



I think you can finally feel spring in the air, and I think everyone is ready for it this year! Don't forget if you are interested in joining the Mercer County Farmers Market their application deadline is April 1st. Visit their Facebook page for more information. Happy Gardening!

Jessica Bessin

Jessica Bessin,
Mercer County Extension Agent for Horticulture



Time to get out in the garden!

Have you been going stir crazy this past month, like myself or my son, wanting to plant in the garden. No matter how many times I tell him on these sunny days, it is still too soon for sunflowers. However, it is not too soon to plant some of our early cool season spring vegetables.

Cool season plants are productive during the spring's short and cool days. If they are planted too late in the spring, summer temperatures reduce their quality by forcing them to flower (bolt), and others to develop off flavors, bitterness, poor texture, and low yields. You can avoid all of these issues by planting as soon as the soil is workable. Do not work your soil when wet, this can ruin the texture. Try to wait for the best conditions no matter how much the planting bug is nibbling at your fingers.

The table to the right is a quick reference to all the plants you can either start directly as seeds in your garden, or place in your garden as transplants for the month of March. If you would like further information and more planting dates you can request one of our "Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky Guides".

Source: ID-128, Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky Guide.

Vegetable	Seed	Trans-plant	Planting Date
Beets	X		March 15th
Cabbage		X	March 25th
Carrots	X		March 20th
Chard	X		March 20th
Collards	X		March 10th
Kale	X	X	March 20th
Lettuce	X	X	March 25th
Onions	X	X	March 20th
Peas	X		March 1st
Irish Potatoes	Potatoes are available as seed pieces		March 15th
Radish	X		March 10th
Spinach	X		March 1st
Turnips	X		March 10th

NOTICE

Public Notification of Procedure for Filing a Complaint:

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification

Asian Asparagus Salad

1 pound fresh asparagus
1½ tablespoons low sodium soy sauce
2 teaspoons sugar or artificial sweetener
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 teaspoons sesame seeds


- 1. Snap** off and discard the root ends of the asparagus.
- 2. Wash** remaining stalks thoroughly.
- 3. Slice** stalks into 1½ inch lengths on the diagonal.
- 4. Blanch** asparagus for 1-3 minutes in boiling water, until bright green in color.
- 5. Cool** immediately

under cold water and drain.

- 6. Combine** soy sauce, sugar, olive oil, and sesame seeds in a small glass bowl. Mix dressing until sugar is dissolved.
- 7. In** a gallon zip-seal bag, add asparagus and dressing. Turn bag to coat asparagus with dressing and chill in the refrigerator for 15 minutes. Turn bag again and chill for an additional 15 minutes before serving.

Yield: 4, ½ cup servings.
Nutrition Analysis: 70 calories, 4.5 g fat, .5 g sat. fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 250 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 3 g protein.

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



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

Plate it up!



BOOKS IN THE BARNYARD

MARCH 22, 2025

MERCER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

10AM-12PM

FREE BOOK FOR THE FIRST 50 FAMILIES

JOIN US AS WE BRING THE BARNYARD TO YOU AS WE HEAR FROM OUR LOCAL FARMS



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







Gardening 101

Tuesday April 8 at 10:00am

We will cover basic gardening information from starting seeds to harvesting. No green thumb required!
Vegetable seeds will be available.

RSVP to 859-734-4378

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road—Harrodsburg, KY 40330




Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club

Monday, March 31 At 6:30pm

with Ric Bessin

Ric will discuss how to be more efficient with your bee equipment and other bee products besides honey.



Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road—Harrodsburg, KY 40330
859-734-4378

Horticulture Class Reminders



Starting this spring, you have the option to receive a text message reminder about upcoming horticulture classes. Use the QR or the link below to sign up for our remind system. After calling the Extension Office to RSVP for one of our horticulture classes, you will receive a text message reminding you the class is happening, if you need to bring any additional supplies, or if we must cancel due to inclement weather. Stay in the loop with everything that is happening with the horticulture program! www.remind.com/join/mcehp



Mercer County Conservation Office Tree Giveaway!

Mercer County Conservation District at 227 Morris Drive, Harrodsburg will conduct its annual spring tree seedling giveaway shipment to arrive **approximately March 25**. If we get the shipment of trees on the 25th, the trees are then bagged at the Mercer High School. Please check our Facebook page for the exact giveaway starting date. We are expecting that it could start on the 27th or 28th, but it will depend on the bagging timeframe.

This year the tree seedlings will include: baldcypress, eastern redbud, yellow poplar, northern red oak, white oak, persimmon, flowering dogwood, and white pine. The 6,100 seedlings on hand are one to two years old and will be bagged in small groups. Planting instructions will be provided to everyone. Call 859-734-4326 extension 3 ask for Linda. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mark Those Calendars!!

Fort Harrod Garden Club-March 10th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM

Growing Oyster Mushrooms-March 13th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM

RSVP was required for this class.

Harrodsburg Tree Board Meeting— March 17th, Mercer County Extension Office 5:00 PM

Farm City Dinner-March 18th, Mercer County Extension Office 6:00 PM

See insert for more details.

Books in the Barnyard-March 22nd, Mercer County Public Library 10:00 AM– 12:00 PM

See flyer above for more details.

Mercer County Extension District Board Meeting-March 25th, Mercer County Extension Office 5:00 PM

Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club-March 31st, Mercer County Extension Office 6:30 PM

See insert for more details. Make sure to check out the Fort Harrod Beekeeping Facebook page for all the latest updates and announcements!

Gardening 101-April 8th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM

See insert for more info.



Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club



22nd Annual Mercer County Farm/City Dinner



Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy a steak dinner!
Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from any primary sponsor.*

**Please contact the Extension Office at 859-734-4378 if you need special dietary consideration.*

Tuesday, March 18th 6:00pm
Mercer County Extension Office

Aleta Botts

Kentucky Farmland Transition Initiative Coordinator

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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Farmers National Bank
Monticello Bank
Whitaker Bank
Farm Credit Mid-America
First Financial
Central Kentucky AG Credit
DNA Properties

Dessert provided by:



ACE Hardware, Harrodsburg
Southern States, Harrodsburg
Burkmann Nutrition
Norby's Farm Fleet
Johnson's Farm Supply
McRay Feed & Grain
Old Fort Harrod & Kentucky State Parks

HOW YOUR \$10 AG TAG BUILDS BOUNDLESS FUTURES



KENTUCKY FFA

Provides travel scholarships for students and chapters competing at the **National FFA Convention**.

Offers grant opportunities for local chapters to enhance **classrooms and communities**.

KENTUCKY 4-H

Creates hands-on learning experiences, builds friendships, and fosters growth through **4-H Camp**.

Supports **skill development** through judging activities, 3-D design, and community projects.

100% TO AG

100% of Ag Tag funds are evenly split between Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, and Kentucky Proud.

Half of the funds for 4-H and FFA are returned to the originating counties.

KENTUCKY PROUD

Funds **scholarships** for programs like Athletes in Agriculture.

Makes events like the **Kentucky State Fair and North American International Livestock Exposition** possible.