

Taylor County Horticulture Newsletter

April 2025

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How Will Your Garden Grow?

By: Laura Howard, Taylor County Master Gardener

We made it! Winter is FINALLY over and spring is here! But now what - what can we do in our garden and for our garden this early in the season?

First off, if you have not yet cleared out the winter debris, get to it! After the temperature is consistently above 50 degrees, you are safe to clear away the leftovers from the past season. If below that temperature, butterflies and other pollinators may still be nestled in the dead growth.

Once the garden spot is cleared of prior organic material, the soil is ready for preparation. Tilling, as well as adding any needed fertilizer, are recommended; a soil test can be done through your local extension office! Contact the staff there for exact directions on soil collection for this test. The results will tell you the exact composition of your soil, as well as anything that is lacking.

If there are roses or other such summer blooming landscape plants in your space, now is the time to prune before new growth begins. Late frosts can damage new growth, so make sure to avoid pruning too early. Remove any dead, diseased, or crossing canes. It is best to avoid pruning in the heat of summer as the plant is in its growth stage. Not only can this encourage late growth that won't harden off in time for winter, but sap can also leak out when stems are cut.

If you have not yet planted your cold weather crops such as lettuce, spinach, cabbage, and broccoli, there's still time! Get to it! These plants, among many others, really thrive in the colder season. This early harvest gives us a great taste of the upcoming growing season!

Don't forget to give attention to your lawn, birdhouses, and monarch way stations to get them ready for the summer season. Now is also the time to find and straighten any hummingbird feeders to get them prepared for the upcoming summer!

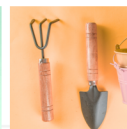
If you have not yet planned out your summer garden design, the moment has come! The warmer weather will be here before we know it, and planning now helps prevent obstacles later. There are tons of gardening resources out there that can help with garden planning, from the simple to the ornate, from acreage to small containers.

All of these essential tips during the spring season will ensure you are off to a great start for the summer growing season. Get out there and 'spring' board your garden!

Visit our website!



Follow us on Facebook



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Taylor County
1143 South Columbia Avenue
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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.

April 2025

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Vegetable Garden 10:30 AM	4	5 Taylor County Farmers' Market Opening Day *9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
6	7 4-H Entomology Club 3:30 PM Private Applicator Training 9:30 AM & 6:30 PM	8	9	10 Annuals & Perennials 10:30 AM	11 4-H Horticulture Club 3:30 PM	12
13	14 Busy Bloomer Garden Club "Grandma's Garden" 1:00 PM	15	16	17 Green River Beekeepers 7:00 PM	18  Tree Giveaway at Taylor County High School	19 Spring Festival at the Taylor County Farmers' Market (Tree Giveaway) *9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
20 	21 Estate Planning 6:00 PM	22 	23	24 Landscape Design & Lawncare 10:30 AM	25	26
27	28	29	30	*Taylor County Farmers' Market hours are Saturday's, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM		

All 4-H Events require registration on Eventbrite.

To RSVP for the classes, call the Extension office at 270-465-4511.

Fungus Gnat Prevention

By: Amanda Hudson, Taylor County Master Gardener

Fungus gnats are the bane of any seed starters' existence. You have your little seedlings in trays in your windowsill or under grow-lights doing just fine, and suddenly, they start doing poorly. When you check the soil, you soon discover hundreds of little maggot-like worms eating all the little roots of your seedlings, throwing away all the work you had put into those plants. It doesn't matter if they are outside in a greenhouse or inside your kitchen window, somehow fungus gnats will find a way to get in. And for those people who see one and think they don't have a problem, think again. A single adult female can lay 200+ eggs, and those babies are able to make more babies within eight days, making even one gnat potentially devastating to us indoor seed starters.

Where do they come from, and what can we do about it? Fungus gnats are tiny flies that are attracted to moist soil. They lay their eggs down in the soil, and when they hatch their larvae eat the tiny delicate roots that new plants need to live. Some soil companies treat for these before they bag their soil, but many do not.

There are several ways to treat your soil to prevent the eggs that are already in the soil from hatching. One method is to bake your soil in the oven in a 3-to-4-inch pan at about 200 degrees for thirty minutes, or until the soil reaches 180 degrees. Make sure to cover the soil in aluminum foil to keep the moisture from escaping and potentially burn the organic matter in the soil. Another, and probably easier, way is to put your soil in a bucket and pour boiling water on it, enough to completely saturate the soil. This will also kill any mold spores in the soil that will harm young seedlings. When it's cool, you simply squeeze the excess water from the soil and place it into seed trays or a covered container like a tote. Leaving exposed soil after treatment will only allow more fungus gnats to lay their eggs. Once the seeds are in the soil, they should be covered by some clear plastic to trap in humidity and not only help the seeds sprout but also keep fungus gnats from laying more eggs. Once the seedlings begin to sprout it will be time to remove the plastic.



So, what can be done to keep them from harming the seedlings then? Several things. First, a mixture of 3% hydrogen peroxide and water can be really effective. The ratios vary depending on whether it is used as a drench or as a spray: 4 parts water to 1 part hydrogen peroxide for spray and 3 parts water to 1 part hydrogen peroxide for a soil drench. If administered in the correct amounts, it should be a safe and effective way to protect the plants from fungus gnats and mold as well.

Neem cake, or neem meal, is another good way. Use 2 to 3 heaping tablespoons to every one gallon of water and let it sit for a few hours. You don't want to let it sit too long, or it will start to smell bad. After letting it sit until the water turns brown, just water your plants from the top making sure that the top layer of soil is drenched in the solution. It does not kill them instantly, but they will be dead within a few days. Unfortunately, this product is not found in local stores and will have to be ordered online. A more locally available way to get rid of fungus gnats is to use mosquito bits. Just soak 2 or 3 tablespoons to one gallon of water for a few hours, and then filter out the chunks before top watering your plants. After a few days, the amount of fungus gnats should drastically decrease until you finally have them eradicated.

Sand and gravel mulch can help to keep fungus gnats from laying their eggs in our houseplants, but is not recommended for use in seed trays. Another thing to try is sprinkling diatomaceous earth over the soil; however, once wet, it becomes less effective and only harms the adults. If you actively see the adult fungus gnats flying around your home or greenhouse, using yellow sticky card traps is extremely effective in monitoring their population. Normal fly traps are also recommended. They are exceptionally weak flyers, so placing a fan over your seed trays will discourage them from trying to lay their eggs there. There are many more solutions out there, including chemical sprays like pyrethrin, but harsh chemicals are not recommended for use in the home.

Hopefully some of these solutions help those out there with fungus gnat problems. They are an extreme nuisance for those with them, and for those unfortunate souls, I don't envy your fight. Happy fungus gnat hunting and good luck.



Philodendron White Knight

By: Jennifer Tungate, Taylor County Master Gardener

The Philodendron White Knight is a popular, easy to care for houseplant known for its vining habit and variegated leaves with white or cream patches. The leaves are glossy (waxy), green, and spade shaped. The variegation patterns can vary from leaf to leaf making each plant very unique. The stems can be a mix of green and purple. The White Knight is a cultivar of the Philodendron erubescens specials and native to South America.

The White Knight prefers bright, indirect light but can tolerate lower light conditions. Avoid direct sunlight, which can scorch the beautiful foliage. This houseplant prefers average humidity level. Humidity levels can be increased with a humidifier, pebble tray, or by grouping plants. This plant can be kept short by pruning it periodically to keep it full and bushy or left alone to vine or with support it will climb. The White Knight can grow up to three to five feet indoors.

Water the White Knight only when the top two inches of soil feel dry allowing the soil to dry completely between waterings to prevent root rot. The White Knight needs a well-draining soil mix that allows water retention but also helps in preventing root rot. A well-balanced fertilizer will need to be added every one to two weeks during the spring and summer months. Propagation of the White Knight Philodendron can be done easily by cutting the stem and placing in water where it should root very easily.

The Philodendron White Knight is a collector's dream and an absolutely stunning houseplant. This houseplant is rare but becoming easier to purchase. In the Greek language "Philo" means loven and "Dendron" means tree. The White Knight is toxic to humans and pets.



Cooperative Extension Service



Kentucky Extension Master Gardener

GARDENING PROGRAM

VEGETABLE GARDENING

THURSDAY, APRIL 3
10:30 AM

PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING THE EXTENSION OFFICE
270-465-4511.

TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1143 SOUTH COLUMBIA AVENUE
CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY 42718



*AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION.

Cooperative Extension Service

Opening Day!

Taylor County

FARMERS' MARKET

SATURDAY
APRIL 5 9 AM - 12 PM

FARMERS' MARKET HOURS
8 AM - 2 PM

- Door Prize: basket with items from vendors
- Book Mobile
- Kids can decorate their own Farmers' Market shopping bag!

TAYLOR COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET INC.
73 Animal Shelter Road
Campbellsville, KY
Off Highway 210, past Wal-Mart

*An equal opportunity organization



Taylor County 4-H Entomology Club

Walking Stick

**Monday, April 7
3:30 PM**

**FREE & OPEN TO YOUTH 9-18.
REGISTRATION REQUIRED ON EVENTBRITE.**

An equal opportunity organization.

Cooperative Extension Service



GARDENING PROGRAM

ANNUALS & PERENNIAL FLOWERS

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10
10:30 AM**

**PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING THE EXTENSION OFFICE
270-465-4511.**

TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1143 SOUTH COLUMBIA AVENUE
CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY 42718



**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION.*



Taylor County 4-H Horticulture Club

House Plants

Terrariums

Herb Gardens



**Friday, April 11
3:30 PM**

**Free and open to youth 9-18 years old.
Spots are limited.
Registration required on Eventbrite.**

**An equal opportunity organization*

BUSY BLOOMER GARDEN CLUB

**MONDAY, APRIL 14
1:00 PM**

TOPIC:

Grandma's Garden

**An equal opportunity organization*

TAYLOR COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

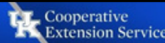
Spring FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 | 9 AM-12 PM

- CRAFTS & PLANTING ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
- FREE FOOD SAMPLES
- TREE GIVEAWAY

73 ANIMAL SHELTER ROAD
CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY
OFF HIGHWAY 210, PAST WAL-MART

*AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OPPORTUNITY



Taylor County Extension Council
**PERSONAL FINANCES
 & ESTATE PLANNING**

**Monday, April 21
 6:00 PM**



Selling of Estate,
 Corporations & LLCs,
 Annuities and Business
 Retirement

Guest Speakers: John Kessler,
 John Miller, R.D. Smothers

A question and answer session will be held after the presentations

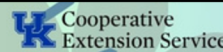
Call 270-465-4511 to RSVP!

Taylor County Extension Office
 1143 South Columbia Avenue
 Campbellsville, KY 42718



A meal
 will be
 provided.

*An equal opportunity organization.



**GARDENING
 PROGRAM**

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN
 & LAWN MANAGEMENT**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 24
 10:30 AM**

**PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING THE EXTENSION OFFICE
 270-465-4511.**

TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
 1143 SOUTH COLUMBIA AVENUE
 CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY 42718



*AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION.

Taylor County *Plant Sale*



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

Saturday, May 10
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Give us a call or visit for applications and questions!



270-465-4511



Taylor County Extension Office
1143 South Columbia Avenue
Campbellsville, KY

Booths:
17x15 - \$20
17x30 - \$25

*All proceeds go toward the Taylor County
Master Gardeners' Scholarship Fund.



*An equal opportunity organization

Pepper Sauce Zoodles with Chicken

3 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves	2 ½ tablespoons olive oil, divided	½ teaspoon dried basil
1 ¼ teaspoons paprika, divided	1 medium onion, diced	½ teaspoon dried oregano
1 ¼ teaspoons salt, divided	1 red bell pepper, diced	½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper	1 green bell pepper, diced	4 zucchini, cut into noodles with a spiralizer
	4 fresh Roma tomatoes, diced	
	3 garlic cloves, minced	

Dice chicken breasts and **season** with ¼ teaspoon paprika, ¼ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper. In a large pan, **sauté** chicken in 1 tablespoon olive oil until chicken is no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear. **Remove** chicken to a bowl and **set** aside. In a medium saucepan, **add** ½ tablespoon olive oil, onions, and red and green peppers. **Cook** on medium-high heat until the peppers and onions are tender. **Add** tomatoes, garlic, basil, oregano, 1 teaspoon paprika, black pepper,

and 1 teaspoon salt. **Simmer** on low for 5 minutes, **stirring** often. **Add** 1 tablespoon olive oil to large pan. **Heat** to medium-high and **sauté** zucchini noodles 3 to 5 minutes. **Top** zucchini noodles with chicken breasts and pepper sauce.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 170 calories, 8 g fat, 1.5 g saturated fat, 45 mg cholesterol, 530 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 6 g sugars, 0 g added sugars, 16 g protein.

