

# Horticulture Newsletter

May & June 2023

## NOTE FROM AGENT

Hello Gardeners,

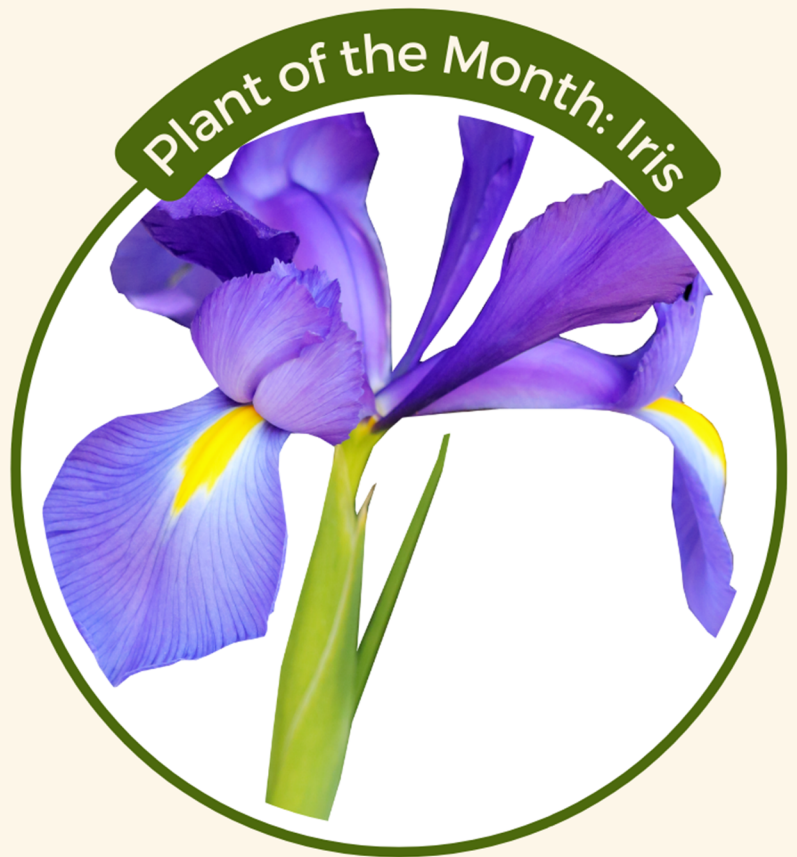
This year's weather has been from one extreme to another. We have had several calls from concerned gardeners about shrubs and other perennials looking rough and not sure if they should be cut down. At this point, be patient and you may find a few green leaves soon. As always, you are welcome to call the office or send pictures to [macy.fawns@uky.edu](mailto:macy.fawns@uky.edu)

*Macy Fawns*

\*Check out the plant sale & DIY class\*

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Plant of the Month: Iris



### **Fun Facts about Irises:**

- Can be bearded or beardless
- There are 300 species
- Are perennials (live more than two years)
- Bearded Iris and Siberian Iris are the most common



## LAWN

- Mow lawns at 2-2.5 inches, if you mow too close it can cause weed pressure.
- Leave grass clippings on lawn so the nutrients can be returned to the soil.
- Apply liquid products for weed control. Granular products often include fertilizer and should not be applied this time of year.

## VEGETABLES

- Plant and seed gardens. Many warm season plants can be planted early in the month while some heat lovers such as peppers should wait until later this month
- Stake tomatoes, beans and squash plants as you plant them
- Weed out gardens to help with disease control so plants don't compete



## MAY & JUNE TIMLEY TIPS



## FLOWERS

- Mulch beds, no more than 2 inches deep, to keep flowers moist and help with weed control
- Deadhead annuals and some perennials to help promote growth
- House plants can be moved outdoors later this month
- Plant perennials. Water at 1 inch per week
- Plant annuals after May 10th to be safe from late season frost. (Hopefully no more frost)

## FRUIT

- Thin fruit on fruit trees when they reach the size of a dime. Leave fruit for every 6-8" of the branch.
- Spray fruit based on a schedule needed by the plant






# THE GRAND PLANT SALE 2023



Brighten up your home and purchase some potted treasures from Master Gardeners!

*All proceeds will go towards Master Gardener projects & education that benefits the community.*

 **MAY 3RD 2023**  
**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

 **Mason County Extension Office**  
**800 US Hwy 68**  
**Maysville, KY 41056**



**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**



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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.  
**LEXINGTON, KY 40546**



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification

# DIY Flower Pot Doll

Makes for a Great Gift



Accessories may vary



May 3rd, 10:00-12:00 P.M.  
\$25.00 call 606-564-6808 to RSVP

Mason Co Extension Office

(flowers provided for additional charge)

All proceeds will go towards Master Gardener projects and education that benefits the community



Kentucky Extension  
Master Gardener



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

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# BUFFALO TRACE BEEKEEPER ASSOCIATION

*bi-monthly*



Join us at 6:00 PM on the third Wednesday  
of March, May, July, Sept, & Nov 2023

Learn about bees & ask questions!

Mason County Extension Office  
800 US Highway 68  
Maysville, KY

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## Blackberry and Cucumber Salad

<b>2 tablespoons</b> extra-virgin olive oil	Kosher salt, to taste Black pepper, to taste	<b>2 cucumbers</b> , peeled and seeds scraped out, cut into 1-inch pieces on a diagonal
<b>2 tablespoons</b> apple cider vinegar	<b>4 cups</b> spring mix	<b>1 cup</b> mint, chopped
<b>1 teaspoon</b> honey	<b>3 heaping cups</b> blackberries	<b>¼ cup</b> chopped pecans

In a small bowl, **whisk** together oil,  
vinegar, honey and salt and pepper.

**Combine** spring mix, blackberries,  
cucumbers, mint, and pecans in  
a large serving bowl. **Toss** with  
dressing.

**Serves:** 4-6, 4 ounce servings

### Nutritional Analysis:

180 calories, 12 g fat, 1.5 g saturated  
fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 160 mg sodium,  
18 g carbohydrate, 8 g fiber, 8 g sugar,  
4 g protein

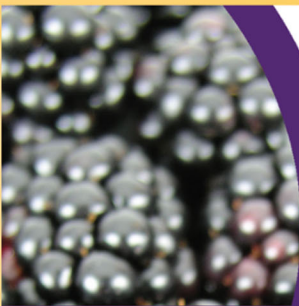


Plate it up!



**UK** University of  
**Kentucky**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment



# MASON CO. EXTENSION HOMEMAKER INDOOR YARD SALE

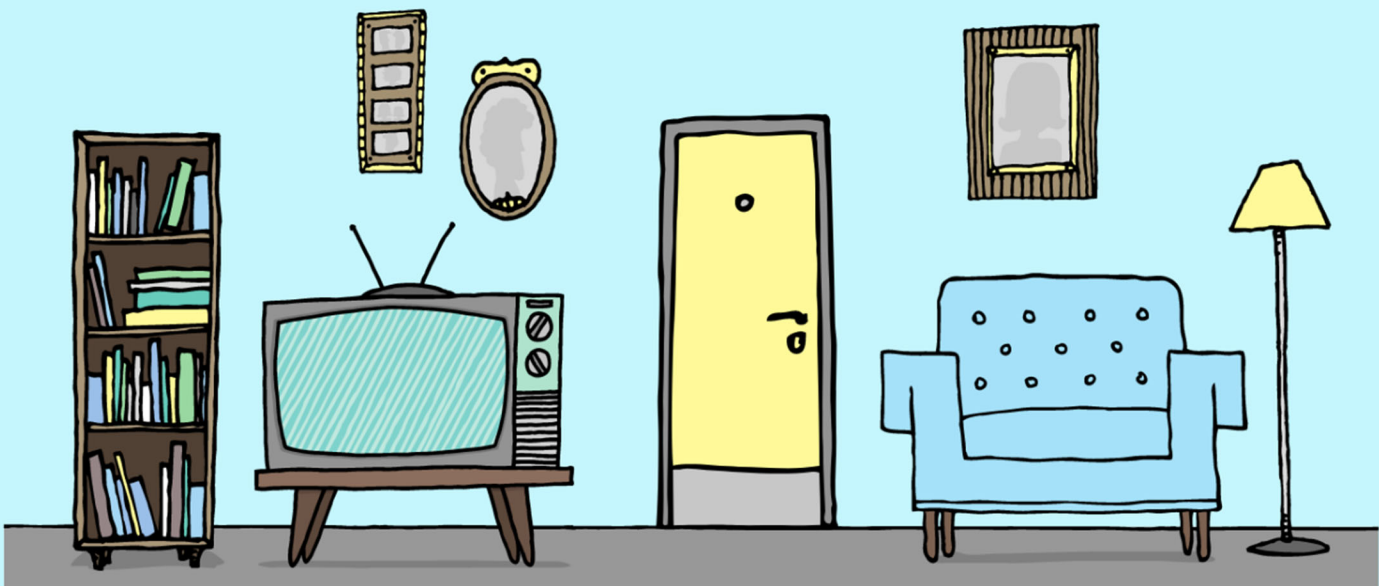
May 6th, 2023

8:00- 2:00PM AT MASON COUNTY  
EXTENSION OFFICE

Donations can be dropped off on May 4th & 5th from 8-4

Proceeds going to Ovarian Cancer Research

NO EARLY SALES



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# PREVENTING TOMATO DISORDERS

SOURCE : JOHN STRANG

It's not too early to take steps to prevent disorders in your tomatoes not caused by diseases or insects. Blossom-end rot, fruit cracking, and off-shaped, rough and scarred tomatoes are the most common of these physiological problems.

Blossom-end rot results from low fruit calcium at the blossom end. It is caused by conditions of water stress, root damage, excessive nitrogen, and high soil levels of potassium and sodium.

A leathery-brown area forms at the base of the fruit; then disease organisms enter and initiate decay. Larger-size tomatoes and some varieties are more susceptible to blossom-end rot.

A number of cultural techniques will prevent this disorder.

Maintain uniform moisture throughout the growing season by watering and using black plastic or an organic mulch such as straw or grass clippings. With some tomato varieties, just 30 minutes of water stress causes slight plant wilting and can initiate cell breakdown in the fruit blossom ends.

Don't use excessive nitrogen fertilizer, especially the ammonium nitrate form, because this leads to overly vigorous plants with smaller root systems to absorb water and nutrients. This condition makes tomato plants more prone to water stress. If the soil has a low pH below 6.5, use calcium nitrate as a source of nitrogen to keep from reducing the soil pH.

To increase calcium availability to tomato plants, maintain a slightly acid soil pH of 6.5 to 6.8. Research shows that foliar calcium applications don't effectively reduce blossom-end rot. Since little or no calcium moves from leaves to the fruit, the foliar-applied calcium isn't absorbed through the fruit skin.

Many of the same cultural practices to control blossom-end rot also will lessen the chances of tomatoes= cracking.

So water and use mulch to prevent wide fluctuations in soil moisture and temperature. Carefully use nitrogen fertilizer to avoid excessively vigorous plant growth. Finally, follow a good nutritional and pesticide spray program to maintain good plant foliage.

Incidences of off-shaped, rough, and scarred tomatoes are related to the variety you plant. Generally, varieties that produce large fruit have more of these problems. Some heirloom varieties also are more susceptible.

Disorders often start in the greenhouse or can occur in the field when the first flower buds begin to form but are not yet visible. If young seedlings are exposed to several nights of temperatures at 50 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, the first three flower bud clusters deform, leading to rough, scarred or off-shaped tomatoes.

Nitrogen over-fertilization intensifies these disorders.

Home gardeners can lessen these problems by not planting too early when it's cold and selecting varieties less prone to the disorders.

**CERTIFIED**



**Kentucky Extension  
Master Gardener**

**TRAINING PROGRAM**



**BEGINS: AUGUST 15, 2023**

**CONCLUDES: NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

**LOCATION: FLEMING COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**

**FEE: \$75.00**

**12:30PM-3:30PM**

**\*\*2 FIELD TRIPS WILL BE ALL DAY\*\***

**\*\*TUESDAYS\*\***

**Requirements:**

- Attend classes (can only miss 2 )
- First year- volunteer 40 hours
- Complete volunteer application
- Go through a background check

**TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT  
YOUR LOCAL OFFICE AT:**

- FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
- ROWAN COUNTY: (606) 784-5457

**REGISTRATION & FEE DEADLINE: AUGUST 1**

*Minimum of 10 registered folks for program to continue*

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



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# Order Form

Purchaser Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cooperative  
Extension Service**  
Mason County  
800 US Highway 68  
Maysville, KY 41056  
macy.fawns@uky.edu

Varieties/Color/ Days to Maturity

- Beauregard (Red)- 90 Days
- Orleans (Red)- 90 Days
- Bonita (White)- 100 Days
- Covington (Red)- 120 Days
- Murasaki (Purple Skin/ White Flesh)- 120 Days

Pricing

- 50 Slips- \$20
- 100 Slips- \$30
- 500 Slips- \$60
- 1,000 Slips- \$95

VARIETY	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
TOTAL DUE			

**Orders and pre-payment are required by May 4th, 2023**

**Make checks payable to: Mason County Extension Office**

Payment Information:  
 Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Received by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check no. \_\_\_\_\_ or Cash \_\_\_\_\_

***Slips are scheduled for delivery the last week of May.  
The Extension Office will contact you as soon as the slips  
have been sorted and are available for pickup***

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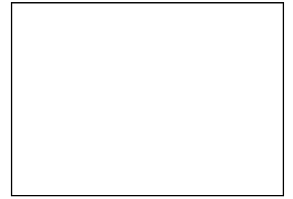
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*Cooperative Extension Service*

Mason County

800 US Highway 68

Maysville, Kentucky 41056

Return Service Requested



**May 16th @ 4:30 Basic Vegetable Gardening**

**May 26th @ 4:30 Basic Flower Gardening**

**Taught by Master Gardeners at**

**Mason County Public Library**

*Please Contact the Mason County Library with any questions*

