

Has your garden started to explode? We were lucky to get rain this past week to give everything that boost it needed! Summer is flying by and it is already time for County Fair! Now through July 19th you can register all of your floral hall items. See the insert in this newsletter for the link to register. Happy Gardening!

Jessica Bessin
Jessica Bessin,

Mercer County Extension Agent for Horticulture



Roseslugs

Has something been munching on your rose bushes this summer? You might be dealing with one of our common rose pest called the Roseslug. Roseslugs create skeletonizing damage, feeding on the soft parts of the leaf, and leaving behind the veins. When they are small, they usually leave behind a thin papery layer in the feeding area, creating a windowpane like effect. As they mature, they can chew entirely through the leaf. You can see both types of damage later in the season. The damage resembles Japanese beetle damage to rose leaves but starts earlier in the year.



Roseslugs are a type of sawfly wasp. Sawflies are stingless wasps, and their immature forms can be pests of a variety of plants. Some other famous sawflies include the pine sawflies and the white oak slug sawfly. The adult wasps look different from other wasps as they lack the traditional “wasp waist”, a constriction in the connection between the thorax and the abdomen, sawflies have a broad waist. Adult sawflies are not often noticed in the landscape.

Though they all superficially resemble caterpillars, we can differentiate these immature wasps from immature moths or butterflies by counting the “prolegs.” Prolegs are the small fleshy legs that occur after the main three legs on the insect’s thorax. Caterpillar prolegs have crochets (little hooks at the tip of the proleg) and they have five pairs or fewer. Sawflies have no crochets and will have five or more pairs of prolegs.

Spinosad and insecticidal soap can manage infestations of roseslugs. These products need to be applied directly onto the larvae, so the pest must first be located on the plant. These products are also organic. Non-organic options to treat foliage with include bifenthrin, carbaryl, permethrin, and cyfluthrin. Sometimes, roseslugs are mistaken for caterpillar pests, which could lead to them being treated with Bt, a common organic caterpillar insecticide. As these pests are wasps and not caterpillars, there will be no control using Bt. Source: Dr. Jonathan Larson, UK Entomology Specialist.



NOTICE

Public Notification of Procedure for Filing a Complaint:

The Cooperative Extension Service prohibits discrimination in its programs and employment on the basis of race, color, age, religion, gender, disability, or national origin.

To initiate a complaint at the college level, contact Tim West in the Business Office at 859-257-3879. At the University level, Terry Allen and Patty Bender in the [UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity](#) (859-257-8927) may be contacted. Additionally, employee or clientele complaints involving any research or extension sponsored program or activity may be directed to the USDA, Director Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Bldg., 14th & Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 (202-720-5964).

Cucumber, Corn, and Bean Salsa

2-3 large cucumbers
2 tomatoes
1 yellow bell pepper
1 small red onion
¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro
½ cup black beans

½ cup fresh whole kernel corn, cooked
1 ounce package dry ranch dressing mix
¼ cup cider vinegar
2 tablespoons sugar, optional

Wash all vegetables. Finely chop cucumbers, tomatoes, pepper, and onion. **Combine** in a large mixing bowl with chopped cilantro. **Drain** and rinse beans and add to chopped vegetables. **Add** corn. If using canned corn instead of fresh, **drain** off liquid prior to adding to vegetables.
In a small bowl, mix together ranch dressing packet, vinegar, and sugar. **Pour** dressing over vegetables and mix well. **Serve** immediately or refrigerate until chilled.
Yield: Makes 20, ½ cup servings.
Nutrition Analysis: 50 calories, 0 g fat, 130 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrates, 2 g fiber, 70% Daily Value of vitamin C and 6% Daily Value of vitamin A

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



Green Beans with Feta Cheese and Dill

2 pounds fresh green beans, trimmed
¼ cup low fat Italian dressing
¼ cup traditional Feta cheese

¼ cup chopped red onion
¼ cup chopped fresh dill
¼ cup almonds
1 teaspoon lemon juice

Steam green beans in a small amount of water for 5 minutes or until tender.
Rinse with cold water. Drain.
Place the cooked green beans in a large bowl and add the remaining ingredients.

Toss to coat.
Serve immediately or chill to serve later.
Yield: 10, 1 cup servings
Nutrition Analysis: 100 calories, 4 g fat, 170 mg sodium, 10 g carbohydrates, 3 g protein, 3 g fiber.

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






Tomato Leaf Roll

I have had many calls recently about tomatoes wilting or rolling their leaves. Many are concerned this is a disease or insect issue. However, leaf roll is a very common environmental issue that we see yearly.

An environmental stress is usually the culprit for leaf roll. These stressors could be too much nitrogen, water, heat, drought, severe pruning, transplant shock, root damage, and temperature change. The bottom leaves are usually the first ones to start rolling up toward the mid-vein on the leaf. This can occur any time during the growing season, but we are more likely to see it when we transition from spring to summer. Indeterminate varieties of tomatoes are also more likely to have symptoms of leaf roll.

The positive thing is, even if your leaves start to roll, this will not affect the tomato plants growth or production. We can't prevent temperature changes or how much it rains, but there are a few things you can do to prevent leaf roll. Try to provide and maintain consistent moisture (this will help with blossom end rot, too), avoid over fertilizing, and avoid transplant shock by making sure to properly harden off transplants.

There are a few other conditions that often get confused for leaf roll that are much more harmful to tomato plants. Virus can cause leaves to twist and roll, but will also have a couple of other distinguishing symptoms. Another issue that can cause tomato leaves to roll is herbicide drift, 2-4D especially. This herbicide will cause the leaves to roll downward and the leaves to twist as well.

If you have a tomato plant that is starting to curl its leaves you can always send me a picture via email at Jessica.Bessin@uky.edu. Follow the link below for more information on tomato leaf roll and other issues that can cause tomatoes leaves to roll. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/tomato-leaves-rolling/>



Floral Hall Volunteers Needed!

Friday, July 21 at 10:00am

Orientation for new and returning volunteers is scheduled for Friday, July 21 at the Stable (the Floral Hall and Farmers Market building at the fairgrounds). You do not have to RSVP for this. We will also need volunteers to work two-hour stints overseeing the exhibits July 25-28.



Fort Harrod Garden Club

The Fort Harrod Garden Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM. Meetings will alternate between Boyle and Mercer County Extension Offices.

To attend the August field trip, you must have attended two previous club meetings. Limited transportation will be available and you must RSVP in advance.

August—Bernheim Forest: This month we will visit Bernheim Forest. Limited transportation will be provided, makes sure to **RSVP by July, 28th** if you plan to attend. Call-859-734-4378.

September—Dye Garden at Boyle County Extension Office: Did you know you can grow your own flowers to dye fabric? At this meeting, we will talk about these plants and make flower prints.

October—Bulbs for Spring at Mercer County Extension Office: Hard to believe it's time to think about spring flowering bulbs, but it's time to start planting. Join us as we share tips on how to have beautiful landscape of spring flowering bulbs.

November—Hypertufa Containers at Boyle County Extension Office: Have you ever heard of hypertufa before? These porous flower pots are a great addition to any plant lover's home. This will be a hands on class as we make our own hypertufa containers and have a lesson on forcing bulbs inside for the holidays.

December—Holiday Greenery at Mercer County Extension Office: Join us as we celebrate the holidays with a fun greenery project to decorate your house or give as a gift!

Mark Those Calendars!!!

Mercer County Farmers Market

Open Saturdays from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM and Wednesdays from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Fort Harrod Garden Club-See flyer above for more info.

Floral Hall Registration-July 1st-July 19th

Registration officially opens to start entering all of your items for 2023 Mercer County Floral Hall.

Floral Hall Registration Help- July 10th and 14th, Mercer County Extension Office

See insert for more details.

Integrated Pest Management Class-July 13th, Mercer County Public Library 12:00 PM

See insert for more details.

Floral Hall Volunteer Orientation- July 21st, The Stable at the Fairgrounds 10:00 AM

Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club - July 31st, Mercer County Extension Office 6:30 PM

Make sure to check out the Fort Harrod Beekeeping Facebook page for all the latest updates and announcements!

Mercer County Agriculture Field Day- August 8th, 6:00 PM

More details to follow in August newsletter.

Kentucky State Fair- August 17th—27th, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville KY



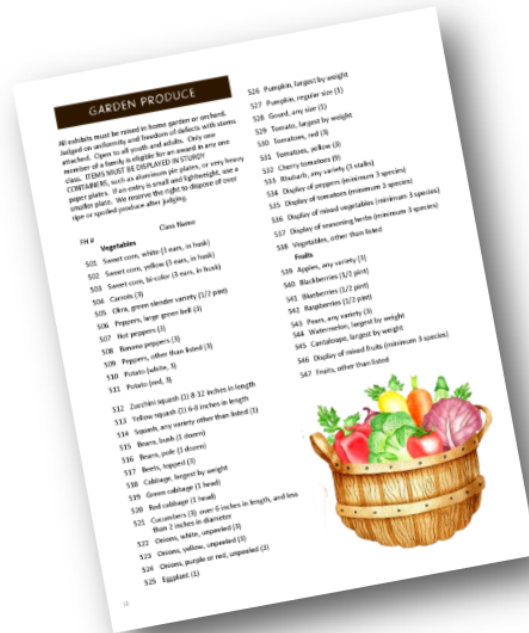
Fort Harrod
Beekeeping Club



Mercer County Floral Hall



Did you know there are a wide variety of horticulture items you can enter in Mercer County Fair Floral Hall? Choose from over 100 types of flowers, fruit, and vegetables to enter this year! Registration for Floral Hall closes 7/19/2023.



Stop by the Mercer County Extension Office for the full Floral Hall Catalog.

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
859-734-4378



You can also find the catalog and other fair information by scanning the QR code or going to this link: <https://mercercountyfair.com>

MERCER COUNTY FAIR & HORSE SHOW



Floral Hall

We have two days set in July for those needing help entering your items online:

Monday, July 10 and Friday, July 14

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

Please call 859-734-4378 to reserve your spot.
DEADLINE TO ENTER is Wednesday, July 19 at noon.

<http://mercercountyfair.com>

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road—Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Poison Hemlock

Introduced into the United States as an ornamental in the 1800s, poison hemlock is widespread throughout much of North America.

Only poisonous when ingested by livestock or humans.



Poison hemlock is often confused with the nontoxic weed Queen Anne's lace (also called wild carrot). Both plants produce similar leaves and clusters of small white flowers. However, poison hemlock has smooth stems with purple spots throughout while Queen Anne's lace has hair along its stem and leaf bases.

Purple spotting on smooth, hollow stems is a tell-tale sign of poison hemlock.

During poison hemlock's peak bloom period in late May and early June, Queen Anne's lace is just beginning active growth for the season.



Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club

July 31

Meeting begins at 6:30

Club member Paul Dedman will be speaking on "Hive management after extracting honey."



Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road—Harrodsburg, KY 40330
859-734-4378



Mercer County Public Library

Lunch & Learn:
Integrated Pest Management

Thursday, July 13 at 12:00pm

Are you using Integrated Pest Management or IPM, in your garden? We will talk about what IPM is and how you can start implementing it in your own back yard! Bring a lunch and join us for a presentation by Jessica Bessin.

The library will provide beverages and something sweet. Also take some time to visit the seed library to take a selection of seeds!



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

