

Madison County Horticulture Newsletter

Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE

March 3, 2011



Cooperative
Extension Service
Madison County
230 Duncannon Lane
Richmond KY 40475
(859) 623-4072
Fax: (859) 624-9510
www.ca.uky.edu/ces

Hello Horticulturalists!

While we have had several beautiful days over the last month, we need to remember that we are not out of the woods yet. Spring will not be sprung until March 21st. Even then, we can have plenty of cold weather.

This year at Spring into Gardening we will be having a Lawn and Garden Tradeshow. We have limited space, but if you are interested in setting a booth, please contact us.

Hoping for an early spring,

Amanda Sears

County Extension Agent for Horticulture

amanda.sears@uky.edu

<http://ces.ca.uky.edu/madison/horticulture>

March Planting Dates

In early March, plant peas and spinach.

"Beware the ides of March!" By mid month, you can plant collards, onion sets, asparagus crowns, beets, carrots, chard, lettuce, kale, potatoes, radishes, rhubarb, and turnips.



How do I get rid of these moles!

There have been several calls into our office recently about moles. These little nuisances can cause a great deal of damage in our lawns by creating "runways" and pushing up mounds of soil to the surface. These animals dig in search of earthworms and grubs, they do not eat seeds or bulbs.



The easiest way to control this animal is with a bait containing the chemical Talpid™. One common bait containing this chemical is called TomCat™ and it is shaped like an earthworm. It is used by placing the bait in an active tunnel. (Always remember to read the package instructions carefully before using any chemicals.)

Moles may actually be a secondary problem. It may be that there is such a high grub population that the moles are being attracted to your lawn. Check for grubs by pulling on dead patches of lawn. If the patch comes up like a carpet, grubs have eaten the root system. If you think you may have a grub or lawn problem, contact our office for more information.

Farmers' Market Meeting
Monday, March 7th
6:30 to 8:00 pm
Madison County Extension Office
This is an informational meeting.

Growing Strawberries
March 21st Richmond Public Library
March 23rd Berea Public Library
Noon to 1 pm

Class Filled!

Women in Agriculture Lunch
Saturday, March 12th
Madison County Extension Office
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Author and photographer Dr. Tom Barnes will speak on wildflowers of Kentucky. Cost of this event is \$5.00 and can be paid at the door. All proceeds go towards Hope's Wings. Lunch will be provided. **Call 623-4072 to register!**

Gardeners of Madison County
Monday, March 21st
Madison County Extension Office
7:00 to 9:00 pm
Becky Deaton of the Kentucky Native Plant Society will present a lesson on starting seeds. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring 2 packs of seeds, 12 peat pellets, scissors, glue, and a ruler.

Sustainable Berea's One Stop Garden Event
Saturday, March 26th
10 am to 2 pm
Berea College Garden on Scaffold Cane Road
Come see me! I will have a informational booth at this event. Come learn about garden frames, soil mixtures, plants and seeds, rain barrels, composter, and tools.

Madison County Herb Club
Monday, March 14th
Madison County Extension Office
6:30 pm
The Herb club will meet for an organizational planning meeting. Please bring your lesson and meeting ideas for the coming year.

Pruning Fruit Trees
Demonstration
Saturday, March 19th
10 am to noon

Class Filled!

Arbor Day Celebration
Saturday, April 16th - 10 am to noon
Richmond Cemetery
Come learn how to plant a tree with the Richmond Tree Board! Tree information, displays, and free white dogwoods to the first 100 households who attend. Several memorial trees will be planted on this day along the drive on the inside of the gates. If you are interested in purchasing a memorial tree, please contact Tonita Goodwin at 623-5248 or Sarah Durbin at 582-8051.

Growing Asparagus

Did you know that asparagus, in addition to being full of vitamins and minerals, has no fat, no cholesterol and is low in Sodium? Also, asparagus is one of the few perennial vegetables.

To plant asparagus, prepare your bed carefully, after all, it could be there for the 20 years or more. Choose a sunny site. Remove all weeds before planting, especially those that are perennial..

March is a good time to plant asparagus. When planting, choose one year old crowns. A few varieties recommended for Kentucky are Jersey Knight, Jersey King, and Jersey Prince. Choose male plants, since females will put their energy into



Asparagus spears

making berries. Dig a twelve inch wide trench that is five to six inches deep. Put small mounds of soil in the trench about one to one and half feet apart. Place the crown on this mound, allowing the roots to drape over. Fill in the trench to its original level. Do not compact the soil.



Fern-like growth on asparagus

Do not harvest asparagus the year it is planted. As the spears are allowed to grow they will produce a ferny plant. These ferns produce food for the root system and next year's spears. The second year limit harvesting to three to four weeks, then allow the fern growth. From the third year on, harvest can last from eight to ten weeks.

When harvesting, break the spears off at ground level. Cutting with a knife could damage the crown. Stop harvesting when the diameter of the around three fourths of the spears is small, or about the size of a pencil.

In early spring, fertilize the asparagus. In fall, after freezing weather, remove the ferny growth. This will reduce disease problems.

"Bee" Educated!

Two upcoming opportunities to learn more about bees...

Bluegrass Beekeeping School

Saturday, March 12 at 8 a.m.
Kentucky State University in Frankfort



At this school, there will be classes for those just beginning all the way up to advanced

beekeeping. There will also be a tradeshow.

There is a \$20 preregistration fee, \$25 if you pay that day. For more information, on the web, go to www.kyagr.com/statevet/bees/index.htm or contact Phil Craft, 502-564-3956 or phil.craft@ky.gov.

Spring Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. to 12 noon - EKU Outside Classroom

Tammy Horn will lead this workshop which will focus on doing basic spring maintenance, such as making sure the hives have queens, feeding as necessary, making splits if needed, and discussing mite and other pathogen controls. **This class is limited to 20 participants, so please call by April 7th to reserve your spot.**

Those attending this class will need to meet at the Perkin's Building at EKU to carpool to hives. **To register, call the Madison County Extension Office at 859-623-4072.**

For more information on the workshop, contact Tammy Horn at tammy.horn@eku.edu.



Farm to School Program Update

Several organizations and individuals in Madison County are working together to provide fresh local produce for the Madison County & Berea Independent School Systems, as well as St. Joseph Hospital in Berea. Emily Agee, Food Service Director for Madison County Schools, has put together a list of what fruits and vegetables are needed by each school in our district. It is not necessarily expected that one farmer could fill orders for all the schools, but perhaps could cover one or two schools or work together with other producers to fill orders.

Below is a list of the produce needed by the schools as well as specifics on type and how it will be bought (either by case or by head for example).

- Lettuce- any variety- price by case/head
- Tomatoes- cherry and slicers- price by case/each
- Cucumbers- small or medium- price by case/each
- Strawberries- Red- price by flat/pound
- Watermelons- medium to large- price per melon
- Cantaloupe- medium- price per melon
- Onions- green and slicers- price per bunch or pound
- Peppers- various varieties- price per case/each
- Cabbage- variety-price per case/head
- Apples-various varieties
- Growers can contact the food service office with availability of other products not listed above



There are also specific guidelines as to who they will buy produce from for safety reasons. Below are these guidelines.

1. Vendors will be required to have a \$1 million dollar liability policy and furnish a copy of the policy with the Madison County Schools listed.
2. Growers will be required to provide proof of GAP training and be part of the Kentucky Proud Program.
3. Growers will need to deliver products to each school on a weekly or biweekly basis.
4. Producers will need to furnish an invoice at the time of delivery. Payment will be done monthly.
5. Product should be of good quality and the school does have the right to refuse the product if it is not.
6. Orders will be submitted by the cafeteria manager/food service office by phone the week before the product is needed.

If you are interested selling produce to the Madison County School system, you may contact Emily Agee at 859-625-6026. The contact at Berea Community School is Michelle Hammonds, 859-986-8446.

St. Joseph Hospital of Berea is also interested in purchasing food from local producers. Contact Mary Durham at 859-986-6539 for more information about selling to the hospital.

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.

Please Read... If you received this newsletter in the mail and wish to be removed from our newsletter mailing list, or if you find an error on the mailing label, contact the Extension Center at 859-623-4072.

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.