



Cooperative Extension Service

Washington County

245 Corporate Drive

Springfield KY, 40069

(859) 336-7741

Fax: (859) 336-7445

<http://ces.ca.uky.edu/washington>

March 2023

Inside this issue:

<i>Seed Starting Tips</i>	2
<i>Wheelbarrow Series</i>	3
<i>Radio Ad</i>	3
<i>Poultry Flyer</i>	5
<i>Caip Cost Share</i>	6
<i>Plant of The Month</i>	6
<i>Plant Blueberries and Brambles</i>	7
<i>Recipe of The Month</i>	8



facebook

Follow Us at
Washington County
Extension



Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

The Hoe Truth Newsletter

Helping You Grow



HORTICULTURE

Seed Starting Tips

It is finally time to start seedlings such as broccoli and cabbage to be planted in the vegetable garden in late March and in just a few weeks it will be time to start those tomato and pepper plants for late April and early May planting.

One basic rule of thumb to keep in mind when starting seedlings is that generally it takes six weeks for a seed to grow into a transplant ready for the garden. Generally if you follow this timeline you won't have over grown or puny plants at proper planting time outdoors. Below are ten basic things to keep in mind when starting seeds.



(1.) Buy quality seed from a reputable dealer. Look on the back of the packets of seeds, somewhere usually at the bottom it will have a packed by date. It should have the current year's date which would be 2011 for this year's growing season. If you save seeds or have seeds from previous years, storage is the key to longevity. Many seeds can be viable for up to 10 years if stored properly. This is the refrigerator not the freezer. If you have old seed it's easy to do a germination test. Simply dampen a paper towel, place ten seeds on the towel, fold it and put it in a zip lock bag and place it on the top of the refrigerator. Seeds should sprout in a few days. Count the number that sprouted, if 6 out of ten germinated then you have a 60% viability rate and you should increase the number of seeds you sow accordingly.

(2.) Only use a high quality germination mix. Ideally it should be fine and not clumpy or hard. This is one area where cheaper is not better. Many of the name brands such as jiffy mix etc. are good enough. If you have larger seeds such as tomato the jiffy pellets work great as well but tend to dry out easily.

(3.) It is always a good idea to use wide flat containers for seed starting. It reduces the amount of soil you will have to use and it will be a little more forgiving if you over water. Regular trays you buy plants in are fine but be sure to wash them with a 10% bleach solution and rinse them well before using.

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Seed Starting Tips

(4.) Firm seeds in after sowing. It is imperative that they make good contact with the soil. Dry pockets can dry out newly emerged roots quickly thus killing a seedling before it really gets started. Be sure to mist them in well. Maintain moisture but be sure not to have the media dry or soggy, just moist.



(5.) Cover trays with plastic wrap or a humidity dome sold at a large department store, you can guess which one. Keep in mind not to put these in direct sun and don't make it air tight. With a cover the sun can heat up the flat too much and if the wrap is sealed down it can lock in too much moisture. Just leave the corner unsealed or if you are using a humidity dome turn it to one side or the other to allow some air exchange.

(6.) Keep seeds warm to encourage germination. The top of the refrigerator is a good place but remember the plants will stretch quickly upon germination, so just as soon as you see one starting to come up move the flat to light. Another way to warm the flat is to place it on a heating

mat for germinating. There are several to choose from but the cheapest ones are for one flat and keeps the temperature of the flat around 70 degrees which is adequate for most seeds. Remember if you are going to place your flats somewhere to keep them warmer than the actual temperature they will dry out faster than they would otherwise.

(7.) The most important aspect of starting seeds indoors is light. Most people get disgusted with starting seeds indoors because their plants stretch from lack of adequate lighting. Once your plants germinate they are going to need the sunniest window you can provide and that may not be enough. You can provide additional light by hanging a fluorescent light or grow tube over them to increase wave length. Using grow lights is another way to grow plants if you don't have adequate window space or exposure. The lights should be hung as close to the plants as possible without touching them. Usually 14-16 hours a day is adequate but it won't hurt if you leave them on all the time. Plants don't need to sleep.

(8.) Another problem many people have is spindly or weak plants. While this usually is from lack of light there are a few things you can do to strengthen the plants. If you are growing in a window turn the plants a quarter turn each day to keep them upright. Rub your hands across the tops of the plants a couple of times per week. This will simulate wind and cause the stems to become more rigid and less likely to stretch as much. You should do this even if you are growing under grow lights.



(9.) Feed your plants. Proper nutrition is the key to developing good transplants. Most seed starting mixes contain a small amount of fertilizer to get the plants started but it's not enough to really get them growing well. Once the first set of true leaves emerges it's time to give them half strength water soluble fertilizer on a once or twice weekly basis.

(10.) How many of you started plants indoors only to watch them cook as soon as they went outdoors. Remember, if not acclimated plants will sunburn just like people. To harden off your plants place them in direct sun for a couple of hours one morning and gradually increase their exposure from 1-2 hours to 2-4 hours and so on. After about a week your plants will be hardened off and ready for the garden.

Fill Out This Registration (Front and Back)

And Return To The Extension Office

Circle If You Will Be Attending The AM or PM Sessions If Applicable And Total At The Bottom.

Attention!!! If An AM Or PM Session Doesn't Have At Least 5 To Register For That Session It May Be Canceled Via One Call

Before you send in any registration, please call us at 859-336-7741 to confirm that there is still room available in the class.

Feb. 16th	AM	PM	Gardening By The Moon Signs		Free
Feb. 23rd	AM	PM	African Plants In American Gardens		Free
Mar. 2nd	AM	PM	Easy Annuals From Seed For Cutting		\$5.00
Mar. 16th	AM	PM	Terrific Tomatoes FULL		Free
Mar. 23rd	AM	PM	Growing Strawberries And Rhubarb		\$15.00
Mar. 30th	AM	PM	Proven Winners Perennials		\$50.00
April 6th	AM	PM	Grateful For Grapes FULL		\$15.00
April 20th	AM	NA	Horticulture How To: Oyster Mushrooms FULL		\$10.00
April 27th	AM	PM	Sweet Potatoes		\$5.00
May 11th	AM	PM	Calla Lilies		\$20.00
May 25th	AM	NA	Horticulture How To: Hypertufa FULL		\$5.00
June 8th	AM	PM	Hydrangeas		\$30.00
June 15th	AM	PM	Introduction To Landscape Design		Free
June 22nd	AM	NA	Horticulture How To: Kokodama		\$10.00
June 29th	AM	PM	Perennials For Late Season Color		Free
July 27th	AM	PM	Petscaping		Free
Aug. 3rd	AM	NA	Horticulture How To: Lacto Fermenting		Free
Aug. 17th	AM	PM	Fall Home Insect Invaders		Free
Sept. 21st	AM	PM	True Lilies		\$20.00
Sept. 28th	AM	PM	Peonies The Queens Of Spring		\$40.00
Oct. 12th	AM	PM	Daffodils		\$20.00
Oct. 26th	AM	PM	Holiday Cactus		Free
			Basic Registration For Any and All Classes	\$5.00	x
			Total From Above		
			Register And Pay For ALL Classes By February 16th 2023 And Save \$15.00	-\$15.00	
			TOTAL		

We Can Accept Credit And Debit Cards Now!

March To Do's

- Now is a good time to plan your flower and vegetable garden layout. Look through garden catalogs and landscaping books. Plan on using plants that you have experience with and new varieties, and always try to buy plants that are disease resistant. Check local nurseries for cultivar availability. Generally locally grown plants are better and you get to look at the plants before you buy them.
- March and April are good months for planting fruit crops. When planting apples choose more than one variety for pollination and fruit set. There are several apples that are good and disease resistant in Kentucky, such as Liberty, Redfree, Enterprise, and my personal favorites Pristine and Williams Pride. For a more complete list call me at the office.
- It is also a good time to plant thornless blackberries (Apache, Arapaho, Prime Ark 45, Triple

Crown), raspberries (Bristol, Jewel, Mac Black, Brandywine, Royalty, Prelude)

- March and April are also good months for planting trees and shrubs.
- Early March is a good time to prune summer-flowering trees and shrubs such as clethra, beautyberry, butterfly bush, golden raintree, mimosa, and only the following hydrangeas (Annabelle, Hills of Snow, Peegee). Do not prune mop head types of hydrangeas or they will not bloom this year.
- It's a good idea to start spraying fruit trees for diseases as well. Apply liquid lime-sulfur spray on peach and plum trees anytime before the buds start to swell. This single spray will almost completely control peach leaf curl and plum pocket. Two diseases that cause premature



defoliation each year and can weaken trees over time.

- You can also spray raspberry and blackberry with a liquid lime sulphur spray to help control anthracnose. This will not control it completely, however it will help and additional sprays during the growing season will be needed.
- A dormant spray of copper sulfate should be applied to apple and pear trees by the first of April to improve control of fireblight. Be sure to spray the entire tree. A streptomycin sulfate spray (if available) during the growing season will also help.

Tune In!



Washington County Extension

Is On The Radio

WLSK-FM 100.9

Tuesday Mornings 8:20-8:45 AM

Also Listen For Tips Of The Week

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6:30 AM and 12:30 PM



Backyard Poultry

Monday, March 20th

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Washington County Extension Office

245 Corporate Dr.

Springfield, KY 40069

Please call (859)336-7741 to reserve a spot.

This program will cover purchasing birds, housing, basic nutrition, and more!

Attending this class will enter you in a drawing for a prize for your birds!



MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS



Eligible Investment Areas:

Agricultural Diversification
AgTech & Leadership Development
Large Animal - Small Animal
Farm Infrastructure
Fencing & On-Farm Water
Forage & Grain Improvement
Innovative Ag. Systems
On-Farm Energy
Poultry & Other Fowl
Value Added & Marketing

Administered by
Washington County Soil
Conservation
462 Lincoln Dr.
Springfield, KY, 40069
(859) 336-7777

Dana.shewmaker@ky.nacdnet.net

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Washington County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm investments.

Application Period:

April 10th through April 21st, 2023

No applications will be accepted before April 10th or after April 21st

Application Availability:

Natural Resources Conservation Office
Monday – Friday (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

For More Information:

Contact [Dana Shewmaker](mailto:dana.shewmaker@ky.nacdnet.net) at (859) 336-7777 or email dana.shewmaker@ky.nacdnet.net

All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

Plant Of The Month: Agincourt Beauty Lilac



Looking for a colorful twist on the beloved lilac? Agincourt Beauty packs sweet fragrance into attractively-formed, cuttable blooms of a deep purple color. Lilacs work beautifully as standalone or "anchor" plants in the garden, or you can use them to build a fragrant and beautiful living fence.

Agincourt Beauty grows to a mature height of eight to ten feet, making it especially well-suited for hedges. Plant these lilacs near a back patio or seating area to create a lovely and relaxed aesthetic. A true purple lilac, Agincourt Beauty is sure to appeal to passersby as well as to birds and butterflies. Grows 8-15 feet tall. Full sun to partial

<https://www.michiganbulb.com/product/agincourt-beauty-lilac>

It's Time to Plant Brambles and Blueberries

If you've been thinking about growing small fruit this year, whether for personal use or for sale at a farmers market, now is the time to start scouring nursery catalogs or visit local nurseries.

Raspberries and blackberries, commonly called brambles, grow well in Kentucky, as do highbush blueberries. With favorable growing conditions and proper care, a raspberry planting may produce for eight to 12



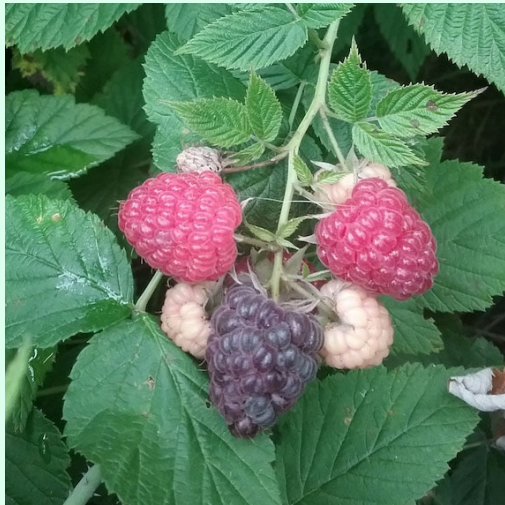
years. Blackberry plants usually live longer than raspberries, because they are better adapted to Kentucky's climate. They both have biennial canes and perennial roots. The roots and crowns live for a number of years and each spring produce a new crop of canes, while the fruit matures on last season's canes.

Deep, fertile soil that is well drained, high in humus and free from hard pans is best for brambles. However, almost any well-drained soil can be modified to grow brambles. Planting brambles on raised beds may help reduce root rot and prolong the life of the planting. Trickle irrigation and mulching will help

ensure good plant growth and high yield. When possible, plant brambles on a northern slope or where there is afternoon shade. Such soils are cooler and hold moisture better.

Early spring is also a good time to plant blueberries. Plant along a north-south axis if possible, so sunlight is more uniformly distributed. Recommended planting distances for blueberries are 10-14 feet between rows and 4-6 feet within rows. At this distance, plants will eventually form a shrub row. Some varieties of blueberries are also easily adapted to container planting for the home gardener who has limited space, but still wants to grow small fruit.

You can purchase blueberry plants as either dormant, bare root plants or as potted plants. Make planting holes several inches larger and deeper than the root system. Research has shown that blueberry plants set in deeper, narrower holes produce more fruit. It is thought that plants with a deeper root system experience less drought stress.



Remember to purchase certified, virus-free stock when possible. Here are a few suggestions that work well in Kentucky soils.

Canby is a June-bearing red raspberry variety that produces early, large, flavorful fruit. Plants may be a little cold tender. Plants are nearly thornless and are resistant to mosaic virus. It is recommended for home and commercial plantings.

Reveille, an early-season raspberry cultivar with excellent color and quality, produces large fruit. Plants are very winter hardy and tolerate fluctuating spring temperatures. It is too soft for commercial use, but its size and earliness make it excellent for home use or U-pick and roadside sales. Other suitable red raspberry cultivars for Kentucky include Citadel,

Latham, Liberty and Titan. Among erect and semi-erect thornless blackberry cultivars that work well in Kentucky are Natchez, Apache, Osage, Ouachita, Triple Crown, Prime-Ark Traveler, Stark and Black Gem. Several of the latter are susceptible to spotted wing fruit fly infestations. Source: Shawn Wright, Specialist, UK Department of Horticulture.

Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

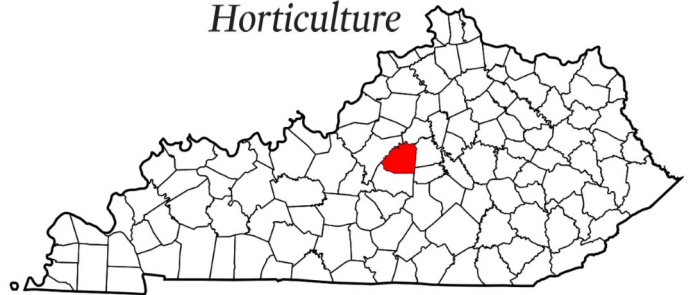
245 Corporate Drive
Springfield KY, 40069
Office 859-336-7741
Fax 859-336-7445

Email dennis.morgeson@uky.edu



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Horticulture



Dennis Morgeson

We Are On The Web!!!

washington.ca.uky.edu

Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-County-Horticulture/140659449317295>

Recipe of The Month

Noodles Florentine

8 ounces whole wheat egg noodles
3 tablespoons butter
4 tablespoons whole wheat flour

¼ teaspoon pepper
2 cups fat-free milk
2 cups low-fat cheddar cheese

1½ cups diced, low sodium cooked ham
10 ounces fresh spinach, cooked and drained
¼ cup bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. **Cook** noodles according to package directions; **drain**. In a small saucepan, **melt** butter over medium heat. **Add** flour and pepper; **blend** to a smooth paste. Gradually **add** milk, stirring constantly and **cook** until thickened. **Add** cheese, **stirring** constantly, until melted. **Place** half of the noodles in a greased 2 quart, shallow baking dish. Over the noodles, **sprinkle** a layer of ham and spinach.

Drizzle half of the cheese sauce over the mixture. **Repeat** with second layer of noodles, ham, spinach and remaining cheese sauce. **Sprinkle** with bread crumbs. **Bake** for 25 minutes.

Yield: 8, 1½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 310 calories, 11 g fat, 5 g saturated fat, 45 mg cholesterol, 680 mg sodium, 29 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 4 g sugar, 23 g protein.



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>