

Horticulture Newsletter

From the Ground Up!

September 2023

Clark County Extension Service • 1400 Fortune Drive • Winchester, KY 40391 • 859-744-4682 • clark.ext@uky.edu • <http://clark.ca.uky.edu/>



A Word from the Agent...

Hello everyone!! I am writing this in the middle of a 95+ heat wave, so its hard to get in the mindset of September and the beginnings of fall. But let's wipe the sweat from our brow and start getting ready for those cooler nights!! If you are wanting to sow grass/re-seed your lawns, do it now. Yes, there's some watering on the front end as we get thru the last of the hot days (hopefully), but it gives it longer to establish before the very cold days get here. PLANT! Plant everything! It's a great time to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, and you still have some time to plant certain fall vegetable crops. Reach out if you have any questions about that, or anything for that matter. Lastly, make plans to attend our second annual FALL

FEST!!! Last year our inaugural fall fest was a huge success! We are hoping to add more to it this year, so please plan to come!!

Remember to call or message with your questions, and I look forward to seeing you around!

Carrie Spry

Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture

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Clark / Powell Beekeepers Association Meeting

**Monday,
September 11
6:30 pm**

Clark County Extension
1400 Fortune Drive; Winchester

~ POT-LUCK MEAL ~



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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CLARK COUNTY

How can we serve you?

Take a ten-minute survey to help us develop programs addressing needs in our community.



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KENTUCKY  KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

CLARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGVENTURES on DEPOT



SATURDAY
SEPT. 2ND
1-4PM

The Red Velvet Ant: Not Delicious or Cuddly

By Jonathan Larson, Extension Entomologist

Velvet ants are striking insects; they are memorable and interesting due to their fuzzy appearance and bright coloration. Their name is a bit of a misnomer though; they are not actually ants at all but are wasps. Their family name is Mutillidae and there are about 8,000 species of them worldwide. As a group, they exhibit sexual dimorphism, meaning that the male and female look quite different from one another. With velvet ants, males have wings and are capable of flight while females are wingless.

In Kentucky, the most commonly inquired about velvet ant is the red velvet ant, also known by the colorful nickname "the cow killer." This species (*Dasymutilla occidentalis*) has contrasting red and black coloration (maybe they're Louisville fans) that highlights their potential danger. They are also famous for "squeaking" when they feel threatened. They can be found near meadows, on forest edges, in fields, and in lawns. As adults, they drink nectar from flowers but have a unique way of raising their young. After mating, the female will seek out a nest of bumble bees (usually the Southern plains bumble bee) and lay their eggs on the bumble bee brood. They hatch and then devour the baby bumble bees alive. Other types of velvet ants

may attack the nests of solitary wasps, such as the cicada killer.

Because of their interesting coloration, their fuzzy hair, and cute squeaks, some people want to handle the velvet ant. In particular, children can make this mistake. This insect can inflict an extremely painful sting, so powerful it can kill a cow, according to urban legend. While not that quite that potent, it does rank a 3 out of 4 on the sting pain scale developed by Dr. Justin Schmidt. The best advice is to avoid them, and look at them from afar. Be sure to teach kids about what they look like and why they shouldn't pick them up. They don't have a nest like a honey bee or yellow jacket, so they are not aggressive defenders like those species.



Figure 1 An adult female red velvet ant showing their bright coloration and their generally fuzzy appearance. (Photo: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Entomology Department)



Figure 2: Only female velvet ants can sting, the venom injected by them can cause considerable pain to their unfortunate target. (Photo: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Entomology Department)



By Carrie Spry, County Extension Agent for Horticulture

With ghosts, goblins, and vampires on the prowl in October, it's the perfect time to plant your garlic for next spring. Garlic has long been viewed as a way to ward off vampires, according to European folklore. Whether that is fact or fiction, one thing is for sure, October is the time to plant garlic. Planting in the fall produces larger bulbs and more complex flavors. Garlic enhances food recipes and is seen as a traditional medicine in some cultures.

Garlic is best planted in the fall for harvesting next spring, usually in June. Nothing stores better after harvest than garlic because it is largely not affected by pests or diseases.

Place your garlic cloves in full sun and a well-drained, fertile site. Mix some organic matter like compost into the soil to provide more nutrients and to increase

drainage. Plant cloves about 2 inches deep in the soil with the pointed end of the clove turned up. Prior to planting you should do a soil test to make sure your pH levels are between 6.0 and 6.5. Adding shredded leaves or straw on top will protect the cloves from cold winter and retain soil moisture. Be sure to put your garlic in a corner of your garden or a space where you won't be planting next spring. Each clove of garlic should be planted six inches apart and will produce a new head with six to eight cloves at harvest. You don't need to plant a lot of garlic, because a little will go a long way.

There are three types of garlic, the softneck, hardneck and elephant garlic. The softneck has two types, the artichoke and silver skin. Both are common garlic types sold in the supermarket and you have likely used them. The hardneck has large cloves, is easy to peel and has more intense flavor than softnecks. It also has a flower scape or flowering stem. Elephant garlic is a third type but is actually a member of the onion family and is considered a variant of the leek.

For additional information, contact the Clark County Extension Office by calling 859-744-4682.

CLARK COUNTY EXTENSION FALL FESTIVAL

JOIN US AT THE CLARK COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE

FOOD
GAMES
GIVE AWAYS
AND MORE!

FOR OUR **SECOND ANNUAL**
FALL FESTIVAL!

1400 FORTUNE DR.
WINCHESTER, KY

OCTOBER 7, 2023
5:00-7:00 PM

 Cooperative
Extension Service





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QUICK
TIPS

for SEPTEMBER

- 1 Add some fall blooming perennials to your garden. Good candidates include: Japanese anemone, Hardy ageratum, non-invasive Goldenrods, Hardy begonia, Toad lilies, Asters, Montauk daisy, Perennial mums, Joe Pye Weed, and a wide variety of ornamental grasses. Make sure to keep plants well watered and try to have them planted early enough to allow establishment before freezing weather.
- 2 Continue to seed and renovate lawns this month if needed. Good seed to soil contact is critical. Consider renting a power seeder if you are working with a large area.
- 3 Order spring flowering bulbs now or shop garden centers for the best selection. Bulbs may be planted right away or stored in a cool place for later planting.
- 4 Plant cover crops in the vegetable garden after plants have been harvested. These can be tilled in next spring to add valuable organic matter. Or consider killing the plants and rolling flat to serve as an effective mulch you can plant through excellent organic weed control. For more information on varieties go to: <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id113/id113.pdf>
- 5 Begin early garden cleanup with the removal of diseased plant materials. This will help prevent problems next year. Healthy plants can be left for late fall or early spring clean up.
- 6 Plant fall vegetables. You still have time to direct sow radishes, turnips, spinach and lettuces. You can still succeed with transplants of broccoli, and fast maturing cabbage varieties if planted right away.
- 7 Plant trees and shrubs. Fall is a wonderful time to plant woody ornamentals. Try to allow plants time to establish before the onset of severe weather.
- 8 Divide peonies, iris, and daylilies through the middle of this month.
- 9 Visit a local orchard or farmer's market for apples, pears, fall raspberries and other seasonal treats.

Twice-Baked Acorn Squash

- 2 medium acorn squash (1 - 1 1/2 pounds)
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 cups fresh spinach, chopped
- 4 strips turkey bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 thinly sliced green onion
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Cut squash in half; discard seeds. Place squash flesh side down on a baking sheet coated with nonstick cooking spray. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes or until tender. Carefully scoop out squash, leaving a 1/4-inch-thick shell. In a large bowl, combine the squash pulp with the remaining ingredients. Spoon into shells. Bake at 350 degrees F for 25 to 30 minutes or until heated through and top is golden brown. Store leftovers in the refrigerator within two hours.

Yield: 4 servings.
Serving size: 1/2 of an acorn squash.

Nutrition Analysis: 210 calories, 9g total fat, 3g saturated fat, 25mg cholesterol, 710mg sodium, 27g total carbohydrate, 4g fiber, 1g total sugars, 0g added sugars, 9g protein, 0% DV vitamin D, 15% DV calcium, 15% DV iron, 20% DV potassium.



RECIPE