

Horticulture

Newsletter

Campbell County

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Highland Heights, KY 41076
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January / February 2025

Volume 3, Issue 1

What The Heck Is An Epimedium?



Epimedium or barrenwort are a family of underutilized perennials that work great in shady and woodland areas of the landscape. They offer delicate early spring flowers and interesting and often evergreen foliage that offers winter interest to the garden. Since the late 1980's and early 90's these useful plants have seen increased popularity in variety and availability. New species and hybrids have been introduced with a wider range of flower color and various leaf forms.

The natural range of Epimediums falls in two major regions, the Mediterranean area, and Eastern Asia. Many species from the Mediterranean offer great summer drought resistance which makes them great performers in midwestern gardens. The majority of the species and the hybrids generally have better drought tolerance and generally are low maintenance in gardens.

Most epimediums like dappled or open shade conditions but some hybrids can tolerate a little more sun. But be aware the sun means more watering to prevent the leaves from yellowing or burning during dry periods. Although most tolerate less than ideal conditions they will thrive in moist soil with plenty of organic matter.

Epimedium leaves can be evergreen or deciduous. Deciduous types can be cut to the ground as soon as the foliage starts to fade in fall. The evergreen varieties should be cut back in late winter or early spring to keep them tidy and allow the flowers to show up a bit more.

Epimedium x perralchicum 'Frohnleiten' is one of the toughest epimedium and also one of my personal favorites. It has bright yellow spring flowers and evergreen leaves with a spreading habit which makes it an excellent groundcover. A vigorous grower, it can spread almost a foot a year in most garden situations. We have this particular variety here at the Campbell County office and it is doing great in a shady area under some greedy rooted Chinese elm trees. I have also seen a huge patch of 'Frohnleiten' at the North Carolina Botanic Garden in Asheville NC where it was utilized as an effective ground cover in a large semi shady area.

So next time you are shopping at one of your favorite garden centers keep an eye out for Epimediums and try one out in your garden. I don't think you will be disappointed with this beautiful garden perennial!

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Winter Gardening Jobs



by Kasia McDermott, Northern Kentucky Master Gardener



Photo credit: Mary Stubberfield

The hustle and bustle of the holidays is nearly behind us, as is the winter solstice, and the days are finally getting longer. Each day we add couple more seconds of sunlight and look forward to brighter days in the garden. Here are a few winter gardening jobs that you can do in the colder months to get ready for spring:

January:

• Bust out the highlighter and mark up your favorite seed catalogs like I do with the books that are arriving nearly daily at my house. It's nearly as fun as Christmas!

• Plan the spring / summer crops. There's nothing I like more than sketching out what I'd like to grow and figuring out the timeline of when those seeds needs to be started.

• Clean and sharpen your garden tools. First, you'll stop the spread of pathogens and second, a fresh tool will work that

much better come spring!

February:

- Get a head start on seeds. Chilis are a great veggie to start early.
- Sow broad beans and sweet peas.
- Start chitting potatoes.
- Keep an eye out for the first bulbs of spring! Nothing is more cheery than daffodils, tulips and crocuses poking up through the snow.

March:

- Prune any late flowering shrubs and climbers that flower on new growth like roses, buddleias and clematis.
- March is a great month to plant woody shrubs and young trees.
- Seed starting begins in earnest. Tomatoes, beans and eggplant, oh my!
- Most importantly try to get outside in the garden every day! Look at your

Save the date for a few upcoming classes at the Extension Office:

Growing Hydrangeas

1/21—10AM

Come learn how to grow hydrangeas in our area, including ideal growing conditions and tips on when and how to prune them.

Winter Garden Pruning

2/18—10AM

We will discuss and demonstrate proper pruning techniques for various landscape plants in various sites.

Houseplant Selection & Care

2/20—10AM

Bring the outdoors inside by learning how to select and care for a variety of tropical plants.

Houseplant Propagation

3/21—10AM

Learn how to increase your house plant collection by propagating plants.

Flowers for the Cutting Garden

4/9—10AM

Bring the beauty of the garden indoors, with cut flowers. Learn best flowers to use in arrangements.

A Beginners Guide to Garden Ponds

4/29—10AM

Learn the basics of building your own backyard water garden.

For more information about these, and other classes, visit our website or contact the Extension Office at 859-572-2600

garden as it sleeps and start to get excited for bursting green things to come. The fresh air does everyone good after all the good food indoors and a new perspective will help you plan for beautiful gardenscapes to come.

Happy New Year!

Starlings: Friend or Foe?

by Kasia McDermott, Northern Kentucky Master Gardener

“Up above she spies a murmuration of starlings like a dark cloud of iron shavings wheeling, turning and swooping in the sky.”

—Colette McBeth

Lining the power lines over the highway, mobbing front lawns or swirling majestically in the sky, starlings definitely like to make their presence known.

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) are native to western

Europe. In the 1890s a group of well meaning theater enthusiasts released about 100 starlings into New York’s Central Park in order to introduce the birds of Shakespeare to America. After a couple of tries the population took off and currently they number over 200 million and have spread all across the United States, Canada and Mexico. Love them or hate them, starlings are here to stay.

Change Up Backyard Feed to Deter Starlings

Starlings travel in large flocks (numbering in the thousands) and will digest all the food in feeders landing them squarely in the “pest” category in the minds of certain backyard birders. Many an enthusiast has seen their birdseed wiped out in an afternoon by a flock of these greedy birds.

European starlings have soft beaks that differ from native American birds who evolved tougher beaks to crack hard perennial seed coats. Starlings love corn, soft seeds and will take over any feeder serving up their preferred buffet. Want to deter them? Choose birdseed mixes that don’t include cracked corn (a starling favorite—you’ve done the work for them!) and does include harder seeds like millet and black sunflower seeds. By offering up seeds that native birds like you’ll attract all sorts of Kentucky favorites like cardinals, black-capped chickadees and tufted titmice.

Mesmerizing Mummerations

Wheeling through the sky in incredible patterns, a flock of starlings called a



murmuration, is truly something wonderful to behold. In groups of several thousands they swoop and fly through the air in fantastic patterns that are beautiful set against a sunrise or sunset.

For years the mystery of their formations baffled scientists with some thinking that the birds had to be telepathic in order to move in such seamless coordination. It wasn’t until scientists starting in the 1950s deciphered their collective movements. Starlings and other grouping animals like fish schools, move in relation to others in their group and react nearly instantaneously to the movements of other birds.

Mechanical engineers later studied flocks of up to 1,200+ and discovered that each bird keeps track of seven birds around itself and either follows, tried not to crash into or flies away from it’s neighbors. The result is an aerial display that has wowed nature lovers for centuries.

Next time you spy a some starlings on a wire or in your backyard take a moment to

appreciate this bird for its tenacity and highly evolved flight pattern.

Beautiful: https://youtu.be/iIRNqhi2ka9k?si=f_wtAn1J5e8sU6HV



 Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

NEOPESTALOTIOPSIS DISEASE IN STRAWBERRY: A New Reality for Kentucky Growers

FEBRUARY 6, 2025
6:00 - 7:30 PM (EST)
WEBINAR VIA ZOOM
REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/41F6KTC](https://bit.ly/41f6kTC)



Agenda:

6:00 pm - Managing Neo-pest Disease with Dr. Nicole Gauthier
6:45 pm - Starting Your Own Disease-free Plugs with Dr. Shawn Wright
Q&A session will follow presentations

GARDEN CALENDAR: JANUARY – FEBRUARY

The effects of deicing salts on



landscapes

Landscape plants as well as concrete are both easily damaged by deicing salts (calcium, sodium and potassium chloride products) Use coarse builders sand or plant friendly products such as Calcium Magnesium acetate.



Planning for your future garden

Start planning for vegetable garden now. Consider taking a soil test now so you can apply your soil amendments earlier in the season.. Soil testing is a free service for all Campbell county residents.

Frost Heaving



Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden
Frost heaving of lily bulbs (Lilium)

Watch out for frost heaving of perennial plants in the landscape. Gently push these back into the soil and apply some additional mulch.

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/insects-pests-and-problems/environmental/winter-injury/frost-heaving>

Basic Pruning Principles

Don't prune those spring blooming shrubs like forsythia and lilac during the winter. Pruning now could make them prone to winter damage and reduces the amount of flowering in the spring.



<https://www.uky.edu/Aq/Horticulture/QRLabels/Pruning.html>



Keeping your houseplants happy during wintertime

To prevent stress and damage to indoor plants, avoid having them near furnace vents and drafty doors

and windows.

<https://exclusives.o2.boa.ca.uky.edu/2023/hort/keeping-your-houseplants-happy-during-wintertime>

StoryWalk®

 Cooperative
Extension Service

Enjoy reading in nature
with StoryWalks® in your
community!

Visit the garden at the
Campbell County
Cooperative Extension
Highland Heights Office.

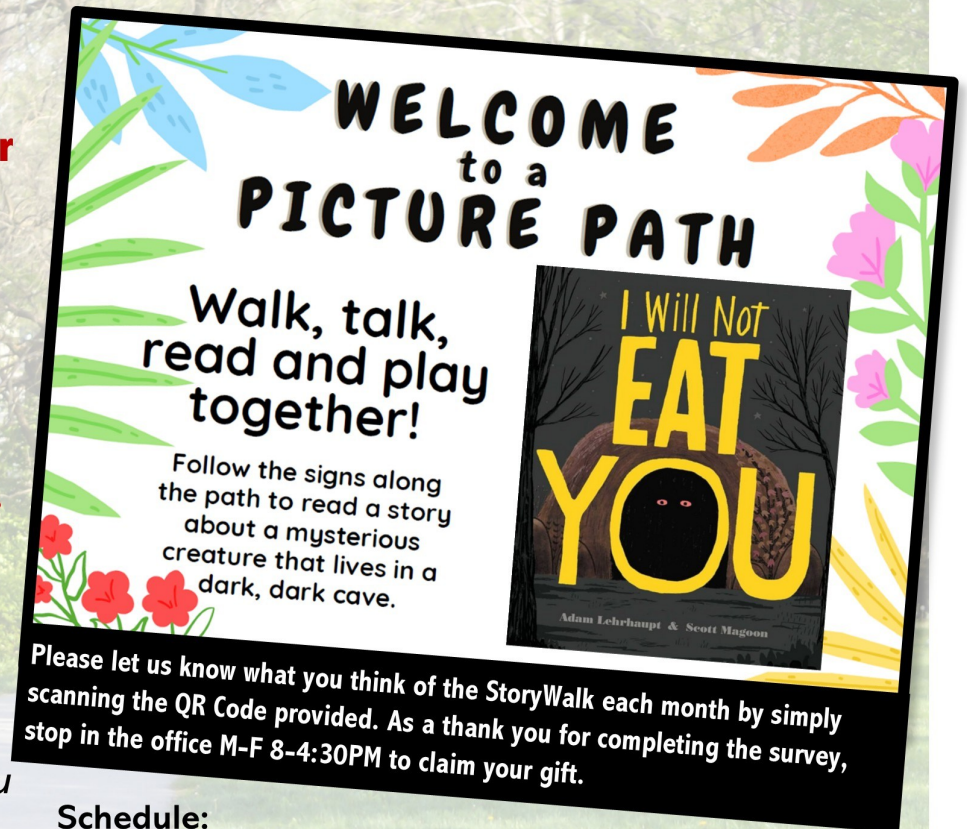
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859-572-2600

Bring your little ones, and
read a picture book as you
enjoy the outdoors.

Please remember to:

- Travel to all the podiums
- Read the pages as you go
- Take the Survey
- Stay safe and have fun!

*The books will stay out
for about a month,
so come back often
to see if there is
something new!*



Please let us know what you think of the StoryWalk each month by simply scanning the QR Code provided. As a thank you for completing the survey, stop in the office M-F 8-4:30PM to claim your gift.

Schedule:

- ♦ January: *I Will Not Eat You* by Adam Lehrhaupt
- ♦ March: *I'll Wait Mr. Panda* by Steve Antony
- ♦ April: *The Ant and the Grasshopper* by Miles Kelly
- ♦ May: *Splish, Splash, Ducky!* by Lucy Cousins
- ♦ June: *Some Pets* by Angela DiTerlizzi
- ♦ July: *Saturday* by Oge Mora
- ♦ August: *In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming
- ♦ September: *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin
- ♦ October: *Some Monsters Look Like This* by Silas Gibson
- ♦ November: *Snowmen All Year* by Caroline Beuhner
- ♦ December: *Bark, George* by Jules Fieffer

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Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

TRI-STATE GREEN INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

Home

Join us on February 6, 2025!

The Tri-State Green Industry Conference has been providing education to the green industry in the greater Cincinnati area for over 80 years. We are excited to return to the Sharonville Convention Center in Cincinnati on Thursday, February 6, 2025, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Stay tuned for event schedule and other information for our 2025 event.

Search

- Home
- About the GIC
- Registration
- Sponsorships
- Trade Show Vendor Information

<https://u.osu.edu/greenindustryconference/>

2025 KNLA GREEN INDUSTRY WINTER CONFERENCE

January 29-30, 2025

MARRIOTT LOUISVILLE EAST
1903 Embassy Square Blvd.
Louisville, KY 40299



<https://knla.org/event-5665082>



Winter Garden Pruning



Photo credit: www.extension.iastate.edu

Tuesday
February 18, 2025
10am

We will discuss and demonstrate proper pruning techniques for various landscape plants in various sites.

Campbell County Cooperative Extension Office
3500 Alexandria Pike | Highland Heights, KY 41076

Class size limited. Registration required, call 859-572-2600 or online at <https://campbell.ca.uky.edu>

Registration opens 30 days in advance of the class

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Drought Tolerant Landscaping

Tuesday
March 25, 2025
10:00am



Come learn about planting a waterwise landscape including plant selection, design and the care involved in xeriscaping.



Photo credit: wilmorenurseries.com

Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service
3500 Alexandria Pike
Highland Heights, KY 41076

Class Size is Limited! Registration Required!
To register call 859-572-2600

or register online at www.ca.uky.edu/campbell

Registration opens 30 days in advance of the class

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Kentucky Hort News

Lawns | Flowers | Trees | Fruit | Veggies

Hort Culture Podcast



UK podcats and other resources:

<https://kentuckyhortnews.com/resources/>

“Great for plant lovers and bug lovers too. Check out these fun and informative research based podcasts”.

Wednesday Webinars: great resources.

5 seasons archived here to find just

about any gardening topic: [https://](https://kentuckyhortnews.com/)

kentuckyhortnews.com/



Winter Sowing Perennials

Posted on October 19, 2024 by krjack4

On Wednesday, October 23, the Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays presents **Winter Sowing Perennials** with Sharon Flynt, UK Horticulture Agent. The webinar begins at 12:30 pm EST/ 11:30 am CST.

[Register for the meeting here.](#)

See what other webinars are coming this season here:

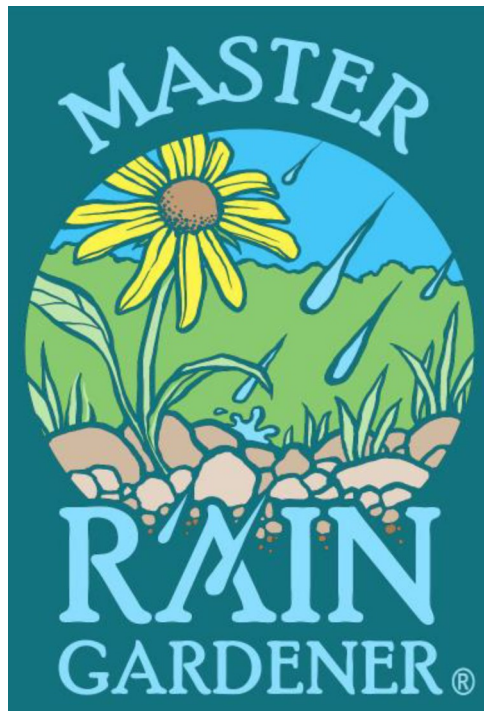
<https://kentuckyhortnews.com/horticulture-webinar-wednesdays/season-five/>

[Click here to view Season Four Videos. \(2023\)](#)

[Click here to view Season Three Videos. \(2022\)](#)

[Click here to view Season Two Videos. \(2021\)](#)

[Click here to view Season One Videos. \(2020\)](#)



2025 Greater Cincinnati Master Rain Gardener Courses

The Master Rain Gardener (MRG) Course is a 6 day course that takes place over 7 weeks. During the course, students are guided through the rain garden design and installation process by experienced regional professionals.

\$50 Registration Fee

Students Eligible for 50% Discount –
Call 513-772-7645

Spring Course

Campbell County Extension Main Office
9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Thursdays
Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 10

For additional information, registration, and to see a list of rotating host locations, visit www.cincyraingardener.org.

 Cooperative
Extension Service

The Northern Ky Beekeepers
Association invites you to

Beekeeping 101 School!

Featuring Jim Coss from The Honey
and Bee Connection



***Boone County Extension
Enrichment Center***

1824 Patrick Drive
Burlington, KY 41005

Learn how to become a beekeeper!

Free to the public

Registration appreciated

Beekeeping supplies available for purchase on site

Register online! boone.ca.uky.edu

ANNUAL FARMING CONFERENCE



OAK Annual Conference

REGISTER NOW for OAK's 14th Annual Organic Farming Conference, *Grounded in Organics: From Soil to Market*, January 23-25, 2025, at Kentucky State University's Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Register Today!

<https://www.oak-ky.org/oak-conference-2025>

Houseplant Selection & Care



February 20, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Bring the outdoors inside by learning how to select and care for a variety of tropical plants.

Campbell County Cooperative Extension Office
3500 Alexandria Pike | Highland Heights, KY 41078

Class size limited. Registration required, call 859-572-2600
or online at <https://campbell.ca.uky.edu>
Registration opens January 20, 2025

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Houseplant Propagation



March 21, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Learn how to increase your house plant collection by propagating plants.

Campbell County Cooperative Extension Office
3500 Alexandria Pike | Highland Heights, KY 41078

Class size limited. Registration required, call 859-572-2600
or online at <https://campbell.ca.uky.edu>
Registration opens February 21, 2025

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\$50 Registration Fee

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Spring Course Details
 Campbell County Extension Main Office
 Horticulture Room
 3500 Alexandria Pike
 Highland Heights, KY 41076

Thursdays, 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 10
 (No class April 3)



For additional information, registration, and to see a list of rotating host locations, visit www.cincyraingardener.org.



FLOWERS FOR THE CUTTING GARDEN



April 9, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Bring the beauty of the garden indoors with cut flowers. Learn the best flowers to use in arrangements and the best ways to harvest. Participants will receive seeds to start their own cut garden.

Campbell County Cooperative Extension Office
 3500 Alexandria Pike | Highland Heights, KY 41076

Class size limited. Registration required, call 859-572-2600 or online at <https://campbell.ca.uky.edu> Registration opens March 9, 2025

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A Beginner's Guide to Garden Ponds

April 29, 2025
10:00 a.m.



Building a garden pond can be intimidating. Come learn the basics of building your own backyard water garden.

Campbell County Cooperative Extension Office
 3500 Alexandria Pike | Highland Heights, KY 41076

Class size limited. Registration required, call 859-572-2600 or online at <https://campbell.ca.uky.edu> Registration opens March 29, 2025

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10-MINUTE BEAN SOUP

Servings: Makes 4 Serving Size: 1/4 of recipe Recipe Cost: \$6.52 Cost per Serving: \$1.63



Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- ¼ cup onion, finely chopped
- 2 (15.8 ounce) cans of great northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes with basil, garlic and oregano
- 1 (14 ounce) can low-sodium vegetable or chicken broth
- 4 cups kale, torn into small pieces
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan, heat oil over medium heat and sauté garlic and onion for 3 minutes or until onion is tender.
2. Add beans, tomatoes and broth to saucepan. Stir and simmer for 5 minutes. Add kale and cook until tender, for about 2 minutes.
3. Mix in lemon juice and Parmesan cheese just before serving. Optional, garnish with finely chopped fresh basil or dried basil.

Notes:

Cooked, dried beans may be substituted for canned beans. Using prepared dry beans in place of canned will reduce sodium in this dish. If you can't find diced tomatoes with basil, garlic and oregano, use regular diced tomatoes and add dried versions of these seasonings.

Nutrition facts per serving:

400 calories; 8g total fat; 2.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 10mg cholesterol; 500mg sodium; 62g carbohydrate; 15g fiber; 4g sugar; 24g protein; 140% Daily Value of vitamin A; 160% Daily Value of vitamin C; 40% Daily Value of calcium; 30% Daily Value of iron.

Source: Caroline Durr, Area Nutrition Agent for Kentucky Nutrition Education Program, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service



Sarah Imbus

Sarah Imbus

Campbell County Extension Agent for Horticulture Education

Terri Turner

Campbell County Extension Technician for Horticulture Education

Joseph Smith

Campbell County Extension Technician for Horticulture Education

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Extension Garden Little Library



Thanks to our Extension Horticulture Volunteers Mike Hardy, Don Spaulding and his wife, Sheri Spaulding for designing, building and installing our very first garden "Little Library". The idea behind this little library is to offer a space while visiting the gardens to take a book or two of your liking, and if you have a book to share in return, feel free to do so. We hope that you will enjoy the seasonal addition of books and enjoy your time in the gardens. Happy reading and gardening!

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.