

Taylor County Horticulture Newsletter

June 2025

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Why Natives? By Annette Jefferson, Taylor County Master Gardener

Native plants are plants that have evolved in an ecosystem for years. Why not enjoy those benefits in your landscaping. These benefits include conserving water, creating habitat for local fauna, and providing food for pollinators and birds. However, the most important benefit is the low maintenance of native plants. Especially when established, fertilizing and watering are not necessary, only occasional pruning of stray branches. These plants also survive our winter's cold snaps much better than non-natives.

For more than a decade, I've strived to utilize only native plants in my central Kentucky landscape. It's important to give natives 3-5 years, at least, to really start to shine after planting. Selecting young natives that are no more than knee high when planted survive best. With our wet springtimes, spring is my favorite time to plant. Autumn plantings, unless it is a rainy fall, will have to be watered regularly till a wet spell.

Focusing on native shrubs and trees, here are a few favorites that bring beautiful blooms and/or interesting features to a yard.

Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*):

Native to the southeastern United States, this shrub is a 3-season plant in which pretty oak-shaped leaves pop out in spring, & soon pyramidal green blossoms develop into showy white blooms that seem to glow in summer attracting pollinators. Leaves turn burgundy in the fall and blossoms turn pinkish then brown in winter. The dried blossoms adds interest in the winter landscape. Oakleaf hydrangea likes part shade to full sun, mulching helps maintain moisture. Grows 6-8 feet in height and width.

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*):

Found in woods all over Kentucky and eastern US, this shrub is named for its spicy fragrance when twigs, leaves or berries are crushed. This tough plant that grows well in shady woods and does great in full sun location in my yard. Planting 3 to 5 spicebushes will ensure berries that birds love. Spicebush is a host for swallowtail butterflies. Turns a pretty yellow in the fall, ranging in size from 6-12 feet in height and width.

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*):

This favorite small tree grows well in part shade to full sun, though its lovely white spring blossoms are more prolific in full sun. Dogwoods take about a decade to really get going in my experience, unless the soil is very rich. Birds love the red berries in winter, a favorite for cardinals and other birds. It can grow up to 30 feet, especially if having to reach for the sun in a shaded area. I was impressed when we had 2009 ice storm, and our mature dogwood tree branches were bent over and laying on the ground. Figured we would be cutting it down, however once the ice melted, our dogwood bounced back and did not lose a branch. It is still going strong.

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 COUNTY FAIR	2	3 4-H Horticulture Judging Practice 3:30 PM	4	5	6	7 Farmers' Market 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
8	9	10	11	12 4-H Horticulture Judging Practice 3:30 PM	13 Busy Bloomer Garden Club Bernheim Forest Trip 10:00 AM	14 Farmers' Market 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM featuring Summer Bash 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
15 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	16	17 4-H Horticulture Judging Practice 3:30 PM	18	19 *Extension Office Closed Green River Beekeepers at Casey County Extension Office 7:00 PM	20 4-H Leaf Collection 10:30 AM at Miller Park Arboretum	21 Farmers' Market 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
22	23 4 th of July Door/Garden Sign 1:30 or 5:30 PM	24 4-H County Fair Project: Annual Container, Annual Hanging Basket, Windowbox 10:30 AM	25	26 4-H Entomology Club at Clay Hill Memorial Forest 10:30 AM 4-H Horticulture Judging Practice 3:30 PM	27	28 Farmers' Market 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM featuring 4 th of July Celebration 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
29	30					

All 4-H Events require registration on Eventbrite.

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

Upcoming Events

4-H Horticulture Judging

4-H Horticulture Judging is free and for youth 9-18 years (as of January 1, 2025). Participants will learn how to identify and judge vegetables, woody ornamentals, fruit, and nuts. Participants must complete a total of 6 hours to compete at the state competition held at the Kentucky State Fair in August.

June Meetings:

June 3 at 3:30 p.m.
June 12 at 3:30 p.m.
June 17 at 3:30 p.m.
June 26 at 3:30 p.m.



Busy Bloomer Garden Club



This month the Busy Bloomer Garden Club will be taking a field trip to Bernheim Forest.

*Note the date change!

Friday, June 13

We will be leaving the Taylor County Extension Office at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be at Isaac's Cafe.

We will be stopping for ice cream on the way home.

4th of July Door/Garden Sign

Show off your patriotism by creating a sign that can be placed on your front door or in your garden! There are two opportunities for you to take this class, but spots are limited so sign up today by calling the Extension Office at (270) 465-4511.



Monday, June 23
1:30 or 5:30 p.m.

4-H County Fair Project **Annual Container, Annual Hanging Basket, Windowbox**



4-Hers, it's time to prepare for the County Fair Projects! Prepare annual containers, annual hanging baskets, and windowboxes that you will care for and be able to enter into the County Fair competition!

Tuesday, June 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Free and open to youth 9-18 years old (as of January 1, 2025). Registration is required on Eventbrite.

Taylor County Farmers' Market

The Taylor County Farmers' Market is open Saturday's from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM at 73 Animal Shelter Road (off Highway 210, past Wal-Mart).

Special Events:



Summer Bash
Saturday, June 14
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



4th of July Celebration
Saturday, June 28
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Green River Beekeepers

The Green River Beekeepers meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

June Meeting:

Thursday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m.
Casey County Extension Office
1517 Wallace Wilkinson Blvd.
Liberty, KY



4-H Entomology Club

The Entomology Club will be preparing for the County Fair Entomology project by taking a field trip to Clay Hill Memorial Forest to collect insects for the insect collection Entomology Project.



Thursday, June 26
10:30 a.m.

Clay Hill Memorial Forest

Registration is required on Eventbrite.



4-H Leaf Collection

The 4-H Leaf Collection offers youth ages 9-18 (as of January 1, 2025) the opportunity to collect and learn about different leaves. After collecting the leaves, participants will create a Leaf Collection Binder that can be entered in the County Fair competition.



Friday, June 20
10:30 a.m.



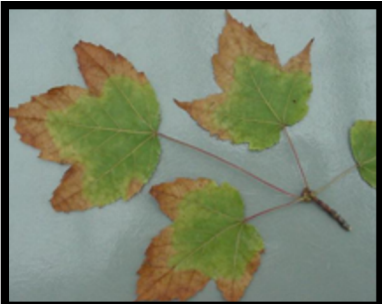
We will be meeting at the Miller Park Arboretum.
Registration is required on Eventbrite.

Maple Leaf Disease

The University of Kentucky Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab has received numerous maple samples with spotted and blighted leaves this spring. Three foliar diseases have been consistently diagnosed:

- Leaf Blister (most common)
- Anthrachose
- Phyllosticta Leafspot.

Cool, wet weather during leaf emergence favors most foliar fungal diseases of shade trees. These diseases do not damage a maple trees overall health. To help reduce the risk of disease next year, rake up and discard (burn) fallen leaves.



Maple leaf with Bacterial Leaf Scorch.
Source: John Hartman, University of Kentucky, Bugwood.org

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SLUGS!

The recent weather we have been receiving has led to an increase of slug numbers in a southern county in Kentucky. These were found in a commercial soybean field and reported in corn. Be on the look out!

Slug injury to seedlings can reduce plant stands. The use of commercial molluscicides may be required to prevent further damage, however, they can be costly



- Deadline MP Slugger Ultra
- Slugfest
- SLUGGO
- FERROXX

Vegetable Scouting Guides

Vegetable Scouting Guides are available online at: <https://veggiescout.ca.uky.edu> or you may have them printed at the Taylor County Extension Office.



Solanaceous Crops | Cucurbit Crops | High Tunnel | Greenhouse Vegetables | Additional Resources

Fire Blight Symptoms Are Now Visible on Fruit Trees!



If you did not treat with streptomycin during bloom, you may start seeing tips of your apples trees browning up and crooking over. This is fire blight. Do not prune out now, because you run the risk of spreading it even more. Mark limbs with tape and in dormant pruning (I prune in February), cut these out. Sanitize between each cut and cut into healthy wood. Continue your spray schedule, but the damage has already been done. However, if you follow ID-21: Disease and Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in Kentucky (available at the Taylor County Extension Office), your chances of fire blight will be a lot lower.

Saving Our Crop Seed

By: Amanda Hudson, Taylor County Master Gardener

By the start of June, increasing temperatures cause many of our cool-weather crops, such as spinach and lettuce, to begin the process known as bolting, the cycle in which they are no longer the tasty, leafy greens we all love and enjoy, and instead grow into a larger and more bitter plant. Flowers begin to bloom off of long stems that sprout from the middle. Most people simply call it done and either pull or till them over to make room for the next set of summer crops. Yet, for those who have the room, this process is a great opportunity for saving one's own seeds.

But why, when you can simply go to the store and buy more? There are a number of reasons.

First, it saves money when you have to plant them again.

Second, many of the big box stores stop selling seed by midsummer, meaning that if you want to put crop in for the cooler, fall months, you'll either have to stock up or have your own seed.

Third, and probably the best reason, is the seed that you grow in your own garden is more acclimated to your personal environment. Many seed companies grow their crops in places that are not suited to ours and may not do as well. But if you save seeds from the plants that did exceptionally well, then you will have something that you know will grow well and taste delicious.

The fourth, and final, reason is that seed companies discontinue seeds for different reasons, meaning that if you find something you like and don't keep seeds from it, you may never be able to get that particular variety again.

Now, before saving the seeds, be certain that they are not a hybrid, as these will not grow true to the original. Whatever you do with your spring garden, above all, have fun and grow.



Big Blue Muffins

2 medium oranges	2 eggs	1 cup whole	1 teaspoon baking soda
¼ cup olive oil	½ cup low fat, plain	wheat flour	¼ teaspoon salt
¼ cup sugar	Greek yogurt	1½ teaspoons	1½ cups fresh
¼ cup honey	1 cup all-purpose flour	baking powder	blueberries

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. **Position** rack in the center of the oven. **Wash** oranges. Using a zester or fine grater, **remove** the orange zest from the rinds of both oranges and place in a mixing bowl. **Slice** oranges in half. **Squeeze** juice into a 1 cup liquid measuring cup. **Add** water if needed to make ½ cup juice. **Add** juice to the zest. **Add** the oil, sugar, honey, eggs and yogurt. **Mix** together with a whisk. In a separate mixing bowl, **place** the flour, baking powder, soda and salt. **Add** the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and **mix** with a wooden spoon, until just combined. Batter should be lumpy.

Add the blueberries and **fold** into batter until evenly distributed. Using a large table spoon, **scoop** the batter into a greased 12 cup muffin pan, evenly dividing the batter. **Bake** 20 minutes or until lightly browned on the tops. **Cool** in pan for 5 minutes. **Remove** to wire rack and serve.

Yield: 12 muffins. Serving size, one muffin.

Nutritional Analysis:

190 calories, 6 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 40 mg cholesterol, 240 mg sodium, 31 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 14 g sugars, 5 g protein.



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

<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>