

Taylor County Horticulture Newsletter

May 2025

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Kara Back-Campbell

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Zamioculcas zamiifolia

By: Jennifer Tungate, Taylor County Master Gardener

The Zamioculcas zamiifolia (Zanzibar gem), better known as the ZZ plant, is a popular choice of houseplants native to East Africa. It is also known for its resilience, striking appearance, and air-purifying qualities. The ZZ plant has glossy dark green leaves that grow thick, upright, waxy, pinnate leaflets ranging in three to five inches and grow along the stem. Although the ZZ plant is primarily a foliage plant, it may occasionally produce flowers in the form of cream colored species similar to that of a peace lily. The flowers are small and usually hidden under the base of the leaves.

The ZZ plant requires low to bright indirect light, such as from a north-east, or west facing window. Avoid direct sunlight which can scorch the leaves. ZZ plants can grow well under fluorescent lighting. Indoors this particular plant likes temperatures between 60 - 75 degrees. If you plant it outside, be sure to bring it back in before temperatures drop below 50 degrees. Avoid placing the plant near air conditioning and heating vents due to the dry air causing browning of the leaves.

ZZ plants do not like to be overwatered. During the active growing season, spring through early fall, only water every two weeks or when the top inch or two of soil feels dry. Water less frequently during the winter months. Misting the leaves occasionally will reduce dust build up along with cleaning with a damp cloth. Keeping your plant dust free is good for its health because the leaves can take on more sunlight, Fertilize monthly during spring and summer and none in the winter time.



ZZ plants are slow to grow and don't mind living in crowded pots so repotting often is not necessary. ZZ plant's rhizomes spread laterally so its width is controlled by the diameter of the pot. Pruning is only needed to improve the shape of your plant and to remove yellowing or damaged foliage. Pruning does not encourage new growth unlike other houseplants.

ZZ plants can be propagated by division and leaf cuttings placing them in soil or by cutting off the entire leaf stalk at the base and place in water until roots form. ZZ plants are generally pest-free but may occasionally be bothered by mealy bugs, scale, aphids or spider mites. Good treatments to get rid of these insects by washing the leaves with an insecticidal soap and applying organic neem oil.

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

TAYLOR COUNTY 4-H

May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Farmers' Market OPEN 8:00 - 2:00 PM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Master Gardener Plant Sale 8:00 - 2:00 PM Farmers' Market OPEN 8:00 - 2:00 PM
11	12 Busy Bloomer Garden Club Herb Gardening & Their Use in the Kitchen 1:00 PM	13 4-H Horticulture Club 3:30 PM	14	15 Green River Beekeepers 7:00 PM	16	17 Farmers' Market OPEN 8:00 - 2:00 PM
18	19 Bird Club Humming Bird Feeders 1:00 PM	20	21	22	23	24 Farmers' Market OPEN 8:00 - 2:00 PM
25	26	27 4-H Entomology Club 3:30 PM	28	29	30	31 Farmers' Market OPEN 8:00 - 2:00 PM Reptiles & Amphibians

All 4-H Events require registration on Eventbrite.

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

Honeysuckle

By: Ailene Foster, Taylor County Master Gardener

Honeysuckle is a twining vine or arching shrub with numerous species. Also known as a woodbine, it has 158 species native to North America. It is a fast-growing climber. Provide support with a trellis, fence or other support that will allow the vines to drape.

Many species have sweet scented flowers that produce a sweet, edible nectar from its tubular flowers. Its scented flowers attract pollinators and add a nice scent to summer evening.

Honeysuckle can be used in different ways. Its flowers and leaves are edible and can be used to make teas, syrups, jams and can also be added to salads. Honeysuckle can also be used for relieving digestive issues, infections and other maladies. The red berries can be toxic, so do not eat those.

Vining varieties are most popular for home gardens. Some species are invasive, so choose what you plant carefully. Once established, honeysuckles are easy to maintain, needing only light pruning yearly. Plant in well-draining loam. The foliage needs sun and the roots need shade. So choose a spot where the plant will receive both. Water weekly if rainfall is sparse. Soil that is too wet can result in fungus, causing canker and infections like powdery mildew.

Plant seedlings in spring after danger of frost is gone. Seeds can be planted in the ground or outdoors in a pot in the autumn to cold stratify over winter. General purpose fertilizer can be added to mature plants in the spring.



Lonicera sempervirens, Trumpet honeysuckle.
(Flickr - Greg Goebel - CC)



Trumpet Honeysuckle and female ruby-throated humming bird. (Flickr - Bud Ohio - CC)

Aphids and spider mites are attracted to honeysuckle. A horticulture spray such as neem oil or a strong spray from your garden hose should help control pest problems.

Honeysuckle flowers do not need to be deadheaded. Let them drop naturally so birds and other wildlife can feed on the berries. You and the wildlife can enjoy the beauty and fragrance of your honeysuckle.

Busy Bloomer Garden Club

Monday, May 12

1:00 PM

**Topic: Herb Gardening &
Their Use in the Kitchen**

Kara Back-Campbell

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Agent for Horticulture

Bird Club

Monday, May 19

1:00 PM

**Topic: Humming Bird
Feeder**

Kara Back-Campbell

Kara Back-Campbell
Agent for Horticulture

Taylor County *Plant Sale*



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

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



270-465-4511



Taylor County Extension Office
1143 South Columbia Avenue
Campbellsville, KY



*An equal opportunity organization



4-H Horticulture Club

**Vegetable Containers,
Herb Gardens,
House Plants,
& Container Annuals**

Tuesday, May 13
3:30 PM

FREE AND OPEN TO YOUTH 9-18 YEARS OLD
TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1143 SOUTH COLUMBIA AVENUE

*An equal opportunity organization.



4-H Entomology Club

Pill Bugs (Rolly Pollies)



Tuesday,
May 27
3:30 PM

FREE AND OPEN TO YOUTH 9-18 YEARS OLD
TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1143 SOUTH COLUMBIA AVENUE

*An equal opportunity organization.

TAYLOR COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

KID'S REPTILE & AMPHIBIANS DAY!

SATURDAY, MAY 31
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us to make some awesome crafts while
learning about our wonderful reptile friends.

MARKET OPEN
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Taylor County Farmers' Market
73 Animal Shelter Road
Campbellsville, KY 42718

*An equal opportunity organization.



Allium Leafminer is a Potential Threat to Bulb Crops in Kentucky

By Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist

Allium leafminer is a relatively new invasive pest of Allium species, which includes onion, garlic, leeks, chives, shallots, and ramps. Allium leafminer (ALM) was first identified in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 2015 and has since spread to seven states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic areas. ALM is originally from Eastern Europe where it is a serious pest throughout the continent. While there are other leafminers of Alliums in the U.S., this pest can not only cause cosmetic injury to Alliums but also can cause serious damage and contamination to the bulbs. While it has not been reported in Kentucky, I would expect that it will be in the future as it has been found in Virginia.



Figure 1. Allium leafminer flies (Photo: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org).

Biology

ALM has two generations per year; only in spring and fall. The spring infestation begins with egg laying in April (based on models developed in states to our north) followed by egg laying in September for the fall generation. Between the two generations there is a summer inactive period (aestivation) by the pupae, similar to dormancy. The start of the spring adult period can coincide with forsythia and daffodil bloom. Eggs are laid in punctures made by the female near the tips of the leaves during feeding. The punctures appear as white spots near leaf tips. Larvae hatch and begin tunneling downward toward the base of the plant. Tunneling results in very distinctive white tunneling to the leaves.



Figure 2. Signs of egg laying by Allium leafminer (Photo: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org.)

Management

Where this invasive has become a pest, management includes chemical control, sanitation, crop rotation, altering planting dates, reflective mulches, and physical controls to exclude the flies. While it has not been reported in Kentucky, producers should be on the lookout for this invasive pest. Suspicious damage should be reported to a local county Extension agent.



**We will be closed
Monday, May 26
in observance of
Memorial Day!**



Berry and Basil Pizza Crisp with Honey Balsamic

Balsamic Honey Glaze:

½ cup balsamic
vinegar

3 tablespoons honey

Flatbread:

6 flatbreads

12 pieces of cheese, such
as Havarti (2 per flatbread)

1 cup blackberries, halved

1 ½ cups strawberries,
chopped

15 basil leaves,
chopped and
divided

Preheat oven to 400°F. **Place** flatbreads on a baking sheet and **add** two slices Havarti cheese, blackberries, and strawberries. **Bake** for 5-7 minutes, or until cheese is melted. After flatbreads are removed from oven, **add** chopped basil and honey balsamic glaze. **Serve** warm.

To make the glaze:

Add balsamic vinegar and honey

to a small sauce pan and **simmer** until reduced by half (10-15 minutes). **Remove** from heat and **set aside**.

Serves: 6 Flatbreads

Nutritional Analysis:

340 calories, 16 g fat, 9 g saturated fat, 40 mg cholesterol, 520 mg sodium, 34 g carbohydrate, 11 g fiber, 16 g sugar, 20 g protein

