

Weed It and Reap

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER**

UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Franklin County
101 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601-8750
(502) 695-9035
Fax: (502) 695-9309
franklin.ca.uky.edu



Periodical Cicadas Emerge Across Kentucky This Spring: How to Protect Your Trees and Shrubs

Source: Jonathan Larson, entomology extension associate

Kentucky will be the epicenter for the emergence of Brood XIV of 17-year periodical cicadas this spring. Periodical cicadas have appeared in Western Kentucky counties over the past few years, but the largest emergence area for 2025 will occur across most of Central and Eastern Kentucky.

While these time-keeping, red-eyed insects are not harmful to humans or pets, their egg-laying habits could damage the branches of young trees and shrubs. Tree netting is the most effective, non-invasive way to protect your landscaping and fruit trees.

The 17-year periodical cicadas are expected to emerge from the soil to molt into their flying, adult form in late April to early May, when the soil warms to the mid-60s.

(Continued on pg. 2)

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(Continued from pg. 1, Periodical Cicadas Emerge Across Kentucky This Spring: How to Protect Your Trees and Shrubs)

Periodical cicadas emerge much earlier than annual cicadas and in greater numbers.

Cicadas do not bite or sting, and the feeding habits of the adults do not damage plants.

Some may find the abundance of molted shells and loud, near deafening singing a nuisance, while others will enjoy this pageantry of nature. The periodical cicadas' choral song, however, is a cue to protect landscaping and orchards.

Female cicadas will lay their eggs into the new, lower branches of several species after mating: apple, arborvitae, ash, beech, berry and grape vines, crab apple, cherry, dogwood, hickory, holly, maple, lilacs, magnolia, oak, peach, pear, rose bushes, spirea and willows are the most likely targets.

The cicada's ovipositor is long and sharp, and they will inject 200 to 600 eggs into the stem tissue. This "flagging" may cause the tender

branches to snap. The fallen branch makes for a much shorter journey for the hatching nymphs from egg to soil but is not beneficial for the growing tree. Once the eggs hatch, the nymphs will feed on root sap, and a heavy population of nymphs in the soil may also impact the tree's root system.

While using insecticides may be less costly, the safest and most effective way to prevent tree and shrub damage is by using cicada netting, which prevents females from laying their eggs. Netting is suggested for use on new and smaller trees and should be installed when the cicadas begin to sing, about mid-May for most of the area. Trees that are established in the landscape—too tall to net for most people—will grow throughout the egg-laying period.

More information can be found at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment publication here: <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef446>.



Veggie Container Giveaway

JOIN OUR HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS TO CREATE YOUR OWN VEGETABLE CONTAINER GARDEN! LEARN TO GROW FRESH TOMATOES, LETTUCE, AND HERBS RIGHT AT HOME, PERFECT FOR ANY SPACE. REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED. SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED.

May

TUESDAY, 13
1ST CORINTHIANS
214 MURRAY ST.
6 PM

THURSDAY, 15
LIBERTY HALL
202 WILKINSON ST.
6 PM

SATURDAY, 17
THORN HILL
700 LESLIE AVE.
10 AM



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



2025 CAEMG Lunch & Learns

Join the Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners for monthly educational talks to enhance your gardening skills. Bring your lunch and enjoy a casual atmosphere while learning from knowledgeable speakers.

May
28

Gardening with Climate Change

Discover how climate change is affecting gardens and learn practical strategies to help your plants adapt and thrive. Join us for an insightful discussion led by Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK Faculty Extension Specialist.

June
18

Smart Irrigation Solutions for Your Garden

Join us for a dynamic session where you'll learn innovative techniques and smart solutions to efficiently water your plants, conserve resources, and create your own garden oasis.

July
16

Botanical Sleuthing: Expert Tips on Plant Identification

Dive into the fascinating world of plant identification and enhance your gardening skills. We'll discuss how tips and tricks to recognize plants, guided by Dr. Rick Durham, UK Faculty Extension Specialist.

Classes begin at 11:30 AM

No registration required.

101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort KY

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Lexington, KY 40506



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An equal opportunity university.ukfcs.net/TalkingFACS7-43Cooperative
Extension Service**NOW on Talking FACS!**

Explore the World of Edible Flowers

with Alexis Sheffield, MS

Extension Specialist | Horticulture

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Center for Crop Diversification

Spring Market Hours

**Opening Day of
Regular Season:**
April 26th
8:30am-noon

April Dates:
4/5 & 4/19
10am-11:30am

**Tuesday Markets
begin, 5/6
Thursday Markets
begin 4/24**

404 Wilkinson Blvd

www.franklincountyfarmersmarket.org
shop online: fcmarket.localfoodmarketplace.com

GARDENING FOR POLLINATORS

June 11, 6 PM – \$15 per person.

Create a vibrant haven for pollinators! This class covers planting for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds—plus, you'll take home native plants to start your own oasis.

Register at 502-695-9035 or franklin.ext@uky.edu
101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort KY



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FRANKLIN CO. 4-H WEEKEND MINI CAMP

UK Cooperative
Extension Service

June 27-29, 2025

Registration Open!



One campfire wasn't enough for
Summer 2025!

Cost: \$175 Ages 9 +



**J.M. Feltner 4-H Camp
London, KY**

4-H Summer Camp fun packed into ONE weekend!

**Questions?
502-695-9035**



Yes Card Accepted!

Registration Link:
<https://franklin.ca.uky.edu/4-h-mini-camp-weekend-2025>



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 29th
6-7:30pm CDT
7-8:30pm EDT

Register Now!
ukfcs.net/AGS

UK Cooperative
Extension Service



UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky

Sailboat & Sunset Painting

**June 1, 2025
3 pm**

\$25 per person

**Refreshments and supplies
included.
Space is limited.**

**Register by
May 26, 2025
101 Lakeview Court
502-695-9035
franklin.ext@uky.edu**



Cooperative Extension Service
University of Kentucky
Franklin County Extension Office
101 Lakeview Court
Franklin, KY 40501

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College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
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Franklin, KY 40501



SEED SAVING CLASS

Save It, Sow It, Share It

JULY 17, 6 PM

Learn to collect and store seeds! This hands-on class covers collecting and storing seeds to cut gardening costs, promote sustainability, and foster community through sharing and swaps.

**Register at 502-695-9035 or
franklin.ext@uky.edu**

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort KY

UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Department of Horticulture



Save the Date

Twilight Tour

Horticulture Research Farm



July 22, 2025
6-8pm

4321 Emmert Farm Ln,
Lexington, KY 40514

Scan the qr code to register or follow the link
bit.ly/twilighttour25

2026 KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Call for Proposals!



**Submit a topic &
speaker for the
conference!**



Office of the
State Entomologist



Join our CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM!

Kentucky's Office of the State Entomologist monitors for new invasive pests that threaten Kentucky's agriculture and natural resources. We are seeking volunteers for our Citizen Science program to help monitor invasive species in Kentucky!

EARLY DETECTION OF INVASIVE PESTS IS KEY!

If you are interested in monitoring invasive pests and helping to protect Kentucky's agriculture and natural resources, please join our Citizen Science program!

APPLY TODAY!

Scan the QR code or visit the URL below.



<https://ose-uky.edu.hub.arcgis.com/pages/citizen-scientist>



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky

FRANKLIN & WOODFORD

2025 MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

AUGUST 21 - DECEMBER 11
9 AM - 12 PM

EVERY THURSDAY

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Botany, Entomology, Plant Pathology,
Proper Care and Maintenance, and Disease Diagnosis

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE JUNE 2
APPLICATION DEADLINE JULY 25



Franklin County

502-695-9035

franklin.ext@uky.edu

**Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener**

Woodford County

859-873-4601

woodford.ext@uky.edu

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Our Urban Forests



Cicadas hum in the trees over a busy city street. Cars passing by flit in and out of the shade of the tall oaks and maples. Along the sidewalk pedestrians go about their business enjoying the sound and cooling shade on the hot summer day. This is a common scene in many cities and towns across the Commonwealth. Street trees providing shelter and shade for animals, drivers, and people as they walk by, but our communities' trees provide so many more benefits.



From street trees along roadways, to the trees in our park and yards, our cities' trees form a vast connected block of forest right where we live and play. All the trees in our communities are part of an 'urban forest'. It's easy to see a large group of trees in the wild and say, "that group of trees is a forest," but when we move into our towns and cities, we sometimes have to take a bird's eye view to see the forest for our many separate trees. From the air we can see the mosaic of our urban landscape; buildings, roads, parking lots, and many blocks and strips of trees interspersed among them. If we think of all those trees together in our built human environments, they are our 'urban forests.'

As we zoom in from our bird's eye view, we can notice that many of the trees in our urban forests are in the yards of homes and apartment buildings. They're our trees to sit and hangout under. They provide us shade in the summer, cooling our yards and homes. In the winter they block cold winds and help reduce our heating needs. Living around trees not only helps regulate our environmental temperatures, but they also help keep us healthier too. Being around trees reduces stress and increases our sense of wellbeing. In heavy rains,

trees help reduce excessive ground water by acting as living pumps, moving water back into the atmosphere. Our city trees are also an important source of shelter and habitat for a number of wild critters that call our communities home. Cicadas, songbirds, hawks, and squirrels all depend on trees in our urban areas.

So, who helps us take care of these trees that provide so many benefits? Urban foresters and arborists specialize in taking care of both the urban forest and individual trees. An urban forester is someone who looks at the community's trees as a whole forest. They make management and policy decisions to help ensure we have access to trees and their benefits in our urban environments for years to come. Arborists focus on the care of individual or small groups of trees, and act as tree doctors; pruning, assessing, and treating injuries, and helping recommend courses of action if trees become dangerous. Arborists also train in climbing and working high in the leafy green canopy of trees.



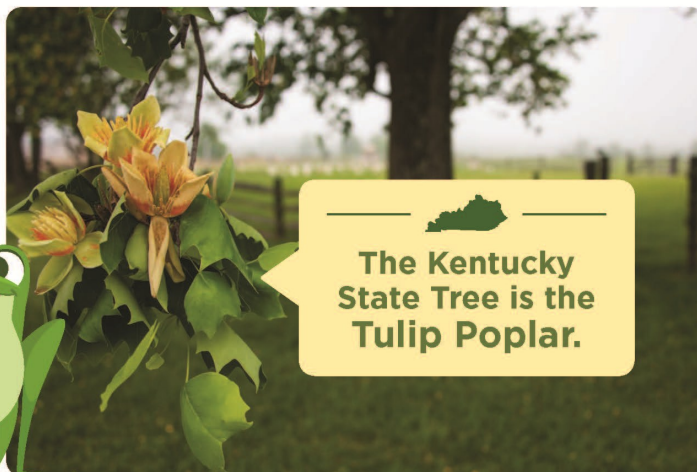
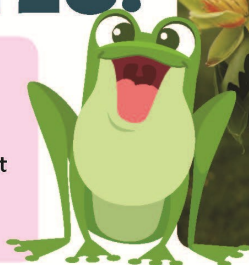
But urban foresters and arborists need our help too. Unlike in the forest floors of the wild, many of our communities' trees don't naturally reproduce well into our densely grassed yards and compacted street verges. We can help maintain and grow our cities' forests by participating in tree planting efforts. Community tree planting events provide much needed replacement trees and help expand our urban forests across the Commonwealth. It's up to each of us to lend a hand in caring for our shared forest resources be they wild or urban.

PROTECTING THE FOREST *TOGETHER*

Kentucky Division of Conservation,
Protecting the Forest Together, 2024

FORESTRY FUN FACTS & WEBSITES!

Kentucky has more than
120 native tree species! Learn more about
some of the most common here:
horticulture.ca.uky.edu/




The Kentucky
State Tree is the
Tulip Poplar.



LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF A TREE

and how it interacts with
the environment using
this interactive website!

aucoeurdelarbre.ca/en/the-living-tree/



BONSAI TREES are cultivated
to remain small through root
confinement and careful pruning.

Giant Sequoias can grow to be up to
279 feet tall, but through Bonsai
practices can remain as small as a few
inches. If you want to learn more about
Bonsai, check here: kids.kiddle.co/Bonsai

The Red Maple
is the most common tree
in Kentucky accounting for

12%
of all trees
in the state.



START A WILDERNESS JOURNAL!

Add leaf tracings, drawings of plants and animals, or any
observations you make along the way! You can create your
own page ideas or use a premade journal with prompts!

Free Printable Kids Nature Journal:

mysimplewild.com/2020/04/17/free-printable-kids-nature-journal/





Blueberry French Toast Bake

¼ cup whole wheat flour	3 eggs	1 cup fresh blueberries
¼ cup all-purpose flour	6 egg whites	½ cup chopped almonds
1½ cups skim milk	1 loaf (12 ounces) French bread, cut into 1 inch cubes	Honey, if desired
1 tablespoon sugar	3 ounces fat free cream cheese, cut into ½ inch cubes	
½ teaspoon vanilla		
¼ teaspoon salt		

Generously **grease** a 13x9x2-inch baking dish. **Beat** flours, milk, sugar, vanilla, salt, eggs and egg whites in a large mixing bowl with a hand mixer until smooth. **Stir** in bread cubes until they are coated. **Pour** bread mixture into baking dish. **Top** evenly with cream cheese, blueberries and almonds. **Cover** and **refrigerate** for at least 1 hour, but no longer than 24

hours. **Heat** oven to 400 degrees F. **Uncover** and **bake** 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. **Sprinkle** with honey, if desired.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 420 calories, 6 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 70 mg cholesterol, 860 mg sodium, 69 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 9 g sugar.



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

Adam Leonberger

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