



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

Cooperative Extension Service

Clark County
1400 Fortune Drive
Winchester KY 40391-8292
(859) 744-4682
Fax: (859) 744-4698
Email: clark.ext@uky.edu

OCTOBER 2022



HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER

From the Ground Up

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A Word from the Agent...



Sound the alarm, October is here people! It can certainly be a super busy month as we try and put things to bed for summer and start preparing for winter all at the same time, but I love October. Get your vegetable gardens cleaned out as much as possible, this cuts down on overwintering bugs. Fall is a great time to plant trees and shrubs, so consider adding to your landscape. It's also a great time to divide most perennials. Keeping your beds from getting too crowded will cut down on disease potential. Lastly, I know I told you this last month, but make pans to come to our Fall Festival! Tell your friends and neighbors to come as well!! Many of you have been calling with your horticulture questions and it makes me happy to be able to help each of you, so keep calling! I am here to help YOU!

Carrie Spry

Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture
carrie.spry@uky.edu



@clarkcountyextension



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Clark/Powell Beekeepers Meeting



**Monday,
October 10**

6:30 p.m.

**Clark County
Extension
1400 Fortune Drive**

The meeting will be in person and there will be a pot-luck meal. For those unable to attend, a live stream of the meeting will be available by zoom. The link will be the same as previous meetings. Information will be sent before the meeting.

If you have any questions, contact the: Clark County Extension Office (859-744-4682).

FFA Alumni Meeting

Wednesday, October 12

5:00 pm

Ag Department at GRC

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
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4-H Youth Development
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LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



By Carrie Spry, Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture

Fall is the time to think about all those flowers we associate with spring: daffodils, crocus, and other easy-to-grow flowering bulbs. If you aren't growing any spring-flowering bulbs in your landscape, you are missing out on some easy-to-grow plants that provide early color to your garden.

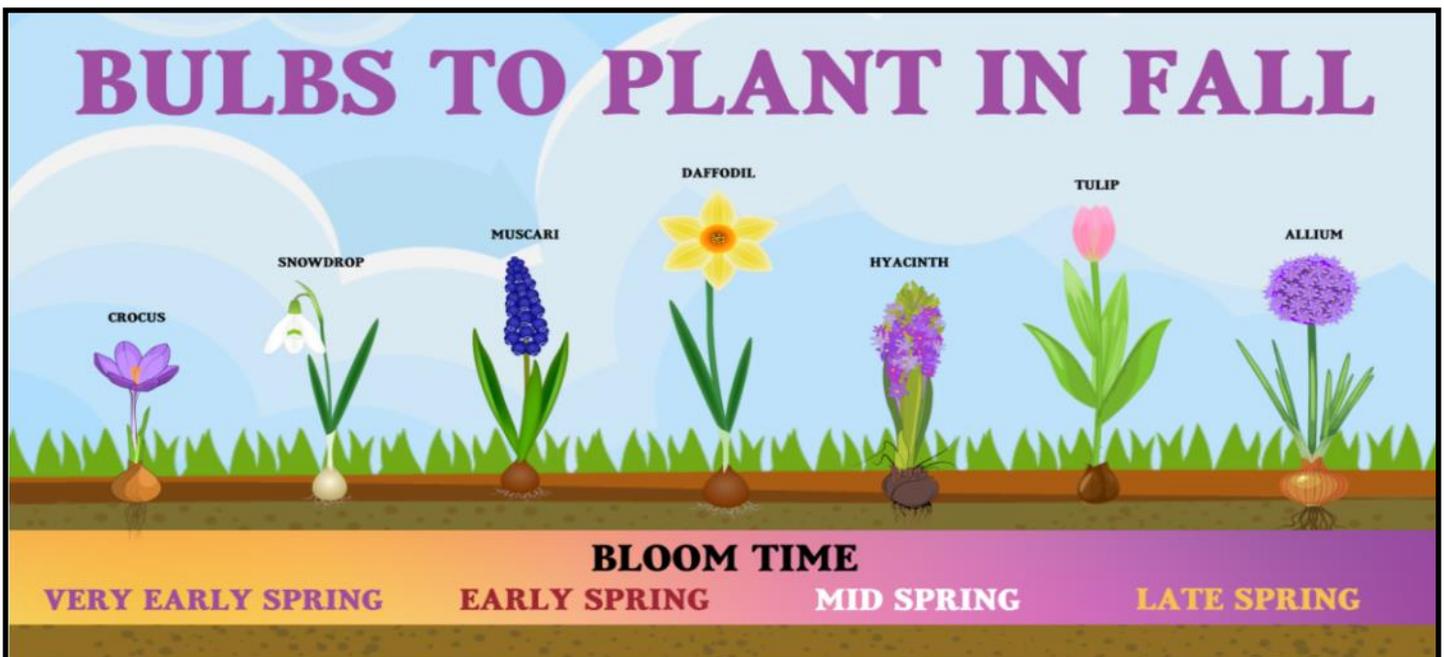
These bulbs are planted in fall because it corresponds to the end of their natural dormancy. Most of these plants begin root growth in fall, followed by a cool stratification period necessary for proper flower development (AKA winter) and then shoot growth in late winter and early spring.

No matter which bulbs you select, remember that the largest bulbs will produce the greatest show next spring. However, smaller bulbs will still produce some flowers, and these may be the best choice for mass planting or naturalizing. Avoid any bulbs that feel lightweight as these may have severely dried during storage.

It's important to plant flowering bulbs at the proper depth. The rule of thumb is to plant bulbs 2 to 3 times as deep as the bulb is tall. Example: If your bulb is 2" tall, it should be planted deep enough to have 4" to 6" of soil over top of it. Most bulbs do not need fertilization until growth emerges in the spring. Even then about 1 tablespoon per 5 square feet of 10-10-10 is enough.

Once flowering occurs, remove the faded blooms, but don't remove the foliage. The leaves produce sugars and other compounds necessary for the bulb to overwinter and bloom again the next spring. I know the foliage often times gets ugly in the summer but for large, healthy blooms next year, you need to leave the foliage as long as it is green.

Lastly, if you are itching to get your hands on free bulbs, then you will want to make plans to come to the Clark Extension Fall Festival (*see the flyer in this newsletter for more info*). Hopefully you already were planning to come, but if free flower bulbs is what it takes to get you there, we will have them! And congratulations for making it thru this article to learn that little bit of inside information!



What Says the Woolly Bear About Winter?

By Jonathan L. Larson, Entomology Extension Specialist

Now that summer is winding down, things like pumpkin spice, Halloween costumes, and hoodies may start appearing. Conversations may also start to turn toward predictions regarding the upcoming winter. A quick Google search reveals that there seems to be a negative anticipation about the 2022-2023 winter season, with some outlets predicting colder than average temperatures and possibly even higher than average amounts of snowfall. Though only time will tell if these models and predictions come true, others may turn to an unexpected meteorologist when prognosticating about the winter: the humble woolly bear caterpillar.

What is a woolly bear?

The woolly bear is also known as a woolly worm as a larva. They are a part of a group of moths known as “tiger moths.” The specific weather predicting species is *Pyrrharctia Isabella*, also known as the Isabella tiger moth. The adult form of the moth is a pale orange/light brown when the wings are closed. There can be broken black dots and lines on the wings as well. This species exhibits sexual dimorphism, which can be seen when the wings are open for flight. Isabella tiger moth females have slightly rosy hindwings, while males have pale orange hindwings.

The larval form is undoubtedly the more famous stage of their life cycle. They overwinter as caterpillars and can be found first in the spring. These winter warriors will pupate and become adults, laying eggs that will hatch into the next generation of caterpillars, which are seen as summer ends. While they are hairy throughout their lives, they don’t develop the thicker furry coat with bands of black and orange until almost completely grown. The larval stage is known to feed on a variety of plants, including grasses and clover, as well as sunflowers, milkweed, corn, maples, and birches. They aren’t normally considered a significant pest though.

When they pupate, the hairs from their body are incorporated into a cocoon that helps protect the pupal form. If you have ever looked under a log and found what looks like a webby hairball, it could have been a Woolly bear inside there developing into an adult moth.

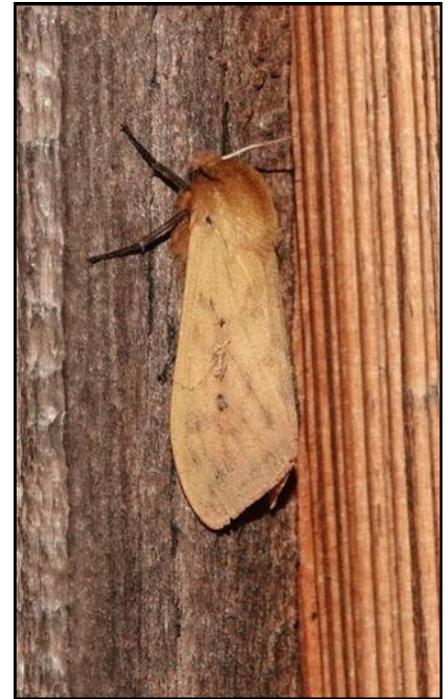


Figure 1: Adult woolly bears are called Isabella tiger moths, and they are a pale orange color when viewed with the wings closed. The moths are usually seen in the late spring/early summer. (Photo: Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org)

Where does weather prediction come in?

Folk wisdom holds that the woolly bear can be an indicator for upcoming winter weather when caterpillars are found in the autumn. There are two methods of prediction that can be employed. In the first, looking at the caterpillars for the relative amount of black hair versus orange hair will demonstrate how drastic winter might be. The more black hair compared to orange, the worse winter will be. A more analytical version of this folk wisdom is that the 13 body segments of the caterpillar represent the 13 weeks of winter. Looking at where black versus orange appears can tell when winter will be at its worst on the calendar.



Figure 2: Woolly bear caterpillars are known for a black and brown banding pattern to their “fur.” Folk wisdom tells us that these hairs may help when predicting winter weather. (Photo: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org)

Others believe that the direction the caterpillars are crawling can predict the weather. If they are heading south, then Old Man Winter has the worst in store for us.

Does it work?

It may not surprise anyone to hear that this particular method of winter foretelling has been found inaccurate. No correlation has been found between caterpillar color form and the severity of winter. Woolly bears can be highly variable in their coloration, not only year-from-year, but caterpillar-to-caterpillar.

Even though they won’t be hired by the Weather Channel anytime soon, woolly bears do have a unique connection to winter. As mentioned before, the caterpillar is the overwintering stage of this moth species. This is fairly unique as many moths would overwinter as an egg or as a pupa, both inactive life stages that can safely hide away from chilly temps. Woolly bears survive the winter by finding an out of the way spot

to hide from cold air temperatures. Further, they produce glycerol, an antifreeze like chemical, which can allow them to be super cooled to subzero temperatures for extended periods of time and still survive. So, even if they can’t tell us how cold the upcoming months may be, they will be prepared for the worst!

In Kentucky, we can celebrate this unique and beloved caterpillar at the Woolly Worm Festival, held in Lee County October 21-23 this year. If you go, be sure to check out the woolly worm race!

CLARK COUNTY EXTENSION FALL FESTIVAL



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EXTENSION OFFICE

FOOD
GAMES
GIVE AWAYS
AND MORE!

FOR OUR **FIRST EVER**
FALL FESTIVAL!

1400 FORTUNE DR.
WINCHESTER, KY

OCTOBER 8, 2022
5:00-7:00 PM



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I spend a lot of time asking homeowners to show me their tree butts. Buttress to be specific, but industry lingo shortens it to butt and is described as the dramatic widening of the lower trunk. The buttress of a tree is located beginning at the root flare where the base of the trunk flares out into the root system. How high up the buttress goes depends on the species. For oaks, it may only be two or three foot high. Some tropical trees have buttresses that go up twenty feet!

Tree Injury

Having the root flare exposed above ground is critical for the long-term health of your trees. Very often trees are planted too deep leading to butt rot.

Yes, that is an actual term uttered at arborist conferences and not a single person cracks a smile. This is serious stuff.

This year, I've seen a lot of injuries occur along the buttress leading to the decline and in some cases death of a tree. It is the buttress and root flare that so often comes in contact with mowers and string trimmers. The buttress is a critical area to avoid wounding as it connects the root system to the canopy. The tissue conveying water, nutrients, and carbohydrates up and down the tree is right behind the bark and when we sever or damage that tissue it creates an open wound for fungi, bacteria, and insects to access the trunk and then, you guessed it, butt rot.

Tree injury is not confined to the buttress. Homeowners deal with gashes caused by squirrels, overly ambitious gardeners with saws, storms that snap off huge limbs, and so many other errant tree injuries. What type of first aid should we be providing these trees whether it is at the buttress or up in the canopy? Should we seal tree wounds?

Treating the injury

Humans' first inclination is dressing the wound by painting it with some type of paint or sealer. After all, it works for us! A scratch on a human form a scab and often new skin tissue forms over top that scab. A bandage helps protect that area while the wound heals. But trees aren't humans. Believe me, I checked. Trees do not heal wounds. A tree seals off the wound with wound tissue.

Wound tissue is different than the original tissue. Once the original tissue is lost in a wound, it is gone for good. The tree responds by developing wound tissue to wall off the injury. Wound tissue is usually smoother and different in color than the normal tissue.

Oxygen is critical for the development of wound tissue to seal off a nasty gash in a trunk or branch. By painting wound sealers over the cut or damaged portion of the tree, we are hindering the process for that wound tissue to develop. Plus, we may be sealing rot organisms against the open wound. Some fungi and bacteria are even attracted to wound sealing materials.

All that said there are moments when wound sealing can be employed such as having a large wound on an oak created during the summer which may attract insects carrying oak wilt. Ideally, any intentional wounds to the oak tree should be made in the winter when insects aren't active. Typically, the recommendation is still to skip the wound sealer and paint the damaged area with an appropriate insecticide or fungicide.

So, should we be painting wound sealer on our pruning cuts, mower damage, or storm damaged portion of our trees? In most cases, the answer is "No."⁴

Now it is back to looking at pictures of tree butts. Some jobs have all the perks!

Good Growing Tip of the Week: If a gardener feels the need to clean up a tree wound, use sterilized pruning tools to clean up any ragged damaged portions of the tree. Frankly, this is work best suited to a certified arborist.

OCTOBER Quick Tips . . .

-  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.
-  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.
-  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.
-  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>
-  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.
-  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.
-  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.
-  Divide peonies, iris, and daylilies through the middle of this month.





Honey Raisin Muffins

<p>½ cup + 2 tablespoons all purpose flour</p> <p>½ cup + 2 tablespoons whole wheat flour</p> <p>¾ teaspoon baking powder</p>	<p>¼ teaspoon baking soda</p> <p>1 teaspoon ground cinnamon</p> <p>¼ teaspoon salt</p> <p>2 cups bran flake cereal with raisins</p>	<p>1 cup skim milk</p> <p>½ cup honey</p> <p>2 egg whites</p> <p>3 tablespoons unsweetened applesauce</p> <p>2 tablespoons canola oil</p>
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- 1. Combine** flours, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in a bowl and set aside.
- 2. In a large mixing bowl, combine** cereal, milk and honey; let stand for 2 minutes to soften. **Stir** in egg whites, applesauce and oil; **mix** well.
- 3. Add** dry ingredients and stir until moistened.
- 4. Fill** a greased or paper-lined muffin pan $\frac{2}{3}$ full.
- 5. Bake** at 400°F for 15-18 minutes.
- 6. Cool** 10 minutes before removing from pan.

Yield: 12 muffins.

Nutrition Analysis:
 150 calories, 3 g fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 170 mg sodium, 30 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 15 g sugar, 4 g protein.

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

