



You know spring is here when your newsletter is overflowing. We have a lot of classes and events coming up in March! The Mercer County Farmers Market has applications available now for the 2024 market season. Visit our website to print one off or stop by the office to pick up a hard copy.

Applications are due by April 1st. Happy Gardening!

Jessica Bessin
Jessica Bessin,
Mercer County Extension Agent for Horticulture



Wild Garlic or Wild Onion?

As I look across our Extension Office lawn, it hasn't started to green up yet and the grass is not actively growing. However, what we do have taking off across our yard is wild garlic, or is it wild onion? After a quick trip outside and grabbing a handful, I discovered it is wild garlic. This is one of our easier lawn weeds to identify. The easiest way to tell the difference between these two plants is by their leaves. Wild garlic has hollow leaves and wild onion has solid flat leaves.

Both are perennials and emit a strong odor when crushed. Wild garlic produces flowers and dormant bulbs on the flowering stem; onion only produces flowers. Both plants also reproduce from underground bulblets and at this time are faster growing than the grass. These are tough plants and can withstand a lot of different conditions. The best defense against them is to maintain a thick healthy lawn.

How do we control these early spring weeds? To get full control can take several seasons. Hand-pulling doesn't work because the leaves tend to break off and leave the bulbs in the ground. If you just have a few in a landscape bed, a trowel might be your friend when it comes to digging them out. There are herbicide options available. Chemical controls can be effective but requires fall and spring applications. Wild garlic has a waxy coating on the leaves, making post-emergent herbicide treatments difficult. Unfortunately, there is no pre-emergent control option available. The last option is my go to. Just to ignore them. Both of these plants are actively growing in the late winter, they go dormant in the summer, and after the first mowing of the year it will be like they were never even there.



NOTICE

Public Notification of Procedure for Filing a Complaint:

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To initiate a complaint at the college level, contact Tim West in the Business Office at 859-257-3879. At the University level, Terry Allen and Patty Bender in the [UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity](#) (859-257-8927) may be contacted. Additionally, employee or clientele complaints involving any research or extension sponsored program or activity may be directed to the USDA, Director Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Bldg., 14th & Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 (202-720-5964).

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification

Cabbage Jambalaya

1 pound lean ground beef
1 ½ cups chopped celery
1 ½ cups chopped onion
2 cloves garlic, minced

1 (13 ounces) package turkey smoked sausage, sliced
1 medium head cabbage, chopped (about 10 cups)

1 (14.5 ounces) can diced tomatoes
2 cups water
1 cup brown rice
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning

Heat a large stockpot over medium high. Add ground beef, and cook until it starts to brown, about 6 minutes. Add the celery, and cook for 2 minutes. Add onion and garlic, and cook 4 minutes while stirring. Add smoked sausage, and cook an additional 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in cabbage, and cook until it wilts, about 3 minutes. Add tomatoes, water, rice, garlic powder, and Cajun seasoning.

Bring to a boil, and reduce heat to medium. Cover, and simmer for 40 minutes. Serve hot.

Yield: 10, 1-cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 250 calories, 8 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 60 mg cholesterol, 400 mg sodium, 26 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 6 g sugars, 0 g added sugars, 18 g protein

Spinach Pasta Bake

2 cups whole wheat penne pasta
1 pound lean ground beef
1 large onion, chopped
1 large carrot, shredded
1 teaspoon black pepper

1½ teaspoons dry basil
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon dried oregano

1 can (14 ounces) Italian diced tomatoes, drained
10 ounces fresh spinach, chopped
1 cup low-fat shredded Mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and cover to keep warm. In a large skillet over medium heat, cook the beef and onions until beef is no longer pink. Drain. Return beef to skillet. Add carrots and spices and cook an additional two minutes. Stir in tomatoes. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 10 minutes. Add pasta and

spinach and mix well. Cover and cook an additional 3 minutes or until spinach is wilted. Pour into greased 3-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with Mozzarella cheese. Bake, uncovered for 10 minutes.

Yield: 9, 1 cup servings
Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 4.5 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 35 mg cholesterol, 270 mg sodium, 25 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 4 g sugars, 18 g protein.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand. <http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



Mercer County Public Library
Lunch & Learn:

Gardening 101

March 14 at 12:00pm

We will cover basic gardening information from starting seeds to harvesting. No green thumb required! Bring your lunch! The library will provide beverages and something sweet. Presented by Jessica Bessin, Extension Agent for Horticulture.



Mercer County Public Library
109 W Lexington St—Harrodsburg, KY 40330

BREAKFAST  Event sponsored by Mercer County 4-H

With Easter Bunny

Saturday, March 16
8:00 -11:30 a.m.
Mercer County Fairgrounds
"The Stable"
560 Linden Avenue
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Tickets \$8.00
 Kids under 2 are free with paying adult

Enjoy a pancake/sausage breakfast Photo with Easter Bunny Petting Zoo, Easter Crafts & Facepainting

Proper Vegetable Garden Planning for Disease Prevention

The best vegetable garden sites are sunny with adequate moisture and fertile, well-drained soil. Avoid low spots, which can worsen soilborne diseases, and shady locations, which can worsen foliar diseases. Prior to planting, it is advisable to draw a planting map. This allows consideration into site limitations and succession planting. Scale models of the garden space can be drawn on graph paper, or simple maps may be made using a virtual spreadsheet. Choose perennial locations carefully to make tilling more convenient. Taller crops, such as sweet corn or tomatoes, should be planted on the north or west side of the garden to avoid shading shorter plants. Retain these maps from year to year and refer when planning next season. If the same garden site is used each year, avoid planting the same or closely related crops in an identical place each year. A three-year rotation is recommended, however, even a year or two out of a certain plant family can be beneficial. Crop rotation prevents disease-causing pathogens from building up in soil. Multiple vegetable crops are closely related and are prone to many of the same disease issues. The table to the right give a few examples of plant families and the crops that belong in them. Source: Kim Leonberger, UK Extension Associate for Plant Pathology

Plant Family	Common Family	Crop
Solanaceae	Nightshade	Tomato, pepper, potato, eggplant
Cucurbits	Gourd	Squash, melons, cucumber,
Fabaceae	Legume	Pea, bean
Lilaceae	Lily	Onion, garlic, leek
Poaceae	Grass	Corn

Mercer County Conservation Office Tree Giveaway!

Mercer County Conservation District will be conducting its annual spring tree seedling giveaway for all Mercer County landowners. This year, the seedlings will include Bald Cypress, White Oak, Silky Dogwood, Red Oak, Yellow Poplar, White Pine & Redbud. The 3,400 seedlings on hand are one to two years old and will be bagged in small groups. Planting instructions will be provided to each individual. The seedling giveaway will begin during the week of March 28th at the Mercer County Conservation Office. For more information call Linda Lake at 859-734-4326 extension 3 or visit the

Mercer County Conservation Office located at:

227 Morris Dr. Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Office hours are 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.



Mark Those Calendars!!

Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Mercer County Extension Office , March 11th at 10:00 AM March 18th at 1:00 PM & March 25th at 6:00 PM

If you are planning to purchase any restricted –use pesticides you need to attend this training. Certification is free and lasts for three years. The training program will take around 2 hours. To sign up, or for questions, please call the Extension Office at 859-734-4378.

County Extension Council-Mercer County Extension Office, March 7th at 6:00 PM

Keeping Bees 2.0(Catching Swarm)-Boyle County Extension Office, March 11th at 5:00 PM

Gardening 101-Mercer County Public Library, March 14th 12:00 PM

All About Herbs-Mercer County Extension Office, March 19th 10:00 AM

Farm City Dinner-Mercer County Extension Office, March 21st 6:00 PM

Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club-March 25th, Mercer County Extension Office 6:30 PM

Make sure to check out the Fort Harrod Beekeeping Facebook page for all the latest updates and announcements!

District Board Meeting-Mercer County Extension Office, March 26th 5:00 PM



Fort Harrod
Beekeeping Club





Boyle and Mercer County Extension Offices

Keeping Bees 2.0

Classes begin at 5:00pm

All classes will be held at the Boyle County Extension Office.

March 11—How To Catch A Swarm with Dan Stoltzfus

April 11—Planting For Pollinators with Shannon Trimboli

May 21—Going Through A Bee Hive

June 17—How To Extract Honey

Attend all four classes and get a free honeybee friendly plant!



RSVP to Boyle Office at
859-236-4484

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Join us monthly for our new
**Mercer County Extension Office
Homesteading Series!**

Call 859-734-4378 to RSVP

All About Herbs

March 19 at 10:00am

We will cover the basics of growing herbs and which ones do best in our area. Whether you are growing them for culinary use or planting them for pollinators they make a great addition to any garden!



Preserving, Storing, and Cooking With Herbs

March 27 at 10:00

Now that you have successfully harvested your herb garden, it's time to learn what you can do with them! Cooking with herbs is an excellent way to season food without adding fat or sodium. Many herbs can be dried or frozen for later use! In this class, you will find out the best method of preserving common herbs, how to store herbs for the longest shelf life, and using herbs to add flavor to your favorite dishes.

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330



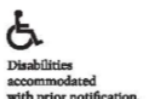
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FORT HARROD GARDEN GROUP

Fort Harrod Garden Group meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am.

If you would like to receive a text message about meeting times, locations, and volunteer opportunities please contact Mercer County Extension Office at 859-734-4378 or email Jessica.Bessin@uky.edu. **To attend a field trip, you must have attended two previous club meetings. Limited transportation will be available and you must RSVP in advance.**

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| 3/27—Boyle Office—Soil Testing | July—No meeting |
| 4/24—Wilson's Nursery | 8/28—Mercer Office—Native Fruits & Shrubs |
| 5/29—Mercer Office—Cucurbits | 9/25—Boyle Office—Flower Arranging |
| 6/26—Plant Propagation Field Trip | 10/30—Mercer Office—Hardy Annual Flowers |



Boyle County Extension Office
99 Corporate Dr.
Danville, KY 40422

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Rd
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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21st Annual Mercer County Farm/City Dinner



Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy a steak dinner! Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased from any primary sponsor.

Thursday, March 21st 6:00pm

Mercer County Extension Office

*Beef Cuts Demonstration
Dr. Gregg Rentfrow*

UK Extension Meats Specialist

Primary Sponsors

Mercer County Farm Bureau
Mercer County Conservation District

Mercer County Chamber of Commerce
Mercer County Extension Service

Donation and Door Prize Sponsors

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