

Horticulture Happenings

Fall 2023

(sg)

Kristin's Corner

Get ready for Fall gardening with this edition of the Horticulture Happenings Newsletter!

- **Take soil samples for horticulture crops.** Right now is the perfect time for collecting soil samples for the home lawn, vegetable garden, and for landscape trees and shrubs. To read more about how to take soil samples for specific areas, check out pages 2 and 3.
- Develop a garden to do list with the **Fall Garden Checklist!** Read over page 4 to learn about specific gardening tasks needed for the home lawn, vegetable garden, and landscape.
- To assist several clients with home lawn care needs, we have developed the **Home Lawn Improvement Guidebook!** Learn more about this free resource on page 4 of the newsletter.
- Farmers' markets are loaded with fresh fruits and vegetables for the season! The **Buy Kentucky Fresh** article featured on page 5 of the newsletter discusses the benefits of shopping local and gives 10 tips for shopping at the farmers' market!
- Participate in our **Eating over the Rainbow Challenge!** This challenge is being offered through the Extension Office to encourage children and their families to eat one fruit and vegetable each day. If interested in participating, turn to page 5.
- Lots of educational programs are happening this fall! To learn more about these upcoming programs, see page 6 of the newsletter!
- **Marketing Cut Flowers through the SOKY Floral Exchange Field Day** is a new program being offered on Thursday, September 7th. This field day will help growers of cut flowers connect with florists by wholesale marketing through the SOKY Floral Exchange network. To read more details about this upcoming field day, check page 7.



- Try out the **Summer Garden Pie** which features lots of fresh seasonal produce found at the local farmers' markets or from your own backyard garden! To see the full recipe, see the back page!

To stay up to date with all the latest gardening tips, make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram at Warren County Agriculture.

Happy Gardening!

Kristin G. Hildabrand
Kristin G. Hildabrand
Warren County Extension Agent
for Horticulture

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Soil Sample for Horticulture Crops / 2-3



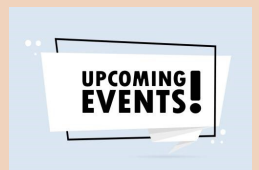
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Taking a Soil Sample for Horticulture Crops

Compiled by: Mike Klahr, Boone County Extension Agent for Horticulture

When you take soil test samples, keep in mind that a few ounces of soil are being tested to determine lime and fertilizer needs for what may be several thousand pounds of soil in the lawn or garden area. It is absolutely necessary to take care to assure that the soil sample you send to the laboratory accurately represents the area sampled. Soil samples can be collected through much of the year, although fall (September to December) or spring (February to April) are the best times. Fall sampling will often result in a faster return of results and recommendations.

TOOLS YOU'LL NEED

A soil probe, auger, garden trowel, or a spade and knife are all the tools you need to take the individual cores that will make up the "field" sample. You will also need a clean, dry bucket (preferably plastic) to collect and mix the sample cores. Soil sample boxes or bags and information forms for submitting samples are available at your local County Extension office.

The most representative sample can be obtained from a large area by sampling in smaller units on the basis of soil type, cropping history, erosion, or past management practices. More accurate results are obtained when problem areas are sampled separately, especially when "trouble-shooting" during the growing season. In such instances, take a sample both from the poor growing area and adjacent areas of good growth. Designate each sample area with a letter or numbers on an area map for record-keeping purposes.



Collect at least 5 to 10 soil cores for each lawn or garden area. Take the soil cores randomly throughout the area to be sampled and

place in the bucket. From that mixture, you will **BRING IN 2 CUPS (1 PINT) OF SOIL FROM EACH SAMPLE AREA.**

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SAMPLE DEPTHS FOR VARIOUS HORTICULTURAL CROP AREAS

All soil core samples should start at the soil surface and go down to the recommended depth given for each specific crop listed below:

A. LAWNS AND TURFGRASSES

- For established lawns, sample the top 2 inches of soil only. Do not include grass, roots or thatch in the sample.
- For areas to be tilled up for a new lawn, sample the top 4 inches of soil.
- Sample problem areas and areas with shrubs or flower beds separate from other turf or lawn areas.
- Sample front and back yards separately.
- For lawn samples, do not sample under the drip line of trees.
- Do not take samples close to driveways or streets, unless this is treated as a "problem area", which would require a separate sample.
- Fertilize lawns only at the proper time of year (primarily in the Fall).

See AGR-53, "Lawn Fertilization in KY"

B. HOME FLOWER GARDENS

- **Annual Flowers**—Sample the top 6 to 8 inches of soil.
- **Perennial Flowers**—Sample the top 6 to 12 inches of soil.
- Don't take samples too close to foundations, sidewalks, driveways or limestone graveled areas, unless these are treated as separate "problem areas".
- Granular dry fertilizer can be added to the flower garden when it is tilled in the spring.

C. COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF FIELD-GROWN FLOWERS

- Sample the top 8 to 12 inches of soil.
- Take separate samples for each block or different flower variety.
- For large fields, up to 30 soil core samples may be needed per sample.

D. HOME LANDSCAPE TREES & SHRUBS, AND FIELD-GROWN NURSERY STOCK

- Sample the top 6 to 12 inches of soil.
- Take samples from under the drip line of established trees (under tips of the longest branches

all the way around the tree), or just outside the root ball or planting area for newly planted trees.

■ Fertilize in late fall, early winter or early spring.
See ID-72, "Principles of Home Landscape Fertilization"

E. HOME VEGETABLE GARDENS

■ Sample the top 6 to 12 inches of soil, preferably in October or November.

■ Do not include compost or manure in the sample.

■ Fertilize in early spring before planting, and side-dress with more fertilizer later in the season as needed.

See HO-63, "Home Vegetable Gardening in KY"

F. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE FIELDS

■ Sample the top 8 to 12 inches of soil.

See ID-36, "Commercial Vegetable Crop Recommendations" for specific fertilizer and nutrient needs for each crop.

G. TREE FRUITS

■ Sample the top 12 to 18 inches of soil.

■ Take samples from drip line area under branch tips (or closer to trunk for newly planted trees).

■ Fertilize in February, according to soil test results.

See HO-64, "Growing Fruit at Home in Kentucky", or ID-92, "Commercial Tree Fruit Spray Guide" for nitrogen recommendations.

H. BUSH AND VINE FRUITS

■ Sample the top 8 to 12 inches of soil.

■ Fertilize in February.

See HO-64, "Growing Fruit at Home in KY", or ID-94, "Kentucky Commercial Small Fruit & Grape Spray Guide".

SAMPLE PREPARATION

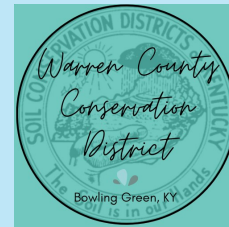
After all cores from one crop area are collected and placed in the bucket, crush the materials and mix the sample thoroughly. ALLOW THE SAMPLE TO AIR DRY in an open space free from contamination. Spread the soil out to dry on newspapers. DO NOT dry the sample in an oven or at an abnormally high temperature.

WHEN DRY, CRUMBLE THE SOIL AND FILL A 2 CUP SAMPLE container with soil. Separate information is needed for:

- Agricultural Soils
- Home Gardens
- Lawns and Turfgrasses
- Commercial Horticulture Crops

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS RELATING TO SOIL SAMPLING, FERTILIZER AND LIME NEEDS:

- 1) Never apply lime to horticultural crops unless a soil test indicates the need. Many soils are ruined by annual applications of lime. Most horticultural crops prefer acid soils, around pH 6.3 to 6.4, with some needing pH 4.5 to 5.5. It is easier to raise soil pH above 7.0 (with lime) than it is to bring it back down (with sulfur).
- 2) When you get back your soil test results, realize that the University of Kentucky did NOT do a test to determine the level of nitrogen in your soil. Nitrogen is leached out and used up regularly by all crops, so a basic, generic nitrogen recommendation is given (the same for everyone...for that specific crop), based simply on the known nitrogen requirements of the crop indicated. Therefore, if you have just applied nitrogen fertilizer before you sent in your soil sample, do not apply more just because the soil test says you need nitrogen. Remember, they did not actually test the level of nitrogen in your soil.
- 3) All Kentucky soils benefit from added organic matter such as peat moss, compost or well-aged manure. These improve the drainage and water and nutrient-holding capacity of soils.



The Warren Co. Conservation District is offering free soil tests! Please visit their office at 925 Lovers Lane, Bowling Green, KY 42103 or contact them at 270-846-4506 to receive one free soil test voucher.

These vouchers are then redeemable at our office (5162 Russellville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101) when you submit your soil test. Note that the voucher must be present at the time of submitting the sample.

Fall Garden Checklist

September

- Perform soil tests now for the home lawn, vegetable garden, perennial flower beds, and residential landscape for trees and shrubs. For more information on soil testing these areas, make sure to refer to pages 2 and 3 of the newsletter.
- Sow seeds of radish, lettuce, spinach and other greens in a cold frame to prolong fall vegetable harvests.
- Keep broccoli picked regularly to encourage additional production of the side shoots.
- Harvest herbs now to freeze or dry for winter use.
- Begin fall seeding of cool season grasses in the home lawn. Keep newly planted lawn areas moist, but not wet.

October

- Fall is a good time for planting perennial flowers. Make sure that plants can be grown in Zone 6 which grows best in Kentucky. Contact your Extension Office for recommendations on the best perennial flowers for sunny and shady conditions.
- Divide perennial plants that bloom in late spring and summer. Apply 2 inches of fresh mulch around newly plants to help keep soil moist and to keep the soil from drying out.
- Purchase spring blooming bulbs early to guarantee the best quality and selection. Store them in a cool location until the ground is ready for planting. Prepare the soil and plant spring-blooming bulbs in October to November

- Fertilize cool season grass lawns in October and November. To know how much nitrogen and fertilizer to apply, make sure to conduct a soil test.
- Plant trees and shrubs in the home landscape.
- As temperatures begin to cool, plants require less water. Make sure to adjust your watering routines for the lawn and the landscape.
- Plant garlic in the Kentucky vegetable garden.
- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to help control winter annual weeds in the landscape or garden beds. This herbicide prevents weed seeds from germinating which means less weeding in the spring.
- When the first fall frost is announced, make sure to harvest the last tomatoes of the season in the garden or pick them green to further ripen indoors.
- If you had houseplants outside, bring them indoors before night temperatures dip into the 50's.
- Perform the last mowing of the season when grasses begin to slow their growth and do any end-of-the-season maintenance that is needed.
- Clean up garden beds. Clean up any dried leaves, stems and twigs around the garden. Avoid using the compost pile if you suspect plant disease.
- Rake up and compost leaves into a compost pile. Turn and add water to the compost pile to start the composting process.
- Clean, sharpen and put away garden tools for the season.

Home Lawn Improvement Guidebook

Home Lawn Improvement Guidebook



Created by Kristin G. Hildabrand, Warren County Extension Agent for Horticulture.
Materials provided by Turf Specialists with the University of Kentucky
Cooperative Extension Service



The Warren County Extension Service has compiled several University of Kentucky Extension Service publications into a handy Home Lawn Improvement Guidebook which is now available upon request. Fall is the absolute best time for performing several home lawn care improvement practices!

This free guide was created by Kristin Hildabrand, Warren County Extension Agent for Horticulture, to help homeowners understand the process for improving their lawn. This guidebook will offer recommendations on lawn

establishment, lawn maintenance, and pest control guidelines. It also gives the correct times for carrying out several lawn care practices to help you be more successful!

To request a copy of the home lawn improvement guidebook, please contact the Warren County Extension Office at (270) 842-1681 or stop by our location at 5162 Russellville Road in Bowling Green.

Please note that we would like to have your contact information so we can contact you at a later time to receive feedback to learn how this information was helpful to you!

Buy Kentucky Fresh

Fruits and vegetables grown locally and sold at the farmers' market spend more time maturing in the field, and less time on the road. They aren't picked green and sprayed with hormones to ripen. They are naturally at their peak flavor and nutrition, and ready for your family to enjoy.

When your family has fun selecting fresh and delicious local foods, you help your neighbors on small farms and keep more money in your community. Take time to talk to the farmers and learn about their farms and fresh foods in your area.

Tips for shopping at the Farmers' Market

- **Mind your budget.** Before you go, decide how much you have to spend. Bring along a calculator or paper and pencil to track spending. Don't buy more than you can store safely and eat or preserve before it spoils.
- **Bring the kids** and let them help pick out some of the fruit and vegetables. They will learn how to shop wisely and might even get excited about trying new foods.
- **Arrive early for best selection.** Popular items may sell out fast.
- **Shop late for best prices.** Some farmers will sell items at a lower price, rather than taking them home. Don't be afraid to bargain.
- **Make a lap around the market before making purchases.** This will allow you to see which booths have the best quality food for the lowest prices, which vendors accept EBT or nutrition program benefits, or offer promotions such as Double Dollars.
- **Keep an open mind.** Produce sold at the farmers' market is usually grown for taste, not appearance. It may look imperfect, but taste great.
- **Ask for seconds.** Sometimes farmers have good produce that didn't look good enough to display. Ask if they have seconds that will sell at a reduced rate.
- **Buy fruit and vegetables in season.** That's when they're at the height of quality and lowest price.
- **Ask questions.** Farmers are usually happy to answer questions about their produce, and they often have good cooking and serving suggestions.
- **Buy now, enjoy later.** If possible, buy large amounts of produce in season and freeze, can or dry it for winter. Contact the local Extension Office for information on food preservation.



JOIN us in our Eating over the Rainbow Challenge!
Pick up your FREE items today at the Warren
County Cooperative Extension Office!

We are challenging families to eat at least one fruit
and vegetable each day, for at least one week
during the month of August.

The Eating over the Rainbow Challenge helps make
food fun and encourages children and their families
to try new foods with our fun and FREE resources!

- ⇒ Pick up your FREE resources TODAY at
5162 Russellville Road Bowling Green, KY.
- ⇒ Complete and return the included evaluation at
the beginning of September to receive a FREE
LUNCHBOX and incentive items!
- ⇒ Call 270-842-1681 for more information.





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

AUGUST CLASSES

Wednesdays
12:30 p.m. ET / 11:30 a.m. CT

- August 2**
• Horticultural Oils
- August 9**
• What's Native to Me?
- August 16**
• Lawn Care for Busy People
- August 23**
• Raising Monarch Butterflies
- August 30**
• Goldenrods

Register Here:
<https://tinyurl.com/23AUGHWW>

Hydrangeas 101

Tuesday, August 22nd
6:00 PM
Warren Co. Extension Office

Speaker:
Dennis Williams with Baker Arboretum

RSVP to the WCEO at
270-842-1681
by Friday, August 18



Quarterly Cut Flower Short Course

Making Cover Crops Work for Your Cut Flower Operation

with *Dr. Krista Jacobsen*



Learn new strategies for integrating cover crops into your cut flower rotation!

August 28th, 2023
6:30 PM EST / 5:30 PM CT

Register Here

bit.ly/covercrop1

Kentucky Horticulture Council
Center for CROP DIVERSIFICATION
University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service

Cut Flower Short Course:
Making Cover Crops Work for Your Cut Flower Operation
available via Zoom on Monday, August 28th
5:30 PM Central Time

Synopsis: *In this session, UK Horticulture faculty member Dr. Krista Jacobsen will talk about strategies for integrating cover crops into your cut flower rotation to build soil health and help with pest and disease management. Emphasis will be placed on cover crop selection, timing, and management options for all scales and budgets.*

Speaker: Dr. Krista Jacobsen

Krista Jacobsen is an Associate Professor of Sustainable Agriculture in the Department of Horticulture, and the Faculty Chair of The Food Connection, UK's local food systems institute. She is an agroecologist by training, with 20 years of experience working in diversified organic production systems.

Preregistration is strongly encouraged to gain access to the meeting.
To register, either use the QR code listed on the image or go to bit.ly/covercrop1.

Pumpkin Centerpiece Workshop

Friday, October 13th
2:30 - 4:30pm at the Warren Co. Extension Office
Registration Fee: \$35

In this hands-on workshop, learn how to create & design a fresh fall flower arrangement in a pumpkin to take home. Instructor is Tyler Janes from Flowers Around the Corner.



Marketing Cuts at SOKY Floral Exchange FIELD DAY



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

SOKY
FLORAL EXCHANGE

When:

Thursday, September 7th
Registration at 3:30pm
Program Starts at 4:00pm

Location:

410 Hunt Lane
Morgantown, KY 42261

Register:



Please RSVP by Monday,
September 4th in order
to be included in the
food count.



Field Day Description:

Learn more details about marketing cut flowers through the SOKY Floral Exchange, best tips for harvesting cut flowers, as well as upcoming classes and resources for commercial cut flower production.

Summer Garden Pie



Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can yellow corn, drained or 1 ½ cups fresh corn kernels
- ½ onion, diced
- 2 medium zucchinis, ends removed and thinly sliced
- 8 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 tablespoon dried basil or two tablespoons fresh, chopped basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 6 ounces shredded mozzarella cheese
- 4 eggs, beaten

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add corn, onion, zucchini, and mushrooms. Sauté until vegetables are tender, approximately 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. While vegetables are cooking, line an 11×7 baking dish with nonstick spray. Remove vegetables from heat. Drain vegetables. Transfer vegetables to the baking pan. In a medium bowl, stir together the basil, oregano, salt, cheese, and eggs. Pour egg mixture over the vegetables. Cover with foil and bake for 20 minutes. Remove foil. Bake an additional 5 minutes to brown. Let cool and then slice.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 210 calories; 12g total fat; 6g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 130mg cholesterol; 570mg sodium; 11g carbohydrate; 3g fiber; 6g sugar; 0g added sugar; 14g protein.

Scan to view
recipe demo!




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Catch "Get the Scoop" for advice and tips on gardening.

Tune in each weekday morning at 5:00am for "Get the Scoop" on Goober 95.1 FM.



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