

May & June 2025

HORTICULTURE INSIGHTS

Mason County

PLANT OF THE MONTH

OKRA

Meet the star of the garden this month—okra! This heat-loving powerhouse thrives in full sun and well-drained soil, shooting up to 6 feet tall with eye-catching, hibiscus-like blooms. Originally from Africa, okra produces tender green pods perfect for gumbo, stir-fries, or pickling. Harvest them young—around 2 to 4 inches—for the best flavor and texture. Packed with fiber, vitamin C, and antioxidants, okra isn't just tasty—it's good for you too! Bonus: pollinators love it, and its bold look adds flair to any summer garden.



Note from Agent

Macy Fawns



*Parastic Wasp Larvae
on tomato hornworm*

2025's off to a rough start, but hopefully, summer will bring better weather. Remember, not all bugs are bad—beneficial insects can help with pollination or control pests. Before spraying, identify your bugs! For example, parasitic wasps lay eggs in tomato hornworms, and their larvae feed on the pests, naturally controlling them.

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Effective strategies to prevent plant diseases in your garden

Source: Rick Durham, extension professor, Department of Horticulture



In the unseen sphere of our vegetable gardens, plant pathogens including fungi, bacteria, nematodes and viruses are ever-present threats. However, with proactive measures, gardeners can successfully manage these threats and maintain healthy vegetable gardens.

Selecting the right location for your garden is the first step in prevention. Opt for a sunny area with well-drained soil to discourage the growth of pathogens. Raised beds can be an effective solution for improving drainage and air circulation around plants. It's also crucial to clear out old plant debris, which can harbor diseases from the previous season.

When choosing plants, prioritize disease-resistant varieties and inspect any transplants for signs of disease before introducing them to your garden. For seeds, consider those that have been treated with fungicide to give them a better chance of thriving. Planting in warm soil and ensuring proper spacing between plants are additional measures that can minimize stress and disease susceptibility.

Crop rotation is an invaluable strategy, especially in smaller gardens. Changing what's planted in a specific area every few years can prevent the buildup of soil-borne diseases. For crops that are particularly disease-prone, consider skipping their cultivation for a few years or growing them in containers separate from the garden.

Maintaining a weed-free garden throughout the growing season is essential. Weeds can serve as hosts for pests and diseases, transferring them to your vegetable plants. Proper watering techniques can also make a significant difference; water at the base of plants to avoid wetting foliage, and if overhead watering is necessary, do so early in the day to allow leaves to dry. Avoiding mechanical injury to plants, such as from gardening tools or rough handling, can prevent openings for pathogens. Furthermore, refraining from working in the garden when plants are wet can reduce the spread of diseases.

By taking these steps gardeners can effectively manage plant diseases. This approach not only protects the garden from the myriad of pathogens waiting to attack but also leads to a bountiful and healthy harvest.

Table 20.15. Earliest and latest planting dates in the garden in Kentucky. (If producing your own transplants, begin two to 12 weeks earlier than these listed dates. See Table 6.)

Crops	Earliest Safe Planting Date			Latest Safe Planting Date ¹		
	Western	Central	Eastern	Eastern	Central	Western
Asparagus (crowns)	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	(Spring only)		
Beans (snap)	Apr 10	Apr 25	May 1	July 15	July 25	Aug 1
Beans (lima)	Apr 15	May 1	May 10	June 15	June 20	July 1
Beets	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 15
Broccoli (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
B. Sprouts (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cabbage	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Carrots	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cauliflower (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	July 20	Aug 5
Celery	Apr 1	Apr 5	Apr 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Chard	Mar 15	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 15	July 15	Aug 1
Collards	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 15	Aug 20	Aug 30
Sweet Corn	Apr 10	Apr 20	May 1	June 15	July 10	July 20
Cucumbers	Apr 20	May 1	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Eggplant (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Garlic	-	-	-	Nov 1	Nov 7	Nov 15
Kale	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Kohlrabi	Mar 15	Mar 20	Mar 25	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	Aug 1	Aug 15	Sept 1
Lettuce (bibb plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (head plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Muskmelons	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Okra	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Onions (sets)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Onions (plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	June 15	July 1	July 15
Onions (seed)	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Parsley	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Parsnips	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Peppers (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Irish Potatoes	Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Sweet Potatoes	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 1	June 10	June 15
Pumpkins	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 1	June 15	July 1
Radishes	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Sept 1	Sept 15	Oct 1
Rhubarb (crowns)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Rutabaga	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	July 1	July 10	July 15
Southern Peas	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Snow Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	July 20	Aug 1	Aug 8
Spinach	Feb 15	Mar 1	Mar 10	Aug 15	Sept 1	Sept 15
Summer Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Tomatoes (plants)	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Turnips	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 20
Watermelons	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Winter Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15

¹ Based on average of early maturing varieties. Mid-season and late-maturing varieties need to be planted 15 to 30 days earlier than latest date. Nearly all of the fall-planted garden crops will require irrigation during dry periods. Additional insect controls may be necessary for these tender young plants.

Fill & Spill

MAY 6TH AT 4:00 PM

**Call to sign up spots are
limited**

call 564-3286



**Mason County
Public Library**

Mason County Public Library



**Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener**

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



THE GRAND PLANT SALE 2025



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 9TH 2025**
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

 **Cooperative
Extension Service**
Mason County



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 40506



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accommodated
with prior notification.

SELF-WATERING CONTAINER GARDENING

Join us for a hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to create and maintain your very own self-watering container garden. Self-watering gardens are an efficient way to grow plants while conserving water and reducing maintenance. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced gardener, this program is perfect for anyone looking to create a sustainable and low-maintenance garden at home.

IN THIS WORKSHOP, YOU WILL:

- Learn the basics of self-watering garden design and how to build a self-watering container
- Explore the best plants to grow in a self-watering garden, including herbs, vegetables, and flowers.
- Gain hands-on experience in setting up your own self-watering container garden

MAY 15TH

10:00 AM OR 7:00 PM

Mason County Extension Office

606-564-6808

Must call to register

FREE

UP THE RIVER

WITH A PADDLE

Join us for a fun-filled day on the water at Blue Licks State Park. Starting at 9:00AM we'll paddle 4 scenic miles down the Licking River while learning about the water quality & incredible creatures that call it home. Learn how to test water quality, why it matters, & what we can do to protect our water ways.

MAY 17, 2025 | 9:00AM

No canoe? No problem! We've got you covered.
\$20 per person which includes lunch! ****SPOTS LIMITED****

**CALL MASON CO. EXT OFFICE TO REGISTER:
(606) 564-6808**





DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF DAYLILIES

- ▶ Discover the beauty and diversity of daylilies, with insights into different varieties and their characteristics.
- ▶ Learn about the cultivation, care, and maintenance of daylilies for stunning garden displays.
- ▶ Engage in a lively Q&A session with our knowledgeable Master Gardener.

SIGNUP REQUIRED
CALL 564-3286

MASON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
06 | 03 | 25
4:00 P.M.





Irrigation Basics

This hands-on program allows participants to design and assemble a customizable irrigation system tailored to meet individual requirements.

June 16th at 6:00 PM
Mason County Extension Office
Call 564-6808 to Sign-Up



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



Garden

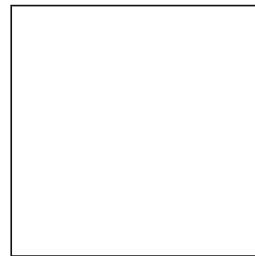


Landscape



Containers





Elderberry Production

Shawn Wright (UK-Horticulture), Ali Hulett and Thomas Pierce (KY Center for Ag & Rural Dev.), will be presenting a program for individuals interested in learning more about agribusiness planning and elderberry production.

2 Locations

June 10

6:30 PM

Madison County Ext. Office
230 Duncannon Lane
Richmond, KY 40475

Fleming County Ext. Office
1384 Elizaville Road
Flemingsburg, KY 41041

June 26

6:00 PM

Pre-registration

