

Taylor County Horticulture Newsletter

Cooperative Extension Service
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June 2023



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

Upcoming Events

Eastern Standard Time



Monday, June 5— Saturday, June 10	Taylor County Fair	
Tuesday, June 6	Horticulture Judging	3:30 PM
Thursday, June 15	Busy Bloomer Garden Club trip—Waterfront Botanical Gardens, Louisville, KY—We will depart from the Extension Office at 9:30 AM.	9:30 AM
Thursday, June 15	Green River Beekeepers—Green County Extension Office	7:00 Pm
Tuesday, June 20	Horticulture Judging	3:30 PM
Saturday, June 24	Summer Bash at the Taylor County Farmers' Market	8:00 AM—2:00 PM

**Taylor County Farmers' Market
Open Saturday's
8:00 AM—2:00 PM**



Kara Back
Extension Agent
For Horticulture

For more information and to RSVP, please call the Extension Office at (270) 465-4511.

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Gardening in June

Ornamentals

- Deadhead bulbs and spring flowering perennials as blossoms fade.
- Watch for bagworms feeding on many garden plants, but especially juniper and arborvitae.
- Thin seedlings to proper spacings before plants crown each other.
- Plant tropical water lilies when water temperatures rise above 70 degrees.
- When night temperatures stay above 50 degrees, bring houseplants outdoors for the summer.
- Apply a balanced rose fertilizer after the first show of blooms is past.
- Rhizomatous begonias are not just for shade. Many varieties, especially those with bronze foliage, do well in full sun if given plenty of water and a well-drained sit.
- Most houseplants brought outside prefer a bright spot shaded from afternoon sun. Check soil moisture daily during hot weather.
- Apply organic mulches as the soil warms. These will conserve moisture, discourage weeds, and enrich the soil as they decay.
- Apply a second spray for borer control on hardwood trees.
- Softwood cuttings can be taken from trees and shrubs as the spring flush of growth is beginning to mature.
- Continue spraying roses with a fungicide to prevent black spot disease.
- Trees and shrubs may still be fertilized before July 4.
- Pruning of spring flowering trees and shrubs should be completed before the month's end.



June Pests & Problems

- Indoor plants moved outside for the summer are very susceptible to scorch and sunburn. Acclimate plants gradually to avoid setting them back.
- Early in the month scout for bagworms. If found, treat while the caterpillars are still small and most vulnerable.
- Dethatch zoysia lawns as new growth begins to keep the lawn vigorous and reduce disease problems. Stop fertilizing cool-season grasses until fall.
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- Scout for Japanese beetles and lacebugs.
- Continue to treat for black spot of roses on susceptible varieties. You may also find damage from rose slugs and leaf cutter bees. Usually both are minor and don't require treatment.
- Scout for damage from thrips and leafhoppers.
- Common pests in the vegetable garden this time of year are cucumber beetles, squash vine borer, and squash bugs.
- Pollination problems of cucurbits can occur and flea beetles can be a problem on eggplants and many other plants.
- The mimosa webworm may cause damage to mimosa and honeylocust trees.
- Apply controls for apple maggot now.
- Watch for clematis wilt, vinca stem blight, and peony blotch.
- Squirrels are making nests now and dropping leafed twigs. The remains of their feeding on horned oak galls may also be observed.

Lawns

- Water turf as needed to prevent drought stress.
- Mow lawns frequently enough to remove no more than one-third the total height per mowing. There is no need to remove clippings unless excessive.
- Mow bluegrass at 2 to 3.5 inch height. Turfgrasses growing in shaded conditions should be mowed at the higher recommendations.



Vegetables

- Repeat plantings of corn and beans to extend the harvest season.
- Plant pumpkins now to have Jack-o-lanterns for Halloween.
- As soon as cucumber and squash vines start to 'run,' begin spray treatments to control cucumber beetles and squash vine borers.
- Set out transplants of Brussels sprouts started last month. These will mature for a fall harvest.
- Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems make the most efficient use of water during dry times.
- To minimize diseases, water with overhead irrigation early enough in the day to allow the foliage to dry before nightfall.
- Start seedlings of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. These will provide transplants for the fall garden.
- Stop harvesting asparagus when the spears become thin.
- Control corn earworms. Apply several drops of mineral oil every 3 to 7 days once silks appear. Sprays of Bt are also effective.
- To maximize top growth on asparagus, apply 2 pounds of 12-12-12 fertilizer per 100 sq. ft., water well and renew mulches to conserve moisture.

Fruits

- Oriental fruit moths emerge. They are most serious on peaches where the first generation attacks growing tips. Wilted shoots should be pruned out.
- Thinning overloaded fruit trees will result in larger and healthier fruits at harvest time. Thinned fruits should be a hands-width apart.
- Renovate strawberries after harvest. Mow the rows; thin out excess plants; remove weeds; fertilize and apply a mulch for weed control.
- Summer fruiting raspberries are ripening now.
- Begin control for apple maggot flies. Spray trunks of peach trees and other stone fruits for peach tree borers.
- Prune and train young fruit trees to eliminate poorly positioned branches and to establish proper crotch angles

Miscellaneous

- When using any gas powered equipment, be sure to allow the engine a few minutes to cool before refilling empty fuel tanks.
- A mailbox mounted on a nearby post makes a handy place to store and keep dry any small tools, seeds, labels, etc. frequently used in the garden.

Start Monitoring for Garden Pests Today

Whether it's slugs, squash vine borer, or Colorado potato beetle, home gardeners know that every year some creepy crawly is looking for a free meal in their vegetable patch. Unfortunately, pest management in home gardens often relies on a reactive, spray-oriented approach to these pests rather than taking a more engaged attitude that helps to prevent problems. You can change that through integrated pest management and focusing on monitoring for pests before they become a true issue.

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated pest management, also known as IPM, is a philosophy of pest management that intends to use all the available tools at our disposal to help suppress pest populations. This can look different depending on the pest being managed and the situation in which the pest is an issue. In the home garden, some simple pest management tools can include cultural methods such as:

- Fall garden sanitation, which removes overwintering habitat for pests,
- Physical methods, such as floating row covers, which exclude pests from plants, and
- insecticidal control, such as spraying Bt when dealing with caterpillars.

IPM is not an organic approach necessarily; IPM can include synthetic insecticides when they are the appropriate method of suppression.

Need for Monitoring

IPM can only be successful when monitoring is included as a step in the process. Large scale growers, home pest control operators, and even mosquito abatement coordinators all use monitoring to know where their target pest populations are in their life cycle and population size. Home gardeners, too, need to remember this important tactic. Monitoring for signs and symptoms of insects and other arthropods allows you to know if your management tools, like sanitation, have been successful or can also tell you when to enact physical control strategies, such as floating row covers or when to spray specific insecticides. Monitoring is also the easiest thing to neglect in a pest management plan; it takes time and resources and can seem like a drain (especially when you aren't catching anything).

This spring, you can commit to using monitoring to better understand what pests are trying to infiltrate your garden. The simplest form of monitoring is to just use your eyes to look for known pests in the garden; they tend to be visible, and if they aren't noticeable, then the damage they create will be. Holes chewed into leaves or flowers, cupped and curled leaves, honeydew on leaves, and insect droppings—all of these methods can help with identification of a problem and tell you it's time to act. You can also get a little more technical and start using traps to catch pests even earlier in the process.

Trapping for Garden Pests

First, trapping for garden pests should not be considered a control tactic. The tools listed here likely won't suppress pest populations in your garden. They will tell you what pests are around though, so consider them sentries or security guards for you. This list also isn't comprehensive but

should be a good start for those who are interested. Finally, traps only work if they are checked. Putting out any of these traps in May and then remembering it in September means that it wasn't monitoring, but just slowly rotting in the field. Check traps every other day or weekly, as your schedule allows, to look for possible upcoming pest problems.

Yellow sticky cards: These glue-covered traps will work for monitoring aphids, thrips, whiteflies, mealybugs, mites, and fungus gnats. They work in the home garden as well as near houseplants or in high tunnels. The cards should be placed at plant height and adjusted through the growing season to track with the tops of plants. They can be clipped to bamboo poles or other objects to achieve this.

Baited traps: Using shallow containers (such as water dishes, lids to jars, etc. or 2-liter bottles with the top 1/3rd cut and then inverted into the rest of the bottle) you can create a baited trap that pests will be attracted to but will be unable to escape from. Baits can include beer (for slugs), fruit juices (for various pests), or apple cider vinegar (various fly pests), amongst others.

Yellow bowl traps: A yellow plastic bowl filled with soapy water can attract and capture things like squash

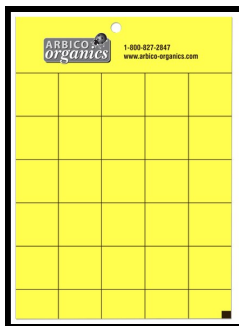
vine borer, aphids, and many other pests. The bowls act as a super stimulus the insects can't ignore, and the soapy water will kill them as they fly in.

Board or newspaper traps: Placing boards or newspaper on the ground in the garden can create an attractive harborage for squash bugs, slugs, and other garden pests. These can be checked in the morning for pest presence and can also be a good "corral"

where you can kill pest groups early in the morning before they warm up and get moving.

Trap plants: These are low cost, easy to grow plants that can be placed near desired plants to act as a monitoring plant. They are attractive to specific pests and will recruit them before the actual crop does. Once on the trap plant, you can either control them there or enact a protective measure for your actual crops. Blue Hubbard squash (squash bugs and squash vine borer), sunflowers (stinkbugs), amaranth (cucumber beetles), and marigolds (mites) are some examples.

With these traps in the garden, you'll be better prepared to catch pests before they cause damage and hopefully end up with more produce on the table this summer!



Source:
[https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2023/05/23/start-monitoring-for-garden-pests-today/?utm_source=KY+Pest+News+List&utm_campaign=aeeeb580ef-KPN_NEWSLETTER_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bee884adb8-aeeeb580ef-228242553&ct=t\(RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN\)](https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2023/05/23/start-monitoring-for-garden-pests-today/?utm_source=KY+Pest+News+List&utm_campaign=aeeeb580ef-KPN_NEWSLETTER_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bee884adb8-aeeeb580ef-228242553&ct=t(RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN))
Pictures: 1. Arbico Organics. 2. Luciana Musetti, The Ohio State University

Bacterial Spot of Pepper

Bacterial spot is the most common and economically important disease of peppers in Kentucky. The disease occurs in commercial and homegrown production. Disease damage to leaves results in yield reduction, while diseased fruits become unmarketable. Cultural and sanitation practices can help reduce disease severity, but chemical management may be needed to protect plants from infection.

Bacterial Spot Facts

- Symptoms begin as small, brown, circular spots that overtime expand and may develop an angular appearance. Lesions may develop on leaves, stems, petioles, and fruit. The center of older lesions on leaves may become white and fall out, leaving a “shot-hole” appearance. Infections of petioles often results in defoliation. Spots on fruit may be either sunken or raised depending on cultivar.
- Disease is introduced via contaminated seed, crop debris, or from weed hosts.
- Bacterial spot is spread by water, such as overhead irrigation or rain.
- Periods of wet, warm, humid conditions favor disease development.
- Once bacterial spot establishes in a planting, it can spread rapidly.

Bacterial spot is caused by multiple bacterial *Xanthomonas* species.



Management

- Purchase certified disease-free seeds or transplants.
- If saving seed from a previous season, heat treatment should be used to disinfest seed.
- Select resistant varieties.
- Manage weeds in or near plantings.
- Rotate crops.
- Increase plant spacing.
- Remove and destroy infected plants or plant parts.
- Avoid overhead watering.
- Prune plants to improve air flow.
- Monitor and manage humidity in greenhouses and high tunnels.
- Clean and sanitize tools, pots, and equipment.
- Remove and destroy plant debris and discarded fruit at the end of the season.
- Preventative copper applications are recommended for commercial production.

Commercial growers can find information on fungicides in the Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers (ID-36) and the Southeast U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook. Homeowners should consult Home Vegetable Gardening (ID-128) for fungicide information or contact a county Extension agent for additional information and recommendations regarding fungicides.

Source: [https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2023/05/23/bacterial-spot-of-pepper/?utm_source=KY+Pest+News+List&utm_campaign=aeeeb580ef-KPN_NEWSLETTER_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bee884adb8-aeeeb580ef-228242553&ct=t\(RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN\)](https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2023/05/23/bacterial-spot-of-pepper/?utm_source=KY+Pest+News+List&utm_campaign=aeeeb580ef-KPN_NEWSLETTER_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bee884adb8-aeeeb580ef-228242553&ct=t(RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN))

Pictures: 1. Kenny Seebold, UK , 2. Cheryl Kaiser, UK

Dracaena

Dracaena plants are very easy to grow. They do thrive in medium to bright light, but can do well in low-light too. The hybrid 'Janet Craig' is an example of a Dracaena that does well in low-light conditions. The leaves grow in a fountain-like shape. The variegated varieties need much brighter conditions to keep their color. Dust the leave periodically by showering with water or using a rag.

Do not over water these plants. They like to be evenly moist. They are sensitive to fluoride in tap water. Use rain or bottled water if you have high levels of fluoride.

They can actually flower. It is a stem of white flowers that grow among the leaves of the plant.

Dracaena plants can get very large. Most will not get over 10 feet. To keep it smaller, cut the top off. Take that cutting and root it into the same pot it is growing in, or start a new plant in another pot. Use a moist potting medium during propagation such as peat.

Fun Cultivars of Dracaena are:

'Janet Craig Compacta'

'Dorado'

'Lemon Lime'

'Lemon Surprise'

'Limelight'

'Rikki'

'WarneckII'



Source: "Houseplants A Guide to Choosing and Caring for Indoor Plants" by Lisa Steinkoff

Picture: <https://www.lowes.com>



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Summertime Sensation Casserole

4 strips turkey bacon

1/3 cup minced onion

3 tablespoons diced
green pepper

4 ears fresh sweet corn

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon black
pepper

1 teaspoon dried
sweet basil

2 cups tomatoes,
chopped

1/3 cup reduced fat
shredded cheddar
cheese

1. In a large skillet, **cook** turkey bacon until crisp.

2. **Drain** turkey bacon on paper towel, **chop** and put aside. Do not drain pan. **Cook** onion and green pepper in bacon drippings over medium heat until tender.

3. **Cut** corn from cob and add to onion and green pepper mixture in skillet.

Add salt, black pepper, basil and tomatoes.

Cook 5-10 minutes. **Add** chopped turkey bacon and cook an additional minute.

4. **Pour** skillet contents into a greased 1-1/2 quart casserole dish.

5. **Top** with shredded cheddar cheese.

6. **Bake** at 350°F for 30 minutes, or until cheese is melted and bubbling.

Yield: 5, 1/2 cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 160 calories, 7 g fat, 2.5 g sat.fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 680 mg sodium, 19 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 7 g sugar, 8 g protein.



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

