

HORT FROM THE HILLTOP

HARRISON COUNTY HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER



March 2023

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College of Agriculture,
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Cooperative Extension Service
Harrison County Office
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(859) 234-5510



Freebie Fridays!

SEED GIVEAWAY

Stop by the office each Friday to select some free seeds to take home and grow!

February 17 - **Cole Crops and Leafy Greens** (broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, kale, etc.)

February 24th - **Roots, Tubers, and Bulbs** (onion, beets, radish, carrots, etc.)

March 3rd - **Legumes** (beans, peas, etc.)

March 10th - **Solanaceous** (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant)

March 17th - **Cucurbits** (cucumbers, zucchini, squash, etc.)

March 24th - **Cucurbits** (watermelon, cantaloupe, pumpkins)

March 31st - **Miscellaneous** (okra, swish chard, corn, etc.)

April 7th - **Herbs**

April 14th - **Flowers**

HARRISON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
668 NEW LAIR ROAD
859-234-5510

Licking Valley Honey Bee Society

Next Meeting: March 14th

**Beginning Session beginning
at 5:30 p.m.**

**General Beekeeping Club Meeting
beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

at the Harrison County Extension Office



Farmers Market Meeting!

**Wednesday, March
8th at 6:00 p.m.**

The next Harrison County Farmers Market Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Harrison County Extension Office.

If you plan to set up at the market this year, you are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to attend. The market will be making plans for the upcoming season.

Be sure to follow the Harrison County Farmers Market Facebook page to stay up to date on all happenings!



**Stay up to date! Follow us on
FACEBOOK!**

**Harrison County Harrison County
Extension—Horticulture**

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Planning and Prepping for the Spring Garden

March is here, which means that it is meteorological spring! So, just because we have some very warm days sprinkled in, it's important to remember that it isn't officially spring yet and we likely still have a lot of cold days ahead of us. With those thoughts, it is time to start planning (even if not planting) our vegetable gardens! At the extension office we have a fantastic resource called Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky. If you do not currently have a copy of this publication, and you plan to have a garden, I highly encourage you to stop by the office and pick one up. It is a wealth of information, for both new and experienced gardeners! Here you will see some information regarding starting your spring garden. Including crops to grow, planting dates and harvest times. Both of these charts come from the Vegetable Gardening publication I mentioned.

If you haven't already it is time to start taking soil samples for the 2023 growing season. By submitting your soil tests early, you can be sure to have your results back before planting time. Drop by the office to pick up a soil probe and bags for all your sampling needs! Soil testing is FREE through the Harrison County Extension Office!

Table 11. Crops for the spring garden.

Vegetable	Seeds	Transplants	Days to Maturity ¹
Beets	x		55-60
Bibb lettuce	x	x	60-80
Broccoli		x	40-90
Brussels sprouts		x	80-90
Cabbage		x	60-100
Carrots	x		60-80
Cauliflower		x	50-100
Celery		x	100-130
Chinese cabbage	x	x	43-75
Collards	x		75-90
Endive	x	x	60-90
Kale	x	x	50-60
Kohlrabi	x		50-70
Leaf lettuce	x	x	40-50
Mustard greens	x		35-60
Onions ²	x	x	40-120
Peas	x		60-80
Potatoes ³			90-140
Radishes	x		20-30
Spinach	x		40-70
Swiss chard	x	x	55-60
Turnips	x		40-60
Turnip greens	x		30-50

¹ Days given are for the early to late varieties.

² Onions are also available in sets.

³ Potatoes are available as seed pieces.

Table 14. Vegetable gardener's calendar with planting dates for Western, Central, and Eastern

Western Ky	Central Ky	Eastern Ky	Planting Method ²	Crop
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Jan. 29	I	Onions
Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	I	Brussels sprouts
Feb. 15	Feb. 22	Mar. 1	I	Cole crops (Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi), lettuce, Chinese cabbage
Mar. 1	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	O	Spinach, mustard, beets, peas, edible podded peas
Mar. 15	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	M	Cabbage, kohlrabi
			O	Asparagus and rhubarb (crowns), beets, carrots, collards, kale, mustard, spinach, peas, edible pod-ded peas, early potato seed pieces, radishes, turnips, green onions, onion sets, endive
			I	Peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, sweet potato slips. Dig and divide any 4 year old rhubarb plants. Fertilize asparagus and rhubarb with 1 lb 5 10 10 per 100 sq ft.
Apr. 1	Apr. 8	Apr. 15	M	Broccoli, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, Swiss chard, onions from seeds
			O	Mustard, spinach, radishes, lettuce, Swiss chard
Apr. 5	Apr. 12	Apr. 19	I	Muskmelons, watermelons, squash
			O	Sweet corn, beets, carrots, mustard, spinach, radishes, lettuce
May 1	May 8	May 15	O	Sweet corn, mustard, radishes, lettuce
May 7	May 15	May 22	O	Green beans, lima beans
			M	Tomatoes, muskmelons, watermelons, squash
June 1	June 8	June 15	O	Sweet corn
			M	Sweet potatoes
June 15	June 22	June 29	O	Sweet corn, late potatoes, summer squash, bush beans, lettuce, parsnips, beets, carrots
July 1	July 8	July 15	O	Sweet corn (early maturing variety), carrots, beets
July 10	July 18	July 25	O	Sow seeds of fall cole crops in a nursery area
July 15	July 22	July 29	O	Sweet corn (early maturing variety), kale, mustard, turnips, summer squash
Aug. 1	Aug. 8	Aug. 15	M	Transplant fall cole crops to permanent location between now and Aug. 15
			O	Peas, edible podded peas, bush beans, radishes, beets, mustard. Divide old rhubarb or plant crowns if not done in spring.
Aug. 15	Aug. 22	Aug. 29	O	Radishes, spinach, turnips, turnip greens, beets, mustard, lettuce, endive
Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	O	Radishes, spinach, mustard
Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	O	Radishes, mustard, turnips, turnip greens
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	O	Radishes
Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	O	Sow sets of Egyptian tree or multiplier onions. Harvest carrots before heavy freeze.
Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	O	Dig parsnips and store at 32 40°F, or mulch parsnips heavily in the ground

¹ Planting dates are approximate, consult you local weather conditions and adjust planting dates accordingly.

² I: Start seeds indoors; M: Move transplants to garden; O: Start seeds outdoors

Shamrocks: Myths, Legends, Folklore, and Facts

Luck of the Irish, St. Patrick's Day, lucky four-leaf clover: A shamrock and a four-leaf clover are the same plant – right?

I found in my research that no, they are not the same, but the difference is surprising. According to Irish, the legend of the shamrock goes something like this: A bishop named Patrick lived in the land of the Druids (now known as Ireland). Patrick was a teacher of the word of God and was well loved and truly a saint. Some of his followers came to him one day and confessed they had a hard time believing the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. At this point St. Patrick picked a shamrock and used it to explain the Holy Trinity, which was accepted and the shamrock became one of the symbols of Ireland. Another legend states the Celtic druids started the three leaf clover's fame. They believed 3 was the perfect number and had mystical powers. The three leaves may have represented underground, earth, and sky, but no one knows for sure. It is said that St. Patrick went about converting the druids and using the shamrock to explain the Christian concept of the Holy Trinity.



There are actually many plants that are clovers and some that are mimics. Most of us are familiar with white clover and red clover, but there is also lesser trefoil, or hop clover, and black medick (not a true clover). I'm sure you have seen the beautiful Oxalis plants of which there are about 570 species. Wood sorrels are also sometimes confused with clovers.

What about four-leaved clovers? It is estimated that, on average, there are 10,000 three-leaf clovers for every instance of a true four-leaf clover. I know I have spent many hours searching for a four-leaf clover and have yet to find one. One would certainly need to be lucky to find a four-leaf clover.

"If a man walking in the fields find any four-leaved grass, he shall in a small while after find some good thing."

~Sir John Melton 1620

So what are the differences between shamrocks and clovers? Not all clovers are shamrocks, but all shamrocks are clovers. Clovers are in the Trifolium family and the word Trifolium means having three leaves. A clover can't be a shamrock if it has four leaves. Having four leaves is just a genetic mutation of a three-leaf clover. But just to make it clear as mud – even botanists can't agree on which clovers are shamrocks. Basically the difference is a shamrock is a three-leaf clover symbol of Ireland and a four-leaf clover is a symbol of good luck.

As a gardener and pollinator lover I let the clover grow in my yard. I plan to add *Oxalis Triangularis* (Purple Shamrock) to my houseplant collection soon. Note – this is not a true shamrock because it is not a clover.

Source: Penn State Extension



Start your day with Extension!

9:10 a.m. Stacey Stephens with NEP:

1st Monday of the month

Jessica Sayre with Horticulture:

1st Wednesday of the month

Shannon Farrell and Holly Laytart with 4-H:

2nd Wednesday of the month

Shelley Meyer with FCS: 4th Thursday of the month

4-H Horticulture Club



The 4-H Horticulture club is open to any 4-H member interested in horticulture! The meetings are held on the third **Wednesday (March 15th)** of the month, 3:30—4:30 at the Harrison County Extension Office. Students can ride the bus after school to the office. For more information or questions, call the office at 859-234-5510

Community Corner

MCTC



LIBRARY



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



HC EXTENSION



Check out what's happening in our community! Use your smart phone camera to scan the QR codes to be directed to the organization's separate website.



Broccoli Salad with Creamy Feta Dressing

½ cup reduced -fat feta cheese, crumbled

½ cup non-fat plain yogurt

1 tablespoon lemon juice

2 cloves garlic, minced

½ teaspoon black pepper

3 cups broccoli, chopped

1 can (7 ounces) chick peas, drained and rinsed

½ cup red bell pepper, chopped

½ cup red onion, chopped

Mix feta, yogurt, lemon juice, garlic and pepper in a medium bowl.

Add broccoli, chickpeas, red pepper and onion.

Toss to coat.

Serve at room temperature or chilled.

Yield: 5, 1 cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 100 calories, 3 g fat, 7 g protein, 13 g carbohydrate, 5 mg cholesterol, 260 mg sodium.

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





Harrison County Conservation District
Local Cost Share Application
103 Rodgers Park Drive
Cynthiana, KY 41031
859-234-5876 ext. 3

Backyard Conservation Program

The purpose of this program is to help Cynthiana/Harrison County homeowners promote the wise use of our soil and water resources. Rain barrels are an effective way to manage storm-water runoff and reduce the amount of pollutants that end up in our waterways; as well as reduce the demand on municipal water supplies because the water they store can be used for watering flowers, gardens and lawns, even in times of drought. Compost Bins are a great way to decrease the amount of yard trimmings and food waste going into landfills. Compost is a soil conditioner made up of decomposed organic material; it improves the soil's physical condition and fertility, and as a result improves aeration, root penetration, and water infiltration. Other conservation items may qualify for cost share such as: raised garden beds, bee hives, rain gardens, pollinator gardens, etc.

Eligibility

- 50/50 Cost Share Rate not to exceed \$200.00 (reimbursed 50% of expenses, up to \$200)
- One application per household

Requirements

- Application must be approved before starting project
- Project must be completed and receipts turned in by June 7, 2023
- Items may be purchased or constructed independently.
- Notify district when project is completed for a checkout, prior to reimbursement
- Submit receipts for payment request

Applications accepted until April 5, 2023; to be returned to the conservation district office at 103 Rodgers Park Dr. (USDA Service Center), Call Kayleigh Evans at 859-298-5932 or email at Kayleigh.evans@ky.nacdnet.net for any questions.

Applicant Information, all areas required.

Name (Please Print): _____ Phone#: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Planned Conservation Project Request: _____

I agree to the terms outlined above:

Applicant Signature

Date

Conservation District Signature

Date Received

App #

For Office Use Only

Amount Spent: \$ _____ Eligible Reimbursement (50% /\$200): \$ _____

Check # _____ Received by: _____ Date: _____