

FALL 2025 EDITION

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

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Kristin's Comments



Happy Gardening!

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Welcome to the Fall 2025 Edition of the Horticulture Happenings Newsletter! Here's a quick overview of what you'll find in this edition:

- Learn the step-by-step process for transplanting and dividing peonies from your home garden this fall. Gardeners can see the complete guide of instructions listed on pages 2 and 3.
- With the arrival of fall, it's also the perfect time to plant garlic in your vegetable garden. For tips on growing your own garlic in Kentucky, check out page 4.
- Stay organized with our fall gardening activities! September's recommendations are on page 5, and October's are on page 6.
- The Warren County Extension Office is excited to partner with the area on a new online program that focuses on teaching beginners how to master farming in Kentucky! For more information and registration instructions, please take a look at page 7.
- Enjoy a variety of fall vegetables with our featured recipe for Fall Slaw, located on the back of the newsletter.
- Stay up to date with all the latest news by following us on our social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Blog, Podcast, and Radio. We would love to have new followers, so see the back page of the newsletter!

Thank you for reading, and happy gardening!

 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



PAGE 1



Transplanting & Dividing Peonies

SOURCE: IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION & OUTREACH

Peonies can be left undisturbed in the garden for many years. Occasionally, however, it becomes necessary to move plants. Peonies in partial shade need to be moved to a sunny location to improve flowering. Plants may need to be moved to a different location when redesigning a perennial bed or border. Large, vigorous peonies can be dug and divided for propagation purposes.

Transplant and Divide in the Fall

September is the best time to transplant or divide peonies. Begin by cutting off the peony stems near ground level. Then carefully dig around and under each plant. Try to retain as much of the root system as possible.

How to Divide

Division of large peony clumps requires a few additional steps. After digging up the plant, gently shake the clump to remove loose soil from the root system. Using a sharp knife, divide the clump into sections. Each division should have at least 3 to 5 buds (eyes) and a good root system. Divisions with fewer than 3 buds will likely require several years to produce a good flower display.

The Best Location to Plant Peonies

Peonies perform best in full sun and well-drained soils. When selecting a planting site, choose a location that receives at least 6 hours of direct sun each day. Avoid shady areas near large trees and shrubs. Poorly drained soils can often be improved by incorporating compost into the soil.



**Gardening Tip:
Before digging
and dividing
peonies, ensure
the new site is
prepared and
ready.**





Transplanting & Dividing Peonies (continued)

SOURCE: IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION & OUTREACH

Planting Peonies after Digging or Dividing

When planting a peony, dig a hole that is large enough to accommodate the plant's root system. Position the peony in the hole so the buds are 1 to 2 inches below the soil surface. (Peonies often fail to bloom satisfactorily if the buds are more than 2 inches deep.) Fill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant as you backfill. Then water thoroughly. Space peonies 3 to 4 feet apart.



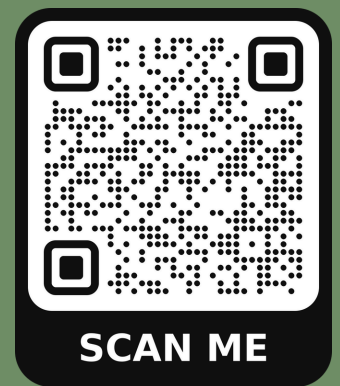
USING A
SOIL KNIFE
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In mid- to late November, apply a 4- to 6-inch layer of mulch over the newly planted peonies. Excellent mulching materials include clean, weed-free straw and pine needles. Mulching prevents repeated freezing and thawing of the soil during the winter months, which could heave plants out of the ground. Remove the mulch in early spring before growth begins.

To watch a short video on how to dig, divide, and transplant peonies, check out the QR code listed on this page of the newsletter. If this video was helpful, please feel free to leave us a comment in the comments section.

If you have other questions on how to divide perennials this fall, don't hesitate to get in touch with the local Extension Office in your area. We would be happy to assist you!

To watch how to
dig, divide, and
transplant
peonies, scan the
QR Code listed:





Growing your Own: Garlic

SOURCE: GROWING YOUR OWN: GARLIC, NEP-241

Garlic is a flavorful garden vegetable used in countless recipes. In Kentucky, plant garlic in October and early November. Leave it in the garden for the winter, then harvest in early to mid-summer when leaves begin to turn yellow and brown at the tips.

Types: Garlic is typically categorized into two main types: hardneck and softneck. Hardneck garlic also produces edible flower stalks, known as scapes, which are topped with bulbils. Bulbils are tiny garlic bulbs inside the flower head. Hardneck varieties are more cold-hardy than softneck varieties, but both perform well in Kentucky. Softneck varieties often store much longer than hardneck varieties. Try these varieties, but others may also do well.

- Music (hardneck) is a very popular garlic with a classic garlic flavor. It also stores well.
- Bogatyr (hardneck) forms smaller bulbs with an outer skin that is purple-striped.
- Polish (softneck) produces huge bulbs with white skin. It offers good storage and intense flavor.
- Inchelium Red (softneck) produces large bulbs with mild flavor that are excellent for storage.

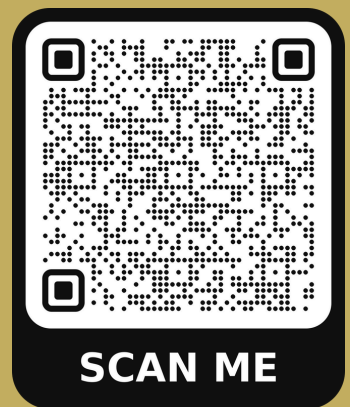
How much to plant

A five-foot row should yield eight to 12 heads (bulbs) of garlic.

How and when to plant: Plant garlic in an open, sunny spot with well-drained soil. In Kentucky, garlic is typically planted in the fall, primarily from October to early November. Garlic grows best with added nutrients. Starting in spring, add a slow-release fertilizer or compost, or use a water-soluble fertilizer according to the product label.

Harvesting: In addition to garlic bulbs, you can also eat garlic leaves, scapes, and bulbils, all of which have a garlic flavor. You can harvest these while the plant is growing, and you can use them like garlic cloves. Be sure to harvest only a few leaves to allow the plant to develop and produce large garlic bulbs. Bulbs start to mature in late June to mid-July, the year after you plant them. When several leaves begin to yellow and the tips turn brown, garlic bulbs are ready to harvest. With care, loosen the soil around the bulbs. Gently pull the stalk to remove the bulb from the ground. Shake off excess soil and place in a shaded area to cure (dry) for about two weeks. Once dry, you can braid the tops together, tie them for storage, or remove them as needed. Keep some bulbs to plant for next year's crop.

To listen to
The Sunshine
Gardening Podcast
episode for Growing
Garlic, scan the QR
Code below:





September Garden Calendar

SOURCE: MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

- Plant trees and shrubs from fall through November. Remember, your care and attention are crucial to watering new plantings adequately to ensure their healthy growth.
- Conifers, known for their resilience, naturally shed their inner needles in the fall. This process, especially noticeable on pines and arborvitae, is a sign of their health and should reassure you of your gardening skills.
- If you notice your spruces infected with needle cast, please take care of them by quickly pruning the infected branches and cleaning up any fallen needles. This responsible action can help maintain your garden's health.
- Damage from scorch, sunburn, and heat stress from the summer may be noticeable. In subsequent years, provide enough water to plants early in the day on hot days.
- Watch for cabbage loopers and imported cabbage worms as more cole crops are planted and temperatures cool.
- Finish planting cool-season seeds like leafy greens and radishes by mid-September. Sow seeds of these crops in a cold frame or low tunnel to prolong fall harvest.
- Pick pears before they are fully mature. Store in a cool, dark basement to ripen.
- Clean up any fallen or spoiled fruits.
- Pinch off young summer fruits (tomatoes, peppers, squash) to promote the ripening of more mature fruit.
- Harvest and process summer herbs for winter use by drying or freezing them. This step will ensure you have fresh herbs for your winter dishes.
- Perennials, especially spring bloomers like peonies, can be divided now. When planting peonies, plant only 1-2 inches deep, as planting too deep can cause flowers not to form.
- As milkweeds (*Asclepias* sp.) form pods, milkweed bugs can eat the seeds, leaves, and stems. Damage is minimal, and most infestations are merely a nuisance.
- Take cuttings of annuals now to provide vigorous plants for overwintering.
- Autumn is an excellent time to add compost to garden soils to increase organic matter content.
- Monarchs are migrating now; it's normal for milkweed plants (*Asclepias* sp.) to appear depleted due to caterpillar feeding.

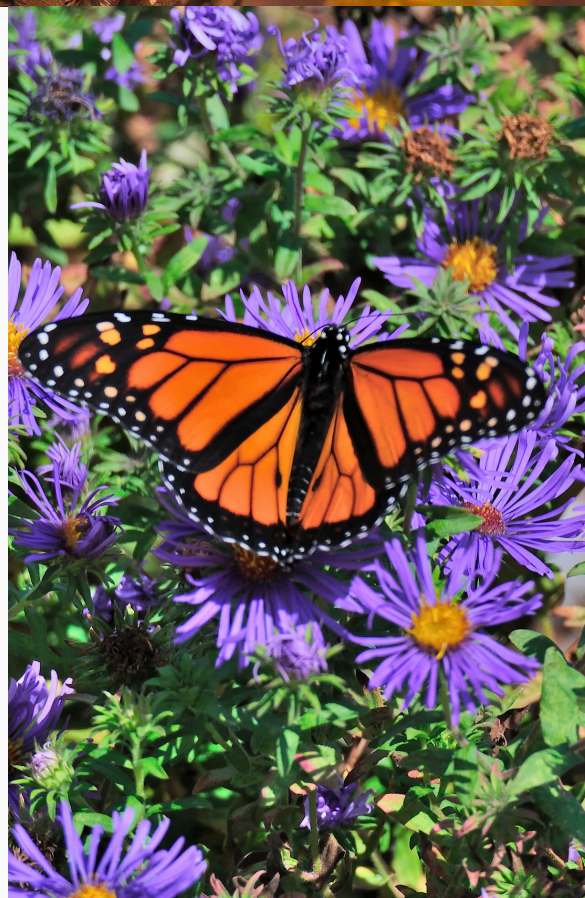




October Garden Calendar

SOURCE: MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

- Make sure to adequately water plants, especially evergreens, if conditions are dry throughout fall.
- Peak fall color usually occurs in late October through early November. Now is the time to observe and choose nursery stock based on fall color.
- As perennials die back, cut them down to about 1 inch above the soil level. Leave some natives up, such as echinacea, rudbeckia, and helianthus, to provide a food source for wildlife during fall and winter.
- Plant daffodils and other spring bulbs by mid to late October. Tulips can be planted until the ground freezes.
- Dig non-hardy bulbs like dahlias, gladiolus, and cannas when the first frost kills the foliage or leaves turn yellow. Clean off dirt and allow it to dry under cover in an airy, frost-free place before storing.
- Look for fall color perennials with late-season blooms: New England aster (*Symphiotrichum novae-angliae*), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), and ornamental grasses.
- Plant garlic and shallot bulbs through October.
- Continue harvesting fall crops. Be sure to harvest tender crops, pumpkins, and winter squash before the first frost.
- Persimmons start to ripen, especially after frost. They are best eaten when the fruit is mushy (many people harvest fallen fruit). If they are underripe, they will have a chalk-like taste.
- Protect some tender fall crops with a frost or row cover.
- Keep broccoli picked regularly to encourage additional production of side shoots.
- Clean up plant debris to reduce the chance of fungal issues in the next year. Many fungi overwinter in leftover plant material.
- Leave fallen leaves around your garden beds to supply local wildlife with food and habitats over the winter. The leaves will also provide some fertilization and weed suppression.
- Houseplants and other tropical plants should be brought inside by early to mid-October or before nightly temperatures reach below 50. Before bringing them in, check and treat them for the following pests: spider mites, scale, whiteflies, mealybugs, and fungus gnats.





ONLINE



FARMING 101: FARMING BASICS FOR SUCCESS

Join the Farming 101 class from the comfort of your home! This virtual course is perfect for beginners and will cover essential farming practices to help you grow confidently and succeed! Whether starting a backyard garden or planning a small farm, you'll acquire practical knowledge to get you started. All you need is an internet connection!

What will I learn?

- Module 1- Agriculture Resources in Your Community & Farm Business Management
- Module 2- Things to Consider When Getting Started
- Module 3- Enterprises to Consider on Your Farm
- Module 4- Basic Equipment Needs For Your Farm
- Plus, Special Bonus Content!

Who should join?

- Beginning Farmers
- Urban Gardeners
- Hobby Farmers

Sign up today using this QR code!
Deadline to Register is September 10, 2025.

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



Dates & Time:

Launches

September 15, 2025

**Register using the QR
Code listed here**

**Registration Deadline:
September 10, 2025**

Program Fee: \$35.00

Kristin G. Hildabrand

Kristin Hildabrand
Warren Co. Extension Agent
for Horticulture



Fall Slaw

SOURCE: PLAN. EAT. MOVE.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup shredded purple or green cabbage
- 10 ounces fresh Brussels sprouts, shredded
- 1 Granny Smith apple, diced
- ½ cup celery, diced
- 1 yellow bell pepper, diced
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- ¼ cup raw, shelled sunflower seeds
- 2 tablespoons honey
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon celery seeds

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine cabbage and the following six ingredients.
2. In a small bowl, whisk honey with remaining ingredients. Pour over the cabbage mixture and toss to coat.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 220 calories; 12g total fat; 1.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 0mg cholesterol; 25mg sodium; 27g carbohydrate; 4g fiber; 19g sugar; 3g protein; 8% Daily Value of vitamin A; 180% Daily Value of vitamin C; 4% Daily Value of calcium; 4% Daily Value of iron

**Scan the QR code
here to watch how to
make this recipe
at home. Enjoy!**



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