

Horticulture

Newsletter

Campbell County

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Weed Management



Our raised beds in our new garden area were completed in late November 2023. We quickly began planning plant selections and how we will incorporate programs to help small space fruit and vegetables growers at home.



As gardeners, we know that the health of our soil directly influences the quantity and quality of our crops, so we must be mindful of how we manage our soil and implement best management practices to help us grow fresh quality produce.

After utilizing the saved soil, we top dressed each bed with two inches of compost. Our soil health didn't stop there. We knew that we had to kill off all the weed seeds that has been turned over with all the construction and we are determined to plant this spring.

The soil that is in our new brick raised beds is the soil that was in the previous wood beds where the soil has been worked over many, many years with added compost. The soil was valuable with nutrients, and we didn't want to discard, but we had one concern; weed seeds. Over the years as the previous wood beds were beginning to deteriorate, growing and caring for the vegetables became too difficult and weed populations (purple deadnettle, henbit, ground ivy, nutsedge, spurge, and hairy bittercress are among a few) were uncontrollable - even after multiple organic and conventional weed management practices were implemented. The valuable soil had to be saved.

Using silage tarp was our answer. This two-sided colored plastic, one side black and the other side white, blocks out light preventing photosynthesis and allowing earthworms and other microorganisms to thrive in the soil. Using weighted sandbags to hold down the plastic, the white side faces the soil while the black side faces up. This application during the winter prevents light from penetrating the soil (like if using clear plastic) though warming up the soil enough for weed seeds to germinate.

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Nature Walk at Tower Park

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Hosted by

Campbell County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Agent, Sarah Imbus

When registering, please

Choose ONE time slot.

In the event of rain, this event will be cancelled.

You will be notified via email or phone call.

Register [HERE](#) or scan the QR Code



At FUEL NKU we strive to support student food security and enrich the lives of students through education, engagement, and advocacy.

<https://inside.nku.edu/fuelnku.html>



Drop off your food and other donations at the Extension Office | M-F 8am-4:30pm.

3500 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, KY 41076

Popular items requested: personal hygiene items (hand soap, shampoo, etc.) and peanut butter.

Weed Management

(continued from page 1)



The weeds are not photosynthesizing and the soil is staying relatively damp, which aids in the killing of the weeds while also adding green material back into the soil. After about six weeks we will remove the plastic and turn the soil about a 1" depth and then lay the

plastic back down for another 6 weeks. "Stirring" the soil will bring other weed seeds closer to the soil surface for them to then germinate and then being killed, completing the process again.

Since this is our first application of this process and considering the large volume of weed seeds that accumulated over a period of time, we are hopeful that this process will allow us to greatly reduce weed pressure for spring planting. For spring planting, we will prep the beds and remove and store the plastic. For fall, we then hope to utilize cover crops to add nutrients into the soil to build up our soil health.

The 5 ml plastic is reusable, and we will be able to utilize it in other gardening project, such as killing turf to install a new garden beds!



If you are interested in learning more about this weed management process or other solarization methods, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office, 859-572-2600.



Kentucky Hort News

Lawns • Flowers • Trees • Fruit • Veggies

Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays

Weekly gardening webinars hosted by the University of Kentucky Horticulture Agents.

SEASON FOUR: All 28 webinars of 2023 have been recorded and are available [here](#).

SEASON THREE: All 36 webinars of 2022 have been recorded and are available [here](#).

SEASON TWO: All 37 webinars of 2021 have been recorded and are available [here](#).

SEASON ONE: All 34 webinars of 2020 have been recorded and are available [here](#).



The Campbell
County Farmers
markets will be
opening soon.
Visit our
website or
Facebook page
for times and
locations.

This year, the Fort Thomas
Market will accept the
Senior Voucher Program.

Kentucky Ag Matters
Kentucky Ag Matters



Podcast brought to you by
Western Kentucky Ag Network.

6.1K
Downloads

100
Episodes

Kentucky Ag Matters

<https://feed.podbean.com/jstonet/feed.xml>



Celebrating our 100th Episode!!!

5 hours ago

[Intro for show E100](#)

Congratulations to our agents Jay Stone (Hopkins County), Vicki Shadrick (Webster County) and David Fourqurean (McLean County) as they released their 100th KY Ag Matters podcast today. Listen in to our agents as they entertain and educate us at

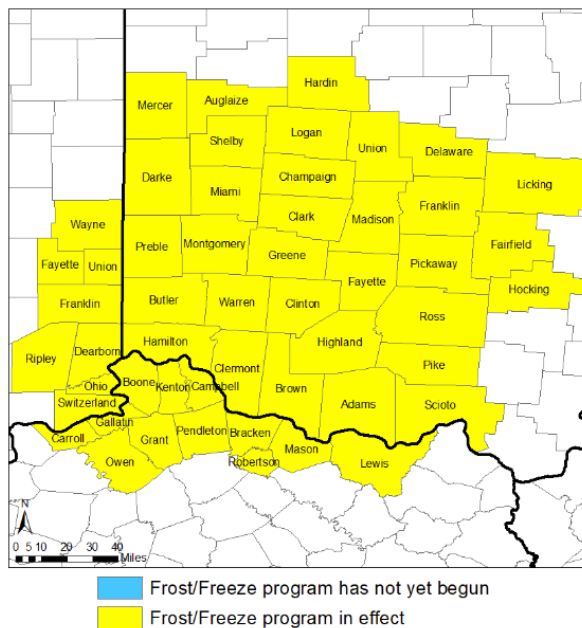
<https://jstonet.podbean.com/e/celebrating-our-100th-episode/>

Ag Programs FB Link: <https://www.facebook.com/UKAgPrograms/>

Tracking Last Frost Date

As spring approaches, many of us are anxious to get outside and start gardening. Whether it be in the vegetable garden or planting decorative annuals, we want to get as early of a start as possible to disrupt the winter woes and ensure a successful season of growing. Many of the vegetables and tropical plants that we grow are highly susceptible to cold temperatures and frosts that tend to occur during the spring. The worst outcome for many gardeners would be losing expensive store-bought plants or seedlings nurtured over many weeks to an unanticipated and indiscriminate frost during an otherwise warm period. Taking these outlier frosts into consideration, when can we reasonably expect it to be safe to move our tender plants out into the garden?

Before looking at temperature data, there are several key points to consider when discussing late frosts. First and foremost, we must understand what the air temperature threshold is when frosts may occur. In many instances, we can assume that light frosts may occur when the air temperature drops below 36 degrees Fahrenheit. Rural areas and low-lying land are particularly vulnerable to these temperatures. It is also worth mentioning that many air temperatures are not recorded at ground level where frost occurs. According to the National Weather Service, "On typical spring nights when frost occurs, the temperatures at the five-foot level may read 36 degrees while at ground level it is actually the 32 degrees needed to form frost." Keeping this in mind, we can safely assume that most figures available may be several degrees warmer than actual ground-level temperatures. Lastly, we must unpack and make sense of the average last frost date and what this statistic tells us. According to the Nation Weather Service (figures displayed



indicates the day after which there is a ninety percent chance of no more remaining frosts.

Given that there is a ten percent chance of frost after the first week of May, what outliers have we seen historically? We do not have to go back far. The WKU Mesonet Climatological Summary from May 2016 shows a recorded air temperature of 34.1 degrees Fahrenheit on May 16th, 2016. While this would not have caused a deep freeze, exposed plants on ground level likely would have been impacted by frosts.

Moving into spring is always exciting, to prevent loss of plant material, it is highly recommended to wait until at least after the first week of May before you begin planting tender plants. Even after our ninety percent frost date has passed, it is recommended to follow local weather forecasts for accurate data regarding nightly lows through mid-May. Plants can be protected from frost with blankets or sheets, but we must be vigilant to put these protections in place when necessary.

below) our average last frost date falls in mid-April, far sooner than we would expect. These numbers are further compiled and give us a far more useful date: "Last 32F in nine years out of ten." Using this number to plan our planting date is a much safer option as it

Kentucky			
The following reference table will give an idea as to when the last freezing temperatures might occur, based on the last 30 years of climatological data (1991 to 2020) at each of the listed locations.			
Location	Avg date last 32F in Spring	Last 32F in one year out of ten (10% probability)	Last 32F in nine years out of ten (90% probability)
Covington (KCVG)	Apr 18	Apr 3	May 7
Maysville	Apr 18	Apr 4	May 3
Warsaw	Apr 17	Apr 2	May 4
Williamston	Apr 11	Mar 28	Apr 30

Day	Date	Temperature (°F)						Degree Days		Humidity		Precip (inch)	Wind Speed (mph) and Direction			Solar (MJ/m ²)
		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Avg. Dwpt.	Max H.I.	Min W.C.	HDD	CDD	Max.	Min.		Res. Dir.	Avg. Spd.	Max. 3-sec.	
MON	16	61.5	34.1	47.8	32.3	61.5	34.1	17.2	0	82.7	30.9	0.01	S	2	12.9	23.8

<https://www.weather.gov/iln/springfrostfreeze>

https://www.kymesonet.org/monthly_summaries.html?county=HUEY&year=2016&month=5



Damping-off of Vegetables & Herbaceous Ornamentals

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IMPORTANCE

Damping-off can occur on any herbaceous crop grown from seed, including vegetables, ornamentals, hemp, and field crops. Seeds, seedlings, and young plants may be affected, resulting in poor stands (FIGURE 1) in residential gardens, greenhouses, high tunnels, and commercial fields. Losses to damping-off can be severe, especially when cool, wet weather prevails at the time of direct seeding, at seed emergence, or transplanting,

SYMPTOMS

Pre-emergent damping-off (FIGURE 2) occurs when seedlings fail to emerge from the soil as a result of seed decay. This decay can occur when seed is already infected by a pathogen prior to planting (seed-borne) or when seed becomes infected after planting (soil-borne). As a result, seedlings fail to emerge from the soil.

Post-emergent damping-off (FIGURE 3) occurs when germinated seeds and seedlings are infected, but plants do not collapse until after emergence. Stems of germinating seedlings develop water-soaked lesions at or below the soil line. As the disease progresses, lesions may darken to brown, reddish-brown, or black. Expanding lesions quickly girdle young, tender stems, causing seedlings to wilt and die soon after emergence.

Wirestem results when infected seedlings survive post-emergent damping-off and are transplanted into the field. Infected transplants may continue to grow but with a constricted, wiry stem near the soil line (FIGURE 4). As a result, plants are stunted, off-color, and less productive than healthy plants. Wirestem is more common on crops in the cabbage family (crucifers).

CAUSE & DISEASE DEVELOPMENT

Damping-off may be due to one or more species of soilborne fungi (e.g. *Rhizoctonia* and *Fusarium*) and fungus-like organisms (water molds; e.g. *Pythium* and *Phytophthora*). Occasionally other fungi, such as *Sclerotinia*, *Athelia* (formerly *Sclerotium*), and *Botrytis*, may cause damping-off. These pathogens are common in Kentucky soils and can be spread via:

- Water runoff from irrigation or rain
- Movement of contaminated soil
- Infected or infested seed
- Introduction of infected plants
- Improperly sanitized greenhouse
- Irrigation water from ponds.

Once established in the soil, damping-off organisms are often able to survive for many years even in the absence of host plants. Some survive as saprobes/saprophytes



FIGURE 1. DAMPING-OFF CAN RESULT IN SEED DECAY, FAILURE OF GERMINATING SEEDS TO EMERGE, AND/OR COLLAPSE OF YOUNG SEEDLINGS (RIGHT).

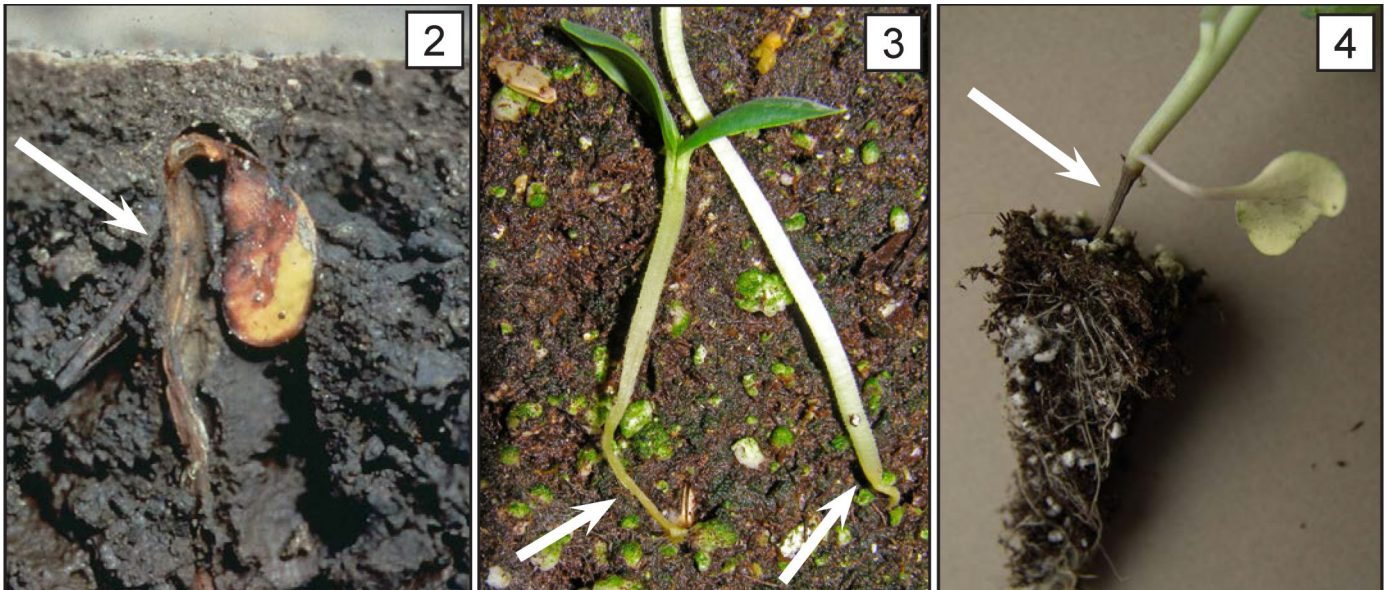


FIGURE 2. PRE-EMERGENCE DAMPING-OFF RESULTS IN SEED DECAY IN THE GROUND OR GERMINATING SEEDS FAIL TO EMERGE. NOTE THE DECAY OF THE RADICLE (ARROW). **FIGURE 3.** POST-EMERGENCE DAMPING-OFF CAUSES SEEDLINGS TO COLLAPSE SHORTLY AFTER EMERGING. NOTE THE LESIONS ON THE LOWER STEMS NEAR THE SOIL (ARROWS). **FIGURE 4.** THIS CABBAGE TRANSPLANT HAS WIRESTEM; NOTE THE CONSTRICTED STEM (ARROW). WIRESTEM CAN BE COMMON IN CRUCIFERS THAT SURVIVE POST-EMERGENCE DAMPING-OFF. IF SET IN THE FIELD, TRANSPLANTS WITH WIRESTEM WILL BE LESS PRODUCTIVE THAN HEALTHY PLANTS.

on plant debris, while others produce survival/resting structures that are capable of enduring adverse conditions. Their wide host range allows damping-off pathogens to extend their lives by moving from host-to-host.

Factors that favor disease development include:

- Wet soils (e.g. resulting from poor drainage or overwatering)
- Cool soils
- Cool to moderate temperatures.

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Cultural Practices

Prevention is the key to managing damping-off. The following cultural practices can help reduce the incidence of this disease:

- Rotate fields and garden beds every 3 years, particularly if a site has a history of disease.
- Use certified clean seed and transplants or high-quality seed; purchase from a reputable source.
- Plant seeds and seedlings in well-drained soils.
- Do not overwater. Maintain good soil drainage.
- Use sterilized soil and sterile containers when planting seeds into pots or flats.
- Plant seed in the garden or field after the soil has warmed; use a warming mat if greenhouse conditions are cool.
- Disinfest tools, potting containers, and work benches used in seeding/transplanting operations.

Seed Treatment

Use seed treated with a fungicide to protect against seed decay (pre-emergent damping-off) and to protect seedlings upon emergence (post-emergent damping-off).

- Purchase seed that has already been pre-treated with a fungicide. Some commercial vegetable seeds are available in pre-treated form. Check seed catalogs or websites where you purchase your seed for details.
- Dust or soak untreated seed with a fungicide prior to planting.
 - Conventional fungicides are listed in the *UK Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (ID-36) and the *Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook*.
 - Biorational products, such as some hydrogen dioxide or quaternary ammonium products, are labeled for seed treatment use.
- Disinfest or disinfect seeds using hot water, bleach, or trisodium phosphate. Seed disinfestation tables are available in the *UK Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (ID-36) and the *Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook*.
- Apply biological products to planting media before seeding. Products containing *Bacillus*, *Streptomyces*, *Trichoderma*, and other antagonistic bacteria and fungi are known to reduce populations of soilborne pathogens, including those that are seedborne.

Damping-off of Vegetables & Herbaceous Ornamentals

Fungicides

Fungicide drenches and sprays can help manage damping-off if applied as directed. These products are typically applied in-furrow at the time of planting or directly to germinating seedlings. Most conventional drench fungicides are available only to commercial producers, but some general use products may be used as seedling drenches in the home garden.

- Fungicides for greenhouse floriculture are listed in the *New England Floriculture Guide*.
- Fungicides for commercial vegetable production are listed in the UK *Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (ID-36) and the *Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook*.
- Fungicide labels change often. Always refer to pesticide labels for usage and safety information, as well as rates and application details.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers (ID-36)
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id36/id36.pdf>
- Home Vegetable Gardening (ID-128)
<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id128/id128.pdf>
- Managing Greenhouse & High Tunnel Environments to Reduce Plant Diseases (PPFS-GH-01)
<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gh-01.pdf>
- New England Greenhouse Floriculture Guide
<https://ag.umass.edu/greenhouse-floriculture/publications-resources/new-england-greenhouse-floriculture-guide>
- Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook
<https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2022-southeast-us-veg-crop-handbook.pdf>

February 2022

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Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

GARDEN CALENDAR: MARCH-APRIL

General

- Clean, sharpen and disinfect your gardening tools. *To learn more, visit
- Disinfecting tools: <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-17.pdf>
- Sharpening pruners: <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-17.pdf>
- Campbell County residents can have their soil tested free of charge. Testing will determine soil pH and fertilizer recommendations. Learn how to collect a proper sample at https://campbell.ca.uky.edu/files/instructions_for_soil_testing_samples.pdf

Houseplants

- Inspect your houseplants for insects and disease. To learn more, visit <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/files/ef406.pdf>
- As houseplant come out of winter, it is a good time to propagate them. Visit <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ho/h067/h067.pdf> for helpful tips.
- Repot houseplants if needed. Use a pot 1-2" larger than the previous pot.

Lawns

- Overseed thin lawns in March. To learn more visit <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/agr/agr51/agr51.pdf>



- Crabgrass germinates around the middle of April. Apply pre-emergent herbicide in March. Soil

temperatures should be between 50-55 degrees for five days.

- Learn more about pre-emergent herbicides at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/AGR/AGR272/AGR272.pdf>

Flowers

- Butterflybush and Bluebeard (Caryopteris) bloom on current year growth. Wait until you see green buds, then prune them back to a set of healthy leaf buds.



- Cut back ornamental grasses 4-6" from the ground.
- Let tulip and daffodil foliage yellow before

cutting back. Do not fold up foliage or tie back with rubber bands.

- Cut back last year's foliage from Lenten Rose, Epimedium and hardy ferns.
- Plant cool season flowers such as pansies, snapdragons and dianthus now. Plant warm season flowers after May 15.



Trees & Shrubs

- Prune tree/shrubs. https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/files/pruning_landscape_trees.pdf https://fayette.ca.uky.edu/sites/fayette.ca.uky.edu/files/pruning_landscape_shrubs_0.pdf

- When mulching trees, do not put mulch against trunks. Add 2-3" of mulch. Avoid "volcano" mulching.



Fruits and Vegetables

- Plant the spring vegetable garden.
- Direct seed radish, carrots, spinach, and snap peas.
- Start lettuce and kale seed indoors or direct seed in the garden.
- Plant transplants of broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage.
- Continue spraying fruits for insect and disease prevention. Consult Disease & Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in Kentucky (ID-21) to properly time sprays. <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id21/id21.pdf>



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Spinach and Mushroom Quiche

1 tablespoon olive oil
4 cups chopped spinach
2 cups chopped mushrooms
1/2 medium yellow onion, chopped
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

8 large eggs
1 cup shredded Colby-Jack cheese
1 cup skim milk
4 tablespoons melted butter
2 (9-inch) unbaked pie shells
4 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. In a medium skillet, **heat** the olive oil. **Add** the spinach, mushrooms, onion, red pepper flakes, and garlic powder. **Cook** over medium heat for 8 minutes. In a mixing bowl, **beat** the eggs until smooth. **Stir** in the Colby-Jack cheese, milk, cooked mixture, and melted butter until evenly blended. **Divide** the mixture between the two uncooked pie crusts. **Sprinkle** parmesan cheese on top. **Bake** in preheated oven for 15 minutes at 400 degrees F. **Reduce** the oven temperature to 350 degrees F and **bake** an additional

30 to 35 minutes. Quiche will be rich golden brown, and a knife inserted in the center will come out clean. **Cool** slightly before serving. **Serve** warm.

Yield: 12 servings; serving size is 1/6th of one quiche. Recipe makes two quiche.

Nutritional Analysis: 280 calories; 19g total fat; 9g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 150mg cholesterol; 330mg sodium; 19g carbohydrate; 0g dietary fiber; 2g total sugars; 0g added sugars; 9g protein; 6% DV Vitamin D; 10% DV Calcium; 6% DV Iron; 4% DV Potassium.

Kentucky Spinach

SEASON: May through June and September through November

NUTRITION FACTS: One cup serving of raw spinach has 10 calories. Packed with vitamins that promote health, it is a major source of vitamins A and C. It is also a good source of calcium.

SELECTION: Look for bright green leaves that are fresh, young, moist, and tender. Avoid coarse stems, injured, torn, dried, limp, or yellowed leaves.

STORAGE: Store in the coldest part of the refrigerator for no more than two to three days.

PREPARATION: Wash in lukewarm water in a large bowl. Remove any roots, rough ribs, and the center stalk if it is large or fibrous.

PRESERVING:

Freezing:

Wash leaves and remove large stems. Blanch for 2 minutes, cool, drain, and package, leaving 1/2-inch headspace. Seal, label, and store up to one year in the freezer.

KENTUCKY SPINACH

Kentucky Proud Project
County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students
March 2021

Source: FruitsAndVeggies.org

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers market, or roadside stand.
<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



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 **University of Kentucky**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service



BEEKEEPING 201 SCHOOL

*Join us for a day of
intermediate - advanced
beekeeping education and fun!*

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

9am - 4pm

Boone County Extension Enrichment Center
1824 Patrick Dr, Burlington, KY 41005

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER

Call 859-586-6101
boone.ca.uky.edu

Lunch included with registration

\$25 entry for
NKYBA members
\$30 for non-
members

Shop
HappBee Acres
Bee Supply
on site!

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

**Need help
with plant selection?
Call the Extension Office
859-572-2600**

- Raised garden beds
- Certified backyard wildlife habitat
-National Wildlife Federation, www.nwf.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

cccd@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.