

# Horticulture Happenings

Winter 2022

(sg)

**Cooperative  
Extension Service**  
Warren County  
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Bowling Green, KY 42101  
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## Kristin's Corner

Welcome to the Holiday Horticulture Happenings Newsletter! I have filled this newsletter with all the garden information and inspiration for the season!

If you planted new trees this fall, make sure to read pages 2 and 3 to find out how to winterize your trees. These pages include information on trunk wrapping, mulching, pruning, fertilizing and watering.

Looking for something fun to do this month? If yes, the Warren County Extension Office and Warren County Extension Master Gardeners are partnering together to offer a DIY Holiday Centerpiece Workshop on Friday, December 9th from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM. To find out more about this workshop and how to register, turn to page 4.

December is a busy time for everyone! Make sure to look over page 5 to see the December gardening checklist. It includes a list of tasks to consider for houseplants as well as other miscellaneous garden areas.

Bowling Green is hosting the 2023 Fruit and Vegetable Conference on Tuesday, January 3rd and Wednesday, January 4th at the Sloan Convention Center! A new educational track for commercial cut flower growers has been added. To read more information about the cut flower short course and how to get registered for the conference, check out pages 6 and 7.

Another upcoming program to mention is the 2023 Turf and Landscape Management Short Course! This program is tentatively planned for February 21st until February 23rd at the Hardin County Extension Office in Elizabethtown, KY. To read more details about this program, check out the bottom of page 7.

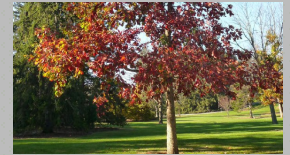
Lastly, have some fun in the kitchen this holiday with our recipe for loaded apple rings! It is very festive and looks like edible holiday ornaments! To get the full recipe for loaded apple rings, see the back page of the newsletter.

*Just a reminder that the Warren County Extension Office will be closed December 26th until December 30th for Christmas as well as on January 2nd for the New Year's Day holiday. We will officially reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023!*

Happy Gardening!

*Kristin G. Hildabrand*

Kristin G. Hildabrand  
Warren County Extension Agent  
for Horticulture



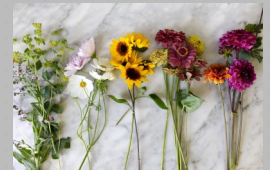
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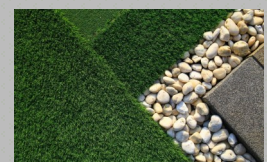
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# Winterize Your Trees

*Written by Lindsey Purcell, Urban Forestry Specialist, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University*

As trees in our urban and suburban landscapes prepare for winter dormancy and cold, they could use a little extra care from you to ensure a good start in the spring. As the seasons change, trees prepare to overwinter in a dormant state. Dormancy is not death; it is a natural state in which trees prepare and adapt to cold conditions with physiological and structural adjustments. Even though the leaves are changing colors and falling to the ground, trees are still active, making necessary preparations for winter.

Winter conditions will make finding moisture a challenge—and keeping plant cells hydrated in winter is critical for survival. Potential sources of winter water include unfrozen soil; internal reservoirs; and the area above the ground, but just under the snow cover (the subnivean zone). If trees cannot find needed water in these areas, expect poor health and growth the following spring.

Summer and fall drought conditions can place trees in an overall water deficit, predisposing them to pest issues and poor health the next growing season. Likewise, spring and summer weather affects the trees' ability to survive winter weather. Young or newly planted trees will require more attention because of limited abilities in obtaining water in their growing environment. The key to survival is giving trees adequate moisture before winter freezes the world around them.

Good cultural practices and proper plant health care make a difference in how much water is available to your trees in winter and how well they survive.

Tips for winter preparation include:

**Trunk wrapping.** Smooth or thin-bark trees like honey locust, crabapples, linden, and especially maple, are susceptible to sunscald and frost cracks because of the temperature fluctuations from sun exposure in the winter. The wounds caused by

temperature fluctuations can leave the tree exposed to fungal organisms, which cause decay in the tree. Prevention includes guarding the trunks of younger and smooth-bark trees up to about the first branches using a flexible, white tree wrap. Leave the wrap on until after the last freezing temperatures. Remove tree guards in the spring to reduce potential damage from disease and insects.



*Cracking can occur on smooth-bark trees during the winter months.*



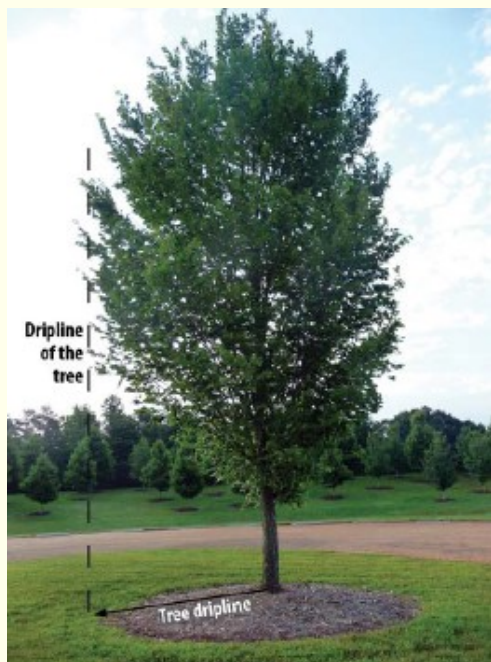
*Use flexible, white tree guards to protect trees with smooth bark from injury.*



**Mulching.** Mulch benefits trees all year long, not just during the summer months. Refresh the mulch layer placed in the spring so that there are about 2–3 inches of wood chips, bark, or other organic mulch over the root zone of the tree. Start at the base of the trunk, but not against it, and extend mulch to the edge of the outer branches or dripline. This will reduce soil evaporation, improve water absorption, and insulate against temperature extremes.



*Mulch should be maintained at 2-3 inches covering the root zone of newly planted trees.*



*Extend mulch to the dripline of older, established trees.*

**Pruning.** Late fall and early winter are acceptable times for limited, functional pruning of most tree species. Prune trees to remove dying, diseased, or dead branches, or to improve branching structure.

This also is a good time to remove water sprouts and basal sprouts. However, limit the amount of green wood pruning going into winter to reduce the amount of energy reserves the plant must use to heal the pruning wounds. Be sure to use proper pruning practices as outlined in *Trees Need a Proper Start: Prune Them Right (FNR-FAQ-19-W)* found at Purdue Extension's The Education Store.

**Fertilizing.** If trees are not stressed from moisture deficits, apply a complete fertilizer with micronutrients. Use a low-nitrogen formulation (5-10-10 or similar ratio/ combination) to prevent a late flush of new growth. Be sure to broadcast the material uniformly over the root zone and with sufficient water so that roots can absorb nutrients. You can apply water-soluble fertilizers during watering to provide nutrients as well. Follow label directions. Providing trees essential elements just before winter will enhance next season's growth.

**Watering.** Whenever rainfall is insufficient for extended periods, supplemental water is needed, especially on newly planted and less-established trees. Follow the "5 + 5 rule," which says to provide 5 gallons of water plus another 5 gallons for every diameter-inch of tree trunk. This should provide plenty of water to help a tree during times of inadequate rainfall. For mature and well-established trees, 1 inch of supplemental water applied to the root zone every week should keep soil moisture adequate. Continue to water through the fall until the ground is frozen, so that trees have ample moisture to survive the winter months and are ready for spring growth. If limited rain or snowfall in winter indicates drought, it may be necessary to water in the winter. The best time for winter watering is a warm day, when the temperature is above 40 degrees. Refer to *Drought? Don't forget the trees! (FNR-483-W)* for more information on watering trees.

These simple guidelines will help trees get off to a good start after the long winter, when we are ready to transition from snow white to growing green.

**For more information, contact the Warren County Extension Office at 270-842-1681.**





Kentucky Extension  
Master Gardener



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

# DIY Holiday Centerpiece Workshop



Friday, December 9, 2022  
1:00pm to 3:00pm  
WCEO

\$30 Registration Fee

*Participants will learn how to create and design their own holiday centerpiece to take home at the end of the program.*

*Floral Designer Tyler Janes with Flowers Around the Corner will lead the program.*

*Payment and deadline to register is Tuesday, December 6th.*

Contact the Warren County Extension Service at (270) 842-1681 to register.

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# December Gardening Checklist:

Source: Gardening by Month— December, Missouri Botanical Garden

## Houseplants

- Water houseplants with tepid water. Cold tap water may shock plants.
- Be sure newly purchased indoor plants are well protected for the trip home. Exposure to icy temperatures for even a few moments may cause injury.
- Overwintering geraniums like bright light and cool temperatures. Keep soils on the dry side.
- On cold nights, move houseplants back from icy windows to prevent chilling injury.
- Holiday poinsettia plants do best with sun for at least half the day and night temperatures in the 50's or 60's. Keep plants away from drafts, registers and radiators and let the soil should dry only slightly between thorough waterings. Be sure to punch holes in decorative foil wraps to prevent soggy soil conditions.
- Hairspray works well to keep seed heads and dried flowers intact on wreaths and arrangements.
- If you plan to have a live Christmas tree, dig the planting hole before the ground freezes. Mulch and cover the backfill soil and the planting hole to keep them dry and unfrozen. When you get the tree, store it outdoors in a cool, shady, windless area until the last minute and mulch the roots to prevent cold injury. Don't allow the tree's roots to become dry and spray the needles with an anti-transpirant to reduce moisture loss. Set the tree up in your coolest room. Don't keep the tree indoors for more than one week and plant outdoors promptly.
- Be sure the root zones of azaleas and rhododendrons are thoroughly mulched. Any organic material will do, but mulches made from oak leaves, shredded oak bark, or pine needles are preferred.
- Christmas trees hold needles longer if you make a clean, fresh cut at the base and always keep the trunk standing in water.
- Only female holly trees bear the colorful berries. There must be a male tree growing nearby for pollination, if fruits are desired.
- Hollies may be trimmed now and the prunings used in holiday decorations.

## Miscellaneous

- Apply mulches to bulbs, perennials and other small plants once the ground freezes.
- All power equipment should be winterized before storage. Change the oil and lubricate moving parts. Either drain fuel systems or mix a gas stabilizing additive into the tank.
- Clean and oil all garden hand tools before storing for winter.
- Check trees and shrubs in your yard for "volcano" mulching - mulch piled high around the base or trunk of the plant. If found, pull back the mulch from the trunk and create a thin 2-3" deep "donut" over the root zone, but not touching the trunk. A heavy layer of mulch around the base can lead to girdling roots as well as foster insect, disease, and rodent problems.
- Continue to inspect indoor plants closely for insect pests such as aphids, spider mites, scale, and whitefly.
- Mulch roses after a hard killing frost where temperatures drop into the upper teens.
- Remove and dispose of the foliage of plants such as roses, peonies, iris, daylilies, apples, horsechestnut, which are subject to annual fungal leaf diseases.
- Scout for, remove, and dispose of bagworms and cedar-apple rust galls on junipers anytime now until spring. Also check arborvitae, spruce, crabapples, and oaks for bagworms.
- Heavy snow on trees and shrubs, especially evergreens can lead to breakage. Brush off snow carefully before it melts and refreezes and becomes difficult to remove. Allow ice to melt off naturally. Ice causes branches to become brittle and easily broken.
- Diseased branches in apples, pears, pyracantha and other plants in the rose family that were killed by fireblight can be safely removed in mid-winter. If not removed in winter, wait until dry weather in summer. Avoid pruning plants susceptible to fireblight during spring when the bacteria can easily enter cuts resulting from pruning.
- If overwintering dormant perennials in a garage or basement monitor the temperature and moisture levels closely to avoid freezing, drying out or rotting due to overly wet, cold soil.







# KENTUCKY CUT FLOWER SHORT COURSE

AT THE 2023 KY FRUIT & VEGETABLE CONFERENCE  
SLONE CONVENTION CENTER, BOWLING GREEN, KY

Wednesday, January 4

- 8:30 A.M. DESIGNING AN EFFECTIVE ON-FARM WORKSHOP  
– MELANIE STOCK, UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
- 9:00 A.M. EVALUATING PROFITABILITY OF DIFFERENT SALES CHANNELS  
– SAVANNAH COLUMBIA, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
- 9:30 A.M. WHAT WE LEARNED FROM A FLORIST SURVEY  
– MELANIE STOCK
- 10:00 A.M. CIDER/COFFEE BREAK AND VISIT EXHIBITS
- 10:40 A.M. RECORD KEEPING: IS YOUR CROP WORTH THE SPACE  
– MELANIE STOCK
- 11:10 A.M. THE KENTUCKY CUT FLOWER CALENDAR  
– TARA WATKINS, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
- 12:00 P.M. LUNCH BREAK
- 1:30 P.M. CUT FLOWER FERTILITY DOS & DON'TS  
– MELANIE STOCK
- 2:00 P.M. MY TOP 5 CUT FLOWERS  
– MICHELLE WHEELER, RIVER BEND BLOOMS
- 2:30 P.M. CIDER/COFFEE BREAK AND VISIT EXHIBITS
- 3:10 P.M. DRYING CUT FLOWERS TO EXTEND YOUR SEASON  
– KRYNN KNEPFEL, BLOOMCHICK FLOWER COMPANY
- 3:40 P.M. THE KENTUCKY FLOWER MARKET  
– SARAH TORGERSON, EDEN ROOTS FLOWER FARM  
– KAYLA CAREY, ROOKERY FLOWER CO
- 4:10 P.M. KY CUT FLOWER GROWER PANEL



Scan to  
Register  
Now



<https://2023kyfruitvegconference.eventbrite.com/>

# 2023 Fruit & Vegetable Conference

The 2023 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference will be held in-person at the Holiday Inn Sloan Convention Center, in Bowling Green, KY, on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 3 and 4, 2023.

The event will begin on Monday, January 2 with a pre-conference Farmers Market Short Course, Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop, and a Bringing the Farm to School Grower Training followed by Vegetable and Tree and Small Fruit Round Table Discussions. Conference sessions include Direct Marketing, Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Production, Organic Production, Protected Ag (High Tunnel) Production, Marketing and Business Management, a Cut Flower Short Course and more new educational tracks. We have many growers on the program as well as a number of excellent out-of-state speakers this year and our trade show will feature more than 60 exhibitors.

PLEASE make your room reservations directly with

Kentucky  
Fruit & Vegetable  
Conference  
— 2023 —  
January 3-4  
Bowling Green, KY

the hotel at 1-800-HOLIDAY using the block code Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference. Our block of rooms will be held until December 16, 2022.

The \$50 meeting pre-registration fee or \$75 registration on site includes a year's membership in the KVGA, KSHS, or OAK and entrance into all educational sessions as well as lunch on both days. Pre-registration forms or online registrations need to be in our hands by Friday, December 16, 2022. After this date you may continue to register online or on-site at the conference at the \$75 rate.

Scan here to  
register!



# 2023 Turf & Landscape Management Short Course

**February 21, 2023 @ 8:00 am -  
February 23, 2023 @ 5:00 pm**

Make plans now to attend the 46th Annual UK Turf and Landscape Management Short Course! The Short Course will be in person February 21-23, 2023 at the Hardin County Extension Center in Elizabethtown, KY. This program will feature two full days of comprehensive turfgrass and landscape management education and is appropriate for anyone interested in turf, including professionals, Extension agents, and homeowners.

**TUESDAY, February 21** This day is for new employees wanting to receive training and take the Pesticide Certification Exam. The exam training session will be from 9 AM to 3 PM. Exams will be given at approximately 3:15 PM for Categories 3, 6, 10, 18 and 20. If taking the exam, be sure to go online and study the Core Manual and category specific material. These materials can be found here. The cost for the training session is \$40 if paid before February 17, 2023. Payment onsite is \$60.

To take the PESTICIDE APPLICATOR EXAM(S): The initial certification exam will be given immediately after the training on Tuesday. To take exam you must pay, **on site, \$25.00 per person, per test (check or money order ONLY; make check payable to Kentucky State Treasurer). DO NOT SEND THE EXAM FEE WITH YOUR PRE-REGISTRATION.**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 and THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23** Three concurrent educational sessions are offered on Wednesday and Thursday: Golf, Sports Turf, and Commercial Lawn and Landscape Management. Pre-registration price for each day is \$40 per person per day when paid before February 11th.

Scan here to  
register!



# Loaded Apple Rings



## Ingredients:

- 1 large apple
- 1/3 cup vanilla yogurt
- 1 cup topping (shredded coconut, chopped nuts, mini chocolate chips, raisins, chopped fruit, granola)

**Directions:** Slice apple into six 1/4-inch thick rings. Remove core. Spread each apple ring with a layer of yogurt. Sprinkle with a variety of toppings. Eat immediately.

*Nutritional Analysis: 170 calories; 4g total fat; 3g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 0mg cholesterol; 40mg sodium; 33g total carbohydrate; 3g dietary fiber; 20g total sugars; 0g added sugar; 2g protein*

**Warren County Extension Office will be CLOSED  
December 26th - 30th for Christmas and  
January 2nd for New Year's Day.**

## Fresh Christmas Tree Tips



Use a tree stand that holds 1-2 gallons of water. The tree needs 1 quart of water per inch of diameter. Fill the stand daily, checking the water level several times a day. Trees will use up to 2 gallons of water a day, especially the first few days after being cut.

Keep the tree out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, heaters, and stoves.

**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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