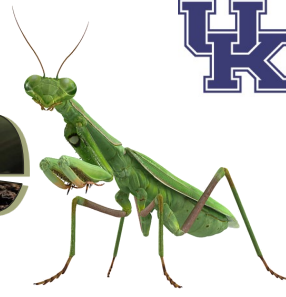


# Boone County Horticulture

November-December 2022 Newsletter



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

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## The Upright Oaks

By Joe Smith

Boone County Extension  
Horticulture Technician

Columnar English Oak (*Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata') was one of the first cultivars to come out in regards to upright or columnar oaks. This tree grows to about 50 to 60 feet tall and 10 to 15 feet wide. Another feature of this tree is its tendency to retain its leaves well into the winter so it can provide a partial screen during the winter. One of the biggest issues with fastigiata and other earlier types was their susceptibility to mildew.

Breeders have now introduced numerous hybrids have been developed in order to improve on the growth habits and to reduce the problem of powdery mildew of columnar English oak.

One of these is "Crimson Spire" Oak (*Quercus robur* x *Quercus alba* 'Crimschmidt'), which is a beautiful deciduous street tree with beautiful reddish-purple fall color that grows 45 feet tall and 15 feet wide. A smaller introduction is the 'Kindred Spirit' Oak (*Quercus robur* x *bicolor* 'Nadler'), which matures at about 30 feet tall and 6 feet wide.

Others like the new Skinny Genes (*Quercus* x *bimundorum* 'JFS-KW2QX') offers an even narrower growth habit and is the narrowest yet of the English x White Oak hybrids. It also has very glossy, dark green summer foliage and excellent mildew resistance and then turns a nice yellow in autumn.

So if you have a site with limited space or just want to add a vertical accent to your landscape check out some of the newer wonderful upright oaks!



## Quick TIP

Apply animal repellents containing Thiram to discourage rabbits from chewing off the bark of young tree seedlings, vines and bushes.

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## Our Best Advice— Water Now

By David Koester  
Boone County Extension Agent  
for Horticulture

When I started in Extension over forty years ago I made a clientele garden visit on my first day on the job. The homeowner was having issues with diseases and insects in his vegetable garden. I knocked on the door and his wife answered. I told her who I was and the reason for my visit. I heard her husband ask her who was at the door. She quietly explained the horticulturist from the Extension service was here. He asked her how old I was and she replied I was a young fellow. His response to her was “If he’s young he can’t know much about gardening” I might have been offended at the time but I learned there was accurate wisdom in his response.

Having as much horticultural education is essential to being knowledgeable about how plants work and their individual characteristics. However the knowledge gained from experiencing many growing seasons is just as essential if not more so.

When we look at the 2022 growing season it will go down as one with above average rainfall. However that rain occurred in abundance in spring and summer but completely shut down in September and October. If there is one thing you can do for your perennials, trees, and shrubs before winter is “WATER.” This advice is especially true if you have added plantings this year. Plants going into winter with adequate moisture in their root zones will have a substantially greater chance of survival and will be in better health next spring than those without.

By the time you read this we will have had some precipitation. It is not enough. We are currently many inches deficient in rain at this time. Do yourself and plants a favor by efficiently irrigating. Put water where it is needed by slowly adding it to the site several times between now and December.



The following state-specific drought impacts were compiled by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#). While these impacts are not exhaustive, they can help provide a clearer picture of drought in Kentucky.



### D0 - Abnormally Dry

- Lawns and vegetation are brown
- Crops and pastures show mild stress

**85.9%**  
of KY  
(D0-D4)



### D1 - Moderate Drought

- Crops and pastures show stress; corn germination is poor
- Burn bans are issued; wildfires are reported
- Increased algae and fungus growth is noted

**69.9%**  
of KY  
(D1-D4)



### D2 - Severe Drought

- Hay yield is low; crop losses are reported; livestock need supplemental hay and water
- Ponds, lakes, and river levels are low; boating hazards are found in lakes
- Trees are distressed; leaves are wilting, pine trees are turning brown

**10.5%**  
of KY  
(D2-D4)

<https://www.drought.gov/states/kentucky>



Continue mowing into November or December. Progressive lowering of the mower blade reduces the size of individual tillers, thereby minimizing brown-out. And reduce diseases such as snowmold.

# Quick TIP



## **It's Time to Plant Garlic Now**

*By Dr. Robert Simon  
Boone County Master Gardener*

Garlic, *Allium Sativum*, like onion, leek, and chive, are part of the lily family. It is one of our unique herbs because it is biannual, that is, sprouting into a plant in the fall, enjoys the winter cold, and matures in early summer around the first of July. Therefore, it is grown primarily in the Northern States. With some basic knowledge, garlic is relatively easy to grow, requiring little oversight, while bringing amazing flavor to the table, plus many, many health benefits. The demand for more garlic is increasing every year, and US farmers are already two years behind in meeting them. Thus, we can expect increased costs and short supplies for "good" garlic. The time to plant your own garlic is NOW!



Many gardeners have approached me at the farmers market where I sell my garlic, saying that they tried growing garlic, but it failed. I, too, experienced a failure my first year, but I persisted. I attribute that first failure to one or both of these two things: poor soil amendment and seed variety selection. Garlic is a heavy nitrogen "feeder" and needs friable soil (easily crumbled that can hold moisture), versus our hard dry clay. Initial soil amendment is foundational (pun intended) and will not have to be repeated to this extreme: I recommend a 50/50 mix of existing soil with rich organic compost to a depth of 6-8 inches. The garlic cloves are planted 4 inches deep with the point up and six inches apart in all directions. This will allow sufficient space for root development. After the first year, more compost can be applied and worked into the surface to improve productivity. An organic fertilizer applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations for planting seeds could also be helpful. I use organic bone meal high in nitrogen (12/0/0) since the samples of my soil I had analyzed by the University of Kentucky via the Boone County Extension Center showed elevated levels of phosphorus and potassium. Fertilizer can also be applied as a side dressing in early March and April.

When it comes to variety selection, there are many to choose from in seed catalogs. My first failed attempt was with a soft-necked variety. After that, I have only planted a hard-necked variety, called, "Music". It is known for its robust, mellow flavor and very large cloves averaging 6-7 cloves per bulb. I do not recommend grocery store garlic. Most are imported from unknown, unproven sources with small cloves and a hot or bitter taste. There are other varieties to try, but I continue to go with what I have found great success within this climate and soil conditions. I began six years ago with fifty cloves. Selecting only the largest bulbs to replant each year, this past July I harvested 3400 bulbs and expect to plant five thousand cloves by the end of

*(Continued)*

October: all bulbs greater than 2 ¼ inch diameter! Unfortunately, I have sold out of planting garlic this year, but I will have some for purchase again in July 2023. Many online sources, including Johnny's Seed and Keene Organics, have garlic bulbs available (2+ inches in diameter). Other sources may only have culinary sized bulbs (less than 2 inches), usually sold for eating purposes, but can still be planted. Remember, the larger the clove, the larger the bulb that will develop, and the larger the bulb, the larger the purchase price, too.

Just a few more things about garlic and planting. It can be helpful, but not required, to sanitize the cloves to destroy any toxic bacteria. This can be done by soaking the cloves for 10 minutes in isopropyl alcohol, vodka, hydrogen peroxide or another sterilizer. Then strain. Also, this can be followed by soaking the cloves for at least 30 minutes and up to 3 days in a fertilizer such as kelp meal, or fish emulsion. Within a few weeks of planting your beds should be mulched in preparation for winter. Various forms of mulch may be used, including shredded leaves, straw, pine needles, etc. Three inches is sufficient. Shredded leaves are my favorite, as I have an abundance available, and they form a nice matted down blanket which helps reduce spring weeding to almost nothing. The garlic sprouts have no problem pushing through to form plants on top of the mulch before winter. Garlic plants have virtually no enemies! I have never encountered any virus, bacteria, pest infiltration, or animal predator. I've only been told that ground hogs think they are candy.



There is one other advantage to growing garlic that most people are unaware of: the garlic SCAPE. Scapes are the garlic flower and stem that rapidly emerges in early May (about 2 feet long), and beautiful white flower (3-4 inches long). Scapes should be removed about the first of June to allow the bulb to receive the nutrients to achieve its full growth potential. Scapes are entirely edible and are in fact considered a delicacy. They are non-existent in our stores but can be found at some local farmers markets in June and perhaps July. They can be used in any dish you would like to have a garlic flavored vegetable, such as in salads, sauces, pesto, dips, and even as a side dish. They can be steamed, baked, grilled, or sautéed. They are milder than the cloves of garlic and are delicious. Children eat them like French fries.

Finally, it is important to recognize garlic for its health and medicinal value. There are many books and online sources devoted to this subject, so here is a brief overview of just some of its benefits. Garlic is a natural antibiotic. It has been used in poultices and in large doses for thousands of years. Of course, used in this fashion, a physician should be consulted. But, for everyday use, it is quite safe. Garlic aids the immune system by forming a compound called allium. Allium has been known to help ward off the common cold, as well as many other infectious ailments. Garlic lowers both blood pressure and cholesterol. It assists the body in the prevention of cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia, due to its high antioxidant properties. It detoxifies the blood, body fluids, and tissues. Garlic has been used for improving strength and athletic abilities dating back to the Roman Empire. The list is long for its benefits.



## Fothergilla

By Joseph Morgan  
Boone County Extension  
Horticulture Technician

*Fothergilla* is a genus of two species of shrubs native to the southeastern United States. Both *gardenii* and *major* are excellent species plants, however, we are lucky to have several varieties with more uniform characteristics available. Shade tolerance and compact growth habits paired with abundant spring blooms and striking fall color, make this a plant a fine talking point in any garden. Some cultivars include 'Mount Airy', 'Beaver Creek' and 'Legend of the Small'. 'Mount Airy' is a hybrid of *gardenii* and *major* and is nearly identical in leaf and bloom size, the key distinction being expected mature size, around 3 – 5 feet vertically and horizontally. 'Legend of the Small' is a Proven Winners introduction that offers an even more compact package of color, averaging 2 – 3 feet in size. 'Beaver Creek' is similar in stature but claims to have denser foliage than the typical loose structure of these shrubs. All three cultivars are a great addition to any native plant lover's garden or are equally valuable in pollinator plots. The early blooms help sustain pollinators in early spring while many other plants are not in bloom. With several outstanding options to choose from, a tolerance for shade and the option for compact size, *Fothergilla* is a shrub worth considering for your landscape.

### Quick TIP

Apply dormant oil on warm days in early November (Indian Summer) to control scale insects on trees and shrubs especially the deciduous magnolias.



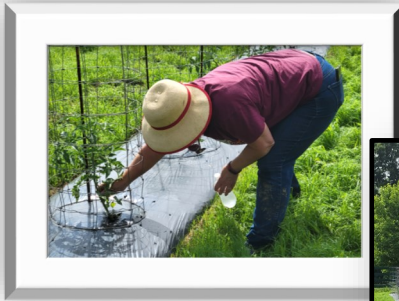


# Thanks for a Great Year!



Master Gardeners  
volunteered a total of  
397 hours at the  
garden and we donated  
a total of 2924 pounds  
of produce.

**GREAT WORK  
EVERYONE!**





For more information or to register for any of our classes, visit our website at [boone.ca.uky.edu](http://boone.ca.uky.edu).  
Click "Online Class Registration" or call us at 859-586-6101.

# Upcoming Horticulture Events *Please Register!*

## Look Out for These Upcoming Spring Programs

Dates and Times to be Announced

### Houseplants, Selection and Growing

► We will be joined by Tim Porter, an experienced and extremely knowledgeable member of the local green industry, to discuss how to maximize your houseplant success.

### Fig Propagation and Grafting

► After positive feedback from our Growing Figs in NKY program, we have decided to build on the series with an in depth propagation class. Just in time to start your cuttings for spring!

### Spring Cole Crops

► High tunnels offer growers the ability to start direct seeding various cole crops in early March. Join us at our Nature Center high tunnel to learn more about extending the growing season. Dress warm!

### Fruit Grafting for Beginners

► This will be a beginners hands on session with a limited number of participants. We will demonstrate various grafting methods and techniques. ( Limited to 20 people).



### Lunch & Learn Series

- Bring your lunch and join us!

#### Growing Succulents & Sedums

► Join us to learn about some indoor as well as outdoor succulents and sedums.

#### Growing Tomatoes

► If you enjoy backyard tomato growing, join us for this informative program. Cultivar selection, seed starting and growing maintenance will be covered.



## Find us here...

### Extension Campus Location Key:

Virtual via Zoom, Must register to receive Zoom link 🏠  
Extension Service office, 6028 Camp Ernst Rd., Burlington  
Enrichment Center, 1824 Patrick Dr., Burlington  
Farmers Market, 1961 Burlington Pk., Burlington  
Environmental and Nature Center, 9101 Camp Ernst Rd., Union  
Boone County Arboretum, 9190 Camp Ernst Rd., Union; Register at: [www.bcarboretum.org/](http://www.bcarboretum.org/)



# COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

*Presented by the Buffalo Trace Cooperative Extension Service Counties*

**NOVEMBER 28, 2022**  
**9AM-3PM EST**

**30 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK**



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

**CALL 606-845-4641 (FLEMING) OR  
606-796-2732 (LEWIS) TO REGISTER  
FOR THIS FREE TRAINING OR REGISTER  
USING THE QR CODE:**



**This training has been approved by the Kentucky  
Department of Agriculture for 3 general hours & 1  
specific hour in each category.**

- Category 1A- Agricultural Pest Control, Plant & Animal
- Category 2- Forest Pest Control
- Category 3- Ornamental & Turf Pest Control
- Category 6- Right-of-Way
- Category 10- Demonstration & Research Control
- Category 18- Golf Course
- Category 20- Sports Turf

## LOCATION: VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

*For more information or if you have questions, contact us—we are here to help!*  
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