

Taylor County Horticulture Newsletter

February 2025

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New Field Guide Offers Tools to Combat Kentucky's Invasive Plants

The University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources has released a Field Guide to Kentucky's Invasive Plants, a comprehensive resource aimed at helping landowners, conservationists and forestry professionals identify and manage invasive plant species across the state.

This guide provides detailed profiles of the most prevalent invasive trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and herbaceous plants that threaten Kentucky's ecosystems. Each species is presented with full-color photographs, information about its origins, distribution, threats to native biodiversity and effective control methods. From the hardy callery pear to the pervasive kudzu vine, the guide highlights the threats these species pose to forests, fields and waterways.

The book also emphasizes practical management techniques, offering guidance on hand removal, herbicide application and integrated approaches tailored to site-specific conditions. Special attention is given to balancing ecological health with practical land management goals, ensuring that users can address invasive species responsibly and effectively.

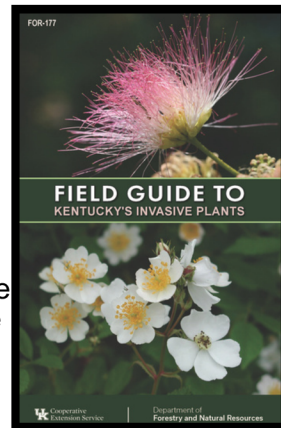
The Field Guide draws on a wealth of expertise from contributors across specific regions, including the board members of the Kentucky Invasive Plant Council. It builds on an earlier pocket guide with updated content and new species profiles, reflecting the evolving landscape of invasive plant management.

Key features include:

- Species profiles: Clear descriptions and images to help with identification.
- Control strategies: Step-by-step recommendations, from manual removal to chemical treatments.
- Regional relevance: Focused on the invasive plants most common to Kentucky and neighboring states.

Whether you're a landowner grappling with autumn olive or a forest manager tackling multiflora rose, this guide serves as a practical reference for maintaining healthy ecosystems. As invasive plants spread, these resources are critical in equipping communities with the knowledge and tools to protect their natural heritage.

Source: Ellen Crocker, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Assistant Professor



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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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February 2025

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
 <p>Green River Beekeepers will meet at the Green County Extension Office this month.</p>						
2	3	4	5 4-H Horticulture 3:30 PM	6 Care of Woody Plants 10:30 AM ----- New 4-H Agent Reception 4:00 - 6:00 PM ----- Strawberry Neopestalotiopsis Zoom 6:00 PM	7	8
9	10 Water Gel Beads Floral Design 10:30 AM & 4:30 PM ----- Busy Bloomer Garden Club Winter Care of Houseplants 1:00 PM	11	12 4-H Entomology 3:30 PM	13 Plant Propagation & Indoor Plants 10:30 AM ----- Care of Woody Plants 5:30 PM	14 	15
16	17	18	19	20 Cool Season Vegetable Transplants 10:30 AM or 5:30 PM ----- Green River Beekeepers 7:00 PM ----- 48th Annual Turf & Landscape Management Short Course ----- Hardin County Extension Office	21	22
23	24	25 Master Logger Web TV 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	26	27 Tree Grafting 10:30 AM or 5:30 PM	28	

All 4-H Events require registration on Eventbrite.

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

Rebloom Poinsettia for Christmas 2025

Written by Ailene Foster, Taylor County Master Gardener

Poinsettias are popular holiday plants. Red used to be the standard color bearer, but now there is an array of colors to choose from. Bright red, yellow, white, pink, as well as variegated, and blues are now available. With proper care, your poinsettia can rebloom for the 2025 Christmas season.

Poinsettias need six to eight hours of indirect sunlight each day. Place your plant near a sunny window away from cold drafts. Temperature needs to be 65° to 75° Fahrenheit. Leaf drop will occur at temperatures below 60° Fahrenheit. In the summer, as the temperature warms up, you can move the plant outside if you desire.

Overwatering will cause the leaves to turn yellow and fall off. Water when the surface soil feels dry and make sure the water runs through the drainage holes. Be sure to empty excess water to prevent root rot.

Poinsettias have bracts, which are modified colored leaves. Once the bracts have fallen off, prune the plant so the stem is 4 to 6 inches tall. Leave 1 to 3 leaves on each stem to generate new growth. Fertilize every 2 to 4 weeks with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer as the new plant grows shoots.

In June, prune the plant back until it is 6 inches tall. Repot into a slightly larger pot using potting soil that drains well. Remember, retained water in the pot leads to root rot. As the plant grows and thrives in July and August, you can pinch off an inch of the tips to encourage side branching. Around September the plant will be mostly green leaves. At that time you can give the plant a final trimming.

Poinsettias need uninterrupted darkness to trigger new bracts. In the fall, place the plant in an area where it will get 14 to 15 hours of complete darkness every day. The plant still needs approximately 10 hours of indirect sunlight. Fertilizing should be reduced at this time.

Around mid-November the colored bracts will begin to appear. After this happens, fertilizing should be discontinued. Your poinsettia is ready to be displayed for the 2025 Christmas season..



Houseplants in Winter

Written by Karena Stauffer, Taylor County Master Gardener



Taking care of houseplants during the winter months can look completely different than the growing season. When the days begin getting shorter, many houseplants enter a 'dormancy' period where they stop growing new leaves and go dormant until conditions become more ideal. Here are some of the biggest factors that will affect plants during the winter:

Less Sunlight:

Shorter days means less sunlight for the plants to gain energy from. This is the main reason for slowed growth and dormancy. This is best remedied by using grow lights or keeping the plants closest to the brightest window of the house.

- A good amount of houseplants can tolerate the lower light of winters due to the fact they won't be producing new growth. Alocasia (small ornamental elephant ears) are notorious for going dormant over winter, usually only keeping one or two leaves and stalling all growth until spring.
- Some other houseplants that are already tolerant of low light will be unaffected by this and continue growing just fine, such as many types of philodendron, pothos, peace lilies, snake plants, etc.
- On the contrary, plants that need high light conditions that aren't given grow lights in winter might become leggy, the new leaves will reverse in maturity, or die. These will usually be succulents or low humidity plants.

Lower Humidity:

Heaters tend to dry out the humidity in the air, which can be an issue for tropical plants that have sensitive leaves. This may result in new leaves getting stuck and damaged or browning edges on foliage. This problem mostly affects prayer plants, carnivorous plants, and other tender bodied, water loving plants.

Colder Temperatures:

Chilly temperatures will signal to the plant that the growing season is over and growth will slow heavily. Low room temperature is fine but avoid cold drafts from outside as some plants like crotons will drop all their leaves when they get too cold.

When buying new plants in the winter, always protect the foliage from the wind and snow, as it can irreversibly damage the plant in a short amount of time.

Crocodile Fern

Written by Jennifer Tungate, Taylor County Master Gardener

Crocodile or Alligator fern also known as *Microsorium Musifolium* or *Crocodyllus* Fern are tropical ferns with textured leaves that very much resemble that of a crocodile's skin. It is native to Southeast Asia and Australia, where it grows on trees in warm and humid jungles. The fern's name comes from its flat tessellated fronds which have a rough and scaly texture. Depending on the environment these ferns can grow from two to five feet.

Crocodile ferns thrive in warm, humid environments preferring temperatures between 60-75 degrees. Avoid placing them near drafts, air conditioner vents, or heaters; as sudden temperature changes can cause stress to the plants. This particular fern does well in indirect sunlight, avoiding direct sunlight over a longer period of time.

Crocodile ferns like a well-draining, loose, evenly moist and rich soil. Perlite and peat moss can be added to loosen the soil. Regular misting is an absolute must for this fern. Only water when the top inch of the soil feels dry.

Propagation should be done during the spring or summer by gently removing the plant from the soil and looking for natural division in the roots. You can gently pull the division apart or cut them if they are too stubborn. Replace each part into half a filled pot

with fresh potting soil, water thoroughly and place in a warm location with bright indirect sunlight. You can also propagate by taking the spores found on the underside of the mature frond and repotting, but this method is more time consuming and needs a controlled humid environment. Some interesting facts to know about taking care of this unique fern are the following: brown leaves are caused by decreased humidity, slow growth by having insufficient light, crispy leaves are due to under watering, yellow leaves are due to over watering or poor drainage, excess moisture can cause fungi, and scorched foliage or pale leaves are caused from too much bright light. Crocodile ferns are understory plants which means they are used to being grown under the jungle canopy where there is no direct sunlight. Pests to be most concerned with are spider mites and scales. You can use a mixture of water and mild soap to wash the plants if pests do happen to occur.

The crocodile fern is a popular choice for houseplant collections because of its unique texture and rarity. It is also non-toxic to humans, cats and dogs. This is probably one of my favorite plants in my collection.



Taylor County 4-H Horticulture Club

Water Gel Beads Floral Design



**Wednesday, February 5
3:30 PM**

***Registration required on Eventbrite.**

**An equal opportunity organization*

Please join us in welcoming Taylor County's new Agent for 4-H Youth Development

Kelly Rexroat




A reception will be held

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025
4:00 - 6:00 PM**



Taylor County Extension Office
1143 South Columbia Avenue
Campbellsville, KY

 Cooperative Extension Service



GARDENING PROGRAM

Kentucky Extension Master Gardener

CARE OF WOODY PLANTS

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 | 10:30 AM
OR
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 | 5:30 PM**

TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1143 SOUTH COLUMBIA AVENUE
CAMPBELLVILLE, KY

Please RSVP by calling the extension office at 270-465-4511.



**An equal opportunity organization.*

Neopestalotiopsis Disease of Strawberries

Learn about this disease that was first reported in Kentucky in 2024. This will be a ZOOM Informational Meeting that you can attend at the Taylor County Extension Office.

**You will not be able to watch this from home.*



**Thursday, February 6
6:00 PM**

Taylor County Extension Office
1143 South Columbia Avenue
Campbellsville, KY

For questions, call the Taylor County Extension Office at (270) 465-4511.

**An equal opportunity organization*

Busy Bloomer Garden Club

Winter Care of Houseplants

Monday, February 10
1:00 PM

Taylor County Extension Office
1143 South Columbia Avenue
Campbellsville, KY



Water Gel Beads Floral Design



Monday, February 10
10:30AM or 4:30 PM

Taylor County Extension Office
1143 South Columbia Avenue
Campbellsville, KY

Please call (270) 465-4511 to RSVP.

*An equal opportunity organization



Taylor County 4-H Entomology Club

Bumble Bee



Wednesday, February 12
3:30 PM

Taylor County Extension Office
1143 South Columbia Avenue
Campbellsville, KY

*Registration required on Eventbrite.

*An equal opportunity organization



GARDENING PROGRAM

PLANT PROPAGATION & INDOOR PLANTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
10:30 AM

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

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



*AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION.

48th Annual Kentucky Turf & Landscape Management Short Course

February 18-20, 2025

Hardin County Extension Office
111 Opportunity Way
Elizabethtown, KY

- 2 full days of all aspects of turfgrass management for lawns, golf courses, sports fields, and other applications.
- CEUs will be available each day.
- Great for anyone interested in turf, including professionals, Extension Agents, and homeowners.
- Presentations by UK's turfgrass program, other university faculty, and industry representatives.

*Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Pre-register by February 14 to avoid higher on-site registration fees. Visit <https://kyhortcouncil.org/2025-ky-turf-landscape-management-conference/> or scan the QR code.



GARDENING PROGRAM

COOL SEASON VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
10:30 AM OR 5:30 PM

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.



Logger WebTV

Master Logger Continuing Education Course

Tuesday, February 25
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Taylor County Extension Office
1143 South Columbia Avenue
Campbellsville, KY

Registration is required.

Please go to <https://bit.ly/masterlogger25> or scan the QR code for the registration form and follow the directions to register.

\$50 course fee and, if required, \$25 card renewal fee.



For questions, please call the Taylor County
Extension Office at (270) 465-4511.

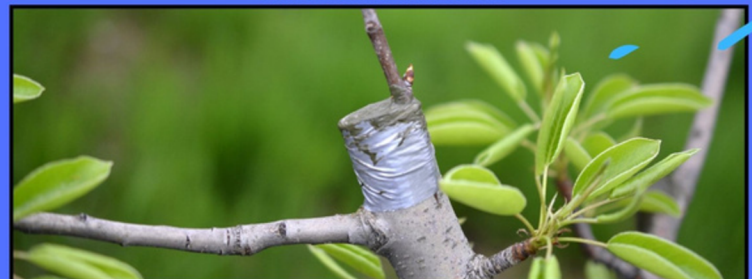
GARDENING PROGRAM

TREE GRAFTING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
10:30 AM OR 5:30 PM

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.

Cheesy Broccoli Potatoes

5 slices turkey bacon
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tablespoons chopped chives
Salt and pepper to taste
4 large potatoes, cubed
2 cups fresh broccoli florets
1 cup fat-free, shredded cheese

Preheat oven to 425° F. **Cook** bacon until crispy, crumble and set aside. **Spray** 9x13-inch baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. In a small bowl, **combine** olive oil, garlic, chives, salt and pepper; **stir** to blend. In a large bowl, **toss** together potatoes and broccoli. **Pour** olive oil blend over potato mixture; **stir** to coat. **Pour** into baking dish and **cover** with foil. **Bake** for 35 minutes or until potatoes are

tender; **remove** from oven. **Sprinkle** cheese and bacon on top and place back in oven until cheese melts.

Yield: 8, ½ cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 140 calories, 5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 470 mg sodium, 15 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 2 g sugar, 10 g protein.



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