



March 2011 Hort Hotline



HORTICULTURE

Cooperative Extension Service

Franklin County
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www.ca.uky.edu/ces

MANAGE BLACKBERRY AND RASPBERRY ANTHRACNOSE AND CANE BLIGHT IN EARLY SPRING

By John Hartman

Blackberries, raspberries and black raspberries grown in Kentucky are susceptible to stem cankers caused by fungi. Crop yields are reduced due to cane infections girdling the stems leading to wilting and dieback or due to partial girdling of stems resulting in loss of vigor and reduction in fruit size and quality. Anthracnose and other diseases such as cane blight, spur blight, and Septoria cane and leaf spot may cause similar symptoms. Black raspberries are especially susceptible to anthracnose.

Symptoms. Anthracnose symptoms are most striking on canes but can also occur on leaves, petioles, flower buds, and fruit. In the spring, reddish purple spots appear on young canes. As the disease progresses, the spots enlarge into an oval shape and the tan to gray centers become sunken with purplish raised margins. Diseased tissue extends down into the bark and partly girdles the stem. By late summer or early fall, the diseased tissue often cracks. Within these lesions, spores are produced which are spread by running water, splashing rain, and wind. Canes weakened by anthracnose are more susceptible to winter injury and eventually may die.

On leaves, anthracnose appears as small, irregular, yellowish-white spots. As spots enlarge, they may have a tan center with reddish margins. Spots sometimes drop out, giving a shot hole symptom. Fruit infections are not common unless there is a high level of anthracnose in the planting. Infected fruit is typically dry and seedy.

(Continued on Page 3)

Are Heirloom Vegetables in your Future?

Rick Durham, Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

When you visit your local farmers market this summer, you may encounter some heirloom vegetables. Or if you're into vegetable gardening yourself, you've probably noticed more and more heirloom vegetable varieties being marketed by seed companies. One popular TV home and garden personality even has her own line of heirloom vegetables that are marketed through a local discount department store. So why all the hype?

Heirloom varieties are usually older cultivars that were developed in the early 1900's or before. Many current heirlooms were popular in the World War II victory gardens, others were introduced from overseas by immigrants over the past few hundred years. Still others have their origin in Native American culture. One thing that sets heirlooms apart from modern cultivars is that heirlooms are not hybrids. Rather



Moon and Stars Watermelon

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Organic Manures and Fertilizers for Vegetable Crops

Brent Rowell, UK Extension Vegetable Specialist and Robert Hadad <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/manures.htm>

Animal manures contribute more to the soil than just nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Continued use of manures builds organic matter in soils and improves soil structure. This modification of soil structure helps improve water holding capacity, aeration, friability, and drainage. In addition, many trace nutrients needed for optimum plant growth are available from manures. Plant nutrients are also released more slowly and over a longer period of time than from most commercial fertilizers.

Disadvantages of using manures are the handling and transportation problems associated with large amounts of manure required to obtain sufficient quantities of nutrients for vegetables. The use of fresh manure may also introduce new weeds into fields since certain weed seeds remain alive even after passage through animals. Another concern is that the careless use of manures can expose fresh produce to human pathogens like *E. coli* which can cause serious illness. Food safety must be a primary consideration in any vegetable operation but especially where manures are being used.

General Considerations:

Fresh vegetables, not fresh manure. Manure should never be used fresh (raw) if you intend to plant directly into it; composting results in a more readily usable form of manure. Composting will also destroy many weed seeds that could otherwise be introduced into new fields or gardens. For more information on the composting process, see UK Extension Publication [HO-75, Home Composting: A Guide to Managing Home Organic Waste](#). This guide along with other home and commercial vegetable publications are available from the Horti-

culture Departments website at <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Horticulture/homeveggies.html>. Links to additional information on commercial vegetable production, including organic practices, can be found at <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Horticulture/veglinks.htm>.

If fresh manure is used on soil, it should be worked in as soon as possible or covered with other organic materials such as straw, hay, or grass clippings to prevent the loss of nitrogen through leaching. No fresh manure may be used during the year of harvest for certified organic production so you may want to plant a green manure or cover crop on this ground for the first year (see website above for information on Kentucky cover crops). See also <http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/plantmktg/organic/index.htm> for detailed information on organic certification in Kentucky. If you are not concerned with organic certification you must still allow at least one or two months to pass before planting after fresh manure applications. This allows soil microbes to start the decomposition process that regulates nutrient availability and prevents burning of young plant roots.

Remember that some types of animal manures have higher nitrogen contents than others. These include horse, sheep, chicken, and rabbit manures. These are sometimes referred to as "hot" and are best used after composting. Cow and hog manures are considered "cold" because of their lower nitrogen levels.



Application. Composted manures can be broadcast and worked into fields or worked into rows and beds for various vegetable crops. A general recommendation for vegetable gardens is to broadcast poultry, sheep,

cow, or horse manure at 25 to 100 lbs per 100 square feet (approximately 5-20 tons per acre). This amount may need to be supplemented with 1-2 pounds of a complete inorganic fertilizer such as 10-10-10. Organic growers can supplement with ground rock phosphate or raw bone meal to obtain



phosphorus required. For crops such as melons, squash, and cucumbers, composted manure can be worked directly into planting hills and

mixed thoroughly with the soil. Manures can also be side-dressed with up to 5 pounds per 100 square feet of row.

Nutrient contents. It is important to remember that nutrient contents in manures vary widely according to age of the animals, feed used, moisture content, degree of decomposition, and the amount of litter or bedding material mixed in with the manure. The only really accurate way of determining the nutrient content of the manure you are using is through laboratory analysis. You may need to adjust your application rates up or down according to what you know about the age, quality, and moisture content of the manure.



Gardener's Toolbox- Lawns 4 All Seasons



Learn what you need to know for
Springtime lawn maintenance to keep
a beautiful lawn.

March 17

6:30—8:30 — Room A/B

Franklin County Extension Office

FREE!!!

Call (502) 695-9035 to register.

Disease cause and life cycle. Anthracnose is caused by the fungus *Elsinoe veneta* which overwinters on the bark or within lesions on floricanes infected the previous season. In early spring, just as the canes are leafing out, fungal spores are produced on these diseased canes. These spores are blown, rain-splashed, or vectored by insects to young, rapidly growing, succulent shoots where new infections occur. Symptoms appear as small tan lesions in about a week. The primary damage to plants is caused by these early infections. Be aware that highly variable winter and early spring temperatures can cause injury to the stems of some raspberry and blackberry cultivars. These injuries can become points of entry for fungi causing anthracnose and cane cankers.

Apply liquid lime-sulfur or copper hydroxide in late winter/early spring, just as the buds are swelling and leaf tips are beginning to emerge. Fungicide applications are best made when new leaves are exposed only 1/4 to 3/4 inches; if they are larger, there is a risk of fungicide burn. Later applications would require a half rate which would be less effective. See U.K. Cooperative Extension publication — Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide 2009 (ID-94) for rates and timing. Carefully inspect bramble plantings; now or very soon may be the time to apply fungicides for managing these cane and stem diseases.

Plant clean, disease-free nursery stock. Cut out all diseased canes, cane "handles," and any infections observed on new plants. Provide good air movement through the planting by removing weeds and spindly canes.



Figure 1. Oval, tan lesions such as these on a black raspberry stem harbor fungal spores which can cause new infections.



SHAMROCK POTATO STAMP



Spread the luck o' the Irish this St. Patrick's Day with a homemade shamrock stamp. Use it to decorate paper place mats, coasters, tablecloths, or anything else your little leprechauns wish to dress in green.

Materials

- ♣ Heart-shaped cookie cutter (2 1/2 inches wide and long)
- ♣ Potato, cut in half
- ♣ Paring knife
- ♣ Green acrylic paint
- ♣ Paintbrush



Instructions

Press a heart-shaped cookie cutter (ours was 2 1/2 inches wide and long) into the cut face of a potato half.

With the cutter still in place, use a paring knife to cut the potato from around the heart (a parent's job).

Remove the cutter, then dip the heart into green acrylic paint and press it onto the paper. Repeat to make two more leaves, then use a paintbrush to add a swish for the stem.



Source: <http://familyfun.go.com/st-patricks-day/st-patricks-day-crafts/green-stamp-673838/>



Calendar of Things To Do!

Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service - Winter School

(502) 695-9035, 101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort, KY. Contact the Extension Office to register for these classes.

- ♣ **Garden Grapes** with Patsy Wilson, UK Viticulturist - **February 24**, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Room A/B, Extension Office. No Fee.
- ♣ **Farming Abandoned Lands and Urban Gardens** with Wayne Long, Jefferson County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent - **March 3**, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Room A/B, Extension Office. **No Fee.**
- ♣ **USDA Food Bill Update** with Adam Watson, KY Department of Agriculture; **Farm Service Agency/National Resources Conservation Service Updates** with Rita Jones and Peggy Jackson - **March 10**, 7:00—9:00 p.m., Room A/B, Extension Office. **No Fee.**
- ♣ **Lawns 4 All Seasons**—Join Kim Cowherd, Franklin County Horticulture Agent - **March 17**, 6:30—8:30 p.m. in Room A/B. Learn what you need to know for Springtime lawn maintenance to keep a beautiful lawn. **FREE.**

Frankfort Parks & Recreation – Cove Springs - “Dare to be an Outsider”

All programs begin at 10:00 a.m., Saturdays, unless otherwise noted. Programs will last approximately 1 1/2 –2 hours. Activity, craft, snacks included. For more information on programs at Cove Springs, contact Debbie at nanstheman@yahoo.com, 513-300-8500, or Parks Department at 502-875-8574

THE RITES OF SPRING—March 12, Cove Spring Park

BONDING WITH YOUR BIKE—April 23, Folk Bike Recyclery, Broadway St. Downtown Frankfort.

LET’S REAP WHAT WE SOW—(Ever heard of the 3 sisters?) - May 21, Logan and 2nd Street at the Community Garden

Salato Wildlife Education Center—Frankfort

For additional information on events at the Salato Center, contact Kristy Stroud at (502) 564-7863 or go online at fw.ky.gov and click on “Upcoming Events” to search for activities.

WINTER TREE HIKE—March 5, 10:00 a.m.—Noon. Cost \$5.00 Limit: 15, Participants 8 and up. Registration and pre-payment required. Bundle up and join us for an outdoor adventure hike to test your tree identification skills. The leaves are not on the trees to trick you, allowing us to use trigs, bark, and other characteristics for identification. Participants will receive an identification guide to help them identify common trees to their area in winter.

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: BACKYARD HABITAT CHAT—March 9, Noon-1:00 p.m. FREE, Limit: None. All ages are welcome. It’s the time of year to start thinking about planting for spring. Native wildlife prefers native plants as their food source. Did you know zebra swallowtails choose tulip popular trees to lay their eggs on? Or that the monarch butterfly prefers milkweed? Join us for lunch as we discuss creating your own backyard habitat to attract native wildlife. Everyone will receive a free raffle ticket for their chance to take home a native plant to help start a backyard habitat project. No registration required.

SPRING BREAK—Go Wild at Salato for Spring Break. For additional information check out the Salato Center at fw.ky.gov.

The Arboretum—Lexington

Lexington, Ky. Contact (859) 257-6955, <http://www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum/index.php> for more information.

Greener Lawn Care

Tuesday, March 1, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. or Thursday, March 3, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

After the fall drought most homeowners are wondering what can be done to rejuvenate their lawns. Join Dr. A.J. Powell, retired UK Turfgrass Extension Specialist, to discuss the best, most environmentally friendly lawn grass and how it can be maintained with green practices to help meet great expectations for your lawn. **Free.**

Growing a Successful Community Garden in Spring

Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Miranda Hileman, former Compton Fellow in School and Community Gardening and now with UK Department of Agricultural Economics, will review basics of community gardening: goals organization, management and commitments. Dr. Rick Durham, Extension Professor of Horticulture will discuss spring soil preparation and plant selection. **Free.**

Perennial Plants

Tuesday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.

Jesse Dahl, Arb. Horticulturalist

Are you tired of replanting annuals every year? There are many perennials that look great and need little care. We will go over how to care for them. Part of the class will be spent outside cutting back and dividing perennials in The Arboretum gardens. As a bonus you can take home some of the divisions. Cost \$10 (Friends \$8)

SAVE THESE DATES



Kentucky Fish & Wildlife
Education Foundation

Salato \$10,000 BACKYARD MAKEOVER



Cindi Sullivan

Let Salato Wildlife Education Center get your lawn into shape! Be the lucky winner in our Backyard Makeover raffle and your yard will receive a professional facelift from garden expert Cindi Sullivan of WHAS and native plant aficionado Mary Carol Cooper of Salato! They'll add whatever you need... a grill, water elements, a deck, lawn furniture, native plants, birdhouses... whatever \$10,000 will get you!

Drawing to be held on



EARTH DAY

April 22, 2011 at 11:00AM
at Salato Wildlife Education Center

To watch last year's backyard transformation or to purchase more tickets, please visit www.kentuckywildlife.com

All donations will be tax deductible. All proceeds will benefit the Salato Wildlife Education Center.



Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Foundation

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March 15, 2011 is National Agriculture Day

Why Celebrate Ag Day? Kentuckians need to understand the value of agriculture in their daily lives. To learn more about what Kentucky agriculture has to offer, visit www.kyagr.com and www.agday.org.



SATURDAY
APRIL 2, 2011



FRIDAY
APRIL 22, 2011

BOXELDER BUGS AND SUCH

By Lee Townsend



It's not too early to see red and black boxelder bugs (adults and wingless nymphs) congregating on houses and buildings. They will move in and out of

sheltered cracks and crevices to bask in the sun on warmer days. Some may wander inside but their general tendency will be to move outdoors to boxelder and maple as spring comes on. For information on these temporary invaders, log on to <http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef444.asp>.

Boxelder bugs are common insects that feed on sap from leaves, twigs, and seeds of boxelders, as well other members of the maple family. Large numbers of them can be seen on tree trunks, or branches, or sunning themselves on the south or west sides of buildings in the spring and fall. These harmless accidental invaders may be a temporary nuisance as they move into and out of sheltered overwintering sites in the fall and spring.

Adult boxelder bugs are elongate, 1/2 inch long insects with sucking mouthparts. They are mostly black with some red markings. There are three narrow red lines on the segment behind the head, one down the center and one on both side and a thin red inverted "V" about the middle of the back. The wingless immature or nymphal stage has a black head, antennae, and legs. The red abdomen has an orange-yellow stripe and spot down the center of the back.

Boxelder bugs feed on plants during the summer. They move to sheltered areas (including nearby houses and buildings) in the fall and remain there during the winter. Sweep or vacuum up and discard

those found inside. They will not multiply nor will they infest any household articles. These insects are only a nuisance or accidental invader; however, they may leave an odor and stain when crushed.

Exclusion is important in reducing numbers that get indoors. Check door sweeps and places outside the house that may allow them to get inside. If large numbers are present every year, removal of female boxelder plants should be considered because this is the major host plant for them. Other alternatives include controlling insects while they are on the boxelder plant or direct sprays of congregations of the insects on outside walls. Insecticidal soap provides a safe control alternative but it must be sprayed directly on the insects to be effective.

Other overwintering insects will become evident, too including lady beetles and cluster flies. These insects are a temporary nuisance so heroic control efforts are not necessary.


For more insect information log on to: <http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/dept/entfacts.asp> to locate UK fact sheets on specific insects. Or call the Franklin County Extension office. 




Photo of Boxelder Tree

March and April- Garden To Do List!

March marks the time when most of us can resume steady work in the garden. The soil has thawed and will likely not freeze again as long as the weather doesn't turn extremely cold. Here are some activities to accomplish during the windy month. Don't overexert those underworked, winter muscles as you begin your spring gardening. Bend at the knees and lift with your legs, not your back.

- Check lawnmowers and other power landscape and garden equipment to ensure they are in good working order. Arrange for repair and routine maintenance early to avoid the crowds later in the season.
- March is usually an excellent time to prune woody plants in the landscape. The best time for pruning most plants is just before growth begins in the spring. An exception is spring flowering plants that should be pruned just after flowering.
- Pull back mulch as perennial resume growth in the spring. A heavy layer of mulch may help to protect plants through the winter, but may suffocate young shoots as growth resumes in the spring.
- Sow seeds of cool weather crops. Radishes, onions, lettuce, and spinach should be the first ones planted followed by beets, turnips, carrots, Swiss chard, and peas. Also, transplant broccoli, cabbage, and other cole crops to the garden now.
- Treat lawns with pre-emergence herbicide for crab grass control. The ideal time to treat is when the bright yellow flowers of the forsythia shrub are evident.
- Start preparing the vegetable garden and flower beds as soon the soil is able to be worked. Test this by forming a ball of soil in your hand. If it crumbles apart rather than sticks together, it is dry enough to be worked.
- Plant cool season crops such as onions, radishes, lettuce, and spinach as soon as you can work the soil.
- Transplant trees and shrubs while they are still dormant. Also, make plans to purchase trees, shrubs, and perennials for spring planting.
- Prune tree fruits and small fruits while they are

still dormant. Remove damaged branches from trees and shrubs. Wait to prune spring flowering trees and shrubs until after they have flowered.

- Canna rhizomes that were overwintered indoors can be potted up in nursery containers or large boxes to get a jump-start on their growth and flowering this summer. Divide the rhizomes into pieces that each have 2-3 growing points or eyes, and plant them using a well-drained potting mix. Transplant to the garden when all danger of frost is past.
- As the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs begins to appear, apply a complete fertilizer to the surface of the soil. For a complete fertilizer like 10-10-10, an appropriate rate would be 1-2 pounds of a fertilizer per 100 square feet. 



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**


**Determina lo que está bajo tierra.
Llama antes de excavar.**

Are Heirloom Vegetables ... (Continued from Page 1)

they are called open pollinated, meaning that they are allowed to cross hybridize with one another and they usually come true-to-type in the next generation. Unusual seedlings that arise during the next generation are eliminated, unless they look promising themselves. If the unusual seedling shows merit, it may be propagated, further evaluated, and designated as a new variety.

Home and commercial gardeners and seed companies often partner to maintain heirloom varieties. One of the largest and most extensive partnership of this sort is the Seed Savers Exchange of Decorah, Iowa. Seed Savers has over 8,000 members who grow and distribute heirloom varieties of vegetables, fruits, and grains. A similar but separate organization, the Flower and Herb Exchange, promotes the preservation and propagation of heirloom herbs and flower varieties. Many commercial seed companies also maintain and market heirloom varieties.

So what makes heirloom vegetables special? Many people believe such varieties have superior flavor since they have been selected for taste and tenderness over many generations. This is in contrast to many modern cultivars that have been selected for ease of shipping, firmness, appearance, and country-wide adaptation to climate. When heirloom varieties are maintained by a particular family or group of people, they tend to become adapted to local climate and soil conditions and may even become more pest resistant. Some people just enjoy being involved in the process of regenerating plant varieties year after year.

Here are some of the more popular heirloom varieties that are fairly easy to find in the seed trade. Golden Bantam sweet corn, Brandywine tomato, Lemon cucumber, Kentucky Wonder pole bean, Golden Hubbard squash, and Moon and Stars watermelon, to name a few. Some of these varieties may be more susceptible to disease than modern hybrids, but with a little extra care, they will reward with flavorful produce for the table and pantry. So try some heirloom vegetables for a bit of history and a lot of flavor. 




GO GREEN WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Going green. In today's society "green" is used to describe everything from products to communities to blogs. But what does "green" really mean? "Green" equates environmental responsibility. Routine decisions, such as which household cleaner to purchase or when to water the garden, can affect our environment. Understanding how these daily choices can impact our environment is key to conserving and preserving our natural resources, and ensuring a healthy environment for present and future generations.



This site provides information for Kentuckians regarding environmental "green" topics. For more information, or for information regarding this site, contact the Franklin County Extension Office.

Please note: Some web sites to which these materials/information provide links are not managed by the University of Kentucky. The University does not review, control or take responsibility for the content of those sites.

Log on to <http://www.ca.uky.edu/gogreen/> so you can learn more about Going Green. 

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Cooperative Extension Service

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Quibbles 'n' Bits

Deep within each one of us lies a garden.

- Julie Moir Messervy

Bread feeds the body, indeed, but flowers feed
also the soul.

- The Koran.

An optimist is the human personification of
spring.

- Susan J. Bissonette

When eating a fruit, think of the person who
planted the tree.

-Vietnamese saying

We come from the earth, we return to the
earth, and in between we garden.

- Anonymous

NOTE FROM KIM

Spring is almost here! Get outside and enjoy the great weather- planting, walking, taking photographs or just even sitting in the park. There are many things to do in the garden and landscape this month and we are ready after a long winter. Be sure to start watching for insects and plant diseases and catch them before they catch your plants. Remember Ky's frost free date is May 11th, so don't get too hasty in planting tender annuals and vegetable plants

Happy Gardening!

County Extension Agent for Horticulture

kim.cowherd@uky.edu

Contact the Franklin County Extension Office at (502) 695-9035 if you
would like to receive our newsletter via email

or email requests to gil.thurman@uky.edu or kim.cowherd@uky.edu

If you **DO NOT** want to receive this newsletter or your address is incorrect, please notify us immediately.



Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners

Present

Apple & Pear Tree Grafting Workshop

March 12, 2011

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service

101 Lakeview Court

Frankfort KY 40601

Each registrant will receive three root stocks and three apple or pear scions to graft for \$15.00. Additional root stock will be available also at \$5.00 per stock/scion. If you have a favorite fruit tree at home that you would like to graft, bring a scion with you to the workshop. All materials and tools will be furnished. If you would like to bring your own tools for grafting you will need a sharp pocket knife or other small cutting knife. A list is available at the web address below of apple and pear scion varieties <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/franklin/applescions>.

For more information call or email

Gil Thurman (502) 695-9035 or gil.thurman@uky.edu
capitalareamastergardeners@gmail.com

To register:

Send payment or stop by the Extension Office and register in person. \$15.00 per person, payable to CAMG

CAMG Workshop
101 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601

Limited Space!



Apple Scion Varieties

2011 Capital Area Extension Master Gardener Apple Grafting Workshop

March 12, 2011

Presenter: Jim Hudson

SCION VARIETIES

Apple: gold rush, priscilla, jonafree, liberty, dayton, pristine, Polly Eades, honeycrisp, enterprise, redfree, golden delicious, cameo, lodi, yellow transparent, Perrine yellow transparent, ginger gold.

Pear: Magness, Maxine, Moonglow, Korean Giant oriental, a smaller oriental pear, and a Bartlett type.

ROOTSTOCK

old home x farmingdale 333 for pear, (60 % size of standard, early bearing)

Geneva 30 for apple, semi-dwarf, (50 % size of standard apple), very early and heavy bearing.