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[www.ca.uky.edu/ces](http://www.ca.uky.edu/ces)

## The Franklin County Fair & Horse Show

You won't want to miss this year's Fair!  
July 12-17, 2010

Franklin County has had a county fair, with a few interruptions, since the turn of the 20th century. The longest gap being the period during or soon after World War I that lasted until a Fall Festival was held from 1944 to 1948. During each of those gaps, there was no means of spotlighting the projects of the many talented youth groups, and no opportunity for citizens to gather as a community and to enter into friendly competition.



Then, in 1953, under the supervision of County Extension Agent Robert Heath and the agriculture teachers at the county high schools, a few community leaders decided it was time to provide a venue for area youth to display the good work they were doing and to let the public learn from them.

Early in 1954, the Franklin County Youth Fair was organized. It had a very humble beginning by present standards. There were no money prizes. Ribbons – and bragging rights – were given on the Danish System. Large animals were shown in trucks. The 1954 and 1955 fairs are believed to have been for boys only.

During this period, the Franklin County Board of Education, recognizing that the fair was another process for learning, generously allowed the use of school properties for many of the fairs.

Sites for the fair during those early years were: 1954- Thorn Hill School; 1955 -Second Street School; 1956-57 - Capital City Airport; 1958- Bridgeport High School; 1959-89-Franklin County High School; 1990-91- Western Hills High School. In 1993, under the leadership of President Shirley Noel, the fair moved to its new home at Lakeview Park. Attendance continued to grow each year.

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## LATE BLIGHT FOUND ON TOMATOES

By Kenny Seebold, Extension Plant Pathologist

On May 27, we confirmed a case of late blight on tomatoes from a home garden in the northern Kentucky area. Since that first report, we have found additional cases in Fayette and Clark Counties, and it's likely that there are more. In most years, we expect to see very little of this disease and only then at the end of the summer. This marks this second year in a row that this devastating disease of tomato has appeared earlier-than-expected. The weather conditions that we face for the coming week, fortunately, do not favor development and spread of late blight. Still, it's likely that the disease has become established in some areas, and we need to be on guard. Taking preventive action is key, and this means being on a regular fungicide schedule (discussed later in this article). The following is a brief description of late blight and some controls that may be applied.

**The Disease.** Late blight is caused by *Phytophthora infestans*, a fungus-like organism, and is a fast-moving and highly destructive disease of tomatoes and potatoes under cool and wet conditions. Late blight epidemics in the late 1840's were responsible for the Irish potato famine and subsequent migration of millions of people to the United States. All plant parts are affected, including fruit and tubers. Total losses are common in gardens and fields if control measures are not put in place. Late blight can easily enter greenhouses and high tunnels as well.



**Symptoms.** Early symptoms of late blight are large water-soaked blotches on foliage that will enlarge and form green-to-brown lesions. Sporulation may be evident on the undersides of lesions under moist conditions; this sporulation will be

gray to white in color. Necrotic leaf tissue will blacken and shrivel, giving affected plants a blighted appearance. The pathogen will also attack petioles and stems, killing the plant in some cases. Tomato fruit affected by late blight develop as darkened spots that enlarge over time, and fungal growth may be seen in rotted tissue. Infected fruit are invaded by secondary organisms and develop soft rot. Potato tubers can become infected from



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The Fair has received many awards over the years. It received the coveted Most Progressive Fair in Kentucky award for the 2001 Fair. This award, given by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, is judged in four categories: livestock entries; horse entries; food, crop and youth entries approved for state aid; and money spent on entries not approved for state aid.

In the 16 short years since the fair moved to Lakeview Park, hard-working volunteers on the Fair Board have built the Franklin County Fair and Horse Show into one of Kentucky's best and fastest-growing fairs. The awards bestowed upon the Franklin County Fair and Horse Show over the past several years evidence the hard work and dedication of the fair board and its army of volunteers.

The Fair Board would encourage those who haven't attended the fair before, or those who haven't been for several years, to please attend this year and give us a chance to entertain you. We, and many other volunteers, work almost year round to bring Franklin County the best entertainment we can afford. We'd like to showcase the talents and skills of all Franklin Countians and give everyone an opportunity to participate on some level.

For more information on the Franklin County Fair, and to see a schedule for the 2010 Fair, log on to: <http://www.franklincountyfair.info/> For more information contact Donna Gay, Fair Board President at 502-223-4106 or email [Donna.Gay@Frankfort.kyschools.us](mailto:Donna.Gay@Frankfort.kyschools.us)

## VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE FARMERS' MARKET TODAY!



If you find your local farmers market to be a great source of fresh, organic and locally grown foods, make sure to participate in America's Favorite Farmers Market contest and let the world know why you love your local market.

Farmers markets are an asset to our communities and deserve our support. You can help your favorite farmers market gain the recognition it deserves and ensure that it and others like it continue to thrive. If you find your local farmers market to be a great source of fresh, organic and locally grown foods, make sure to participate in America's Favorite Farmers Market contest and let the world know why you love your local market.

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Click on this link to vote today! <http://action.farmland.org/site/PageNavigator/Americas-Favorite-Farmers-Markets/best-local-farmers-market-vote>

spores washed from leaves into the soil and will decay.

**Control – Commercial Growers.** Preventive application of fungicides is necessary to prevent losses to late blight. Protectant fungicides such as chlorothalonil (Bravo and generics), maneb, and mancozeb (Dithane, Penncozeb, or Manzate), and fixed coppers can help when disease pressure is low;



however, when inoculum levels increase or if disease is found in fields, stronger products are recommended.

Growers need to scout plantings regularly for late blight and other diseases. Preventive fungicide applications are recommended at this point for all Kentucky tomato and potato growers to help combat late blight, and also early blight and Septoria (tomato). Growers should not wait to see symptoms of late blight before treating. A good protectant program aimed at late-blight prevention will also aid against other foliar fungal diseases. During favorable conditions, sprays need to be made every 5-7 days, and every 7-10 days during drier weather.

If late blight is found, growers should immediately destroy plants in the affected area plus bordering plants (as these are likely infected). Plants can be sprayed with an herbicide, or removed and disked under. Do not handle plants when they are wet, as this may spread disease; perform this operation when conditions are sunny and dry if possible. At the end of the season, promptly destroy crop residues. Do not leave cull piles out in the open, as the pathogen can spread or potentially survive in this residue. Bury this material if at all possible.

**Control – Homeowners.** The general management practices listed above apply also to the homeowner. Regular scouting of plantings, and prompt removal of infected plants is an important consideration. In home gardens, regular application of fungicides is less common than in commercial fields. Few fungicides are available to home gardeners; however, products containing chlorothalonil, maneb/mancozeb, or fixed copper are the tools of choice. These should be applied regularly, and the user should refer to the product label for rates, PHI, and safety precautions. These products, as mentioned earlier, will not function well if pressure is high or if disease is present before spray programs are started.

**Control – Organic Producers.** Control measures for organic producers are similar to those recommended for home gardeners. OMRI-approved fungicides such as fixed-copper (depends on the product) can be used in a preventive program. Other OMRI-approved products include: Sporatec, Sonata, Serenade Max, Oxidate, and Companion. As with the protectants recommended for home gardeners, these products do not perform well under high disease pressure or if disease is present prior to treatment. Consult product labels for rates, PHI, and safety precautions.

## SUMMER TIPS FOR THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Charlie Nardozi, Senior Horticulturist  
National Gardening Association

Mulching, pest control, and proper harvest are some of the tips for this season's vegetable garden.

There's evidence that fruiting of tomatoes and peppers is improved by applying Epsom salts, which contains sulfur and magnesium. Apply one tablespoon of granules around each transplant, or spray a solution of one tablespoon Epsom salts per gallon of water at transplanting, first flowering, and fruit set. You can find it at drug and grocery stores.

Reduce the weeds in walkways in your garden by covering the soil with some type of mulch. Some people like to use carpet scraps placed upside-down. Several sheets of moistened newspaper topped with hay or straw works very well, especially if you move your planting areas around a bit from year to year. Landscape fabric topped with wood chips or gravel is a good choice if the walkways are permanent. Try to avoid the habit of tilling to remove weeds because the process brings up weed seeds from deeper in the soil and exposes them to the light they need to grow.

Indeterminate tomato plants, such as 'Better Boy', will produce many suckers. A sucker is a new shoot that starts where a branch connects with the main trunk. Removing suckers will decrease the number of fruits produced, but the remaining tomatoes will be larger and will ripen sooner.

Set your tomato supports in place before plants get too large. Smaller determinate (bushy) varieties can be supported with small cages, but larger indeterminate (vining) varieties need large cages or tall stakes. Secure cages with stakes so they don't topple.

Blossom end rot shows up as dark sunken spots on the blossom, or non-stem, end of tomatoes, peppers, and squash. It's caused by a calcium imbalance in the plant. The soil may have adequate calcium, but the plant isn't able to take up

enough to supply the rapidly developing fruit. To minimize the problem, keep soil evenly moist, apply a layer of mulch to conserve moisture, don't over-fertilize (especially avoid high-nitrogen fertilizer), and avoid damaging plant roots while cultivating.



Coffee grounds, diatomaceous earth, and even sharp gravel can deter slugs and snails. Spread any of these materials in a ring around individual plants. Wrap pots with copper tape to keep slugs from crawling up. Inspect foliage and squish or pick off any insects that have already passed the barriers.

Young cucumber, melon, and squash plants are easy prey for cucumber beetles. As the seedlings grow, these yellow-striped or spotted beetles emerge to feed on their foliage. The beetles also spread bacterial wilt disease. To control them in a small planting, suck them up with a portable vacuum cleaner or spray beneficial nematodes on the soil.

It's not too late to sow lettuce, beets, carrots, radishes, and other short-season crops for a late-summer harvest. Shade lettuce, if possible, during late afternoon to keep young plants cooler, or grow them next to larger plants that provide some shade. You'll need to water more often on these hot days than you did in spring and early summer. Mulch between rows to preserve moisture and block weed growth.



Harvest tomatoes, zucchini, beans, and other fruiting crops frequently to encourage continued production. Remove any fruits that have gone by unless you're in competition for the biggest zucchini! You don't want the plant to produce mature seeds because that will signal that it's time to slow down fruit production.

Herbs are best harvested just as they are beginning to flower. That's when they have the highest concentration of essential oils -- and flavor -- in their leaves. Harvest entire branches back to within a few inches of the main stem to encourage new, bushy growth.

Begin harvesting onions when about half to three quarters of the leaves have died back. Then gently dig or pull the onions and store them in a dry, shady place with good ventilation, such as an outdoor shed or barn, for 10 days to two weeks. After the onions have cured, put them in slatted crates or mesh bags and store them over winter indoors in a cellar with low humidity and temperatures between 33 and 45 degrees F.

When the daytime temperatures no longer rise above 65 degrees F in late summer and early fall, it's time to pick the green tomatoes. Wrap them individually in newspaper and let them ripen indoors, or try some fried.



[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_6245606\\_press-flowers-naturally.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_6245606_press-flowers-naturally.html)  
<http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=G6540>



People have used natural methods for pressing flowers throughout history. Pressed flowers serve as decorative material and provide an educational experience. According to Harvard University's website, the 19th century American poet Emily Dickinson created a herbarium--a book of specimens--containing over 400 species of flowers and plants. This artifact belongs to Harvard University's Houghton Library. A common and time-tested natural flower-pressing method involves placing flowers between the pages of books. The colors and moisture from plant materials can damage books, however. Fortunately, an inexpensive method for pressing flowers requires only a few common household items.

## Things You'll Need:

Flowers

Newspapers, phone books or catalogs

Facial tissues

Two boards at least 8 inches by 12 inches (or one board and floor space for the pressing stack)

Weights, such as weight plates from a weight lifting set, heavy books or a heavy box

Labels---such as sticky notes or small notepad paper (optional)

Pen (optional)

- Step 1:** Gather flowers for pressing. Use blooms ranging from buds to fully open flowers that are in good condition.
- Step 2:** Fold a newspaper in half along its original fold or open a phone book or catalog. Set a facial tissue on the newspaper or the right-hand side of the page. Place flowers on the facial tissue. Leave at least an inch between flowers to allow them to spread without touching each other. Arrange the stems in natural curves or creative shapes, such as an S-curve or circle.
- Step 3:** Add a label with the name of the flower, the date and information about the specimen, if desired.
- Step 4:** Place a second facial tissue on top of the flowers. Place a second newspaper on top of the tissue-covered flowers or close the book.
- Step 5:** Repeat Steps 2 through 4 for as many flowers as you want to press using this natural technique.
- Step 6:** Place the stack of newspapers or books on the floor, table or a board and place a board on top. Weight the stack of natural flower-pressing materials with heavy objects such as heavy books or a heavy box. Check that the stack is stable to avoid the risk of injury from a stack falling over.
- Step 7:** Replace the facial tissues with new facial tissues after a week. Put the weight back on the stack.
- Step 8:** Check the natural pressed flowers again after another week. Flower-pressing time varies depending on the species, original moisture level in the flowers and humidity in the room. Once the flowers dry fully, they feel dry to the touch.

Use naturally dried flowers in arts and craft projects, such as greeting cards or bookmarks.

# Emerald Ash Borer Update!



The 2010 EAB survey program is underway. Currently, traps are in place in Franklin and other counties around the State. About 6,000 [purple prism traps](#) are being placed at least 10 feet above the ground in ash trees, when possible, across the area shown in blue (map above). Traps are placed in a grid pattern about 1.5 to 2 miles apart along the leading edge of the quarantine area established after the insect was discovered in the state in 2009. Additional, traps will be at rest areas, campgrounds, state parks and other tourist attractions across the Commonwealth. They will remain in place through the borer's flight period, which ends in August, and collected for examination. The traps are about 2-feet-long and baited with an attractant to lure the borers if they are present in the area. Traps will not cause any harm to humans, animals or trees. They do not contain toxins and will not cause infestations to develop.

## Identifying the EAB

Adult emerald ash borers are active in the early summer. Peak emergence should have occurred by the week of June 7 in central Kentucky and should begin to taper off significantly after that. Individual adults live for about 3 weeks but emergence occurs over several weeks so the activity period in Kentucky may extend from early May to late June or beyond.

EAB adults are 3/8 to 3/4 inch long and very narrow (about 1/5" wide). The head is blunt, the body tapers noticeably at the end of the abdomen. The wing covers are emerald green; the top of the abdomen, visible when the wings are spread, is metallic purple-red. State officials have issued a quarantine for 20 Kentucky counties regulating the transportation outside those counties of articles that could harbor the emerald ash borer. The quarantine prohibits "regulated articles" from being moved outside a quarantined area without a certificate or limited permit except under certain conditions. A regulated article may be moved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for experimental or scientific purposes; may be moved in an enclosed vehicle or completely covered to prevent access by the emerald ash borer (through Sept. 30); may be moved directly through the quarantined area without stopping except for traffic conditions and refueling; may be moved if it is stored, packed or handled at locations that do not pose a risk of infesta-

tion; and may be moved if it has not been combined or commingled with other articles.

"Regulated articles" are defined as the emerald ash borer, hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock, green ash lumber, other ash material, and any other materials that present a threat of artificial spread of the emerald ash borer.

The counties under quarantine are Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carroll, Fayette, **Franklin**, Gallatin, Grant, Greenup, Harrison, Henry, Jefferson, Jessamine, Kenton, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Scott, Shelby, Trimble and Woodford. The quarantined area includes the seven counties where the emerald ash borer has been identified – Campbell, Fayette, **Franklin**, Jefferson, Jessamine, Kenton and Shelby – plus counties close to an infestation site and counties with a high density of ash trees.

What can homeowners do for their ash trees? Homeowners can contact a certified, licensed arborist who is knowledgeable and trained in specific insecticide treatments. Homeowners can purchase and apply products containing the active ingredient Imidacloprid. This chemical is mixed with water and poured at the base of the tree's trunk. Be sure that you read and follow all directions with chemical applications and be sure the product you purchase states it can be used on Ash trees for EAB. One such product is Bayer Advanced™ Tree & Shrub Insect Control. This insecticide is best when used in Mid-fall or mid- to late spring. For more information on EAB control, log on to <http://pest.ca.uky.edu/EXT/EAB/EABcontrol.pdf> or contact the Extension office for a printed copy.

For more information on EAB check out <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/homeownerinfo.cfm>

[http://www.ca.uky.edu/caps/eab\\_hot\\_topic.asp](http://www.ca.uky.edu/caps/eab_hot_topic.asp)

<http://pest.ca.uky.edu/EXT/EAB/welcome.html> or contact the Extension Office at (502) 695-9035.



Photo, Iowa State University Extension



# Calendar of Things To Do!

There are so many places to go and things to do in the spring and summer! Choose just one this month and get outdoors with your family and friends!

For Franklin County Extension Calendar, log on to: <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/franklin/UpcomingEvents> or call the Extension Office

**Salato Wildlife Education Center;** All events must Pre-Register- Contact Kristy Stroud at [kristy.stroud@ky.gov](mailto:kristy.stroud@ky.gov); 800-858-1549

**Teach Kentucky Workshop, July 7, 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.** (For educators, non-formal educators and naturalists) Learn about Kentucky's unique ecosystem and then how to apply those concepts in a classroom setting.

**Brown Bag Lunch: Amazing Amphibians, July 14, Noon—1:00 p.m. Free.** Did you know Kentucky is home to more than 50 different species of amphibians? Join the Salato staff for lunch as they showcase a few of Kentucky's amazing frogs, toads, and salamanders.

**Herpetology House, July 17, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Free.** More than 100 species will be on display during this 9th annual Herp House event. An event for the entire family.

**Tree I.D. Hike, July 24, 10:00 a.m.—Noon. \$10.00** Take a hike in the woods at Salato and learn about the many varieties of trees and the simple techniques to identify them.

**Habitat Gardener's Program, July 29-30, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. \$45.00** Learn the basics of landscaping for wildlife in a suburban environment.

**Medicinal Plants, July 31, 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. \$15.00** Join medicinal herbalist (and Master Gardener Intern) Katie Clark to discover why and how plants can help in our daily lives and in times of illness.

**Floracliff Nature Preserve:** <http://www.floracliff.org/events.html> Registration is required for all events. Programs are limited to 15 participants. All events are \$4 per person or \$10 per family unless otherwise noted. Call 859-351-7770 to register or for more information.

**The Arboretum** [http://www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum/cal\\_events.php](http://www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum/cal_events.php) Pre-registration required; call 859-257-6955 or [dmbast0@uky.edu](mailto:dmbast0@uky.edu).

**“Re-Turned to The Arboretum”**

**Bluegrass Area Woodturners Sale & Demonstration, July 6- 26**

**Artists' Reception & Demonstration**

**Saturday July 10 from 10 a.m.- noon**

**FREE**



## WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

Check out the latest info on what is happening at the Cooperative Extension Office. Become a fan and receive up-to-the-minute information on upcoming activities, meetings, and special events. Fans are welcome to let us know what your interests and needs are for the future. Look for us on Facebook—Franklin County Cooperative Extension. **BECOME A FAN!**

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/KYWoodlandsmagazine/about.php> Ky Woodlands Magazine

<http://attra.ncat.org/> The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service - ATTRA - was developed and is managed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). The project is funded through a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture's [Rural Business-Cooperative Service](#). Visit the [NCAT website](#) for more information on our other sustainable agriculture and energy projects.

<http://oak-ky.org/> Organic Association of Kentucky – resources for suppliers, information and how to grow everything more responsibly

<http://icwdm.org/Default.asp> The Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management is a non-profit, grant funded site that provides *research-based* information on how to responsibly handle wildlife damage problems.

<http://www.jmgkids.us/index.cfm?did=6545> Junior Master Gardener website- check out activities for kids to do this summer!

<http://www.ca.uky.edu>

## Dead Ash Trees Can Be Used in Many Ways!

Emerald Ash Borer Awareness week was celebrated in May in Ohio and 14 other states that participated in this event. One of the efforts in Ohio is to highlight the many ways in which ash wood can be used after the trees have been killed. Unfortunately, after so many trees die in a community, there is an excess of ash wood and little or no market for it. Therefore, the Ohio State University EAB Outreach Team is asking people and businesses in Ohio and beyond to get creative with the extra ash wood becoming available and share pictures or videos of their creations.



“Chainsaw carvings, crafts, furniture, sports implements, even milled boards used in a building,” said Amy Stone, an OSU Extension educator and coordinator of the Ohio State EAB Outreach Team. “We want to find out how citizens and businesses are utilizing this hardwood resource to make something valuable and constructive.”


So, if you have been creative and have a photo or links to YouTube videos, send them to [showusy-ourash@gmail.com](mailto:showusy-ourash@gmail.com). These images and videos will be featured on <http://ashalert.osu.edu>. Or post a comment and let us know what you have done with your ash wood. OSU Researcher Dan Herms

***FARM-CITY FIELD DAY***

**July 8th**  
**9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**  
**Maurice G Cook Farm**  
**57 Dry Ridge Road (Hwy 12)**

Tickets available at the following locations:  
Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service  
(101 Lakeview Court) or Franklin County Farm Bureau  
(1212 Wilkinson Blvd)

made lemonade out of lemons – he had beautiful pieces of furniture made out of wood from dead ash trees on his property in Michigan.

The “Show Us Your Ash” initiative is part of activities planned for this year’s EAB Awareness Week. The information for this blog post was provided by Amy Stone, EAB Outreach Specialist and Mauricio Espinoza, OSUE writer. 

Members of the Capital Area Master Gardeners participated



in the May Festival at Libery Hall. Pictured are members organizing and selling the hundreds of plants that were donated by the members.

Mayor Gippy Graham, City Commissioners Sellus Wilder, Kathy Carter and Rodney Williams, and Horticulture Agent Kim Cowherd plant a tree during the Reforest Frankfort, Arbor Day Event.



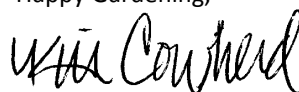
### **Note from Kim:**

Summertime! Vegetable gardens are producing, fruit trees are setting fruit, berries are bearing – the delicious tastes of summer! Be sure to keep your gardens healthy and happy-inspect them often for signs of disease and insects, and keep them irrigated if needed.

Lawns and landscapes can suffer in the heat and dry times we often get in Kentucky summers. Mow appropriately and water deeply and infrequently as needed. Watch these areas too for insect and diseases, especially in times of high humidity.

Remember to be safe in the sun and wear sunscreen, wear a hat when gardening, and drink plenty of water.

Happy Gardening,



Kim Cowherd  
County Extension Agent for Horticulture

# IT'S TIME FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR

## Vegetables and Fruits-

It's almost Franklin County Fair time! Are interested in showing off your best vegetables and fruit, with the hopes of a ribbon and bragging rights? If so, you can bring your best items to the Farm Bureau Pavilion, located at Lakeview Park on Sunday, July 11, between 3-5pm and on Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8 to 11 am.

Do you know what characteristics make a vegetable one of high quality? Do you know which vegetables to choose for exhibition? Do you know how to prepare vegetables for exhibiting? This information will help you as you prepare to exhibit your best vegetables. Vegetables will be evaluated and given points on five different criteria: *condition*, *quality*, *uniformity*, *type-to-typeness* and *size*.

**Condition** is the most important aspect of choosing your specimens. Be sure there are no signs of disease or insect damage on any part of the item. Produce which has been improperly washed and/or poorly prepared (trimmed) will receive lower consideration in the judging. Know the desirable characteristics of your particular item when choosing the best specimen. Certain produce will have a delicate, powdery coating called "bloom" which is considered desirable. Too much handling or washing will remove the bloom and result in a lower quality item. Mechanical injury, such as nicks, bruising, or other blemishes, can happen at any time. It can happen before harvesting, but generally happens in picking or transporting the produce to the fair. It is always a good idea to bring a few extra specimens which can be put out at the last minute if one of the better ones has been damaged.



**Quality** is another criterion in judging. It is important that the produce not be overripe or under ripe. The item should be at the perfect stage for eating. Also, the items should not be wilted or shriveled, rough or misshapen. The exhibit consisting of the most attractive specimens will receive the highest mark.

**Uniformity** is an important quality for your specimens to have. If there are five specimens in an exhibit they should all

look the same. They should be of the same size, shape, color, quality, condition, degree of maturity and be prepared in the same manner. This is the section where many exhibitors lose points due to having specimens that are inconsistent in size and/or shape.



**True-to-typeness** will

be judged as well. Each variety of a given vegetable will have certain characteristics which make it different from other varieties of the same vegetable. Some of these differences are shape, size and color. For instance, many different shades of red and even a few shades of yellow are found in different varieties of tomato. One is not necessarily better than another, if both shades are characteristic of their variety. However, a variety which may be known for later ripening will lose points under quality if it is not yet to the proper stage of ripeness. Do some research on the variety of produce you are exhibiting so you will know if your specimen is at its peak.

**Size** is to be considered when choosing your exhibits. The exhibiting of most vegetables or fruit in this particular contest is not a contest to see who has grown the biggest specimen! Likewise, the "cutest" (smallest) specimens should be left at home. Some vegetables, such as tomato, have varieties which are very small and are often included in a separate class. Read the Fair catalog or check the website for categories where largest or most unusual items may be exhibited.

All fruits and vegetables should be displayed on a 9" white paper plate. Do not place the exhibit in a plastic, zip-type or other type of plastic bag. Do not put the exhibitor's name on the plate or items where it would be visible to the judges. Do bring plenty of address labels with you for tagging your entries at check-in! Be sure to read the Franklin County Fair Catalog ([http://www.franklincountyfair.info/garden\\_and\\_fruits\\_division.htm](http://www.franklincountyfair.info/garden_and_fruits_division.htm)) for specifics about each category. There are categories for adults and for youth.

Youth may also choose to enter the 4-H Division as well. If you choose your fruits and veggies carefully and follow the criteria for judging to be sure you have the best specimens, you could be reading YOUR name in the paper for winning that blue ribbon!

See YOU at the Franklin County Fair! 🍎

## Fairest Flowers

The Franklin County Fair gives everyone the opportunity to display your best flowers and horticulture specimens at the Fair Flower Show. This excellent show is planned and sponsored by the Garden Club Council of Frankfort and is held in the basement of the Franklin County Extension Office. Flower Show entries are accepted on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00am until 11:00am; and public viewing is on Friday from 4:00pm until 8:30pm and again on Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am until 11:00am.

Want to know more about how to enter your best floral arrangements and showiest flower specimens? Check out the schedule on line at: [http://www.franklincountyfair.info/flower\\_show.htm](http://www.franklincountyfair.info/flower_show.htm). You can enter samples of certain ornamental shrubs, perennial plants, and potted plants as well. All ages are invited to exhibit their best flowers at the show! More information can be found at the Extension Office in the book, Handbook for Flower Shows, by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Also you can log on to <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/4H464.pdf> for more detailed tips.

The following tips, by Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor at the University of Vermont, and Iowa State University Extension, will also help you as you consider your Flower Show entries to bring home that blue ribbon!

First and foremost, flowers must be fresh. When you pick the blooms and how you handle them does make a difference in how well they will last in a cut flower arrangement. Pick your flowers the day of the fair, preferably in the morning when the stems are filled with water. If you pick flowers in the heat of the day, they already may be partially wilted. When the stems are cut, air may enter the water-conducting vessels, blocking further water uptake.



Select only top quality blooms for your arrangements. Cut at a slant near the bottom of the stem, using a sharp knife rather than scissors, which tend to crush the stems. (Scissors work fine if thin stems. The anvil type pruners tend to mash the stems.) Plunge blooms in a bucket of tepid water to carry back to the house. The water should be deep enough to come just below the flower heads. Use separate pails for each variety, or wrap each group in newspaper before placing in the bucket.

Indoors, precondition the cut flowers to make the arrangement last for several days. Wash the vases you'll need in hot, soapy water, rinse thoroughly with warm tap water, then fill with fresh water that is bath temperature (about 100 degrees F). Add floral preservative to the water. You can get this at any florist shop. Without the preservative, bacteria will multiply, clogging the stem ends and causing the flowers to wilt. Place the stems in the vases and move to a cool, draft-free area.

Leave there until the water cools to room temperature. Then it's time to start arranging the flowers. But first check the Fair Catalog and Flower Show Schedule to determine the number of blooms allowed per arrangement and the classes you can enter. If the rules say six to eight blooms per entry, don't stick in ten or 12 or your entry may be disqualified. (This is also a good time to make notes about flowers you may want to grow next year for cut flower categories as well as arrangements.)



For themed Design Division categories, be creative. For these classes, the container and idea play into the judges' decision as much as the quality, choice, and arrangement of the flowers. Recut the stems of soft-stemmed blooms under water, removing about one-half to one inch of the stem to allow better water absorption. Submerged leaves will decay rapidly, so be sure to remove all foliage that will be below the water line. Florists are no longer recommending that you crush the stems of woody plants, a practice floral arrangers--and fair exhibitors--have followed in the past.

There are also special techniques for displaying horticultural specimens, such as single cut blooms, shrubs, or perennial plants.

Label all flower and plant exhibits with the plant name and variety. For example, a correct dahlia exhibit could read "Dahlia, 'Lilac Time.'" "Dahlia" is the plant name and "Lilac Time" is the variety or cultivar. Correct labeling of exhibits is important because the purpose of flower shows and fairs is education. Fair-goers and other exhibitors may be interested in growing varieties that exhibit well. Judges may place an exhibit lower if it is not labeled or is labeled incorrectly. Clean flowers and plants to remove dirt and residues, as well as dead foliage or flowers. Grooming should not alter the typical features on the plants or flowers.

To transport flowers safely to the fair, dump some of the water out of each vase into a larger container to avoid spillage. Bring this water with you to top off the vases when you arrive at the fair. Pack arrangements upright in a sturdy cardboard box, using wadded newspaper to keep them separate. Do not let wind from open car windows blow directly on the flowers. Take extra blooms in case stems are broken or crushed during travel.



Give yourself plenty of time to get to the fair before the deadline for entering closes. Be sure to fill out each entry card completely. Then sit back and wait for the judges to announce the winners. One of them may be you! 🍀

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## QUOTES

**“God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done.” ~Author Unknown**

**“A garden is a symbol of man's arrogance, perverting nature to human ends ...”**

**~Tim Smit, *The Lost Gardens of Heligan***

**“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.”**

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