

Horticulture Happenings

Spring 2023

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Kristin's Corner

Welcome to the Spring 2023 Horticulture Happenings Newsletter! I have filled this newsletter with lots of garden information and inspiration for the season!

- **Garden Alert: Winter Burn on Landscape Plants.** Several people have contacted the Extension Office with questions concerning their evergreen trees and shrubs. To read more about winter burn and what actions can be taken, check out page 2.
- Get ready for spring gardening with the earliest **planting dates for Kentucky-grown vegetables!** Be prepared for the spring, summer, and fall gardening seasons with the earliest and latest planting dates given on page 4 to mark in your garden calendar!
- Develop a garden to do list with the **February Gardening Checklist!** Refer to pages 4 and 5 for gardening tasks to perform for home vegetables, fruits, and other areas of the garden in the month of February.
- Interested in growing figs in Kentucky this year? Mark your calendar for a free gardening program on **Growing Figs** which will be offered at the Warren Co. Extension Office on Tuesday, February 28th! Turn to page 5 for other class details and to learn how to register.
- For the **March Gardening Checklist**, turn to pages 6 and 7 for a list of specific gardening tasks and chores required in the month of March for Kentucky!
- Join us for upcoming workshops listed on page 7 on the annual **Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop** at Jackson's Orchard planned for Saturday, March 4th and the **Homebased Microprocessing Workshop** scheduled for Wednesday, March 29th. Read more on this page to see how to sign up!



Late winter and early spring weather in Kentucky can be chilly at times. Warm up with a bowl of **Cabbage Jambalaya** from the Plate it up! Kentucky Proud recipes given on the back page. It requires basic ingredients that leaves you feeling both full and satisfied!

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!

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Winter Burn

Source: Winter Burn, University of Wisconsin Garden Facts, XHT1239

What is winter burn? Winter burn is a common problem of evergreens including those with broad leaves (e.g., boxwood, holly, rhododendron), needles (e.g., hemlock, pine, spruce, yew) and scale-like leaves (e.g., arborvitae, false cypress, juniper) grown in open, unprotected locations and exposed to severe winter conditions. Evergreen plants that are marginally hardy in a location (i.e., not well-adapted to local winter conditions) are at increased risk for winter burn. Winter burn can be so severe that affected plants may die and/or require replacement.



What does winter burn look like? Winter burn symptoms often become apparent as the snow melts and spring temperatures rise. Foliage starts to brown at the tips of branches with browning progressing inward toward the center of the plant. On broad-leaved evergreens, leaf edges typically brown first, followed by browning of entire leaves. Foliage facing south, southwest or west is most often affected.



What causes winter burn? There are many factors that can contribute to winter burn.

- ⇒ Plants with shallow or poorly-developed root systems that do not efficiently take up water (e.g., recent transplants) are more prone to winter burn.
- ⇒ Warm fall temperatures that delay the onset of plant dormancy can also contribute to winter burn. Under such conditions, plants are not prepared for the subsequent rapid onset of freezing winter temperatures, and as a result damage to foliage occurs.
- ⇒ Similar cold injury can occur mid-winter when temperatures drop sharply at sunset causing foliage that has warmed during the day to rapidly cool and freeze. In addition, on sunny winter days, foliage (particularly foliage facing the sun) can begin to transpire (i.e., naturally lose water through the foliage). Because the ground is frozen, plant roots cannot take up water and replace the water that has been lost from the foliage. As a result, foliage dries and browns.
- ⇒ Foliage under snow or facing away from the sun and direct winds is usually not damaged.
- ⇒ Strong winter winds can lead to additional water loss making winter burn more severe.
- ⇒ Colder than normal winter temperatures and longer than normal winters can also be factors in the development of winter burn, especially if below normal temperatures occur into April (the time of year when plants normally come out of dormancy and are most susceptible to winter injury).
- ⇒ Finally, exposure of plants to salt used to deice roads, driveways and sideways during the winter can make plants more prone to winter burn injury.

How do I save a plant with winter burn? For evergreens such as arborvitae, boxwoods, junipers and yews, prune out dead, brown, damaged or dying tissue in mid-spring after new foliage is produced. If new foliage has not yet emerged by spring, scratch the bark on affected branches and look for green tissue underneath. Also gently peel back the bud scales to look for inner green bud tissue. If the stem or bud tissue is green, buds on the branch may still break to form new foliage. If the tissue is brown, the branch is most likely dead and you should prune the branch back to a live, lateral bud or branch. For other questions about winter burn, contact the Warren County Extension Office at (270) 842-1681.

Earliest and Latest Planting Dates

Cool season vegetables are the crops that thrive in the cooler temperatures of Kentucky's spring gardening season. These plants grow best with relatively cool air temperatures between 50 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit and are raised either for their leaves, stems, or flower buds. If you have produced transplants indoors, "harden off" vegetable transplants two weeks before planting by gently exposing them to the outside temperatures. To do so, take your transplants outside in the day time and bring them in at night. Here are some important planting dates to remember for planting cool season vegetables in Kentucky's spring vegetable gardening season. Please refer to Table 15 to know the earliest and latest safe planting dates.

Table 15. Earliest and latest planting dates in the garden in Kentucky. (If producing your own transplants, begin two to 12 weeks earlier than these listed dates. See Table 6.)

Crops	Earliest Safe Planting Date			Latest Safe Planting Date ¹		
	Western	Central	Eastern	Eastern	Central	Western
Asparagus (crowns)	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	(Spring only)		
Beans (snap)	Apr 10	Apr 25	May 1	July 15	July 25	Aug 1
Beans (lima)	Apr 15	May 1	May 10	June 15	June 20	July 1
Beets	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 15
Broccoli (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
B. Sprouts (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cabbage	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Carrots	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cauliflower (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	July 20	Aug 5
Celery	Apr 1	Apr 5	Apr 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Chard	Mar 15	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 15	July 15	Aug 1
Collards	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 15	Aug 20	Aug 30
Sweet Corn	Apr 10	Apr 20	May 1	June 15	July 10	July 20
Cucumbers	Apr 20	May 1	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Eggplant (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Garlic	-	-	-	Nov 1	Nov 7	Nov 15
Kale	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Kohlrabi	Mar 15	Mar 20	Mar 25	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	Aug 1	Aug 15	Sept 1
Lettuce (bibb plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (head plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Muskmelons	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Okra	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Onions (sets)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Onions (plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	June 15	July 1	July 15
Onions (seed)	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Parsley	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Parsnips	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Peppers (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Irish Potatoes	Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Sweet Potatoes	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 1	June 10	June 15
Pumpkins	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 1	June 15	July 1
Radishes	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Sept 1	Sept 15	Oct 1
Rhubarb (crowns)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Rutabaga	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	July 1	July 10	July 15
Southern Peas	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Snow Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	July 20	Aug 1	Aug 8
Spinach	Feb 15	Mar 1	Mar 10	Aug 15	Sept 1	Sept 15
Summer Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Tomatoes (plants)	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Turnips	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 20
Watermelons	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Winter Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15

¹ Based on average of early maturing varieties. Mid-season and late-maturing varieties need to be planted 15 to 30 days earlier than latest date. Nearly all of the fall-planted garden crops will require irrigation during dry periods. Additional insect controls may be necessary for these tender young plants.

February Gardening Checklist:

Source: *Gardening by Month – February*, Missouri Botanical Garden

Vegetables

- Season extending devices such as cold frames, hot beds, cloches and floating row covers will allow for an early start to the growing season.
- Start onion seeds indoors now.
- Run a germination test on seeds stored from previous years to see if they will still sprout.
- Don't work garden soils if they are wet. Squeeze a handful of soil. It should form a ball that will crumble easily. If it is sticky, allow the soil to dry further before tilling or spading.
- Sow seeds of broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and cabbage indoors now for transplanting into the garden later this spring.
- If soil conditions allow, take a chance sowing peas, lettuce, spinach and radish. If the weather obliges, you will be rewarded with extra early harvests.

Fruits

- Inspect fruit trees for tent caterpillar egg masses. Eggs appear as dark brown or gray collars that encircle small twigs. Destroy by pruning or scratching off with your thumbnail.
- Collect scion wood now for grafting of fruit trees later in spring. Wrap bundled scions with plastic and store them in the refrigerator.
- Grapes and bramble fruits may be pruned now.
- Begin pruning fruit trees. Start with apples and pears first. Peaches and nectarines should be pruned just before they bloom.
- When pruning diseased branches, sterilize tools with a one part bleach, nine parts water solution in between cuts.
- Dry your tools at day's end and rub them lightly with oil to prevent rusting.

- Established fruit trees can be fertilized once frost leaves the ground. Use about one-half pound of 12-12-12 per tree, per year of age, up to a maximum of 10 pounds fertilizer per tree.
- Broadcast fertilizers over the root zone staying at least one foot from the tree trunk.

Miscellaneous

- To avoid injury to lawns, keep foot traffic to a minimum when soils are wet or frozen.
- When sowing seeds indoors, be sure to use sterile soil mediums to prevent diseases. As soon as seeds sprout, provide ample light to encourage stocky growth.
- Repot any root-bound house plants now before vigorous growth occurs. Choose a new container that is only 1 or 2 inches larger in diameter than the old pot.
- To extend the vase life of cut flowers you should:
 1. Recut stems underwater with a sharp knife.
 2. Remove any stem foliage that would be underwater.
 3. Use a commercial flower preservative.
 4. Display flowers in a cool spot, away from direct sunlight.
- Now is a good time to learn to identify trees by their winter twigs and buds.
- Branches of pussy willow, quince, crabapple, forsythia, pear and flowering cherry may be forced indoors. Place cut stems in a vase of water and change the water every 4 days.

- Watch for squirrels feeding on the tender, swollen buds of Elms, Hickories, Oaks and other trees as spring approaches.
- Begin to fertilize house plants as they show signs of new growth. Plants that are still resting should receive no fertilizer.
- Now is a good time to apply appropriate sprays for the control of lawn weeds such as chickweed and dandelion.
- Tall and leggy house plants such as dracaena, dieffenbachia and rubber plants may be air layered now.
- Save grape vine pruning to make attractive wreaths and other craft objects.

- Late winter storms often bury birds' natural food supplies and a well stocked feeding station will provide a life-giving haven for our feathered friends.
- Encourage birds to nest in your yard by providing water and by putting up bird houses. Planting suitable shrubs, trees, vines and evergreens will provide wild food sources and nesting habitat.



Growing Figs in Kentucky

**SPEAKERS:
MARTIN & JOLEEN STONE**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
6:00 PM
WARREN CO. EXTENSION OFFICE**

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL THE EXTENSION OFFICE
AT (270) 842-1681.



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

March Gardening Checklist:

Source: *Gardening by Month – March*, Missouri Botanical Garden

Houseplants

- As day lengths increase, plants begin new growth. Repot rootbound plants, moving them to containers 2 inches larger in diameter than their current pot. Check for insect activity and apply controls as needed. Leggy plants may be pruned now.

Ornamentals

- Trees, shrubs and perennials may be planted as soon as they become available at local nurseries.
- To control iris borer, clean up and destroy the old foliage before new growth begins.
- Fertilize bulbs with a "bulb booster" formulation broadcast over the planting beds. Hose off any granules that stick to the foliage.
- Dormant mail order plants should be unwrapped immediately. Keep the roots from drying out, store in a cool protected spot, and plant as soon as conditions allow.
- Loosen winter mulches from perennials cautiously. Re-cover plants at night if frost returns.
- Clean up beds by removing all weeds and dead foliage at this time.
- Heavy pruning of trees should be complete before growth occurs. Trees should not be pruned while the new leaves are growing.
- Seeds of hardy annuals such as larkspur, bachelor's buttons, Shirley and California poppies should be directly sown in the garden now.
- Summer and fall blooming perennials should be divided in spring.
- Ornamental grasses should be cut to the ground just as the new growth begins.
- Spring bedding plants, such as pansies and toadflax (*Linaria* sp.), may be planted outdoors now.
- Apply a balanced fertilizer such as 6-12-12 to perennial beds when new growth appears.

- Apply sulfur to the soils around acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, hollies and dogwoods. Use a granular formulation at the rate of 1/2 pound per 100 square feet.
- Gradually start to pull back mulch from rose bushes.

Lawns

- Mow lawns low to remove old growth before new growth begins.
- Apply broadleaf herbicides now for control of cool-season perennial and annual weeds. These must not be applied to areas that will be seeded soon.
- Apply controls for wild garlic. It will take several years of annual applications for complete control.
- Thin spots and bare patches in the lawn can be overseeded now.

Vegetables

- Any root crops such as horseradish, parsnips, Jerusalem artichokes, or carrots still in the ground from last year should be harvested before new green top growth appears.
- Cultivate weeds and remove the old, dead stalks of last year's growth from the asparagus bed before the new spears emerge.
- Fertilize the garden as the soil is being prepared for planting. Unless directed otherwise by a soil test, 1 to 2 pounds of 12-12-12 or an equivalent fertilizer per 100 square feet is usually sufficient.
- Delay planting if the garden soil is too wet. When a ball of soil crumbles easily after being squeezed together in your hand, it is dry enough to be safely worked.
- Asparagus and rhubarb roots should be planted as soon as the ground can be worked.

- Plant peas, lettuce, radishes, kohlrabi, mustard greens, collards, turnips, Irish potatoes, spinach and onions (seeds and sets) outdoors.
- Plant beets, carrots, parsley and parsnip seeds outdoors.
- Set out broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, Chinese cabbage and cauliflower transplants into the garden.
- Start seeds of tomatoes, peppers and eggplants indoors.

Fruits

- Gradually remove mulch from strawberries as the weather begins to warm.
- Continue pruning apple trees. Burn or destroy all prunings to minimize insect or disease occurrence.
- Continue pruning grapes. Bleeding causes no injury to the vines. Tie vines to the trellis before the buds swell to prevent bud injury and crop loss.
- Cleft and splice grafting can be done now. This must be completed before rootstocks break dormancy.

- Aphids begin to hatch on fruit trees as the buds begin to open.
- Apply dormant oil sprays now. Choose a dry day when freezing temperatures are not expected.
- Spray peach trees with a fungicide for the control of peach leaf curl disease.
- Mulch all bramble fruits for weed control.
- Peaches and nectarines should be pruned just before they bloom.

Miscellaneous

- Red maples begin to bloom.
- Set up nesting boxes for bluebirds.
- Spicebush is blooming in moist woodlands.
- Raise purple martin houses this week.
- The white flowers of serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) and wild plum (*Prunus americana*) are showy in wooded areas.
- Watch for the fuzzy blooms of the pussy willow (*Salix* sp.)



FRUIT TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 4th
9:00 a.m.
Jackson's Orchard
 (1280 Slim Island Road)

This workshop is free, but we ask that people register by contacting the WCEO at (270) 842-1681.

Make sure to dress accordingly since the program will be held outdoors.

Please make sure to practice social distancing.

Martin J. Hildebrand
 Kristin Hildebrand
 Warren County Extension Agent
 for Horticulture

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Homebased Microprocessing Workshop

Wednesday, March 29th, 2023
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
 Warren County Cooperative Extension Office
 5162 Russellville Road Bowling Green, KY

Join our workshop!
 Homebased microprocessors are farmers who grow and harvest produce to use in their value-added products. Homebased microprocessors are required to grow a predominant ingredient in the products they make. The first step to becoming certified as a homebased microprocessor is to attend a Homebased Microprocessor (HBM) workshop presented by the University of Kentucky.

The cost of the workshop is \$50.00.

For more information & to register:
ukfcs.net/HBM
 or call 270-842-1681

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Cabbage Jambalaya



Ingredients:

- 1 pound lean ground beef, browned
- 14.5 oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups chopped celery
- 1-1/2 cups chopped onions
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup brown rice
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 13 oz. Turkey smoked sausage, sliced
- 1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning
- 10 cups chopped cabbage

Directions: Add browned beef to large stockpot, add celery and cook 2 minutes. Add onion and garlic and cook 4 minutes while stirring, add smoked sausage and cook 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in cabbage and cook until it wilts, about 3 minutes. Add tomatoes, water, rice, garlic powder and Cajun seasoning. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium. Cover and simmer for 40 minutes. Serve hot. Yield: 10, 1 cup servings.



Nutritional Analysis: 250 calories; 8 g fat; 3 g saturated fat; 60 mg cholesterol; 400 mg sodium; 26 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 6 g sugars; 0 g added sugar; 18 g protein

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