

Horticulture

Newsletter

September / October 2023

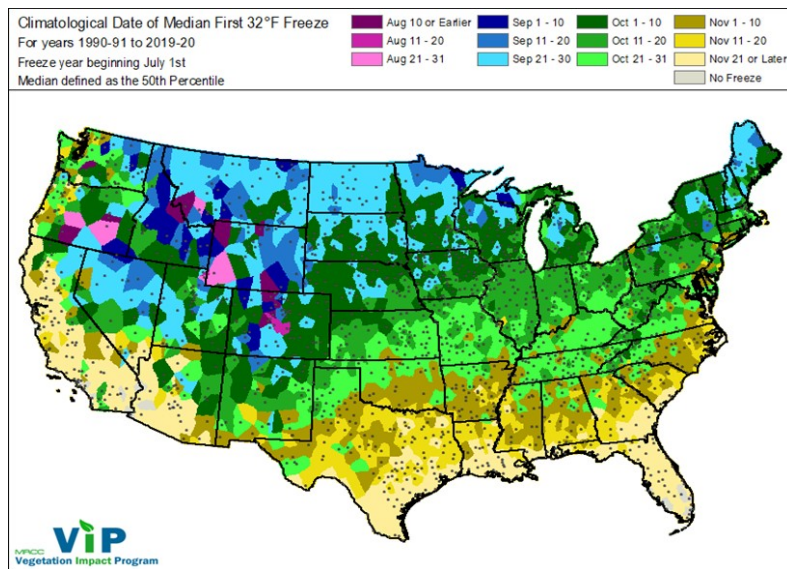
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Campbell County

3500 Alexandria Pike
 Highland Heights, KY 41076
 Phone: (859) 572-2600
 Fax: (859) 572-2619
 Email: campbell.ext@uky.edu

Tracking the First Fall Freeze

by Derrick Snyder - National Weather Service Paducah, KY



above the ground, and the temperature a few inches from the ground can be colder than what a thermometer reads. These most often occur on clear nights with calm winds. To protect

As the calendar moves into October, nights continue to become longer, leaves begin to turn color, and first frosts and freezes begin to occur. The first freeze of the fall typically marks the end of the growing season. As shown on the map below, most locations across the Commonwealth typically see their first freeze of the season during the latter half of October into the early days of November.

Frost can often develop on plants even when thermometers show the temperature to be a few degrees above freezing. This is because most thermometers are mounted several feet

your plants from frosts and freezes, consider taking preventive measures like covering them with tarps or blankets in the evening before temperatures drop. This can help trap the ground heat and provide insulation. Additionally, placing mulch around the base of plants can help retain soil warmth. If possible, relocate potted plants indoors or to a sheltered area. Watering the plants before the onset of frost can also provide a slight protective effect, as water releases heat as it freezes, helping to moderate the immediate environment around the plants.

In this issue...

Tracking the First Fall Freeze	1
Kentucky First Farm	1
From the Garden	2
Community Assessment Survey	2
Master Gardener Program	3
Garden Calendar	4
Backyard Conservation Cost Share ..	5-6
Plant Bulbs Now	7
Remembering Donna Mader	8
Recipe:	8

Kentucky First Farm

The Kentucky First Farm program will be hosting a workshop at the Boone County Extension Enrichment Center on November 3rd. This event is for all farmers, specifically those with 5 years or less experience.

While we are working on the agenda the current potential topics include livestock, technology, commercial horticulture, food safety, farm safety, agroforestry, bees, urban gardening, homegrown protein, and business topics. We also want to hear what interest you have heard from farmers for potential topics. If you have any in mind, please fill out the one question survey with the topic. https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6DL7bBkUYJXXN5k



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

From the Garden

Are you dividing Iris clumps? Check for borers...

About every three years (or when bloom has suffered) is a good time to divide your Iris rhizomes. When doing so, checking for the iris borer is also a good chore to add during this time. The damaging and chewing caterpillar is active in Northern Kentucky early -mid August. This nuisance pest can do some major damage to your iris clumps if left unmanaged. As shown in photo 1 below, the borer tunnels while chewing the root structure causing severe damage.

Over time, the foliage will begin to discolor and turn brown prematurely and can also cause poor flower bloom. Noticeable fowl-smelling odor, slimy soft root structure, or foliage streaking, can be signs of borer activity. High borer infestation can ultimately cause whole rhizome death.

To control this pest, we have found that hand removal during rhizome division has been our best and most effective control. We also remove any dead foliage and implement good



sanitation practices in the garden area, to reduce borer egg masses, as they like to overwinter in plant debris. Removing the

caterpillar late summer will prevent it from continuing its life cycle into an adult moth, which emerges in spring. An insecticide application, made the following spring when there is 4 to 6 inches of new growth, can kill newly hatched borers before they enter the plant. A second spray about 2 weeks later will extend the protection. This is advisable in cases of severe damage from the previous year and / or lack of a good sanitation program.

After we divide the clumps and inspect them for borers, we prune back foliage, clean soil around the roots and give each clump a dunk in a water bath followed by a 10% bleach and water soak before replanting into the landscape.

We have found that caring for Iris rhizomes are a bit of a chore, but the beauty of colorful flowers bring each summer, makes all the long hours and sweaty days' worth it.

About the Community Assessment Survey

The Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service (Extension) is the local outreach arm of the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and Kentucky State University College of Agriculture, Communities, and the Environment. Extension provides practical, research-based education that helps individuals, families and communities solve

problems and improve lives. Extension addresses issues (e.g., farming, gardening, parenting, budgeting, healthy living, and youth, community, and economic development) that are important to Kentuckians.

We are inviting you to complete a survey to help us understand the needs and priorities within your community. Your responses will help us tailor new and existing educational programs and outreach to address the issues that directly impact you, your family, and/or your community.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete

Extension Serves Your Community

Give us feedback to improve programs and services in your area.

[Take the Survey](#)





Master Gardener News...



Master Gardener Class offered In Boone County

If you are interested in becoming a Northern Kentucky Master Gardener, the next class will be held at the Boone County Cooperative Extension Service. **Class training will begin December 7, 2023** and finish April 4, 2024. For more information and to register, contact Boone County Extension Office at (859) 586-6101.



Kentucky Extension Master Gardener

Join us for this 15-week volunteer training program! Learn about botany, tree identification, soils, propagation, disease, insect identification, and more! Complete the requirements, then use your knowledge to volunteer 40 hours at Extension-approved locations in order to become a Certified Master Gardener!



Thursdays
9:00 am-1:00 pm
December 7th thru
March 28th, 2024
Cost: \$150.00
(\$50 refund if your volunteer hours are completed within one year)

Classes will be held at
Boone County Cooperative
Extension Service's
Enrichment Center
1824 Patrick Drive,
Burlington, KY 41005

For more information:
Call (859) 586-6101 or visit boone.ca.uky.edu
Facebook: @BooneHortNews



GARDEN CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER



General

- **Watering:** You may need to continue watering in the fall. Most landscape plants require 1" of rainfall every 7 days. If rainfall has not been adequate, supplement watering. A rain gauge is a handy tool to track rainfall in your yard.
- **Soil Testing:** If you plan to fertilize your plants or lawn this fall, you may want to get a soil test first. This is a free service for Campbell County residents. To learn how to take and submit a soil sample, visit www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/agr/agr16/agr16.pdf



Lawns

- **Seeding:** You still have time to put down grass seed. Mid-August through September is the best time of year to put down your grass seed. To learn more about establishing a lawn visit: www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/AGR/AGR50/AGR50.pdf

- **Lawn renovation:** visit <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/agr/agr51/agr51.pdf>
- **Fertilizing:** The best time to fertilize cool-season lawns (Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, fine fescue) in Kentucky is during the autumn. These grasses all grow optimally during cooler weather and can best utilize nutrients at this time of year.



Flowers

- **Planting:** Plant mums, aster, and pansies for fall color. If left in the ground, pansies will often survive the winter and put on a beautiful spring display.
- **Plant spring blooming bulbs this fall.** Select bulbs that bloom early, mid and late spring to extend your blooms. To learn more visit, www.uky.edu/hort/sites/www.uky.edu/hort/files/documents/5204springbulbs.pdf

Trees & Shrubs

- **Fertilize:** Fall is the best time to fertilize trees and shrubs. Go to www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id72/id72.pdf for more information.
- **Planting:** Early fall is a great time to plant trees. To learn proper planting techniques, see https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/sites/forestry.ca.uky.edu/files/forfs_17-08_planting_trees_inlandscapes.pdf

Vegetables

- **Dig sweet potatoes** when the tops have died. Use a pitchfork to avoid damaging the tubers.
- **Plant garlic** from October to early November. Hardneck garlic performs best in Kentucky.
- **Many diseases and insects can overwinter in garden debris.** Remove dead or diseased plants from the garden.

Fruits

- **Fall—September** is the time to harvest PawPaws. For more information on growing our native KY fruit, KSU has more helpful growing information: <https://www.kysu.edu/academics/college-ac/school-of-ace/pawpaw/index.php>
- **Late summer/early fall** is the time to harvest grapes. To learn more about growing grapes and when to harvest, check out this helpful UK publication: chrome-extension: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id126/id126.pdf>



- **Late summer/early fall** is the best time to harvest figs, persimmon and other tree fruits: <https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu/ccd/files/figs.pdf>
<https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu/ccd/files/persimmon.pdf>
<https://www.uky.edu/hort/document-list-home-fruit>





Backyard Conservation Local Cost Share

For more information, or to
submit a reimbursement request:

BACKYARD CONSERVATION LOCAL COST SHARE

The Campbell County Conservation District's Backyard Conservation Local Cost-Share Program is an incentive program intended to assist with landowner's costs while implementing conservation practices that benefit soil and water quality and wildlife habitat. This program is open to all landowners to apply, but preference will be for those landowners who are not eligible for other state and federal cost share programs. The goal of this program is to help landowners be good stewards of the land by providing financial assistance for the implementation of conservation practices in their own backyards.

The expectation of the Conservation District is that participants in the Backyard Conservation Cost-Share Program are responsible for proper installation, long-term operation, and maintenance of conservation practices. Conservation practices installed with cost-share funds must be in place for a minimum of three years.

This is a cost share program (75% of project cost reimbursed up to \$500). Participant contributions can be in the form of purchased materials and services, equipment rental, and labor. Receipts dated **before** approval letter will not be considered for reimbursement.

One application per household per fiscal year (July 1 thru June 30).

Possible projects for funding, but not limited to:

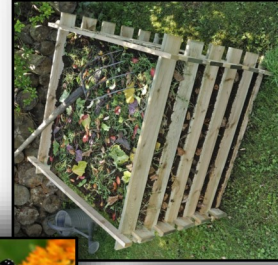
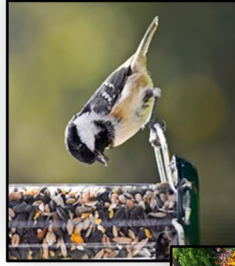
- Rain barrels
- Monarch waystation
- Pollinator garden

- Raised garden beds
- Certified backyard wildlife habitat
-National Wildlife Federation, www.nwfw.org
- Invasive removal
- Rain gardens
- Composting
- Native grass and tree planting

All projects must abide county or city zoning ordinances and permitting requirements.

Campbell County Conservation District
8350 East Main Street, Alexandria, KY 41001-1214
(859) 635-9587

ccd@campbellkyconservation.org
www.campbellkyconservation.org



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All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and conservation districts are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. June 2023



Backyard Conservation Local Cost Share

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (Home/Cell) _____

E-mail _____

1. Do you own the land on which the project will be implemented?

YES _____ NO _____

If no, please explain: _____

2. Location of property (if different than mailing address listed above)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: KY Zip Code: _____

3. Detailed description of project

4. Purpose of the project

5. Estimated cost of project _____

6. **Call 811 before digging.**

7. **Please contact our office for technical assistance with your project.**

Applications will be accepted and evaluated as they are received. To process your application, representatives of the Campbell County Conservation District may visit your property. Projects will not be retroactive of the approval letter date. Receipts dated prior to the approval letter date will not be considered for reimbursement. Funds for this cost share grant program are made available through the Campbell County Conservation District.

Signature _____ Date _____

Property Owner Signature _____ Date _____
(if different)

****Applications must include the property owner. Applicable zoning and building permits are the responsibility of the property owner**

Please contact our office for technical assistance with your project.

Plant Bulbs Now for Blooms in the Spring

A little work this fall will reap big rewards next spring. October and November are a great time to plant spring flowering bulbs.

Select a location with well-drained soil. The bulbs will rot over the winter in poorly drained soil. Heavy clay soils should be amended with compost or peat moss to improve soil drainage. Most will require a full sun location. You can plant under deciduous trees and shrubs. Most flowers will be finished before the trees and shrubs leaf out.

Bulbs, especially small ones, are best planted in groups. This will provide a better flower display. The planting depth will depend on the size of the bulb. Water the area after planting to settle the soil. Mulching a depth of 2-3" will help conserve soil moisture.



While tulips and daffodils usually garner most of the attention, there are several other "minor" bulbs to consider.



Snowdrops (*Galanthus*): These dainty white flowers are some of the first to bloom. They provide good nourishment for early foraging bees. Height ranges from 4-8" inches. It is best to plant in groups of at least 25 bulbs. It is great for naturalizing and best of all it is deer and rodent resistant.



Crocus (*Crocus*): Another bulb that is not a deer favorite is the crocus. Although they are tiny, reaching about 4" tall, they put on a big show in late winter-early spring. They come in bright purple, yellow and white. They are great to naturalize in a lawn.



Summer Snowflakes (*Leucojum*): These bell-shaped flowers make their appearance in April-May. This English-native is a great choice for dappled shade. These plants will reach 12-15" tall. It will

naturalize if left undisturbed. This is another deer and rodent resistant plant.



Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia*): This Northwest U.S. native performed well in our Northern Kentucky garden. Unlike most bulbs, *Camassia* can tolerate some moisture. They perform best in part-full sun. These plants can reach 24-30" tall. Purple and white flowers make their appearance in May-June. They will naturalize over time. The bees like the *Camassia* but deer avoid it.



Ornamental Onion (*Allium*): The alliums come in a wide variety of sizes and colors. The most known are the large "globe-like" purple blooms but can also be found in blue, white and even yellow. Alliums are great for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. The deer and rabbits avoid it. Alliums require full sun and well-drained soils.

By selecting a variety of spring flowering bulbs you can have blooms the entire spring.

Garden Volunteer Donna Mader



This July we said goodbye to our beloved volunteer Donna Mader. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Donna had a truly generous heart. Her list of volunteer projects was long. She not only volunteered in our educational garden but also at the Campbell County Public Library, The Giving Fields, Campbell County Retired Teachers Association, Northern Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, The Theatre Dept. at NKU and St Paul's United Church of Christ. She was famous for collecting soda pop tops. These pop tops were donated to the Ronald McDonald House. We will continue this tradition for Donna.

Donna was a treasure to all that knew her. Her legacy of kindness and generosity will live on.



Cucumber, Corn, and Bean Salsa

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 2-3 large cucumbers | ½ cup fresh whole kernel corn, cooked |
| 2 tomatoes | 1 ounce package dry ranch dressing mix |
| 1 yellow bell pepper | ⅓ cup cider vinegar |
| 1 small red onion | 2 tablespoons sugar, optional |
| ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro | |
| ½ cup black beans | |

Wash all vegetables. Finely **chop** cucumbers, tomatoes, pepper, and onion. **Combine** in a large mixing bowl with chopped cilantro. **Drain** and rinse beans and add to chopped vegetables. **Add** corn. If using canned corn instead of fresh, **drain** off liquid prior to adding to vegetables.

In a small bowl, mix together ranch

dressing packet, vinegar, and sugar. **Pour** dressing over vegetables and mix well. **Serve** immediately or refrigerate until chilled.

Yield: Makes 20, ½ cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 50 calories, 0 g fat, 130 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrates, 2 g fiber, 70% Daily Value of vitamin C and 6% Daily Value of vitamin A

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.



Kentucky Cucumber

SEASON: June to September.

NUTRITION FACTS: Cucumbers are naturally high in water; a one-half cup serving contains only 7 calories.

SELECTION: Choose firm, fully green cucumbers with no yellowing or soft spots. Cucumbers suitable for slicing and eating are 6 to 9 inches long with small, white spines on the surface that rub off easily. Pickling cucumbers are smaller and have black spines on the surface.

STORAGE: Store unwashed cucumbers in the refrigerator for up to a week. Sliced cucumbers should be tightly wrapped and refrigerated for up to 3 days.

Source: www.fruitandveggiesmatter.gov

PREPARATION: Wash under cool, running water to remove visible dirt. You may want to remove the seeds in mature cucumbers by cutting lengthwise and scooping seeds from the center with a spoon.

FOR PICKLING: Follow recipe instructions. Four pounds of cucumbers yield 5 to 6 pints of pickles.

CUCUMBER

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Science
University of Kentucky, Nutrition
and Food Science students

May 2010

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit www.ca.uky.edu/fcs.

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE



Sarah Imbus

Sarah Imbus

Campbell County Extension Agent for
Horticulture Education

Terri Turner

Campbell County Extension Technician
for Horticulture Education

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