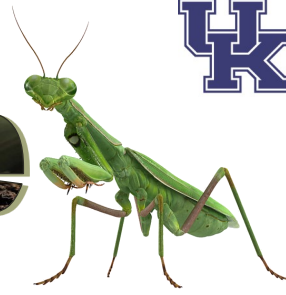


Boone County Horticulture

January-February 2023 Newsletter



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

Cooperative Extension Service
Boone County
P.O. Box 876
Burlington, KY 41005
(859) 586-6101
Fax: (859) 586-6107
boone.ca.uky.edu

Welcome Our New Agent

*By Robert Brockman
Boone County Extension Agent
for Horticulture*

Hello, my name is Robby Brockman, and I am your new horticulture extension agent. My interest in plants began as a child when I was simply planting vegetable seeds and trying to keep the weeds from overtaking my young plants. That passion for seeing things grow was encouraged by members of the community who mentored me and took me to gardening programs at the Boone County Extension Office. Plants fascinated me as a child due to their incredible diversity and their ability to start as just a small seed and yet grow into something as large as a redwood.

During high school, I took on jobs in landscape maintenance and became a horticulture technician at a local farm which produced fruits, vegetables, and bedding plants. These experiences both showed me how difficult commercial horticulture can be and how much there is to learn. I decided to further my knowledge by attending the University of Kentucky and studying under incredible specialists and professors. While at the University of Kentucky, I attained a Bachelor of Science degree in plant and soil science and a Master of Science in entomology, the study of insects. I also conducted research and participated in internships with the Boone County Arboretum, a world-class horticultural entomology laboratory, and the Cooperative Extension Service. Extension has always been near to my heart and so, after graduating, I moved to North Carolina where I worked as a horticulture extension agent.

I am excited to be back home in Boone County where I can work with horticultural businesses and give you the community, programs and resources to increase your knowledge of plants. The world of plants and the great outdoors are fascinating and there is always something new to learn. I look forward to working with you and helping you increase your horticultural knowledge.



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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Don't Put Away Those Garden Hoses Just Yet!

*By Joe Smith
Boone County Extension
Horticulture Technician*

Hopefully some of you recall we had an extremely dry fall here in the Northern Kentucky area. To prevent winter damage to many of your landscape plants—especially those evergreens—water deeply every 4 to 6 weeks, when the temperatures are above freezing. Also, don't forget to water landscape plants beside the house and underneath wide overhanging eaves and in other areas typically shielded from rain.

Our region, for the most part, does not get heavy snow accumulations and often the lack of snow cover and drying winds can cause winter burn and damage to many plants. Although landscape plants are dormant, they still carry on transpiration and require soil moisture to prevent dehydration to above ground leaf and stem tissue. Desiccation of the roots of perennials can also cause permanent damage to the plants and is usually not noticeable until spring.

Evergreen plants, in particular, benefit from winter watering when the soil becomes dry in winter. A group of plants that is particularly susceptible to winter burning of the foliage are the broadleaved evergreens. Examples of these plants include boxwood, holly and, of course, the somewhat tender southern magnolia.

So when you are applying some hydrating lotion to your dried out winter worn skin, remember that your plants may be getting a bit dry this winter also!



Keep your holiday cactus (i.e. Thanksgiving or Christmas Cactus) in a room with cool night temperatures (55 to 60°F). Night temperatures above 70°F will reduce flowering and may cause buds to drop. Site plants in direct sunlight over the winter and let them dry out between waterings.

**Quick
TIP**

Oriental Spruce - *Picea orientalis*

By Joseph Morgan
Boone County Extension
Horticulture Technician

Picea orientalis or oriental spruce is a dense growing conifer with colorful new growth and excellent contrasting pollen bearing cones. Oriental spruce is a relatively problem free alternative to other conifers for our area such as white pine or blue spruce. We do not see the same issues with these trees as the more popular alternatives—no white pine decline, no *Rhizosphaera* needle cast and far fewer pests.

Larger varieties are expected to reach 50-60' in height and have a 25' spread. While some varieties may benefit with some protection from hot afternoon sun, others can handle the heat with no problem, this caveat typically applies to juvenile trees, once established it becomes a non-issue. There is an array of exceptional varieties to choose from when deciding what oriental spruce to plant.

'Skylands' (pictured right) is the epitome of the season round color *Picea orientalis* can provide.

The bright yellow needles shine in the sun, although a softer green should be expected if planted in shade. 'Aureospicata' is another variety with a similar color profile but smaller in stature (expected 25' x 15') for a smaller planting space. If an even smaller specimen is needed, consider planting 'Firefly'. This Iseli release Nursery release was a seedling of 'Skylands' that has the same vibrant color but is only a fraction of the size, ten year old trees are expected to top out at 6-7' tall with a 3-4' spread. Overall, Oriental Spruce is a solid tree to consider planting in our area. Vibrant colors, elegant growth habits and minimal problems make it an excellent alternative to other evergreens that typically encounter problems.



Quick TIP

Push back into the ground perennials that may have frost heaved during times of freezing and thawing cycles. Add more mulch after pushing the plants back in to prevent desiccation of the roots.



Diervilla 'Kodiak Orange'

*By Joe Smith
Boone County Extension
Horticulture Technician*

Diervilla (Pronounced “DEER-villa”) was the landscape shrub of the year in 2022 and also was selected as one of the Theodore Klein Plant Award Winners in 2022 as well. This great native honeysuckle shrub grows to about 3-4’ tall and wide that is best known for being an excellent year around foliage plant. Best sited in full sun

exposure to enhance the intense foliage coloration this garden show piece also boasts small delicate yellow summer flowers to further add to its attributes.

An extremely adaptable landscape shrub Kodiak Orange diervilla is not picky about soil or moisture requirements. It adapts to most soil types as long as it drains fairly well. In regards to maintenance it requires little in the way of pruning, fertilization or pesticide sprays to perform well in the landscape.

If you do need to prune on occasion no need to worry about pruning off those flower buds like with forsythia or other shrubs Diervilla flower buds are set on the current season’s wood.

Diervilla also shows great deer resistance in trials for those of us that garden in areas of high deer pressure. Also in the series is Kodiak® Red, and Black selections that offer most of the same great characteristics as Diervilla ‘orange’

So if you would light to try a new tough shrub for a challenging landscape situation, go ahead and give Diervilla a try!

Don’t prune those spring blooming shrubs like forsythia and lilac during the winter. Pruning now could make them prone to winter damage and reduce the amount of flowering in the spring. Prune these shrubs shortly after they flower.

**Quick
TIP**

Trees Can Lower Your Utility Bills

*By Robert Brockman
Boone County Extension Agent
for Horticulture*

Does your house never seem to stay warm during the winter? Over the summer, does it seem like your air conditioning unit is constantly running? While our house's heating and cooling systems do the best they can, winter winds zap the heat out of our houses before being replaced by intense summer sunshine that raises our house's temperature at exactly the time that we want the temperature lower.

Our home landscape can have an enormous impact on how well our houses maintain their internal, and our ideal, temperature. While outside temperatures fluctuate, our landscape can consistently make our utility bills much lower. The United States Department of Energy estimates that trees can help lower home energy bills by an average of 25%. Trees make our landscape more beautiful and usable. Instead of needing to set up an umbrella to keep the summer sun off you, it is often more enjoyable to relax in the shade of a large tree.

The primary way that trees can help us during the summer is by shading our house or outdoor area. When picking trees to shade our house, we want to make sure those trees are deciduous and lose their leaves during the winter. Large shade trees should be placed to the south and west of your house to maximize their usefulness. When deciding which shade trees to plant, you must consider several things including the mature size, growth rate, and if the tree has strong structure. A few trees native to Kentucky that work very well as shade trees include red maple, black gum, pin oak, and northern red oak.

Trees can also help our houses maintain their temperature during the winter by blocking winds that wick heat away. When planting these trees, we must carefully place them so that they intercept winds but do not shade our house. To deflect winter winds, windbreaks made of trees and shrubs should be planted to the north and north-west of the house. While deciduous trees intercept some wind during the winter, the most effective winter windbreaks feature trees and bushes that are evergreen. A few native trees and shrubs that work well in northern Kentucky include southern magnolia, American holly and columnar eastern red cedar.

In addition to the benefits you see to your home energy bill, trees are a valuable addition to your property! They can improve your property values, slow water movement, provide habitat for wildlife, and much more. While the fall and spring are great times for tree planting, the winter can be the perfect time for planning!

Source: Department of Energy <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/landscaping-energy-efficient-homes>



Houseplant, Selection and Growing

Boone County Extension Service

Join us in learning about Houseplants!

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



6028 Camp Ernst Rd, Burlington, KY 41005

January 24, 2023
7 PM - 9 PM



Scan this code to open our page!

Register online through the Boone County Cooperative Extension website

For more information, contact joseph.morgan@uky.edu

For More Information...

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

Upcoming Horticulture Events *Please Register!*

Lunch & Learn Series

-Bring your lunch and join us!

Growing Succulents Indoors & Outdoors

► February 17, 12noon-1 pm
Extension Office

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

Growing Tomatoes

► March 7, 12noon-1 pm
Enrichment Center

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

Houseplants, Selection and Growing

► January 24, 7:00-9:00pm
Enrichment Center, Upper Level
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

► February 17, 1:00-3:00 pm
Enrichment Center, Upper Level
After positive feedback from our Growing Figs program, we have decided to build on the series with an in depth propagation class. Just in time to start your cuttings for spring!

Home Vegetable Garden Planning, Planting & Maintenance

► March 9, 12noon-2:00pm,
Enrichment Center, Upper Level
Join us as we discuss best vegetable garden practices.

Fruit Grafting for Beginners

► March 15, 1:00-3:00 pm
Nature Center Barn
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).

Iconic Plants of the Bluegrass

► April 4, 10:00am-12noon
Enrichment Center, Upper Level
This class will discuss the bluegrass region of Kentucky with its unique topography and the flora that characterizes this region.

Growing a Champion Pumpkin & Entering Produce in the Boone County Fair

► April 6, 10am-12pm OR 6-8pm,
Enrichment Center, Upper Level
We will discuss the methods involved in growing giant championship sized pumpkins and how to enter them in the fair.

Growing Blueberries in Containers

► April 12, 6:00-8:00pm
Environmental & Nature Center
Learn about growing blueberries in containers while we tour our blueberry demonstration plots.

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/

Spring Cole Crops

► April 14, 2:00-3:00 pm
Environmental & Nature Center
 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!

Gardening in Small Spaces

Learn how to garden in restricted spaces. Raised beds, containers, and small residential landscaping alternatives will be covered.

Must register at bcpl.org

► April 17, 6:30-7:30pm
Florence Branch BCPL (425 US-42)
 ► April 24, 6:30-7:30pm
Walton Branch BCPL (21 S. Main)

Earth Day Seed Giveaway

Celebrate with free seeds!

No registration required.

► April 22, 10:00am-12noon
Florence Branch BCPL (425 US-42)
 ► April 22, 1:00-3:00pm
Walton Branch BCPL (21 S. Main)

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

► April 28, 4:00-7:00pm
*Enrichment Center,
 Lower Parking Lot*
 Free tree seedling giveaway offered to the general public!



Straw Bale Gardening

► May 10, 1:00-3:00 pm
Enrichment Center, Upper Level
 We will demonstrate how to successfully prepare or “season” a straw bale and also discuss how to plant it for season long vegetable production.

Cover Crops & Green Manure

► June 9, 1:00-2:00 pm
Environmental & Nature Center
 Join us as we discuss the role of cover crops in adding organic matter and building the soil structure. We will discuss cover-crop selection, sowing techniques and soil incorporation.

Learn the Trails

Environmental & Nature Center
 Learn the three main trails at the Nature Center through these guided hikes so you can feel comfortable hiking on your own during Hike the Trails!

► May 5, 10:00 am
Blue Trail (0.5 miles)
 ► May 24, 10:00 am
Yellow Trail (0.7 miles)
 ► June 21, 10:00 am
Red Trail (2 miles)

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Hike the Trails

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Environmental & Nature Center
 ► *Every Wednesday from May-October*

Enjoy exploring the Nature Center on your own. You must sign-in and out at the large Shelter House. Rain may cancel.

For more information or if you have questions, contact us—we are here to help
 859-586-6101 • boone.ca.uky.edu

Robert Brockman
 Boone County Extension Agent
 for Horticulture
rdbor232@uky.edu

Joe Smith
 Boone County Extension
 Horticulture Technician
joseph.smith2@uky.edu

Joseph Morgan
 Boone County Extension
 Horticulture Technician
joseph.morgan@uky.edu