and later-maturing potato varieties, such as ‘Allegany’ and ‘Castile,’ for their tolerance to early blight. Pepper varieties with resistance to multiple races of the bacterial spot pathogen are ‘Allegiance,’ ‘Hunter,’ ‘Islamorada,’ ‘Naples,’ ‘Regiment,’ and ‘Vanguard,’ among others.

The following table focuses on cultural practices aimed at reducing the risk of developing diseases of solanaceous crops. For optimal disease management, cultural practices should be implemented in each plant growth stage, regardless of the fungicide program. Many cultural practices target multiple diseases, as shown in the table. Growers may consider the fungicides in the right-hand column if disease pressure is high. Organic fungicides (OMRI-approved) are marked with an asterisk (*). All fungicides require excellent coverage of plant tissue and recurrent applications for maximum effectiveness. Most fungicides should be reapplied for best results when residues are no longer visible or on a 10-day interval, whichever occurs sooner.

To view the disease management guide for solanaceous crops, check out this QR code:





Pollinator Photo Contest

This summer is the perfect time to level up your photography game! Get ready to immerse yourself in the beauty of native pollinators at the Monarch Waystation and Pollinator Habitat Gardens in Bowling Green, KY. You will want to take advantage of the opportunity to capture stunning images and participate in the thrilling pollinator photo contest. Check out the flyer below to learn all about the contest rules and how to enter. Get your cameras ready - it will be a fantastic experience!



Pollinator Photo Contest

Join us in celebrating the diverse pollinators that frequent the Warren County Extension Office Master Gardener Monarch Waystation! Share your captivating photos of any pollinators, such as bees, beetles, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, wasps, and more, that you have spotted at the Waystation, and get a chance to win an exciting prize!



Submission guidelines:

- Photos must be taken at the Monarch Waystation and Pollinator Patches located at 5162 Russellville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101, between June 1-September 30, 2024.
- Please do not move caterpillars or butterflies since they are in their natural habitat.
- Participants may enter the contest with up to 3 photos in one of these categories: Youth (under age 18), Adult, and Experienced Photographer. Please note the name and category with each entry.
- Photos should be submitted in high-quality (300 DPI or greater) electronic format (jpg or png files) electronically at warren.ext@uky.edu OR on Facebook using #WarrenCoExtensionMasterGardeners by September 30, 2024.
- Winning photos may be used in future Extension & Master Gardener promotions, and the photographer will be credited.
- Participation in this contest implies full acceptance of all rules.

**Prizes will be awarded to 1st place winners and an overall winner.*

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1st Place Winner
Wayne Garmon, 2023



2nd Place Winner
Kenna Graham, 2023



June Garden Calendar

SOURCE: MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

- Thin overloaded fruit trees to receive more extensive and healthier fruits come harvest time. Thinned fruits should be a hands-width apart.
- Renovate strawberries after harvest. Mow the rows, thin out excess plants, remove weeds, fertilize, and apply mulch for weed control.
- Summer fruiting raspberries are ripening now.
- Begin control for apple maggot flies. The best control is preventing females from laying eggs by hanging red-painted balls coated with tanglefoot or another sticky substance.
- Spray peach tree trunks and other stone fruits for peach tree borers.
- Prune and train young fruit trees to eliminate poorly positioned branches and establish proper crotch angles.
- Cucurbits, tomatoes, and peppers may have pollination issues during high heat. Tomatoes and peppers cannot set fruit when temperatures exceed 90oF. During high humidity, cucurbit pollen becomes sticky and does not transfer well.
- Flea beetles may be found on eggplants and other plants.
- Warm-season vegetables that can still be planted through June include basil, beans, cucumbers, edamame, eggplants, melons, okra, peppers, summer squash, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes.
- As cucumber and squash plants begin to vine, look for cucumber beetles and bugs. Squash adults emerge this month and lay eggs on the lower part of the stem.
- If mature enough, stop harvesting asparagus when the spears become thin. After the last harvest, the plants can be fertilized with nitrogen. Apply .10 lbs of a balanced fertilizer per 100 sqft.
- Please treat the corn earworm shown at the bottom of the page by applying a couple of drops of mineral oil to the base of the silk as it appears. BT spray will also work while the silks are young; however, it becomes ineffective once the earworm is in the ear.
- Watch for bagworms feeding on plants, especially junipers and arborvitae. Collect and dispose of them.
- Japanese beetles are usually active at this time. Pheromone traps may attract more beetles than they can trap, causing damage to be worse. A more practical control method is to hand-collect adults early in the morning when the insects are still sluggish and deposit them in soapy water.





July Garden Calendar

SOURCE: MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

- Blossom-end rot of tomatoes, peppers, and cucurbits occurs when soil moisture is inconsistent. To ensure even soil moisture, apply a 2–3-inch layer of mulch.
- Dig up potatoes when the foliage dies down. Plant fall potatoes by mid-July.
- You can quickly sow broccoli, cabbage, and carrot seeds starting mid-July. Keep well-watered in times of heat, and give shade on the hottest days.
- Sweet corn is ripe when the silks turn brown.
- Several fungal and bacterial diseases can damage tomatoes: septoria leaf spot, early blight, fusarium wilt, verticillium wilt, late blight, and mosaic virus—also, scout for tomato hornworms, which may also be found munching on foliage.
- Some abiotic problems of tomatoes, such as heat stress, may be controlled, but others, such as sunscald, can be prevented.
- Cucurbits, tomatoes, and peppers may have pollination issues this month. Tomatoes and peppers cannot set fruit when temperatures exceed 90 degrees F. During high humidity, cucurbit pollen becomes sticky and does not transfer well.
- Be sure to keep cucumbers well-watered, as drought conditions can cause bitter fruit.
- Harvest onions and garlic when the lower third of the foliage has turned yellow/brown. Let them cure for at least two weeks before consuming them.
- Squash vine borer adults may still be emerging this month. Damage may also start showing up this month.
- Cover grape clusters loosely with netting to provide some protection from animals and birds.
- Prune out and destroy old fruiting canes of raspberries after harvesting. Leave canes that did not fruit that year as they will fruit the following year.
- Blackberries and thornless blackberries are ripening now.
- Early peach varieties are ripening now.
- Peachtree borer adult moths may be active during this time.
- Cucumber beetles can transmit bacterial wilt to other cucurbits, especially young plants, which can die quickly.





New! The Business of Blooms Short Course

We are excited to announce the one-day short course, The Business of Blooms Short Course for Cut Flower Growers, on Monday, July 8th, at the Hardin County Extension Office in Elizabethtown, KY. Whether you are new to floral design, looking to take your design skills to the next level, or thinking of trying event and wedding design, this one-day workshop will have something for you. Presentations will cover topics like:

- Photography For Flowers & Floral Design
- Sustainable Design & Marketing
- Contracts & Proposals
- Floral Design Basics
- Tips & Tricks of Advanced Design.

Schedule

*All times are listed in Eastern Time (ET)

9:00 - 10 AM ET Registration & Trade Show

10:00 AM - 12 Noon Short Course Sessions 1 & 2

1. TBD
2. Photography For Flowers & Floral Design

12 Noon - 1 PM Lunch

You can stay onsite for lunch or leave to get your own. If you plan to stay onsite, please purchase a lunch ticket.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Short Course Sessions 3 & 4

3. Contracts & Proposals
4. Sustainable Design & Marketing

2:30 - 3:00 PM Break & Trade Show

3:00 - 3:45 PM Concurrent Sessions

5. Floral Design Basics (for growers new to design) OR
6. Tips & Tricks for Advanced Design (for experienced designers)

Optional Post-Conference Workshop from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Each participant must bring a bucket or two of their flowers. Participants will learn to design wrapped market bouquets and small vase/mason jar-style arrangements using their flowers. This workshop aims to teach you how to use the flowers you grow so you can quickly implement what you learn at your next market! It is limited to 30 participants, so please register as soon as possible.

To register for
this event,
check out the
QR code listed
below:





Red Potato Salad with Creamy Pesto Dressing

SOURCE: PLATE IT UP! KENTUCKY PROUD

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds of new potatoes
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup nonfat Greek yogurt, plain
- 1/2 cup prepared pesto
- 1/2 lemon, juice and zest
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 medium tomato, diced
- 1 medium red onion, diced

Directions:

Wash potatoes and chop into 1-inch cubes. In a saucepan, boil potatoes in salted water until just tender, about 10-15 minutes. Drain and cool. Place eggs in a small saucepan. Cover eggs with 1 inch of cold water. Bring eggs to a boil over high heat. Remove the saucepan from the burner and cover. Let eggs stand in the water for 12 minutes. Drain, run under cool water, and peel. Slice eggs and set aside. Whisk yogurt, pesto, lemon juice, and zest in a small bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Combine potatoes, eggs, diced tomato, and onion in a large bowl. Gently stir in the yogurt mixture. Chill for several hours and serve.

Yield: 6, 1/2 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 210 calories, 8 g fat, 1.5 saturated fat, 0 g trans fat, 60 mg cholesterol, 290 mg sodium, 29 g carbohydrate, 3 g dietary fiber, 5 g sugars, 10 g protein



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