



Fall is here and finally brought some rain with it. I am hoping you didn't have much damage that came along with all the rain we received. There are still things to do in the garden this month besides cleaning up, like planting garlic! Hope to see you at one of our many fall classes coming up.

Happy Gardening!

Jessica Bessin

Jessica Bessin,
Mercer County Extension Agent for Horticulture



Think Spring

Not what you would think would be in the October newsletter. However, if you enjoy all of those first pops of color in the spring from the crocus, daffodils, tulips and more, now is the time to act. The question is always asked, why do we need to plant them now when all we can think about are pumpkins, corn stalks, and mums?!



Most bulbs need to go through a cooling period in order to develop correctly. Planting in the fall also gives them enough time to get their roots established before spring growth occurs, which leads to a stronger and healthier plant. Like with other plants, site selection is important with bulbs. A well drained location is best to avoid bulb rot. Raised beds and flower pots are a great alternative for high clay areas.

Once a planting site is selected the rule is to plant the bulb two to three times the height of the bulb. If your bulb is two inches plant those bulbs 4 to 6 inches deep. This seems silly to say, but make sure the roots are facing down when planting. If you are planting a couple hundred it can be easy to accidentally plant one the wrong way. Plus like any plant, make sure to water once you plant them.

A couple of things to think about when planting. Planting large numbers of the same color can really make an eye catching display. Think about bloom times and mixing different bulbs. Crocus will bloom first, sometimes popping through the snow. Interplanting daffodils and tulips together can make a great display, as the daffodils start to decline the tulips start putting on a show.

If you already have a planting of bulbs and wish to spread them around, the best time of year to move them is once they have finished bloom, plus you can see where they are. Leave the foliage as long as possible after bloom, if you cut it too soon, the number of blooms will decrease or not show up at all the following year.

NOTICE

Public Notification of Procedure for Filing a Complaint:

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KADF MERCER COUNTY 4-H
 KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
YOUTH AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (YAIP)

- Applicants must be 9 years old & enrolled in elementary, middle or high school (includes home-schooled)
- Investment areas eligible:
 - Ag Diversification
 - Animal Production
 - Forage & Grain Improvement
 - Showmanship
 - Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE)
 - Country Ham Projects
- Cost-share on a 50/50 basis
- Eligible up to \$1,500 per program year
- Youth must complete educational components
- Money for on-farm investments available

APPLICATION PERIOD
NOVEMBER 1- DECEMBER 1, 2024

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM:
 Mercer County Extension Service
 1007 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
bit.ly/yaipinformation

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 859-734-4378

Dana Anderson dana.anderson@uky.edu
 Linda McClanahan linda.mcclanahan@uky.edu

Growing Garlic

October 24

5:00pm

October is the perfect time to plant garlic! Join us as we discuss how to add garlic into your garden rotation. **First 20 people to register will receive free garlic to plant. Limited to one per household.**

RSVP by October 21
 859-734-4378

 Mercer County Extension Office
 1007 Lexington Road
 Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Confetti Chicken Quesadillas

1 small green bell pepper, seeded and diced
 1 small red bell pepper, seeded and diced
 1 tablespoon hot pepper, minced (optional)

1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast, diced
 1 (1 ounce) packet fajita seasoning mix
 1 tablespoon olive oil

10 (10 inch) whole-wheat tortillas
 1 (8 ounce) package reduced fat cheddar cheese, shredded

Preheat the broiler and prepare baking sheet with non-stick spray. **Toss** the diced chicken with the fajita seasoning and place on the baking sheet. **Spread** chopped peppers on baking sheet. **Place** under the broiler and broil until the chicken pieces are thoroughly cooked and no longer pink in the center, about 10 minutes. **Brush** skillet with oil and heat to medium. **Place** one tortilla in skillet. **Layer** half of tortilla with approximately one-third cup chicken and pepper mixture. **Sprinkle** with 3 tablespoons cheddar cheese. **Fold** over and flip tortilla to crisp other side. Repeat until all quesadillas have been prepared. **Cut** each quesadilla into wedges and serve with salsa, if desired.

Yield: 10 servings
Nutritional Analysis: 270 calories, 10 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 40 mg cholesterol, 880 mg sodium, 2 g sugar, 23 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 19 g protein

Fall Spiced Pumpkin Bread


1/2 cup all-purpose flour
 1 1/4 cup whole-wheat flour
 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
 1 teaspoon baking soda

2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 cup melted margarine
 1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup honey
 2 cups pumpkin puree
 1/2 cup olive oil
 2 eggs
 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. **Mix** flours, baking powder, baking soda, pumpkin spice and salt; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, **whisk** together margarine, sugar, honey, pumpkin puree and olive oil. **Blend** in eggs. **Add** flour mixture. **Stir** until dry ingredients are moistened. **Spray** a 8-by-4 inch loaf pan with non-stick cooking spray. **Pour** batter into pan; **sprinkle** walnuts on top of batter. **Bake** for 1 hour. **Remove** from oven and **cover** with foil. **Return** to oven and **bake** an additional 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. **Cool** for 10 minutes and **remove** from pan.

Yield: 16 slices
Nutritional Analysis: 220 calories, 13 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 30 mg cholesterol, 270 mg sodium, 26 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 14 g sugars, 4 g protein.



America Recycles Day

Friday, November 15
 1:00-4:00pm

In observance of America Recycles Day, Mercer County Extension Office will have "The Shred Truck" available for free to you!

Bring your old documents & sensitive papers to be recycled! Paper only. No electronics, paint, etc. Staples do not have to be removed but please take off any paper clips.

1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Seed Saving

Mercer County Public Library
 Lunch & Learn
 October 10 at 2:00pm

 Join us as we share tips and tricks for successfully saving seeds.

Presented by Jessica Bessin, Extension Agent for Horticulture. Bring your lunch! The library will provide beverages and something sweet.

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

Plan for Frost

The average frost date for our area is October 10, which is not that far off! If you are not quite ready to give up on your gardens yet, check out these tips to extend your season just a bit more.

Harvest Early: A crop like tomatoes is very sensitive to frost. If you have no way to protect plants, you may want to harvest all fruit that are in the mature green stage of ripening.

Irrigate Before the Frost: A moist soil can hold four times more heat than a dry soil. It will also conduct heat to the soil surface faster than a dry soil, aiding in frost prevention.

Cover Your Plants: Covering plants can give you 2 to 5 degrees F protection. The covers can be laid right over the plant, or can be supported on stakes. The difference being that protection is less wherever the cover touches the plant. Any material can be used to cover the plants; however woven fabrics are better insulators than plastics or paper. The best time to apply covers is in the late afternoon after the wind has died down. Remove covers the next morning before the sun hits them.

Mark Those Calendars!!

Mercer County Farmers Market— The last market day of the regular season is on October 26th! Be on the lookout for their special Holiday pop-up markets.

Harrodsburg Tree Board Meeting— October 3rd, Mercer County Extension Office 5:00 PM

Harvest, Home, & Table Fair—October 4th, Mercer County Extension Office 8:00 AM—4:30 PM

Seed Saving—Mercer County Public Library, October 10th 2:00 PM

Growing Garlic—October 24th, Mercer County Extension Office 5:00 PM

County Extension Council Meeting—October 24th, Mercer County Extension Office 6:00 PM

Extension District Board Meeting—October 24th, Mercer County Extension Office 7:00 PM

Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club—October 28th, 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!

Fort Harrod Garden Club—October 30th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM