

## Madison County Horticulture Newsletter

# Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE

January 2012



Cooperative  
Extension Service  
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## Hello Horticulturalists!

*"A new year is unfolding - like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within."*

*~Anonymous*

Good Luck in 2012,

Amanda Sears

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## New Year's Resolutions

Plant at least one new type of flower or vegetable.

Try a new recipe using a fruit or vegetable you have never had before.

Do not plant more than you can maintain.

Donate extra produce to those who need it.

Maybe even plant an extra row in your garden just for this cause.

Make an effort to eat locally.

Buy locally produced transplants for your landscape and garden.

### Gardeners of Madison County

Monday, January 23 - 6:30 pm

Madison County Extension Office

The Gardeners of Madison County will meet to plan the 2012 programs, field trips and events. Members and guests are encouraged to bring program ideas and suggestions. All area gardeners are welcome.

### 2nd Annual Growing Giant Watermelons & Pumpkins Workshop

March 3, 2012 from 1 to 4 pm

Madison County Extension Office

More information to come in the February newsletter. If you are interested in coming, let us know by calling 859-623-4072

### Pruning Fruit

March 3, 2012 from 2 pm to 3:30 pm

This class will be held at the Berea College Farm & Green House on Scaffold Cane Road in Berea

This class is limited to 25 participants. Please call 859-623-4072 to sign up.

### Grafting Apple Trees

Tuesday, March 6

Madison County Extension Office

This same class will be offered three times in one day. You may sign up for one class. The times are:

9:00 am to 10:30 am

12 noon to 1:30 pm

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Each class can accommodate 14 people. This is a hands on class, so please bring sharp knives. No box cutters allowed. I will also be demonstrating how to use a grafting tool. If you are on blood thinner, I would advise not trying to graft with a knife. To sign up or ask a question, call 859-623-4072.

A **Turf and Landscape Maintenance Short Course** will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Louisville next to the Fair and Expo Center,

# Turf and Landscape Maintenance Short Course

on **February 20th to the 24th**. The program includes six educational sessions, pesticide certification exams, pesticide certification credits and two days of commercial exhibits. There will be more than 50 speakers from industry, university and commercial sectors. More than 25 commercial companies will provide tabletop exhibits on Wednesday, February 22, and Thursday, February 23.

**Sessions include:** Management Basics, Golf Course Management, Sports Turf Management, Pesticide Applicator Training, Landscape/Ornamental Maintenance, and Commercial Lawn Care. This is also an excellent opportunity to receive CEU's from the Division of Pesticides for Categories 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 18, and 20.

For more information check out [www.uky.edu/Ag/uk turf](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/uk turf).

## Orchids Make Neat Houseplants

Orchids are becoming increasingly popular as houseplants. One orchid you are likely to encounter is the Phalaenopsis, or moth orchid. It gets its name from the shape of the flower that resembles a moth in flight.

Moth orchids thrive in medium light. A window with southern exposure is ideal. You will notice that the pot is filled with a bark-type potting mix. In nature, these plants grow on trees, so they need a potting medium that is light and well drained—regular potting soil is not appropriate. The roots are fleshy and covered with a white spongy material. They may grow into the potting mix, around the pot or simply out into the air. This is natural and healthy for the plant.

Water plants thoroughly once the soil has become light and dry. Allow some water to flow through the pot at each watering—be sure to remove the inner pot to the sink when you are watering and allow the pot to thoroughly drain before you place it back into the outer (often decorative) pot. You may also water by placing a few ice cubes on the surface of the potting medium a couple of times each week, just be sure that the plant does not sit in water for more than a few hours. Liquid fertilizer can be applied with the water every two or three applications; follow label directions for how to dilute the fertilizer.

Plants may flower for many months, and individual flowers may last for several weeks. Do not cut the flower stalk back after flowers fade because in a few months it may branch to form additional flowers. Small plantlets may arise on the flower stalk. These plantlets can be potted up, but they will need to grow for a couple of years before they will flower.



**Program Complaint.** Any person who believes they have been discriminated against in any Cooperative Extension Service sponsored activity or program may file a complaint with the Secretary of Agriculture by writing to: USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination.