

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Harlan County Ag News

July / August 2011

**Cooperative
Extension Service**
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Calendar

July 5

Harlan County Beekeepers
Harlan Co. Extension Depot — 6:00 p.m.

July 19

Food Preservation Workshop
Harlan Co. Extension Depot
10:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

July 21

Pest Management in the Garden
Pine Mountain Settlement School
Community Garden
5:00 p.m.

August 2

Harlan County Beekeepers
Harlan Co. Extension Depot — 6:00 p.m.

August 4 — 6

Harlan County Fair

August 18 — 28

Kentucky State Fair in Louisville

August 25

Harlan County Railroad History Evening
Harlan Co. Extension Depot — 6:00 p.m.

August 30

Extension Family Fun Night
Harlan Co. Extension Depot — 5:00 p.m.

Summer Watering

**Rick Durham, Extension Specialist
Consumer Horticulture**

When summer weather heats up with no sign of rain, gardeners hook up the water hose to give their thirsty landscapes a drink. It seems like a simple enough task, but there are some tips to help you get the most from your efforts.

Plants benefit more from occasional heavy watering than from frequent shallow watering. Water equal to about 1-inch of rain penetrates the soil to a depth of about 6 inches which is enough to sustain most plants for a week. Light watering generally wets the soil to a depth of only an inch or less. This top inch of soil may hold some of the plant's roots, but it will dry very rapidly. That means the water is not available to the plant for very long. It is much more effective to water less frequently and more thoroughly. During hot weather, some plants will wilt toward the end of the day – this is normal even if the soil has enough moisture. Look at plants in the morning for signs of drought stress (wilting, cupping of leaves, rolling of grass blades) and apply water when these signs are present. Wait until the next morning if you only see these signs at night.

When you need to water your landscape, use a hose attachment to apply water to the base of the plant. A nozzle with multiple settings breaks the water into finer droplets that soak more easily into the soil. Apply water for several minutes before moving the hose to the next area. You can check with a hand spade to

Summer Watering

(continued)

to see how far down the soil has gotten moist. Try to apply enough water to soak to a depth of 6 inches. Soaker or drip hoses also are an efficient and effective way to water large areas. Plan to run this type of irrigation system for several hours to accomplish a thorough watering. Morning is the best time to take care of any overhead watering. This gives wet foliage a chance to dry in the sun. Flowers, leaves and stems that stay wet for several hours can have a higher incidence of disease.



Revitalize Your Summer Garden With A Little TLC

Summer's heat and dry weather can take a toll on your flower garden. But with a little extra care, it is possible to bring it back to life for a few more weeks of vibrant color and texture.

With both annuals and perennials, making sure they get plenty of water is always important, but even more so in late summer. Annuals, in particular, will start to decline without an adequate supply of water to keep the ground moist.

The general rule of thumb for watering your plants is one inch of water per week. Plants growing in pots may need water as often as every day throughout the summer, depending on the type of plant and the size of the container. Once the top few inches of container soil is dry, add enough water so that a little drains through the hole in the bottom of the pot. If rain doesn't supply enough water, you'll want to apply the necessary water in one application rather than in several small applications.

During periods of drought, many annuals such as Wave petunias may appear to die. However, if you cut them back, water them regularly and apply fertilizer, they will often recover.

Another thing you can do to help your summer flower garden rebound is to remove spent, or old, flowers. This process is called deadheading. Deadheading helps encourage new growth that will produce new flowers. Late summer is also the time to pull out the flowers that have seen their better days and plant new ones that are more suitable for fall. However, if you wait till the frost finishes off your summer garden, it will be too late to replant for fall.

Annual flowers that give a good show in the fall include pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale, and snapdragons. Perennials, such as anemones, asters and showy sedums, also give a good show in the fall but need to be transplanted the previous spring to provide their best show.

As you renovate your summer garden, be careful when applying fertilizer around perennial plants. Fertilizer applied after August may stimulate new growth at a time when the plants would normally begin to prepare for dormancy. And that can mean more winter injury.

Of course, all of this may be moot if you haven't carefully tended your summer garden throughout the growing season. If you've kept your garden well watered and periodically added fertilizer, your chances for a late summer and fall show of color are greater.



Jeremy N. Williams

County Extension Agent
For Agriculture / Natural Resources

Dividing Perennials

Rick Durham, Extension Specialist
Consumer Horticulture

If your perennials aren't putting on their usual show this spring, it may be time to dig and divide. Perennials need space, and once they become crowded, blooms can become smaller and infrequent. Dividing the plants to create more room usually restores their vigor.

Spring is a good time to divide many perennials. If you are unsure about the timing, here is a good rule of thumb. If the plant blooms in the spring, divide it after it blooms or in the fall. If the plant blooms in the summer or fall, divide it in the spring.

Perennials grow from underground structures like fleshy roots, rhizomes or bulbs. This is the part of the plant that needs to be divided. Dig up the plant, remove old leaves and shake off loose dirt to expose the underground parts. Gently pull or cut the plant apart into several sections making sure each section has some recent growth at the top. Use one section to replace the original plant and set it in so that the crown is just at soil level. You can use the remaining "new" plants created from your divisions to expand your landscaping or share with gardening friends and relatives.

A fun way to get the most from your extra perennials is to organize a plant exchange in your neighborhood, civic organization, workplace or school. Encourage participants to label their contributions and provide information such as whether the plants prefer full sun or partial shade. Not only will you get new acquisitions for your home landscape, but you may even make a new gardening friend.



Controlling Corn Earworm In Sweet Corn

Ric Bessin, UK Entomologist

One of the most potentially damaging problems facing sweet corn producers is controlling insects that feed on the ear. During the summer months, sweet corn producers need to watch for corn earworm.

Corn earworm is potentially the greatest threat to sweet corn production in Kentucky. Because it feeds directly on the ear, is difficult to control, and is common in high numbers at the end of the season, most insecticides used on sweet corn target this pest. Once earworm becomes established within the ear, control is impossible. Earworms spend a relatively short period of their life feeding in a site that can receive an adequate insecticide application. An effective program, especially on late-season corn, is necessary to ensure that damaged ears are kept to a minimum.

Currently, the primary insecticides used for corn earworm control in sweet corn belong to the pyrethroid class. There is growing concern that corn earworm in some regions of the Midwest has developed resistance to this class of insecticides. Some field failures have been reported.

Earworms vary in color, but they have a brown head without markings and numerous microscopic spines covering their body. Corn earworms are moderately hairy larvae that vary from yellow, to green, to red to brownish black. They may be found feeding in the ear tips following silking. The larvae are cannibalistic, rarely is there more than one per ear or whorl.

You can start a preventive program against corn earworms when 10 percent of the ears are silked. Repeat sprays at three-to-five-day intervals until 90 percent of the silks have wilted. This strategy should give a high percentage of worm-free ears during early and midseason. Control is more difficult late in the season. Even shortening spray intervals may produce only 90 percent clean ears.

Recipes

Ranch Style Chicken Salad

- 1 (10 oz.) can chicken
- 1/3 cup prepared Ranch style dressing or non-fat yogurt, plain
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 1 cup seedless grapes, halved
- 2 tablespoons slivered almonds (optional)

In a medium sized bowl, combine all ingredients, mixing well. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Yield: 6 servings

*Calories: 180 Total Fat: 11g; Saturated Fat: 2g;
Cholesterol: 25mg; Sodium: 200mg;
Carbohydrate: 8g; Protein: 12g*



Fresh Peach Cake

- 4 or 5 fresh, ripe peaches
- 1 cup + 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup fat-free sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Grease a 9x11 inch baking dish. Peel and slice peaches and arrange to cover the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle 1/4 cup brown sugar over the peaches. Whisk together 1 cup brown sugar, flour and soda. Mix in sour cream and vanilla. Spread batter over peaches. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until golden/ Cool slightly before cutting into twelve pieces. Serve with whipped topping, if desired.

Yield: 12 servings

Calories: 220 Total Fat: 0g;

Asian Beef and Noodles

- 3/4 pound lean ground beef
- 2 cups water
- 2 (3-oz.) packages Oriental flavor instant ramen-style noodles, broken into small pieces
- 1 (16-oz.) bag frozen Asian-style vegetables
Or any other frozen vegetables
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger or 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 clover garlic, minced or 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a large skillet over medium-high heat (350 degrees in an electric skillet) brown ground beef and cook until no longer pink. Drain fat. Add 2 cups of water and one seasoning packet to cooked beef and mix well. Add frozen vegetables, green onions, ginger and garlic and bring to a boil over high heat. Add ramen noodles, reduce heat to low and simmer 3-5 minutes, until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally.

Yield: 10 (2/3 cup) servings

*Calories: 110; Total Fat: 4.5g (0g trans fat);
Cholesterol: 20mg; Sodium: 230mg;
Carbohydrate: 9g; Protein: 8g*





COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE • UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY • COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE • LEXINGTON, KY, 40546



Food Preservation Workshop

Tuesday — July 19, 2011

10:30 a.m. *or* 4:30 p.m.

Harlan County Extension Depot
110 River Street — Harlan



Learn the basic how-to's of canning, freezing,
& drying in a hands-on environment



Each workshop will last 1½ - 2 hours with
small groups working on foods



The class is **FREE**, but you must register by
calling 573-4464 by July 13th



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