

»» NEWSLETTER ««

BOYLE BUDS & BLOOMS



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

AGENT REMARKS



WOW! What a winter?!? I am sure we are all ready to get outside, get our hands dirty and soak up the warm sun! Take advantage of these warmer days to plan your garden, purchasing your seeds for the upcoming growing season and while doing that, I encourage you to buy a new-to-you plant or variety to try out this year! March can still throw some crazy winter weather at us so don't get ahead of yourself in your garden. Once the soil begins to unthaw and dry out, I encourage you to get your soil tested before you start the season.

Make sure you follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on what is going on around the office!

Kaitlin Farlee



**BOYLE CO. HORTICULTURE
AND BOYLE COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE**

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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Growing Kentucky Lettuce



PLANTING LETTUCE

Easy-to-grow, cool-season lettuce is a popular salad vegetable. Lettuce is a great crop to interplant with other crops.

FOUR TYPES OF LETTUCE

- **Leaf** (Grand Rapids, Green Star)
- **Butterhead/ Bibb** (Nancy, Buttercrunch)
- **Romaine** (Coastal Star, Green Towers)
- **Crisphead** (Iceberg, advised not to be grown in Kentucky due to climate)

SAFE PLANTING DATES

Western Kentucky: March 15-April 15
 Central Kentucky: March 25- April 20
 Eastern Kentucky: April 1- April 30



Elderberries

Elderberries are a perfect crop for small farms! These perennial shrubs are easy to grow on small farms and offer a range of product possibilities, from juices and syrups to wines and jams, all while boasting impressive health benefits.

Learn more by checking out UK Extension Publication CCD-CP-5 or visit your county extension office!

*Source: UK Extension Publication CCD-CP-5
 An Equal Opportunity Organization.*

*Source: UK Extension Publication ID-128
 An Equal Opportunity Organization.*



CHOOSING HEALTHY TRANSPLANTS

- Look for compact plants with short distances between leaves, thick stems, and dark green, upright leaves.
- Avoid plants showing signs of flowering or fruiting early on. It may take longer to establish compared to those grown in containers.
- Be wary of plants clipped before shipping, as this can cause stress and spread disease.
- Ensure plants have been hardened off (gradually acclimated to outdoor conditions) before planting.

*Source: UK Extension Publication ID-128
 An Equal Opportunity Organization.*

SPRING GARDEN TILLING



Home gardeners might be experiencing “spring fever” with the warmer temperatures and in a rush to do spring tilling. But keep in mind, the ground is still wet from a recent snowfall and a lot of rain. Don’t till the ground too early and potentially damage the very structure of your garden soil that could last for years to come.

Tilling your garden while it is still wet can destroy valuable soil structure. Soil structure describes the arrangement of the solid parts of the soil and the pore space located between them. Once that soil structure has been destroyed, it is not easily re-established. The pore spacing is critical for overall plant health and root development. Soil that has been tilled when wet will often form soil “clods” that can give you problems later on and can be difficult to deal with. In addition, foot traffic on wet soil can do as much damage in some cases as tilling when the soil is wet.

Also, if your soil contains even a moderate amount of clay, tilling with the right moisture content is even more important. One way to do a moisture check is a quick “squeeze test” to determine if you can till the soil. Take a handful of soil and squeeze it into a ball in your hand. If pressure from your fingertips causes the ball to crumble, the soil content should be good for tilling. Another option is to drop the soil ball from about waist high. As you might expect, if the ball shatters when dropped, it may be dry enough to work the soil without destroying the structure.

If you plan on adding soil amendments such as compost, it is good to work those into your soil early in the season. Be sure to blend any amendments thoroughly into the soil with a shovel or spading fork. Hand mixing in smaller areas is sometimes a better option than tilling compost into the soil with a rototiller. These warm, sunny spring days can be the best opportunity to work the compost into your soil. It’s important to remember that compost that has been sitting on top of your garden as a mulch has been insulating the soil too. The insulation effect can keep the soil from warming up and drying out. Mixing that compost into the soil will help speed up the warming process and could allow you to get plants into the ground sooner.

Source: Ray Tackett, UK Extension Agent Horticulture



PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE GARDEN



Gardening is a rewarding experience that provides fresh produce and a deeper connection to nature. The Growing Your Own - GARDEN calendar from Plan Eat Move—a part of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service—is an excellent resource to guide both novice and seasoned gardeners through the planting and harvesting seasons. With monthly recommendations and engaging activities, the calendar helps individuals and families plan a productive and enjoyable gardening experience.

A well-planned garden starts with careful preparation. Before planting, sketching a layout can be a useful exercise. For families, involving children by having them cut out pictures of vegetables and placing them on the garden plan can be both educational and fun. This interactive approach encourages engagement while helping gardeners visualize plant placement and spacing for optimal growth.

The calendar provides a detailed month-by-month breakdown of what to plant and when to harvest. Beyond planting and harvesting, the calendar incorporates family-friendly activities to make gardening even more enjoyable. Keeping a garden journal allows individuals to track planting dates, growth progress and harvest yields.

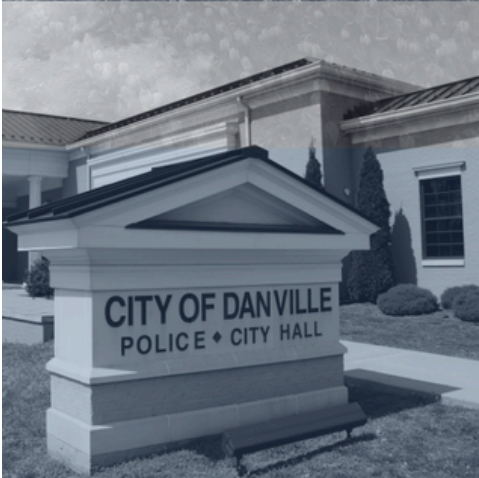
Children can add their own observations through drawings or short descriptions. Taste tests with homegrown produce introduce youth to different flavors while emphasizing the benefits of fresh food. Creative activities, such as making DIY garden markers with craft materials, add a personal touch and help with plant identification.

Success in gardening often comes down to simple, consistent practices. By following the guidance in the Growing Your Own - GARDEN calendar, gardeners can cultivate a thriving space that not only produces nutritious food but also fosters family bonding. Gardening is a journey filled with learning, patience and the satisfaction of harvesting what was planted. Whether tending to a small backyard plot or a larger garden, these seasonal tips and activities provide the foundation for success.

To access the guide, visit <https://www.planeatmove.com/get-moving/growing-your-own-garden> or stop by to pick up a copy in the office.

Source: Rick Durham, Department of Horticulture professor





Civic Engagement *and* Local Government

March 27th

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Boyle County Extension Office

Topic: What's in it for me? How your local Government works, and how you can be involved

April 24th

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Boyle County Extension Office

Topic: Save it! City of Danville Utilities and sustainability

May 22nd

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Boyle County Extension Office

Topic: On the Road Again. Parks, Public Services and Infrastructure in the City of Danville

June 26th

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Boyle County Extension Office

Topic: Who ya gonna call? Public Safety in Danville & Boyle County

July 24th

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Boyle County Extension Office

Topic: We're all in this together. How local partnerships move the community forward





Apple Tree Grafting

March 28th at 9am

Learn how to graft apple trees. This is a hands-on class. Free grafted apple tree rootstocks to take home afterwards. Space is limited. Must RSVP



Call 859-236-4484 to RSVP



Boyle County Extension Office
99 Corporate Drive
Danville, KY 40422

Boyle County

EARTH DAY 2025



OVER 35
LOCAL AND STATE
EXHIBITORS
LIVE MUSIC
FOOD VENDORS
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 • 9 AM - 1 PM

Constitution Square Park
 Main Street, Danville, KY 40422

*Rain Location: Boyle County Cooperative Extension Office
 99 Corporate Drive, Danville*

**SCAN QR CODE
 FOR MORE INFO**



BLUEGRASS
 GREENSOURCE



Sweet Potato Crisp

3 large fresh sweet potatoes, cooked until tender.

8 ounces reduced fat cream cheese, softened

1 cup brown sugar, divided

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

2 medium apples, chopped

½ cup all-purpose flour

¾ cup quick cooking oats

3 tablespoons butter

¼ cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly spray a 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan with non-stick spray.

2. Mash sweet potatoes. Add cream cheese, ¾ cup brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Mix until smooth.

3. Spread sweet potato mixture evenly into pan.

4. Top sweet potatoes

with chopped apples.

5. In a small bowl, combine flour, oats, and ⅓ cup brown sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbles. **Stir** in pecans.

6. Sprinkle mixture over apples.

7. Bake uncovered for 35-40 minutes or until

topping is golden brown and fruit is tender.

Yield: 16, ¾ cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis:
 240 calories, 6 g fat, 3 g sat fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 200 mg sodium, 44 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 20 g sugar, 4 g protein.

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

