

ESTILL COUNTY FARM SCOOP

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



Cooperative Extension Service
Estill County
76 Golden Court
Irvine, KY 40336
(606) 723-4557
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Estill.EXT@uky.edu

Spring Garden Tilling

Home gardeners might be experiencing “spring fever” with the warmer temperatures and in a rush to do spring tilling. But keep in mind, the ground is still wet from a recent snowfall and a lot of rain. Don’t till the ground too early and potentially damage the very structure of your garden soil that could last for years to come. Tilling your garden while it is still wet can destroy valuable soil structure. Soil structure describes the arrangement of the solid parts of the soil and the pore space located between them. Once that soil structure has been destroyed, it is not easily re-established. The pore spacing is critical for overall plant health and root development. Soil that has been tilled when wet will often form soil “clods” that can give you problems later on and can be difficult to deal with. In addition, foot traffic on wet soil can do as much damage in some cases as tilling when the soil is wet. Also, if your soil contains even a moderate amount of clay, tilling with the right moisture content is even more important. One way to do a moisture check is a quick “squeeze test” to determine if you can till the soil. Take a handful of soil and squeeze it into a ball in your hand.

If pressure from your fingertips causes the ball to crumble, the soil content should be good for tilling. Another option is to drop the soil ball from about waist high. As you might expect, if the ball shatters when dropped, it may be dry enough to work the soil without destroying the structure. If you plan on adding soil amendments such as compost, it is good to work those into your soil early in the season. Be sure to blend any amendments thoroughly into the soil with a shovel or spading fork. Hand mixing in smaller areas is sometimes a better option than tilling compost into the soil with a rototiller. These warm, sunny spring days can be the best opportunity to work the compost into your soil. It’s important to remember that compost that has been sitting on top of your garden as a mulch has been insulating the soil too. The insulation effect can keep the soil from warming up and drying out. Mixing that compost into the soil will help speed up the warming process and could allow you to get plants into the ground sooner.

Source: Ray Tackett, UK extension horticulture agent

MARCH

In this issue:

- Spring Garden Tilling
- Spring Tasks for Beef Cattle Producers
- 2024 Spring Plant Sale
- Seed Swap
- Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop
- Get Your Spring Garden Off to a Good Start
- East-Central Kentucky Turf Professionals Training
- 2022 Census of Agriculture Kentucky Overview



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Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Spring Tasks for Beef Cattle Producers

Source: Les Anderson, extension beef specialist

Rural Kentucky pastures are beginning to show off spring calves. For cattle producers, this brings in a new cycle of farm management. Farmers have a lot to remember to ensure healthy calves and to successfully rebreed cows.

Observe spring calves closely, checking them at least twice a day. Check first-calf heifers even more. Be ready to assist heifers after one to two hours of hard labor or 90 minutes after the 'water bag' is visible. Be prepared to dry and warm chilled calves as soon as possible. Remember that each calf should get colostrum within an hour of birth.

It's also important to begin identifying calves with ear tags or tattoos while they are still young and easy to handle. Record the birthdate and the dam ID. Castrate and implant commercial male calves as soon as possible and weigh registered calves within the first 24 hours of birth.

Go ahead and separate cows that have calved and increase their feed. Supplemental energy is important for cows receiving hay to prepare them for rebreeding.

A 1,250-pound cow giving approximately 25 pounds of milk per day will need about 25 pounds of fescue hay and five pounds of concentrate daily to maintain good condition. To go from a condition score of 4 to 5, add an additional two pounds of concentrate to support that cow. Cows must be in good condition to conceive early in the upcoming breeding season.

Avoid feeding hay in excessively muddy areas of pastures to avoid contaminating cows' udders. Calf scours is something to watch for in the herd. If scours becomes a problem, move cows that have not calved to a clean pasture.

Calves with scours may become dehydrated and need fluids to reverse the situation. Consult your veterinarian and send fecal samples to the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab to determine the most effective drug therapy. Plan to vaccinate calves for clostridial diseases like blackleg and malignant edema as soon as possible. It's also a good time to get yearling measurements on bulls and heifers, if necessary, for special sales. You may need to increase bulls' feed to increase their conditioning for breeding or order semen if you plan to use artificial insemination. For more information on beef cattle management, contact the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service.

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2024 SPRING PLANT SALE

 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

**PLANT ORDERS & PAYMENT ARE
DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2024**

STRAWBERRIES - \$6.50 (BUNDLE OF 25)



Two varieties to chose from:

- Allstar (June bearing - larger berry)
- Earliglow (June bearing - smaller, sweeter berry)



BLACKBERRIES (NATCHEZ) - \$4/BRAMBLE

BLUEBERRIES - \$9 EACH

Two varieties to chose from:

- Duke
- Chandler



RASPBERRIES (PRELUDE) - \$4/BARE ROOT

JEWEL BLACK RASPBERRIES - \$4 PLANT

ASPARAGUS (MILLENNIUM) - **SOLD OUT**

ONION PLANTS (CANDY) - \$5 (BUNDLE OF 60)

Mail order form and payment to:

Estill County Extension, 76 Golden Court, Irvine, KY 40336

Checks need to be made out to: ECESL

(Estill County Extension Soil Lab)

Estill County Extension Office accepts cash or check only - NO CARDS!



**Plants are expected to ship from the nursery during the first full week of April.
We will contact you when the plants will be available for pickup.**

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



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Receipt No. _____

2024 Plant Order Form

Cooperative Extension Service

Estill County
 76 Golden Court
 Irvine, KY 40336
 (606) 723-4557

Purchaser Information:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Postal Code: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Email: _____

Quantity	Item	Unit Price	Total
_____ bundles	Strawberries (Allstar) (June bearing—larger berry)	\$6.50 (bundle of 25)	
_____ bundles	Strawberries (Earliglow) (June bearing—smaller, sweeter berry)	\$6.50 (bundle of 25)	
	Blackberries (Natchez)	\$4 each	
	Blueberries (Duke) (two varieties needed for pollination)	\$9 each	
	Blueberries (Chandler) (two varieties needed for pollination)	\$9 each	
	Raspberries (Prelude) - bare root	\$4 each	
	Jewel Black Raspberries	\$4 each	
	Asparagus (Millennium) SOLD OUT	\$1 each	
_____ bundles	Onion plants (Candy)	\$5 (bundle of 60)	
		Total Due	

Pre-payment is required by **Friday, March 15,** for all plant orders.

Make checks payable to: E.C.E.S.L.

Payment Information:

Amount Paid: _____
 Date: _____
 Received by: _____
 Check No.: _____ or Cash _____

Plants are expected to ship from the nursery during the first full week of April. We will send you a postcard to let you know when the plants will be available for pickup.



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

SEED SWAP

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024 AT 1 P.M.

Estill County Extension Office, 76 Golden Court, Irvine, KY 40336

This year we will be having a seed swap! Feel free to stop by to give away extra seeds you may have or trade them for something new. If you don't have seeds to bring, you are still welcome to attend. Information about seed saving and starting seeds will be available to take home. If you have any other questions about getting your garden started this spring, feel free to stop by or call (606) 723-4557!



To attend this event, please call 606-723-4557 to register.

Emma Lee

**Emma Lee, County Extension Agent
for Agriculture & Natural Resources**

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

FRUIT TREE GRAFTING WORKSHOP

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024 AT 6 P.M.

Estill County Extension Office, 76 Golden Court, Irvine, KY 40336



During this workshop participant will learn grafting techniques.

Some scion wood will be provided, or you can bring your own (this past years terminal branch growth). If you have any questions, or plan to attend this workshop, please contact the Estill County Extension Office at 606-723-4557

To attend this class, please call 606-723-4557 to register.

Emma Lee

**Emma Lee, County Extension Agent
for Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Please note: Not all participants will receive a rootstock during this workshop. Due to reaching our allotted sales quantity, it will be limited to the first 20 who signed up for the workshop. Others may attend but are not guaranteed rootstock. Sorry in advance.

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Get Your Home Garden Off to a Good Start

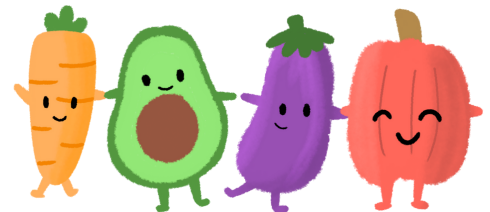
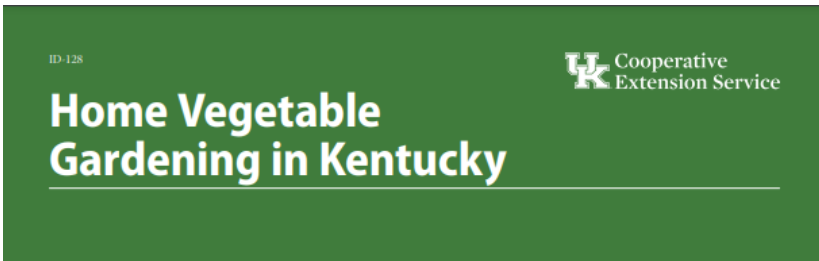
Source: Rachel Rudolph, UK horticulture extension specialist

Springtime in Kentucky is the perfect time to get outside and start your home garden. A few tasks will help you have a successful season. Planning your garden on paper before you begin allows you to visualize the plants you want to grow and when they will be ready to harvest. Next, select a good gardening site. Plan a site in full sun, relatively level, well-drained, close to a water source and dries quickly from morning dew. You may need to get a soil test to best prepare the soil. Add fertilizer according to soil test results. Remember to only plan a garden as large as you can easily maintain.

Beginning gardeners often overplant and fail because they can't keep up with the required tasks. You must manage weeds and pests and apply water so your plants will be ready to harvest on time.

A few other important tips:

1. Grow vegetables that will produce the maximum amount of food in your available space.
2. Plant during the correct season for the crop.
3. Choose varieties recommended for Kentucky.
4. Harvest vegetables at their proper stage of maturity. Consider how you will store them if you don't use them right away.



Copies of ID-128-
Home Vegetable
Gardening in Kentucky
are available for pick up
at the Estill County
Extension Office or
online at
<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id128/id128.pdf>

East-Central Kentucky Turf Professionals Training

Presented by Estill County and Powell County Extension
 Agents for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST

Location:
 Estill County Extension Office
 76 Golden Court
 Irvine, KY 40336



There is
 no charge
 for this
 class.

Agenda:

- 8:00 **Registration** (refreshments provided)
- 8:30 **Lawn Renovation**
Beth Wilson, Pulaski County Extension Agent for Horticulture
- 9:30 **Grass and Weed ID Hands-on Workshop**
Kenneth Clayton, UK Extension Turf Specialist
- 10:30 **Bermuda Triangle of Weeds: Controlling Yellow Nutsedge, Wild Violets, and Bermudagrass**
Jason Vaughn, Powell County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources
- 11:30 **Commercial Pesticide License Laws: What You Need to Know**
Sam Anderson, UK Extension Associate

Certified Pesticide Applicators:
 Kentucky Department of
 Agriculture continuing
 education units approved.

CEU's: 3 hours for Category 3
 1 hour for Category 10

**Please call 606-723-4557 by
 March 1st to pre-register.**

Directions on back page.



Emma Lee
 Estill County Extension Agent
 for Agriculture & Natural Resources



Jason Vaughn
 Powell County Extension Agent
 for Agriculture & Natural Resources



2022 Census of Agriculture Kentucky Overview

-  Number of farms in Kentucky dropped by 6,500.
-  Number of acres in farming dropped by just over 500,000 acres.
-  Kentucky sales increased by roughly \$1 billion from 2017, adjusting for inflation.
-  Farm expenses increased by approximately \$400 million, also adjusting for inflation.
-  The value of food sold directly to retailers, institutions and food hubs tripled, but farmers market sales are down!
-  Tobacco faced a steep decline. There are now fewer than 1,000 tobacco farms in Kentucky.
-  Equine value increased but number of equine farms fell.
-  Bigger farms increased in size. There are far fewer small farms (under 180 acres).



Estill County
76 Golden Court
Irvine, KY 40336

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

Kale and Potato Soup

- 4 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 chopped yellow onion
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 box (48 ounce) low-sodium chicken broth
- 6 red potatoes, diced
- 1/2 cup chopped carrot
- 4 cups shredded kale
- 1/2 pound cooked chicken breast, shredded
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

minutes or until kale is tender.
Yield: 6, 1 1/2 cup servings.
Nutritional Analysis:
270 calories, 5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 210 mg sodium, 43 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 15 g protein.

1. In a large saucepan, heat the olive oil over medium heat for 1 minute. Add chopped onion and garlic and cook uncovered for 5 minutes.
2. Add chicken broth, potatoes and carrot; cover and bring to a boil.
3. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes.
4. Mix in the kale, chicken and black pepper. Cover and simmer for 15



For more Plate it up recipes visit
<https://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/plate-it-kentucky-proud>