

HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER

“From the Ground Up”

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 . . .



Well hello my newsletter neighbors! I'm full of hope right now, so allow me to list my top ones! I hope this note finds you well. I hope any damage incurred from the snow and ice was minimal. I hope everyone stayed warm and positive through the frigid days. I hope February is a little nicer to us in the weather department! I hope my husband remembers what February 1st is... Most importantly, I hope to see all of you at Winter School! We have some great speakers and presentations lined up for you, so I feel very confident you will leave with useful information.

Remember to check out Gus' quick tips for the things you need to be doing right now. Gus knows best! If you have a tree damaged by ice, call me and I can help you determine your best options.

As always, I'll see you around!

Handwritten signature of Carrie Spry

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



KEEPING YOU Informed



Clark / Powell Beekeepers Association Meeting

Monday, February 10 6:30 pm

Powell County Extension Service
169 Maple Street; Stanton, Kentucky

~ POT-LUCK MEAL ~

Zoom option available for those who cannot attend in person. Call 859-744-4682 to be added to the email list to receive the link.

National Love Your Pet Day February 20
Mable Bumble
MY DOGS



Blacklegged Ticks Keep on Ticking

Regardless of Winter

By: Jonathan Larson, Extension Entomologist and Anna Pasternak, Entomology Graduate Student

When people think of ticks, they often think of them as a spring or summertime problem. This is the case for two of our common Kentucky ticks, the lone star tick and the American dog tick. Adults of these species are most common between April and August, with nymphal and larval stages popping up as well. These two species of tick can be important vectors of spotted fever rickettsia (American dog tick) and the Alpha-Gal red meat allergy (Lone star tick).

The most famous tick though, tends to be the blacklegged deer tick, also known as just the deer tick. This species is noteworthy as they are the only vector for Lyme disease in the eastern half of the United States. Blacklegged ticks like to feed on their favorite host, the white tail deer, but are more than happy to also slurp up some blood from a human. Unlike their aforementioned cousins, adults of this species are most common from October to May and will be out and about on any day above freezing.



The three most common types of ticks that may affect people in Kentucky are the blacklegged tick, American dog tick, and Lone star tick. The adults can be active at different times of the year and may be encountered in various habitats. (Photos: Anna Pasternak, UK Entomology)



A bullseye patterned rash is common in patients who have acquired the pathogen responsible for Lyme disease. (Photo: Center for Disease Control).

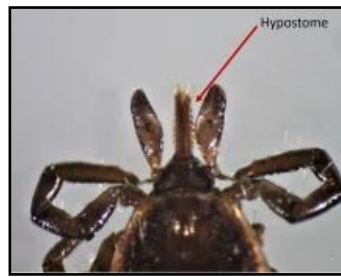
Lyme Disease & the Blacklegged Tick

Cases of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases in the United States are increasing each year—they are also increasing in Kentucky. Lyme is very common in the north-eastern region of the United States, but in recent years doctors have seen more cases in the mid- and south-eastern states as well. Scientists believe this is because blacklegged tick populations

are growing. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) cites that Lyme disease affected an estimated 450,000 people in 2018, a 1,400% increase from the number of cases seen in 2003. In people, Lyme disease symptoms include fever, fatigue, joint pain and a rash that appears in a bullseye pattern at the site of the bite. This disease also infects dogs and can cause lameness, joint pain, and fever. Proper removal of the tick and early treatment for illness are the most important steps you can take if an infection takes place.

Blacklegged Tick Facts

Blacklegged ticks are found anywhere that deer may roam. They “quest” at the tips of branches or on plants that deer would be likely to rub up against. When they get on humans, they will seek out a thin-skinned area where they can plug in their mouthparts. Ticks must drink blood in order to develop through their life cycle and females need blood to produce eggs as well. The mouths of ticks have backward facing spines and they can produce a natural “cement” to help anchor them in place.



When ticks feed, they insert a hypostome into their host. This mouthpart has many backward facing spines and can make it difficult to remove the tick! (Photo: Anna Pasternak, UK Entomology)

Tick Removal

If you find a tick feeding on you, you need to safely remove it as soon as possible. There are many “remedies” you can find for removing ticks on the internet, but the most basic advice is best. Use a pair of tweezers to grab the tick as close to your skin as possible and firmly pull the tick straight up. Do not wiggle the tick out, do not twist it around; just one

swift pull upwards from the skin. You must also avoid treating the tick with essential oils, alcohol, or fire while it is still “plugged in” to you. You will drive the tick off with these kinds of products, but you will also increase the chance the tick “vomits” into you, possibly transferring any pathogens that may be inside of them.

Protection from Ticks

Because the Lone star and American dog ticks are active during spring and summer and Blacklegged ticks are active through winter, it’s smart to protect yourself from ticks whenever you spend time outside in areas where ticks may live. Using repellants for your skin (such as DEET or picaridin) can help but treating your clothing with permethrin will provide the best protection. Permethrin is not to be used on the skin and should only be applied to clothing items. Everyone should also be performing routine tick checks after spending time in tick habitat to hopefully intercept ticks before they bite. Treating your pets with tick preventive medicine will keep them tick-free and help to prevent them from accidentally bringing the little bloodsuckers into your yard and house.

2025 WINTER SCHOOL

FREE!

February 4, 6, 11 and 13

6:00 pm *(A meal will be served each night)*

Clark County Extension Service

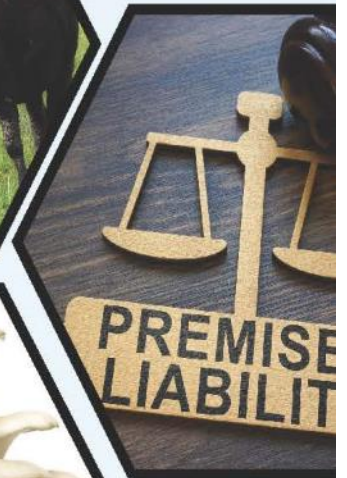
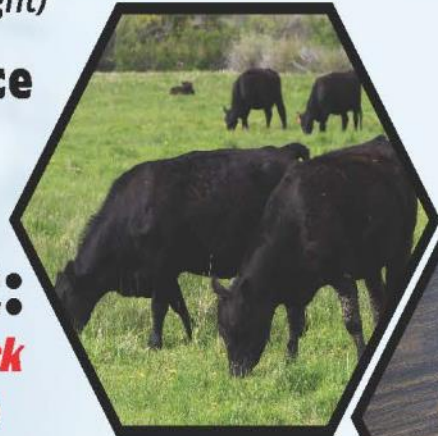
Topics for each night:
(For details about each night, check out our website or Facebook page)

4th Beef Night

6th Farm Night

11th Hort Night

13th All Property Owners



To register:

 **859-744-4682**

 **cynthia.carr@uky.edu**

****These classes will
qualify for CAIP
educational hours!****

How to Prune Flowering Shrubs for More Blooms

By: Ken Johnson
Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois Extension

Have you ever seen a lilac bush that only blooms at the very top, or maybe not at all? Perhaps you've seen or have a forsythia bush that doesn't bloom nearly as prolifically as it once did. This often happens due to a lack of or improper pruning. When done correctly, pruning can help flowering shrubs thrive and produce a bounty of blooms.

Why prune?

Pruning flowering shrubs has several benefits. Pruning will help maintain a plant's shape, remove dead or diseased wood, and open up the canopy, allowing light and air to reach the shrub's center. For the most part, younger branches and

stems will produce more flowers than older plant material. Removing old, unproductive plant material will encourage the growth of new flowering shoots.

When should I prune?

When you prune will depend on when your shrubs bloom. Spring-flowering shrubs, such as lilacs and forsythia, bloom on old wood. This means they set their flower buds the previous year. These plants are typically done blooming by the end of June and should be pruned shortly after they finish blooming in spring. Pruning them in late summer, fall, or winter will remove flower buds and reduce the number of flowers in spring.

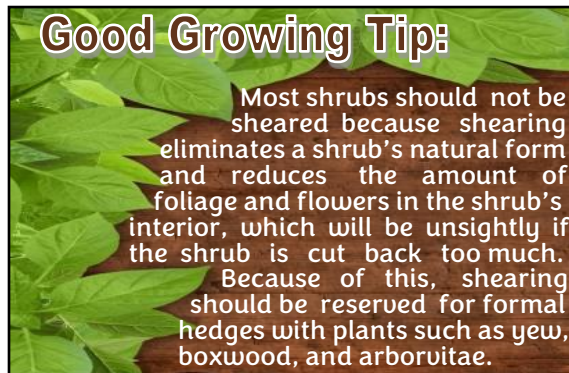
On the other hand, summer-flowering shrubs, like most roses and panicle and smooth hydrangeas, bloom on new growth. These should be pruned in late winter or early spring while they're still dormant. This gives them plenty of time to set new buds for the upcoming blooming season.

Pruning your shrubs

When pruning, start by removing any dead, diseased, or damaged wood. There are two primary types of cuts that are made when pruning shrubs: **Heading and Thinning Cuts**.



Heading cuts should be made at 45-degree angle, about 1/4 inch above a bud.



Thinning cuts remove an entire branch or stem to its point of origin.

• Heading Cuts

Heading cuts shorten a branch (or the shrub's height) while still maintaining the plants' natural form (if not overdone). They are done by removing part of a branch back to a bud. When making a heading cut, prune at a 45-degree angle, about 1/4 inch above a bud facing the direction you want the new growth to go (don't use an inward-facing bud).

• Thinning Cuts

Thinning cuts remove an entire branch or stem to its point of origin. This will help open the canopy, allowing more light to reach the interior and increase air circulation. Thinning cuts can reduce the size of a shrub without drastically altering its natural shape.

• Renewal or Renovation Pruning

If you have shrubs that have become overgrown or

aren't blooming well, they can be renewed / renovated over three years. This is done by removing 1/3 of the oldest stems each year for three years. For example, if your shrub has 12 stems coming from the ground, remove four the first year, then four more the second year, and the remaining for the third year.

• Rejuvenation Pruning

Another option for overgrown shrubs is to rejuvenate them. This is done by cutting all of the stems back within 4 to 6 inches of the ground in early spring. Doing this will cause the shrub to produce a lot of new shoots during the growing season. These stems should be thinned out, leaving the strongest stems the following year. Rejuvenation pruning works well on multi-stemmed, twiggy shrubs like red-twig dogwood, spirea, and flowering quince. It can also be done to lilacs. However, they may not bloom for several years after being rejuvenated.

HOMEBASED MICROPROCESSING WORKSHOP

Thursday, March 27, 2025

9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Clark County Extension Service



The first step to becoming certified as a homebased microprocessor is to attend a Homebased Microprocessor (HBM) workshop presented by the University of Kentucky. Homebased microprocessors are required to grow a predominant ingredient in the products they make.

Cost: \$50.00

**IN-PERSON
and
VIRTUAL**

REGISTRATION:

<https://ukfcs.net/HBM>

Click on the workshop on the right side; fill out the form, choosing in-person or virtual.

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



Gus'

QUICK TIPS

for

February February

- 1 The spring window for seeding lawns is mid February through mid March.
- 2 Continue to monitor house plants for pest problems.
- 3 Don't forget water for the birds in winter!
- 4 Now is time to start seedlings indoors. Wait until late February to start quick crops like tomatoes. Check your ID-128 for more details.
- 5 Have your soil tested NOW for spring gardens. (Turn around times are expected to be longer this year)
- 6 Bring branches of early blooming spring shrubs indoors for forcing. Good candidates are Forsythia, Flowering Quince, Flowering Cherries, and early blooming Magnolias.
- 7 Prune large shade trees now. If late in the month, some bleeding may occur but this is no cause for concern.
- 8 Plan to prune fruit trees this month. A day with temperatures above 40 degrees will allow you to spray them with dormant oil, which will take care of many overwintering insect pests.
- 9 Shop local garden stores now for best selection of seeds. Complete any mail orders for seeds as newer varieties will sell out quickly. Select varieties with disease resistance where possible.
- 10 Plan to rotate crops in this year's vegetable garden. You want to avoid not only growing the same plant in last year's location but any related plant from that family. Ideally try to set up a four year rotation for each family and plot. (for example, grow other unrelated crops for three years before you plant tomatoes in the same location again) This makes a big difference in the amount of disease pressure.

RECIPE

What's Cooking?



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.

