

MAY 2025

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 . . .



Hello everyone! Mayday, Mayday! The month of May is here! Good things can happen throughout May, so lets look at what some of them are.

We can start planting our warm season crops in May. Meaning tomatoes, peppers, beans, corn, squash, and a whole lot of other yummy vegetable crops can go out.

We can start planting annual summer flowers. I love the bright colors that we can get around our homes by adding flowers like petunias, million bells, lantana, begonias, gerber daisies, zinnias, and so many others. Whether directly in your landscape beds or in hanging baskets, they can add so much beauty to the summer season.

We can start getting ready for the emergence of cicada Brood 14! Who knows how many there will or will not be, but it really only means anything to those with young trees, especially young fruit trees.

You can NOT fertilize your lawns. You heard me right. Fall is actually the best time to fertilize our lawns, if you even choose to fertilize, so you can take that one off the list for now.

You should also start thinking about tick prevention and mosquito breeding ground elimination. My die-hard readers should know what those steps are, but if you are new to us or not confident in those steps, call me.

Call me anytime with those questions, and I'll see you around the county!

Carrie Spry

Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture

carrie.spry@uky.edu

Handwritten signature of Carrie Spry.

KEEPING YOU Informed



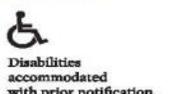
Clark / Powell Beekeepers Association

Monday, May 12 6:30 pm

Clark County Extension Service 1400 Fortune Drive, Winchester, 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.



# Tomato “Blight”



Tomato “Blight” – Leaf Diseases that Cause Blighting in Home Gardens (PPFS-VG-38) is available online or at the Clark County Extension Office

Tomato “Blight” – Leaf Diseases that Cause Blighting in Home Gardens (PPFS-VG-38) is a new Plant Pathology Extension fact sheet focusing on the three most common leaf spot diseases occurring on the most common vegetable crop grown in residential gardens. These tomato “blight” diseases (early blight, Septoria leaf spot, and target spot) weaken plants, reduce yields, and can ultimately kill entire plants.

Each disease is discussed separately in terms of symptoms and cause; however, disease management options included in the fact sheet are the same for all three diseases. The table of common cultivars and their disease risk is based on field trials in 14 Kentucky counties during the 2022 and 2023 growing seasons.



Early Blight



Septoria Leaf Spot



Target Spot

## Save these Dates!

The advertisement features a large Ferris wheel on the left. The text reads: 'COUNTY FAIR' in large, colorful letters, followed by 'June 21-28, 2025' in a red banner. Below that, it says '2025 Clark County Fairbooks will be available online ONLY on the Clark Fair website: http://clarkcountkyfair.org'. At the bottom, there are images of a red ticket and a blue and white cup.

The advertisement features a collage of fresh produce including tomatoes, carrots, and various berries. The text reads: 'WINCHESTER/CLARK COUNTY FARMERS MARKET' in large, bold letters, followed by 'Opening Day' in a yellow box, 'Saturday, May 10th' in red, and '8:00 am to 12:00 noon' and 'Depot Street; Winchester, Kentucky' in black. At the bottom, there are images of a hand holding a glass of juice, a bunch of carrots, and a display of various fruits.

# CARNIVOROUS PLANTS



**Thursday, May 8**

**6:30 pm**

**Clark County Extension Service**

1400 Fortune Drive; Winchester, KY 40391

**Free!**

**Meat eating plants only exist in Sci-Fi, right??**

**WRONG!**

Well, at least partially wrong. Carnivorous plants are insect eating plants that can make wonderful and fun houseplants. But the care for them and their needs can be a bit different than our other houseplants.

Join as we learn more about these unique little plants and how to properly take care of them. It is also very possible that you may leave with your own carnivorous plant.....

**SPACE IS LIMITED!**



**Register:**

**Call: 859-744-4682**

**Email: [cynthia.carr@uky.edu](mailto:cynthia.carr@uky.edu)**

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Periodical Cicada Emergence and Fruit Production



I saw my first 17-year cicada 34 years ago, which means the ones coming out next month across much of Kentucky are the 'grandchildren' of those. They number the different broods of the periodical cicada based on the year that they emerge and whether they are 13- or 17-year cicadas. What we will experience next month will be the most widespread emergence of the broods that occur in the state.

While a cicada emergence is truly an amazing experience for many, they can be very damaging to some crops like fruit trees, particularly young trees. The damage is done by the female during egg laying. She uses her egg-layer (ovipositor) to tear 1/3-inch slits on to pencil thickness limbs. She may make a dozen or more of these in a row, then in each of the slits she can lay a dozen or more eggs. These limbs are weakened and often crack and droop or break off entirely from the tree. This damage can disfigure young trees. After about 5 to 6 weeks, the eggs hatch and the nymphs drop to the ground where they tunnel through the soil in search of roots to feed on for the next 16 and a half years.

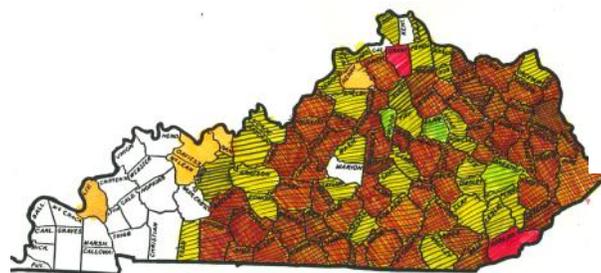


Figure 1. A 1991 map of periodical cicada emergence based on county extension agent reports of cicada emergence. Counties were colored yellow, orange or red based on reported intensity of emergence. Note that within counties, emergence sightings typically are localized to just a few areas within a county.



Figure 2. Egg-laying by periodical cicadas can cause significant damage to cultivated and forest trees. Flagging of damaged limbs is a common summer sight where these cicadas have been common (Photo: Ken Yeagan, UK professor emeritus).

Growers east of Hopkinsville and Henderson to the Virginia/West Virginia state line will need to monitor their trees and vines through May and watch for the cicadas gathering or any evidence of egg laying damage. There is a good chance that they will not cause a problem with any one specific orchard as they usually gather within pockets in a county, but they will attack apples, peaches, grapes and other fruit trees. Preventive sprays are not recommended as they don't occur everywhere. There is usually a 10 day or so window after emergence before they begin laying eggs, so there is a wide opportunity to monitor and treat as needed. Of the sprays available, the pyrethroids appear to be the most effective, but Sevin is also good. Be sure to read the label and match the correct insecticide with the type of tree needing treatment.

On apples, we generally try to limit the use of pyrethroids due to their toxicity to European red mite and wooly apple aphid predators and long-residual activity. However, when periodical cicada populations are excessive, many growers have made the decision to use a pyrethroid to prevent the limb damage at the risk of triggering mite problems. The last time this brood emerged, one grower noted that he used a pyrethroid and fought mites the next two years, but felt that he made the correct decision with the large numbers of cicadas that emerged in his orchard. Sevin, the carbaryl version, when used early in the growing season within 30 days of petal fall has the potential to thin the fruit (it is used as a thinner during this period). Use caution as the rate used to control insects is greater than the rate used to thin apples.



Figure 3. A fun activity for kids would be to have them spot a rare blue-eyed cicada.

# Webinar Event

## Living with Alpha-gal Syndrome

Learn more about AGS (red meat allergy) and how to reduce your risk with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension

### Topics Covered

- ✓ AGS basics
- ✓ Tick bite prevention
- ✓ Diet & lifestyle management
- ✓ Q/A session

**Thursday, May 29, 2025**

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Clark County Extension Office  
1400 Fortune Drive; Winchester, KY 40391

**Registration Recommended**

Call 859-744-4682 or email [cynthia.carr@uky.edu](mailto:cynthia.carr@uky.edu)



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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.



# Gus'

# QUICK TIPS

# for

# MAY

  
*may*

**1** Mulch landscape beds for weed control and moisture retention. Make sure to keep mulch away from tree trunks and the bases of shrubs. Just say NO to mulch volcanoes on your trees!

**2** Use liquid products for lawn weed control, if desired. Most granular weed control products contain fertilizer which should not be applied to lawns this time of year.

**3** Pick off all last year's bagworms from your evergreens before the eggs hatch. Continue to monitor evergreens for new bagworms. Carbaryl is effective as a control if you catch the larvae while small. Do not wait for the large "bags" to appear, as control will be difficult on older insects.

**4** Plant and seed vegetable gardens. Most warm season vegetables can be planted early this month and heat-lovers like peppers, squash, and sweet potatoes can go in later in the month.

**5** Plant some flowers! We should be frost free and good to go, so replace pansies and other cool season plants with appropriate summer choices.

**6** Move house plants outdoors late this month. Make sure you place them in a shady spot or they are likely to sunburn.

**7** Prune evergreens now through August.



## RECIPE



### Carrot Cake Smoothie

- 1 medium frozen banana
- 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 1/2 cup canned-in-juice pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1/4 cup low-fat vanilla yogurt
- 1/2 cup nonfat milk
- 4-5 ice cubes
- Dash cinnamon (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract (optional)

Wash hands with soap and warm water, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Rinse carrots under cool running water and scrub with a clean vegetable brush to remove any dirt before chopping. Add banana, carrot, pineapple, yogurt, milk, ice, and cinnamon and vanilla (if using) to a blender, and blend until smooth. If needed, add more milk to encourage blending. Refrigerate leftovers.

**Yield:** 2, 1.5 cup servings

**Nutrition Analysis:** 160 calories, 1g total fat, 0f saturated fat, 5mg cholesterol, 90mg sodium; 36g total carbohydrate; 4g fiber; 26g total sugars; 2g added sugars; 5g protein; 6% DV vitamin D; 10% DV calcium; 6% DV iron; 15% DV potassium.

### Kentucky Carrots:

**Season:**

June through Early August

**Nutrition Facts:**

Fat-free, cholesterol-free, low in sodium, and an excellent source of vitamin A, which is an important vitamin for eye health. A medium carrot contains about 30 calories.

**Selection:**

Choose well shaped, smooth, firm, crisp carrots with deep color and fresh, green tops. Avoid carrots that are soft, wilted, or split.

**Storage:**

Refrigerate carrots in a plastic bag with tops removed for up to 2 weeks.

**Preserving:**

Carrots can be preserved by freezing, canning, pickling, or drying.

**Preparation:**

Rinse and remove ends, peel if desired. Carrots are eaten raw or cooked. Use raw in salads, with dips, or plain as a snack. To cook whole or cut: steam, boil, microwave, roast, or add to stir-fries, soups, stews, and casseroles.

