

Pay Dirt


HORTICULTURE
October 2025



Cooperative Extension Service
Madison County
230 Duncannon Lane
Richmond, KY 40475
(859) 623-4072
Fax: (859) 624-9510
<http://extension.ca.uky.edu>

Hello Horticulturalists!

Fall is here! While we may be on a gardening hiatus until spring, consider planting a cover crop. It's a nice gift for your garden after working so hard all year!

Sincerely,


Amanda Sears
County Extension Agent for Horticulture

Farm City Banquet

Monday, November 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Madison County Cooperative Extension Office

Come join us in celebrating agriculture in Madison County!

In addition to great food and awards, **Dr. Craig Wood**, Assistant Extension Director for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Horticulture at the University of Kentucky, will present a program called **"AI Applications in Agriculture"**.

Tickets go on sale October 2nd until November 4th and are \$20 each. Purchase online at: <https://madison-4-h.square.site/> or in person by check (payable to "Madison County 4-H Council") at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office located at 230 Duncannon Lane in Richmond. For more information call 859-623-4072.



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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. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



MAKING MAPLE SYRUP IN KENTUCKY

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:30-8:30 PM

Madison County Cooperative Extension Service
230 Duncannon Lane, Richmond, KY 40475

Join us for an introduction to making maple syrup in Kentucky. We will cover tree identification, tapping, processing, equipment and marketing, and utilization of maple syrup. Snacks will be provided.

Call 859-623-4072 to register



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Amanda Sears
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Madison County Extension Agent for Horticulture
amanda.sears@uky.edu

GARDEN PALOOZA



Saturday, October 18th, 2025
9:30AM -12:00 PM

Item drop off: 9:30am - 10:30am

Swap begins at 10:30am

Madison County Cooperative Extension Service
230 Duncannon Lane, Richmond, KY 40475

**Join us for a
garden item
swap!**

Bring any of the following to the swap: plants, gardening books (or magazines), tools, seeds or any other garden item. Please do not bring chemicals, invasive or weedy plants, non-horticulture books.

In addition to the swap, there will be information about **growing fruit, vegetable gardening, local foods, composting and more!** We will also **be accepting soil samples that day.** We need two cups of soil to run a test. For more information, on soil testing, go to <https://madison.ca.uky.edu/horticulture>

Everyone is welcome to attend this FREE event, even if you do not bring items to swap! Participants can sign up to win a rotary composter.

If you plan to attend, have any questions or need more information, call 859-623-4072 or email amanda.sears@uky.edu.

Items cannot be dropped off prior to the event



THE KY INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL PRESENTS

2025 INVASIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

NOV 18, 9-3:30 ET

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
PERKINS CENTER
822 HALL DR, RICHMOND, KY 40475
\$75, LUNCH & CEUS INCLUDED

MORNING TALKS
POSTER SESSION (SIGN UP TO PRESENT)
AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS

REGISTER
HERE



[forestry.ca.uky.edu/
invasive-plant-conference](https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/invasive-plant-conference)



Looking for Local Food and Products?

Check out the farmer's markets! We are fortunate enough to have two markets here in Madison County.

Berea Farmers' Market

The market is open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays at the Chestnut Street Pavilion at 635 Chestnut Street. On October 25th, the market will celebrate a Halloween Harvest. There will be treats for kids, which are welcome to dress up! Follow their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bereafarmersmarket>; website: <https://www.bereafarmersmarket.org/>

Madison County Farmers' Market

Market open on Saturdays until the end of October at White Oak Pond Church from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. For more info, check out their website at [mc-fm.org](https://www.mc-fm.org). You can also find them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MadisonKYFarmersMarket>

Common Persimmon

The common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), is a native Kentucky tree valued for its fruit, wood, and wildlife appeal. This should not be confused with Asian persimmons which are not winter hardy in Kentucky.

The fruit of the persimmon is a plum-like berry that grows to three-fourth of an inch to two inches in diameter. The fruit is very astringent and mouth numbing when green but will turn sweet and edible when they are ripe, which occurs after a hard freeze in mid to late fall. It is popularly believed that a hard frost is required to sweeten the fruit, but actually persimmons just require a long period for ripening. Mature fruit may be yellow, orange, bright red, or blue in color. Fruit becomes soft and mushy while ripening. Edible fruits often hang on the trees through fall, and even into winter, unaffected by freezing temperatures.



Persimmon tree



Persimmon fruit

Persimmons are normally dioecious; which means trees produce either male or female flowers on separate trees. The male trees do not produce fruit.

Persimmon can be propagated from seeds, cuttings, suckers, and grafts. Plants can be easily produced from seed after a 3-month period of seed stratification. Seedlings that are one to two years old may be transplanted to the orchard. To ensure high quality plants and fruit, however, it is best to plant grafted or budded trees. Persimmons have a long taproot that can make transplanting more difficult.

It may take as many as 10 years for trees to come into full production.



Inside our persimmon seed had the appearance of a spoon. Does this mean a lot of snow this winter?

According to weather prognosticators, if you cut a ripe persimmon in half and look at the cotyledon (baby plant) inside it, you can predict the weather. The cotyledon comes in three shapes. The fork which shows that the winter will be mild; a spoon predicts there will be a lot of snow; a knife means the winter will be biting cold and "cut like a knife."

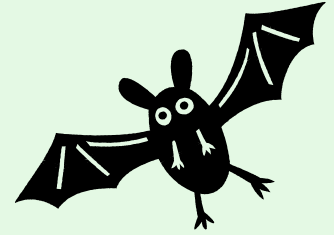


Stratification of Persimmon seeds

An experiment was conducted here at our office in which we cut open several persimmon seeds. The predominant shape inside the seed was a spoon. As seen in the picture to the right. Full disclosure these seeds were from Land Between the Lakes. So geographically, this may not be accurate. I guess time will tell!

We also decided to stratify seeds and then try to get them to germinate. Since it takes three months of cold (we put it in our refrigerator), we will check on them after the new year to see if they will germinate.

Garlic: Good for more than just keeping vampires away!



Garlic is commonly used as a flavoring for food, as a condiment, and for medicinal purposes.

October is a good time to plant garlic. Choose an area with full sun and good drainage. Before planting, fertilize the area and incorporate it into the area. Once soil is prepared, separate individual cloves from the main garlic bulb and plant cloves 3-5 inches apart with points up and cover to a depth of 1-2 inches. Do not divide the bulb into cloves before you are ready to plant. Leave skin on the clove.

Water thoroughly after planting and then mulch with 4-6 inches of seed free straw. This helps to moderate soil temperature in winter and to combat weed growth. The cloves may sprout after becoming established, but do not let that alarm you.

Growth will ramp up in early spring. Fertilize in May and be sure the planting is receiving enough moisture. To grow well, the plant requires one inch of water per week. As flower shoots (scapes) form in late spring, be sure to cut them off. If allowed to mature to seed, they can reduce bulb size.

Bulbs are ready for harvest when the tops begin to yellow, usually in mid-summer. Do not wait until the leaves are completely brown to harvest. Be sure to dig the bulbs rather than pulling them. Remove excess dirt but do not wash the bulbs.

For more information on growing garlic, check out “A Beginner’s Guide to Growing Garlic” from the University of Kentucky:

<https://publications.mgcafe.uky.edu/sites/publications.ca.uky.edu/files/NEP241.pdf>

Pest Proof Your Home

As temperatures begin to cool, unwanted guests may start to show up around your house. A little work now will prevent them from becoming a headache later in the season.

Install door sweeps at the base of every exterior door. You should not be able to see any light coming from under the door when it is closed.

Seal of any areas where pipes and wires enter the foundation and siding. Holes can be plugged with caulk, cement, steel wool, or some other material that would act as a sealant.

Install hardware cloth over attic, roof, and crawl space vents in order to prevent entry of birds, bats, squirrels, rodents, and other wildlife. A chimney cap is also a good idea to install on your chimney.

Insects need just 1/16 of an inch crack to get inside. Mice, bats, and snakes can enter through a gap of 1/4 of an inch. That is the size of this spot:



Got Questions? We've Got Answers

- Soil Testing
- Insect Identification
- Plant Disease Diagnosis
- Plant Identification

For Horticulture questions, please contact me at 859-623-4072, or e-mail, amanda.sears@uky.edu.
You may also stop by and visit me at the Madison County Extension Center, 230 Duncannon Lane, Richmond.