

Weed It and Reap

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Tree surface roots: why they happen and what to do

Source: Rick Durham, horticulture extension professor

Big shade trees are a gift — until their roots start showing in the lawn. Surface roots make mowing tough, trip people up and can heave sidewalks. They aren't a sign your tree is failing, though. In most cases, they're a normal response to how roots grow and how soil behaves.

Most tree roots spread outward in the top 4–15 inches of soil because that's where oxygen is available. In heavy, compacted, or poorly drained soil, oxygen is scarce, so roots creep even closer to the surface. Each year those roots thicken, the way a trunk does, and they can push through the turf. Erosion from rain and foot traffic exposes them more. Nearly any mature tree can develop surface roots, though poplars, willows, maples (Norway, red, silver), sycamores, aspens, beeches and some ash and pin oaks are frequent culprits.

(Continued on pg. 2)

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The worst thing you can do is cut or grind off visible roots. That invites decay and insects, removes thousands of feeder roots that absorb water and nutrients, and can weaken the tree's stability. Piling on lots of soil is risky too; deep fill over the root zone can suffocate roots.

First, consider adding a mulch layer over exposed roots. A two- to three-inch layer of shredded wood or chips cushions the roots, reduces mowing around the tree and holds moisture. Extend the mulch ring as far as you can — ideally to the dripline — and keep it pulled back a few inches from the trunk. Skip “volcano” mulching—don’t pile mulch around the trunk. If you want plants under the canopy, hand-dig small pockets within the mulched area for shade-loving perennials or groundcovers between roots; avoid rototillers and do not add thick layers of soil first. Make sure plant roots extend down into the soil and not just into the mulch.

Growing grass under trees is also an option but has its own challenges. Even shade-tolerant species may not provide a thick enough cover to be attractive. The grass and tree roots will constantly compete for moisture and nutrients, and you may find yourself watering the grass under the tree more often than in other parts of the yard. Nevertheless, if you want to try grass, rake away debris of sticks and excess leaves, then add just enough topsoil —a half inch or less — just enough to fill in between roots and smooth the surface. Seed with a shade-tolerant grass and water as needed. When mowing, you may want to set your mower deck a bit higher to avoid damaging any exposed roots. Because roots continue to thicken, expect to repeat this light topdressing

every year or two rather than burying everything at once.

Planning and planting choices help prevent the problem. In compacted or clay soils, select trees with deeper root systems such as black gum, ginkgo, yellowwood, zelkovas and many oaks are good options. You can also choose smaller ornamental trees whose roots are less likely to grow large enough to cause trouble. Plant slightly high (about two inches above grade), give trees room near pavement, and check local rules before planting along streets. Remember that roots extend well beyond property lines and will follow air, water, and space.

In short, surface roots are mostly an aesthetic and maintenance issue — a response to soil conditions rather than a sign of poor tree health. Treat the soil gently, protect the roots, and manage the area with topdressing or mulch. Your tree will thank you — and your mower will, too.



Winterize your home to prevent fall invaders

Source: Ray Tackett, UK extension horticulture agent

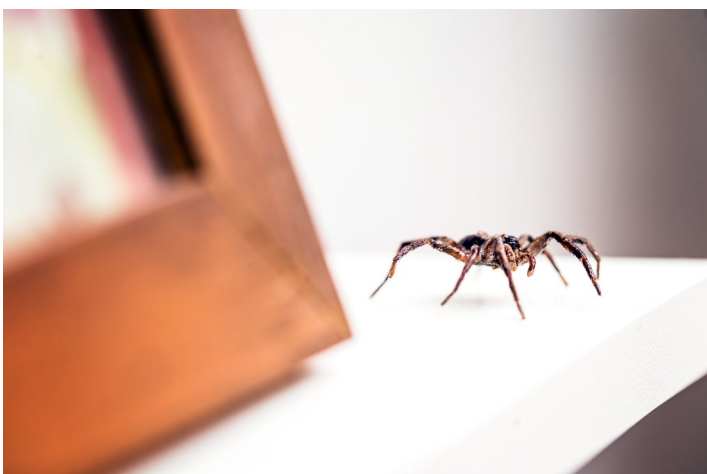
The days are getting shorter, the nights cooler, and if you notice some clustering on the outside of your home, it could be insects trying to get inside. The Asian lady beetle is always a problem this time of year, some years worse than others. Other fall invaders may include face flies, spiders and stink bugs. If you live near lakes, rivers and creeks, you may see boxelder bugs, a red and black insect. Once inside, these insects usually don't increase in numbers because they are accidental invaders and also harmless.



Insects are usually no threat, mainly just a nuisance. Although stink bugs can exude a substance that doesn't smell pleasant. If you vacuum stink bugs from windows sills, or wherever they are, you might want to throw away the vacuum bag because of the odor. Lady bugs and stink bugs can also leave a stain if you smash them, which is why we recommend vacuuming them.



Exclusion is considered the best way to keep insects out of your home, because there are more control options available on the outside. Pest-proofing your home as much as possible will help keep insects out. Caulking, inspecting screens and windowsills, checking where utilities come into the home are ways to winterize your home.



**Be sure to follow our Facebook page
for all the up-to-date
information and articles.**



@FranklinCountyKyCooperativeExtension



GREENHOUSE



Berries



◆ — Field Day on soilless production basics — ◆

📅 Friday, September 19, 2025

🕒 5:00–6:30PM

📍 270 N Cleveland Rd, Lexington

- Meet Greenhouse Extension team
- Tour a raspberry and blackberry operation
- Snacks provided

Register: <https://forms.gle/syfAgW2azDEyjCB29> or →



Questions? Email/call/text:
qinglu.ying@uky.edu
arundathi.sharma@uky.edu
(747) 777-3542

 Cooperative
Extension Service

Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary



Planning and Design Workshop

Why?

Come be a part of Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary's future and have your voice HEARD! Your ideas, feedback, and recommendations gathered at the meeting will directly influence the future of the Sanctuary.

When?

Friday September 19th, 2025, 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Where?

Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary 1305 Germany Rd, Frankfort KY 40601

Who?

Facilitated by University of Kentucky
Department of Landscape Architecture (UKLA)
3rd Year Students
In partnership with Bluegrass Greensource

Agenda

2:45
3:00

Sign-in

3:00
3:10

Welcome,
Introductions,
& Overview

3:10
4:50

Facilitated Design
Discussion in Breakout
Group Activities

4:50
5:00

Q&A





Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays
12:30pm ET/11:30 am CT
Visit kentuckyhortnews.com
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment University of Kentucky

LAWNS: Spring is Better than Summer BUT FALL is Best of All!

Sept 17, 2025
12:30 p.m. ET
11:30 a.m. CT

Register Here:
<https://www.tinyurl.com/SEPhww25>



Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays
12:30pm ET/11:30 am CT
Visit kentuckyhortnews.com
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment University of Kentucky

Backyard Grapes

Sept 24, 2025
12:30 pm ET
11:30 am CT

Register at
<https://www.tinyurl.com/SepHWW25>



FOREST HEALTH TRAINING

Cooperative Extension Service
FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES - EXTENSION

Only pay Expo Admission

MANAGING INVASIVE PLANTS IN KENTUCKY'S WOODLANDS

**September 19, 2025
@ KY Wood Expo
Masterson Station Park
1 - 4 p.m.**



Order tickets here.



2pm-4pm

SunDay

Sept. 21, 2025 • Frankfort

Join us for fun and on-site demonstrations highlighting the power of clean energy

Franklin County Extension Office
101 Lakeview Ct, Frankfort, KY
More info: kyconservation.org/sunday

PROGRESS KENTUCKY

KYSES
Kentucky Solar Energy Society

Kentucky Conservation Committee



KENTUCKY MECHANICAL WEED CONTROL FIELD DAY

UK Horticulture Research Farm
Lexington, KY

**SEPT. 23
8 AM - 4 PM EST**

"a great opportunity to get up close and learn about the finer points of various tools"
- KY Farmer, Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day Participant

Register by Sept. 9

MIDWEST PARTNERSHIP FOR ORGANIC FARMING PROGRAM

OAK

GLACIAL DRIFT

Center for Crop Diversification



Martin Garton
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
University of Kentucky
Cooperative Extension Service

GROWER TRAINING COURSE

WANT TO LEARN ABOUT PRODUCE SAFETY?

 **SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
08:00 AM - 05:00 PM**

Who Should Attend
Fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), co-management, and the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

REGISTER BY SEP. 7TH!

Event Highlights

- Introduction to Produce Safety
- Worker Health, Hygiene, & Training
- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife, Domestic Animals, and Land Use
- Agricultural Water
- Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

Registration Link
https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NadkR1LmUJ29i74

MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS



KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Eligible Investment Areas:

*Agricultural Diversification
AgTech & Leadership Development
Large Animal - Small Animal
Farm Infrastructure
Fencing & On-Farm Water
Forage & Grain Improvement
Innovative Ag. Systems
On-Farm Energy
Poultry & Other Fowl
Value Added & Marketing*

Administered by
Franklin Co. Cattlemen's Assoc.
101 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601

<https://www.facebook.com/FranklinCountyKYCooperativeExtension>

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Franklin County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm investments.

Application Period:

September 5 thru September 26, 2025

No applications will be accepted before September 5th or after 4:00 pm on September 26th

Application Availability:

Franklin County Extension Office
Monday – Friday (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) or online
Applications will be available beginning September 5th

For More Information:

Contact Crystal Harrod at (502) 330-5084 or email crystal.harrod@yahoo.com

All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

GARDEN GATHERING AT A GLANCE

Our Garden Gathering is coming up on Saturday September 27 from in the Garden at Liberty Hall and we are so excited!

**ALL DAY
10AM-2PM**

**NATIVE PLANT SALE
LAWN GAMES
KIDS CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES**

11AM

**SHORT FILM SCREENING
"LIBERTY HALL OF KENTUCKY"
BY NELL COX**

12PM-2PM

**FOOD TRUCK & LIVE MUSIC:
VIOLET AND THE NEWSROOM**



CAEMG Lunch & Learn

DISCOVER KENTUCKY'S UNUSUAL PLANTS WITH DEB WHITE

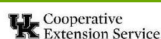
OCTOBER 22, 2025

11:30AM-1:00PM

JOIN THE CAPITAL AREA EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS FOR
AN ENGAGING LUNCHTIME PRESENTATION WITH RETIRED
KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVE BOTANIST, DEB WHITE.

GUIDING US THROUGH THE FASCINATING WORLD OF
KENTUCKY'S MOST UNUSUAL NATIVE PLANTS. FEEL FREE TO
BRING YOUR LUNCH AND ENJOY IT BEFOREHAND—JUST BE
SURE TO HAVE IT FINISHED BY THE START OF THE
PRESENTATION AT 12:00 PM.

Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office
101 Lakeview Court
502-695-9035



Woodford County Extension Master Gardeners Tree Seedling Sale

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 11**

10:00 am–Noon

WOODFORD COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE

184 Beasley Drive,
Versailles
859.873.4601



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

- 1 to 2-year-old tree seedlings from the KY Division of Forestry will be for sale
- Woodford County Master Gardeners have grown these seedlings in containers for 6 months
- \$5 per tree
- Varieties available:
 - Wild Plum, *Prunus americana*
 - Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*
 - Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*
 - Eastern Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*
 - Blackgum, *Nyssa sylvatica*
 - Kentucky Coffee Tree, *Gymnocladus dioica*
 - Shellbark Hickory, *Carya laciniosa*
 - Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*
 - White Oak, *Quercus alba*
 - Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*
 - Pecan, *Carya illinoensis*
 - Cherrybark Oak, *Quercus pagoda*
- Fall is a great time to plant trees!
You can also hold over in the container until spring.

WOODLAND WEDNESDAYS

ON THOROBRED TRAIL



Join KSU Forestry and Natural Resources each month for a special woodland topic and to work on trail restoration efforts.

...

FALL 2025 DATES
9AM - 12PM

September 10: Fall Bird Walk - Frankfort Audubon
October 15: Invasive Plants 101
November 19: Fall Tree Walk
December 10: Woodpecker Box Build

...

Meet at the Thorobred Trail trailhead.
Wear closed-toe shoes and weather appropriate clothing. Weather cancellations will not be rescheduled.

...

SIGN UP HERE!
by scanning the QR code or
contact Anna Claire Rogers at
anna.rogers@ksu.edu to sign up
or for more details.





**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Cooperative Extension Program

10 FREE SOIL SAMPLES

**Sponsored By:
Franklin County Conservation District**



October 2025 - January 2026

**For Franklin County or Frankfort Residents
or Farms located in Franklin County.**

Pardon Our Mess...

Our bathroom facilities are antiquated, dating back to the 1990s! Please be patient with us as we endure a long needed upgrade.

The building and meeting rooms will be open as usual but the available restrooms may be on a different floor than where you're meeting.

*Sorry for the inconvenience caused &
Thank You for your patience!*

Franklin County Conservation District

BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM Urban Cost Share Program

July 1, 2025 to June 1, 2026

Raised Garden Beds, Rain Barrels, Compost Bins,
Pollinator Gardens, Beehives and Bat Houses

- First come, first serve.
- Franklin County Residents only
- One application per household
- 50% cost share up to \$500 maximum

**Must have approval before you
begin project**



Franklin County Conservation District
103 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-352-2701

fccd103@gmail.com

2025 HABITAT MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

This two-day event will bring together professionals, researchers and land managers to share projects and expert talks on habitat restoration and natural areas management.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
SOUTHEASTERN GRASSLANDS INSTITUTE

REGISTER:



Date:
December 2nd & 3rd


Time:
9AM - 4PM

Location:
Harold R. Benson Research
and Demonstration Farm

CEU's Available!







Pumpkin Apple Muffins


1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour 1 ¼ cups whole-wheat flour 1 ¼ teaspoons baking soda ½ teaspoon salt 1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon	½ teaspoon ground ginger ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg 1 ¼ cups honey 2 large eggs	1 ½ cups fresh pureed pumpkin ½ cup canola oil 2 cups Granny Smith apples, finely chopped
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Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. In a large bowl, **combine** flours, baking soda, salt and spices. In a small bowl, **combine** honey, eggs, pumpkin and oil; **stir** into dry ingredients just until moistened. **Fold** in apples. **Fill** greased or paper lined muffin cups, two-thirds full. **Bake** for 25 to 30 minutes or until muffins test done. **Cool** for 10 minutes before removing from pan.

Note: Can substitute two cups granulated sugar for honey, decrease baking soda by ¼ teaspoon and increase oven temperature to 350 degrees F.

Yield: 18 muffins

Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 7 g fat, 0.5 g saturated fat, 35 mg cholesterol, 160 mg sodium, 35 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 20 g sugar, 3 g protein



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


Adam Leonberger

Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.