

Madison County Horticulture Newsletter

Pay Dirt



**Cooperative
Extension Service**
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HORTICULTURE

July 1, 2011

Hello Horticulturalists!

What strange weather we have had over the last year. Because of the cold temperatures of last winter we are seeing a lot of damage on our evergreen shrubs, both needled and broad leaf.

The weather has also taken its toll on deciduous trees. Trees already stressed and aging seem to be failing. The best thing you can do for your landscape is water if we do not get rain for a couple of weeks. That means your flowers, trees and shrubs. Also, use mulch. It is a great way to conserve moisture.

Sincerely,



Amanda Sears

County Extension Agent for Horticulture
amanda.sears@uky.edu



Upcoming Events

Gardeners of Madison County

Monday, July 18 at 7:00 pm - Guest speaker, Brenda Evans will present a program on 'Square Foot Gardening'. Anyone interested in this gardening concept is encouraged to attend.

Madison County Herb Club

Monday, July 11 at 6:30 pm, the Madison County Herb Club will be making bath salts and ice cream. The featured herb of the month is Lavender. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend!

Food Preservation 101

Monday, July 18th - 9 to 11 am or 6 to 8 pm at the Madison County Extension Office. Cost is \$5.00. You must bring a Ball Blue Book with you to the class. Register by calling the Extension Office at 623-4072.

Extension Open House

Our extension open house was a huge success! Over 850 people came out to enjoy the day. Our plant swap was even bigger than last year and everyone went home with something to make their garden a little brighter.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make this day possible!



Hollies and Cottony Camellia Scale



Several cases of scale on holly have come into the office recently. At first glance, the plant appears to be diseased since the stems and leaves are covered with a brown material which can be scraped off. Once you inspect the leaves, you will see that they have a white things on the bottom.

Cottony camellia scale is a soft scale insect that feeds on camellia, holly, yew, euonymus and maple. Adult females are about 1/8 inch long, oval and yellowish tan with a brown

margin. They lay white cottony egg masses on the undersides of leaves in April and May. Crawlers hatch through June and remain on the undersides of leaves through winter. Heavy infestations in the spring may cause the leaves to turn light green. Honeydew and sooty mold are the primary problems caused by this insect.

If infestations are heavy and sooty mold is objectionable, spray horticultural oil in the dormant season. During the growing season use horticultural soap or oil to conserve beneficial insects. The systemic insecticide Imidacloprid is effective against these soft scales and may be applied in water to the soil around the base of the plant.

Farmers' Markets

Madison County Farmers' Market

Lowe's Parking Lot in Richmond

Tuesday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Off Park Drive behind Alumni Coliseum in

Richmond - Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Berea Farmers' Market

Greenspace behind Promenade Gallery

near Boone Tavern in Berea

Tuesday and Friday 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Old Town Visitor Center in Berea

Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fair Worthy Fruits and Vegetables

You may already be proud of your delicious garden, but why not show it off at the fair? Here are some hints to take home that blue ribbon (and the money that goes with it):

- ◆ Make sure your produce is clean
- ◆ Choose items that are insect and disease free
- ◆ Make sure fruit is ripe
- ◆ Go for good quality, not just large size
- ◆ Display the proper number of items
- ◆ If multiple items are required, choose ones that all look similar in size and shape
- ◆ Follow the directions given in the fair book

Remember, judges will look at the entries in terms of if they would want to purchase it from a market. Only bring your best to the fair!



Drop off for this year's fair is Thursday, July 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12 noon. Pick up will be on Sunday, July 31 this year from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (A list of categories and rules are on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.) Hope to see you at the fair!

Attack of the Ticks!

Ticks prefer to live in woods, tall grass, weeds and brush. They climb onto low vegetation and attach to suitable hosts which pass by, including pets and people.

Ticks tend to be less of a problem in well-maintained lawns although the edges of property supporting tall weeds and brush can be a source of infestation. The best way to avoid acquiring ticks is through prevention:

1. Avoid walking through uncut fields, brush and other areas likely to harbor ticks. When hiking or picnicking in these areas, wear long pants tucked into socks and consider using tick repellents. Walk in the center of mowed trails to avoid brushing up against vegetation.

2. Inspect family and pets after being in tick-infested areas, and promptly remove any ticks which are found (ticks most often attach at the neck and scalp).

3. Keep grass and shrubs in your yard trimmed, and clear overgrown vegetation from edges of your property. Ticks avoid direct sunlight and will not infest areas which are well maintained.

4. Free-roaming pets are much more likely to become infested with ticks than are those which are confined. Pets may be treated with insecticide dips or sprays, although these products generally lose effectiveness in about a week.

5. Treating lawns is of little benefit since this is not a preferred habitat for ticks. If insecticides are used, treatment should be concentrated in areas where pets, rodents, and other potential wild hosts of ticks are likely to frequent, e.g., dog house, fenceline, and along margins between wooded or brushy areas and the lawn. Sevin (carbaryl), Bayer Advanced Lawn and Garden Multi-Insect Killer (cyfluthrin) and Ortho Bug B Gon (permethrin) are examples of effective materials. Check insecticide labels for products that contain these active ingredients.

Remove attached ticks carefully using a fine-point tweezers. Grasp the tick just behind the point of attachment and pull slowly and steadily until the tick is dislodged. Vaseline, matches and other alternate methods of removal should not be used. Wash the bite area, apply antiseptic and cover with a band-aid.



Two most common types of ticks in Kentucky

Master Gardener Class Forming

Madison County Cooperative Extension Service will be offering a Master Gardener Certification beginning in September. This is a volunteer training program that lasts fourteen weeks. Participants will meet once a week for three hours and learn about a different topic in horticulture each week. Once the course work is complete, the participant is expected to complete 30 hours community service in the first year after the class is completed and ten hours each year thereafter. Most of the volunteer hours will come from activities at the Extension Office.

Classes will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, from 1 to 4 p.m. and will meet every Tuesday after that at the same time. Each class is mandatory, 100% attendance is required.

The cost of the program is \$100 and will cover all required books. If you are interested, contact the Madison County Extension Office at 859-623-4072 and we will send you an application.

Watering This Summer?

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 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.

Local Food Banks for Your Excess Garden Produce

Below are the numbers for the local food banks that will accept fresh produce. These are the contacts we have in the office. If you know others, let us know.

God's Outreach Food Bank: 623-2220

Home Meal Delivery: 623-3294

Salvation Army: 624-5826

Berea Food Bank: 985-1903

Berea Baptist Church: 986-9391 (Please call first)

Grace Now: 626-8990

FSA News - Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Nomination Period

June 15, 2011 Nomination Period begins. Forms are available from the local FSA office and online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Additionally, organizations representing minorities and women may nominate candidates. All nominees must sign nomination form FSA-669A, and must be postmarked by August 1, 2011. To hold office as a county committee, a person must reside in the local administrative area, in which the person is a candidate. County Committee plays an important role in farm programs, disaster programs, conservation programs, and employing the county executive directors and other significant agricultural issues. FSA encourages nominating the farmers of your choice. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 4, 2011. For more information call your local FSA office at 859-624-1980 or you can stop by the office at 1024 Ival James Blvd. Ste A-2, Richmond, KY 40475.

Got Questions? We've Got Answers

- Soil Testing
- Insect Identification
- Plant Disease Diagnosis
- Plant Identification

For Horticulture questions, please contact me at 859-623-4072, or e-mail, amanda.sears@uky.edu.

You may also stop by and visit me at the Madison County Extension Center.

2011 MADISON COUNTY FAIR

FLORAL HALL – OPEN DIVISION – THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011 – All exhibits must be brought to Floral Hall from 8:30 am through 12 noon. Entries should be picked up on Sunday, July 31, 2011, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Rules* (see Fair Book for a complete list of rules):

- Open to any Madison County resident. Exhibit must be made by the exhibitor, and completed since the last county fair; no previously entered exhibits may be re-entered.
- One entry in each class; *exception*: “other than listed” classes.
- The Fair Board will not be responsible for any loss or damage to any exhibit.
- Food and vegetable exhibits must be displayed on a **heavy disposable plate**, with multiple pieces enclosed in a large zip lock bag.

Total Premium Offered **\$2,448.00**: Blue – \$5.00; Red – \$4.00; White – \$3.00; Category Champion – \$10.00.

FOODS.....Premium \$406.00

Lot 1- Breads-\$120.00

1. White Yeast bread (1/2 loaf or 1/2 round)
2. Plate of Yeast rolls-5
3. Yeast bread, other than listed (1/2 loaf or 1/2 round)
4. 1/2 Coffee cake
5. Plate of Biscuits-5
6. Plate of Muffins-5 (corn, bran, etc.)
7. Plate of Sweet Muffins-5
8. 1/2 Loaf Banana bread
9. Quick bread, other than listed (1/2 loaf or 1/2 round)
10. Sourdough bread (1/2 loaf or 1/2 round)

Lot 2-Cakes-\$72.00

11. 1/4 White Layer cake-Iced
12. 1/4 Chocolate cake-Iced
13. 1/4 Cake other than listed
14. 4 cupcakes (any flavor)
15. 4 Decorated Cupcakes* (styrofoam base only)
16. Decorated Cake* by amateur (styrofoam base only)
*Real cake or cupcakes will not be accepted

Lot 3-Cookies-\$84.00

17. Plate of brownies- 6
18. Plate of oatmeal cookies- 6
19. Plate of chocolate chip cookies- 6
20. Plate of sugar cookies- 6
21. Plate of peanut butter cookies- 6
22. Plate of any other kind of cookies- 6
23. Plate of assorted cookies-three kinds (9 total)

Lot 4-Candy-\$84.00

24. Plate of divinity- 6 pieces
25. Plate of chocolate fudge- 6 pieces
26. Plate of caramel fudge- 6 pieces
27. Molded candy- 6 pieces
28. Decorated candy
29. Candy other than listed
30. Plate of assorted candy-three kinds (9 total)



Lot 5-Pies-\$36.00

31. 1/2 Cream pie
32. 1/2 Fruit pie
33. 1/2 Pie, other than listed

CANNING.....Premium \$370.00

Lot 6-Canned Fruit-\$72.00. Must be sealed in a standard canning pint or quart jar with 2 piece metal lid –no decorative cover.

34. Peaches
35. Applesauce
36. Cherries
37. Blackberries
38. Pears
39. Other than listed



Lot 7-Canned Vegetables-\$72.00 (pint or quart jar)

40. Green beans
41. Tomatoes

42. Tomato juice
43. Soup mixture
44. Vegetable, other than listed
45. Collection canned vegetables-four kinds

Lot 8-Pickles & Relishes-\$96.00 (pint jar)

46. Sweet cucumber pickles
47. Sweet relish
48. Bread and butter pickles
49. Dill cucumber pickles
50. Beet pickles
51. Salsa
52. Pickles, other than listed
53. Relishes, other than listed



Lot 9-Jams, Jellies & Preserves-\$120.00 (pint or 1/2 pint)

54. Strawberry preserves
55. Preserves, other than listed
56. Apple butter
57. Blackberry jam
58. Peach jam
59. Jam, other than listed
60. Grape jelly
61. Apple jelly
62. Blackberry jelly
63. Jelly, other than listed

GARDEN.....Premium \$382.00

Lot 10- Produce-\$372.00

64. Plate of bunch beans (12)
65. Plate of pole beans (12)
66. Plate of lima beans (12)
67. Plate of beets (3)
68. Plate of cabbage (1 head)
69. Plate of carrots (3)
70. Plate of onions (3)
71. Plate of white corn in husk (3 ears)
72. Plate of yellow corn in husk (3 ears)
73. Plate of cucumbers for slicing (3)
74. Plate of peas (12 pods)
75. Plate of green peppers (3)
76. Plate of other peppers (3)
77. Plate of potatoes (3)
78. Plate of crooked neck or straight neck yellow squash (3)
79. Plate of zucchini (3)
80. Plate of vegetable, other than listed (3)
81. Best vegetable exhibit (5 or more vegetables-grown by exhibitor) container will be judged also
82. Plate of apples (3)
83. Cantaloupe (1)
84. Plate of heirloom tomatoes (3) (any variety)
85. Plate of red ripe tomatoes (3) (any variety)
86. Plate of yellow tomatoes (3) (any variety)
87. Largest tomato
88. Watermelon (1)
89. Plate of any ripe fruit (3)
90. Best fruit exhibit (5 fruits-grown by exhibitor, container judged)



- 91. Strangest looking vegetable
- 92. Best fresh fruit or vegetable foodscape that you would use as a table centerpiece
- 93. Plate of fresh herbs (any variety)
- 94. Quart of honey (with or without comb)

HORTICULTURE.....Premium \$382.00

Lot 11-Plants & Flowers \$180.00

Flower Specimen - A single plant bloom, spike or spray with foliage in a glass (no plastic) bottle.

- Leaves must be left on specimen
- Use as long a stem as possible, in proportion to bloom
- Dahlia - foliage of at least two (2) sets leaves required
- Roses - bloom should be 1/2 to 3/4 open
- African Violets - no faded bloom, pot size in proportion to plant
- Gladiolas - stalk should have some blooms, some buds in color and some green buds

- 95. Rose-red
- 96. Rose-pink
- 97. Rose-orange or yellow
- 98. Rose-white or cream
- 99. Marigold-dwarf under 2 ½ in.
- 100. Marigold-giant over 2 ½ in.
- 101. Zinnia-dwarf under 2 ½ in.
- 102. Zinnia-giant over 2 ½ in.
- 103. Dahlia-under 4 in diameter
- 104. Dahlia-over 4 in diameter
- 105. Lily-any color
- 106. Daylily – any color
- 107. Gladiola-any color
- 108. Biggest Sunflower head
- 109. Other flower not listed



Lot 12-Plants & Arrangements-\$192.00

- 110. Best hanging basket
- 111. Best potted plant
- 112. Best pot of herbs
- 113. Best all-greenery arrangement
- 114. Best high arrangement of garden flowers, grown locally (above 12")
- 115. Best low arrangement of garden flowers, grown locally (below 12")
- 116. Best miniature arrangement of fresh flowers (not over 4 inches high), grown locally
- 117. Best dried arrangement in container
- 118. Best Zinnia arrangement
- 119. Best Marigold arrangement
- 120. Best African Violet-potted plant
- 121. Best arrangement of Roses
- 122. Best arrangement of Daisies
- 123. Best terrarium
- 124. Best Begonia
- 125. Other than listed



HANDIWORK.....Premium \$394.00

Lot 13-Sewing-\$96.00

- 126. Home décor item
- 127. Accessory
- 128. Adult's garment
- 129. Child's garment
- 130. Wearable art garment (garment that has been appliquéd, embroidered, or embellished in some way)
- 131. Purse
- 132. Apron
- 133. Other than listed

Lot 14-Quilts-\$96.00

- 134. Pieced
- 135. Appliqué
- 136. Mixed, pieced, or appliqué
- 137. Cross-stitch or embroidery
- 138. Machine quilted
- 139. Other than listed
- 140. Baby quilt



- 141. Wall-hanging

Lot 15-Needlework-\$192.00

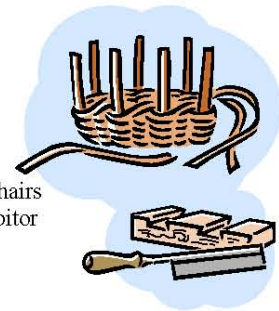
- 142. Afghans-knitted
- 143. Knitted articles, small
- 144. Knitted articles, large
- 145. Afghans-crocheted
- 146. Crocheted articles-small
- 147. Crocheted articles-large
- 148. Needlepoint
- 149. Pillows made using techniques not included in other categories
- 150. Counted cross-stitch – 14 ct.
- 151. Counted cross-stitch-miniature – (16-22 ct.)
- 152. Counted cross-stitch - specialty cloth
- 153. Holiday decorations
- 154. Weaving
- 155. Embroidery item
- 156. Felting
- 157. Other than listed



HERITAGE SKILLS.....Premium \$514.00

Lot 16-Fine Arts & Craftsmanship-\$180.00

- 158. Egg basket
- 159. Market basket
- 160. Decorated basket
- 161. Basket with color added
- 162. Pie basket
- 163. Miniature basket
- 164. Basket other than listed
- 165. Woven bottom stools or chairs
- 166. Woodwork-made by exhibitor
- 167. Carving (any medium)
- 168. Rug-hooking
- 169. Leather craft
- 170. Jewelry
- 171. Metal art other than listed
- 172. Other than listed



Lot 17 Painting/Drawing-\$96.00

- 173. Oil
- 174. Acrylic
- 175. Pen or ink
- 176. Pencil
- 177. Watercolor
- 178. Pastels
- 179. Mixed media
- 180. Other than listed



Lot 18-Photography-\$72.00 (Matted or Framed/Ready to Hang) min. 5x7", max. 11x14" (taken since last fair)

- 181. Black and White
- 182. Landscape, color
- 183. Animal, color
- 184. Still Life, color
- 185. Portrait, color
- 186. Madison County photo, color (must indicate where taken)

Lot 19- Crafts-\$156.00

- 187. Gourds, painted
- 188. Dolls
- 189. Wall hanging, non-quilted
- 190. Wreaths
- 191. Holiday decoration
- 192. Scrap-booking
- 193. Greeting cards, holiday
- 194. Greeting cards, all occasion
- 195. Other paper crafts
- 196. Ceramics
- 197. Recycled art (include before picture)
- 198. Silk arrangement
- 199. Crafts other than listed



**See Fair Book for complete List of Rules.*