



BARREN COUNTY'S AVID HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER

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HORTICULTURE

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Kristin's Comments:



Hey ya'll, it's fall! I simply love this time of year! Even though I hate to see summer leave, I am always happy to get a glimpse of the leaves on the trees as they change their beautiful fall color, pull out my warm sweaters and hoodies, and sip hot apple cider during those cool crisp mornings. Come to think of it, I don't know what I don't like about the fall!

In this first ever issue of Barren County's Avid Horticulture Newsletter, I have enclosed some educational information about several horticulture activities that are taking place during the fall. For instance, if you are dissatisfied with the overall appearance of your yard, you can establish a new lawn.

If you're wanting to add spring bulbs such as iris, tulips, and hyacinth to your flower bed; get to planting cause fall is the prime time! Many of you savvy green thumb gardeners are collecting the last of your fresh produce from your fall gardens and starting to or in the process of canning or freezing those delectable fall vegetables to savor during the cold winter days that are vastly approaching. But don't forget about your garden and leave it bare this winter! Planting cover crops in the fall can help your garden in more ways than one! ****Note:** If you or a friend would like to receive our horticulture newsletter, please contact our office so that we can add your name to our mailing list.

Kristin Goodin

Kristin Goodin
 County Extension Agent for Horticulture

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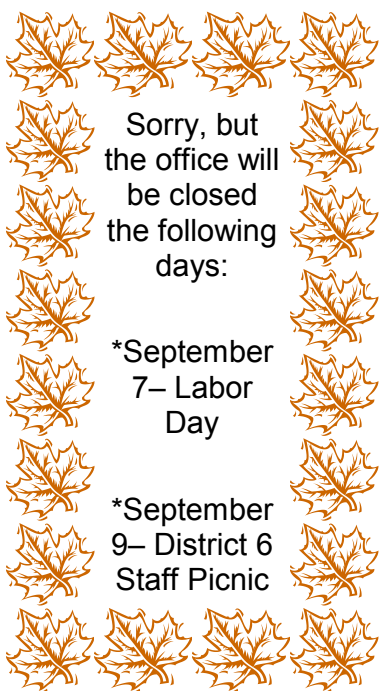
Quote:
 When apple seeds, all white before
 Begin to darken to the core,
 I know that summer scarcely here,
 Is gone until another year.
 — Edna St. Vincent Millay



Establishing a New Lawn

Coming in the
November/December
issue:

- *Composting*
- *Garden Clean-Up*
- *Caring for*



Sorry, but
the office will
be closed
the following
days:

*September
7- Labor
Day

*September
9- District 6
Staff Picnic

It's about that time to start thinking about your lawn again! August through mid-September is the best time to establish a new lawn or reestablish an existing lawn. This process involves soil tillage and destruction of existing grass. An advantage to tilling the soil is the ability to improve it by adding and incorporating organic matter.

Starting a new lawn now is preferred because weed competition is less than in the spring. Also, temperature and moisture conditions in mid-August to late September are favorable for lawn establishment.

Tall fescue is the best ideal grass for Kentucky lawns. It has few insect and disease problems, competes well with most weeds, has good traffic tolerance, establishes relatively easily, has a wide fertility range, tolerates full sun and moderate shade, and adapts to wet and droughty soils or clay and sandy soils. Although it is normally a bunchgrass, when sown at the proper rate, leaf coarseness or clumping is not a problem.

Some varieties of tall

fescue with the best overall performance in University of Kentucky trials are Rembrandt, Masterpiece, 2nd Millennium, Plantation, Jaguar 3, Coyote, Watchdog, Shenandoah II, Rebel Sentry, Kickoff, Tracer, Dominion, Falcon IV, and Rebel Exeda. These varieties have a narrower leaf blade than Ky 31.

Under optimum conditions, the germination time for tall fescue is 7-10 days. However this time can be greatly extended when surface soil moisture is very lacking, when the surface soil temperature remains cold, or even when there are periods of wet/dry conditions. Germination also takes longer when old seed or poor quality seed is used or when new seed harvested in the summer is used for a late summer seeding. This seed may have a short term dormancy factor that will slow down germination for several weeks.

The most important step in establishing a fescue lawn is soil preparation. It is easier to amend the soil before the lawn is established.

Adding organic matter to the existing top soil is

the best way to improve the soil. Peat moss, well-decomposed sawdust, well-rotted, weed-free manure, and compost will improve soil that is either too sandy or contains too much clay. Use 2 to 3 cubic yards of organic matter for each 1000 square feet of lawn area. Spread it evenly over the surface and thoroughly roto-till or disk it into the upper 6 inches of soil before seeding. Organic matter will help to improve water drainage and reduce compaction in clay soils. Do not work the soil when it is wet because the soil will compact more, thus losing the benefits of the organic matter.

Before planting the seed, it is best to test the soil to determine the need for lime or fertilizer. Soil can be tested through your county Cooperative Extension Office. Generally, the tests are completed in 10 to 14 days. Testing the soil may save money and prevent problems in the future.

If a soil test cannot be made before the seed is planted, apply approximately 80 pounds per 1000 square feet of ground limestone. Also apply only one



of the following fertilizers: 25 pounds per 1000 square feet of 10-10-10, or 20 pounds per 1000 square feet of 5-20-20. Work all lime and fertilizer into the top 4 to 6 inches of soil before seeding.

Next, allow soil to settle in the newly worked area through two or three good rains or irrigations. If the water puddles, drain or fill in these low spots. Good surface drainage is a must! The final seedbed should be firm but not compacted and free of large clods and rocks.

Seeding the lawn can be done with a rotary seeder or drop-type seed and fertilizer spreader. Seeding rates for tall fescue is 6 pounds per 1000 square feet. For uniform distribution of the seed, divide the seed into two equal lots with the second lot seeded at right angles to the first. The seed should be covered by raking over it lightly or rolling, but avoid making a smooth surface.

Then mulch the area with clean, weed-free straw or other suitable material. The mulch should be spread thin enough to expose about 50 percent of the soil surface. It takes approximately one bale of straw per 1000 square feet of area. Water the newly seeded area frequently, espe-

cially if you do not use mulch. Keep the soil surface moist until the grass seedlings become established.

After the tall fescue grass seedlings begin to grow, mow at the recommended height of 2.5 to 3 inches. Remember to sharpen the mower blade so the grass leaf blade is cut cleanly and not torn. By mowing early and not letting excessive grass accumulate, the texture will be finer, many upright weeds will be killed, and the turf will become denser.

If you have questions or would like more information about establishing a new lawn, contact the Barren County Cooperative Extension Service.

Written by Annette Meyer Heisdorffer, Daviess County Horticulture Extension Agent



SAVE THE DATE

Second Sunday

is a statewide event that encourages all forms of physical activity within the local community, and is designed to get Kentuckians moving.

Beaver Creek Park
2:00-4:00 pm

Walking, Biking and Running - Family Fun Relays - Obstacle Courses - Zumba - Line Dancing - Senior Exercise Activities

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

BE THERE. BE HEALTHY.

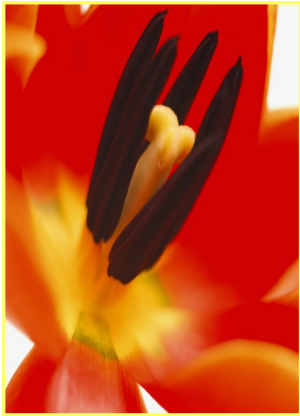


2ndsundayky.com

OCTOBER 11 2009



Planting Spring-Blooming Bulbs in the Fall



Do you feel like your landscape or flower bed is lacking in spring color? Well, get out your garden spade or shovel and start to digging

because fall is the prime time for planting spring-blooming bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths! Here are a few helpful suggestions to follow when planting spring blooming bulbs in the fall, so you can brighten up that space with a colorful display for spring!

Bulbs thrive in sunny locations with good soil drainage

and in soils with a pH range between 5.5 to 6.5. Small sized bulbs (about 1 inch) should be planted 1 to 4 inches apart in holes 5 inches deep. Large bulbs (2 inches or more) should be planted 4 to 8 inches apart in holes 8 inches deep. These proper planting depths will help protect the bulbs from frost, animals, and physical damage due to hoeing.

Next, break up and loosen the soil under the bulbs and place the bulbs upright in the hole with the pointed side up. Cover the bulbs with half of the soil removed from the hole, water the bulbs thoroughly, and replace with remaining soil. Add 2 to 3 inches of organic mulch and water thoroughly again.

Source: Sharon Bale, UK Extension Floriculture Specialist

Cover Crops in the Garden

Leaving your garden “bare” during the winter months allows for harsh wind and water to carry away enriched topsoil that plants desire. Heavy rainfall can even move minerals further down through the soil causing leaching to form around the root zone of future vegetables. Not to mention, it welcomes a number of weeds, insects, and diseases to become established and infect the next crop. A good

solution to these problems is to apply a lush top growth layer of a cover crop to your garden plot.

Cover crops, also known as green manure, are legumes (pea-family plants) or grasses planted to improve the quality of your garden’s soil. Most cover crops are planted in the fall and dug into the soil in spring. As they decay, they add valuable organic matter to the soil, making it easier to work and helping to retain moisture. They also reduce

erosion, choke out weeds, and provide early spring flowers to supply nectar and pollen for beneficial insects.

Some traditional cover crops recommended for gardens are ryegrass, winter rye, winter wheat, oats, white clover, sweet clover, Austrian winter/field peas, other legumes and buckwheat.

If you would like to receive more information about cover crops, contact the Barren County Cooperative Extension Office in Glasgow.



Gardening Calendar



September

- Get fall compost cooking with the last of your grass clippings, spent plants, and leaves.
- As garden beds empty, sow quick-growing cover crops like winter rye.
- Work spring flowering bulbs into perennial beds.
- Dig up, divide, and replant clumps of overgrown perennials.

October

- Squeeze in a few last sowings of spinach and other cold-hardy greens beneath row covers or cold frames.
- Have frost protectors handy to extend the harvest of tender veggies.
- Begin cleaning up the garden.
- Compost all spent plants, shredded leaves, and the last grass clippings.
- Continue planting spring-blooming bulbs, trees, and shrubs.

Recipe Corner:

APPLE SALAD

- 2 cups diced apples (with peel)
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup nuts
- 2 tablespoons salad dressing or mayonnaise (thinned with 1 tablespoon lemon or orange juice)



Toss apples, celery, raisins, and nuts with-the dressing mixture.

Yield: Eight 1/2-cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 110 calories, 6g fat, 1g protein, 15 g carbohydrates, 0 mg cholesterol, 35 mg sodium.

