



If you have a few unhappy shrubs in your landscape, you are not the only one. Check out the article below for a few tips on what to do next. The Mercer County Farmers Market has been busy this spring and that's without a lot of produce. Make sure to stop by and visit them as the Wednesday market opens this month. Happy Gardening!

Jessica Bessin

Jessica Bessin,
Mercer County Extension Agent for Horticulture



Replacing & Rescuing Damaged Shrubs

The extreme cold spell at the end of December 2022, caused severe damage to many shrubs and bushes around Kentucky homes. With plants greening up this spring, you may be wondering what to remove and what to attempt to rescue in your landscape. The cold is just one part of the puzzle when shrub health declines. Other factors include soil pH, soil volume, too much or too little water and light availability.

Some shrubs may just need a good pruning and time to recover from the winter stress. If you want to try to revive the shrub through pruning, you'll need to trim it down with sturdy pruning shears. Don't remove more than one-third of the plant in a season. If the plant is healthy, it will soon produce new green shoots. If your shrub has more brown branches than green at the core, it may be time for you to remove it. When shrubs become too woody in the middle, start over with another plant. Well-established shrubs may have large, complex root structures. Make sure to completely remove them before planting something new. Use the transition time to do a soil test so you know what amendments it will need before you bring home new plants.

If you must replace landscape shrubs and plants, Kentucky has more than 1,200 nurseries and retailers selling hundreds of types of trees, shrubs, groundcovers and perennials. With 120 counties of resources, you can buy locally without driving very far. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Kentucky Proud program allows individuals to locate local retail garden centers that market Kentucky-grown trees and shrubs. Search the garden center database at <https://www.kyagr.com/agbus/products.aspx?group=19&category=112>.

Kentucky also has many qualified nursery growers, retailers, landscapers and arborists. The Cooperative Extension Service offers many green-industry classes throughout the year. Kentucky nursery growers and retailers are a very well-trained group of horticulturists. They are familiar with Kentucky soil types, weather and other factors playing a role in plant performance. When you visit a local nursery to choose new plants, make sure and read the tags and note the light, water and soil requirements. Ensure the new plants fit your landscape. Source: Dr. Durham, UK Horticulture Extension 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).

Farmer's Market Skillet Bake

½ small onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
4-5 small red potatoes, sliced
1 tablespoon olive oil

2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
1 medium summer squash, sliced
1 medium zucchini, sliced

4 medium sized tomatoes, sliced
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
5 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped, divided

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. **Prepare** onion, garlic and sliced potatoes (about ¼ inch thick). **Heat** olive oil over medium heat in a 10 or 12-inch oven safe skillet. **Add** onion, garlic, and potatoes to pan and **stir** to coat with oil. **Cook** over medium heat, **stirring** occasionally until golden brown and tender. **Add** 1 cup mozzarella cheese. In a bowl, **toss** together the squash, zucchini and tomatoes with salt, pepper, and half of the finely chopped basil. **Layer** squash

and tomato slices over the potato and cheese layer. **Top** with remaining mozzarella cheese. **Bake** 35 minutes or until vegetables are tender and cheese is melted. **Remove** skillet from oven and **top** with remaining basil.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings
Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 8 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 490 mg sodium, 24 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 10 g protein.

Stuffed Zucchini Boats

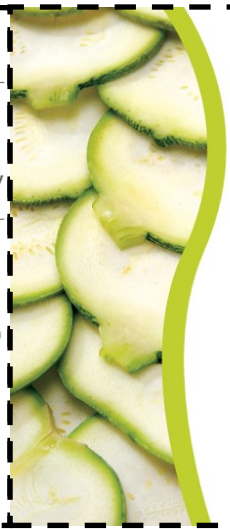
4 medium zucchini
1 pound chicken breast
½ cup chopped onion
1 egg, beaten

¾ cup marinara sauce
¼ cup bread crumbs
1 teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon black pepper

1½ cups shredded cheddar cheese
Olive oil, optional

Cut zucchini in half lengthwise. **Cut** a thin slice from the bottom of each with a sharp knife to allow the zucchini to sit flat. **Scoop** out the pulp, leaving ¼-inch shells. (Optional, lightly brush the shells with olive oil.) **Preheat** the oven to 350° F. **Cut** chicken breast into 1 inch cubes. In a large skillet, **cook** chicken and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; **drain**. **Remove** from the heat; **stir** in the egg, marinara sauce, bread crumbs, garlic powder, black pepper and 1 cup cheese. **Spoon** about ¼ cup into each zucchini shell. **Place** each filled shell onto a non-greased cooking sheet and place into the oven and **bake** for 15 minutes. **Remove** boats from oven and **sprinkle** on the remaining cheese. **Bake** boats for an additional 5 minutes or until the cheese melts.


Yield: 4 servings
Nutritional Analysis: 420 calories, 20 g fat, 9 g saturated fat, 170 mg cholesterol, 700 mg sodium, 19 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 9 g sugar, 40 g protein.



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

Buttonbush


With all this talk about replacing shrubs that didn't survive the cold, why not consider a native. Buttonbush is an excellent nectar source for many pollinating insects, including numerous species of butterflies, and also hummingbirds. In the fall, the hard ball-shaped fruit provides an excellent food source for twenty-four species of birds, including many songbirds and waterfowl. In addition, buttonbush is deer resistant This deciduous shrub will reach a height of 6 to 12 feet tall. The one-inch spherical, fragrant white flowers bloom in mid-summer on new wood. The gray bark will develop furrows as the plant ages. The glossy, medium green leaves are 4 inches long and are arranged in a whorled or opposite leaf arrangement. In the fall, the foliage turns yellow. Blooms are formed on new wood; therefore, prune the shrub while it is dormant in winter or in the early spring before new growth begins. The fibrous root system will help stabilize wet areas that are prone to erosion. Source: Clemson University Extension Horticulture and UK Horticulture Extension-Nursery Crops.



How To Prevent Blossom End Rot

Have you dealt with blossom end rot in the past? Many think the black leathery bottoms on tomatoes is a disease, but is actually a physiological disorder. It is caused by the lack of calcium in the blossom end of the of the fruit. Commonly seen in tomatoes, it can also occur in peppers, squash and watermelon.

When people hear that it is caused by the lack of calcium, they automatically think their soil must be deficient in calcium, but that's not the case. Calcium is usually readily available in our soils here in Kentucky. It is still a good idea to get your soil tested, you could be the exception and actually have low calcium levels. Plants may not be able to uptake the calcium due to a simple reason, the lack of water. Uneven watering can inhibit the plants ability to uptake the calcium.



Other reasons you may see blossom end rot is due to the pH being too low or the cultivar of tomato you're growing. Gardens like a pH of 6.5-7.0, when the pH is below 6.0 less calcium is available. Sometimes certain cultivars are more susceptible than others. Tomatoes like 'Whopper' and 'Big Boy' have tendency to have more blossom end rot than 'Better Boy' and 'Early Girl'. If you are interested in learning more about blossom end rot check out our publication that you can find at this link. https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu.ccd/files/blossom_end_rot.pdf

Submitting Plant Samples

If you have a plant sample you would like to drop off for diagnoses, here are a few tips when submitting your sample:

- Collect whole plant samples when possible, including roots.
- Dig plants to keep root systems intact.
- If only a part of a plant is collected, such as leaves or a branch, be able to describe the symptoms and location of the affected parts. Example: young vs. old leaves, side of the plant, etc.
- Choose several plants to show a range of symptoms.
- Include pictures, when possible.
- Do not expose samples to extreme heat or cold. Always bring in fresh samples.
- Place samples in a cardboard box, rather than plastic bag.

GROWING ZINNIAS

June 13 at 10:00am



Zinnias are a great addition to any property where you want to add a pop of color! Join us for tips on how to plant, grow, and harvest them this summer.
Call 859-734-4378 to register!

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

Mark Those Calendars!!!

Mercer County Farmers Market Wednesday Market-Opens June 7th, 2:00 PM-5:00 PM

Fort Harrod Garden Club— June 5th, Boyle County Extension Office 10:00 AM

Join us this month as we demonstrate how to build your own living wall. If you would like to receive a text reminder about the club meetings and locations, please call the Mercer County Extension Office at: 859-734-4378.

Growing Vegetables A to Z— June 8th, Mercer County Public Library 12:00 PM

See insert for more details.

All About Zinnias— June 13th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM

See image above for more details.

Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club – June 26th, 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!

Floral Hall Registration-July 1st

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.

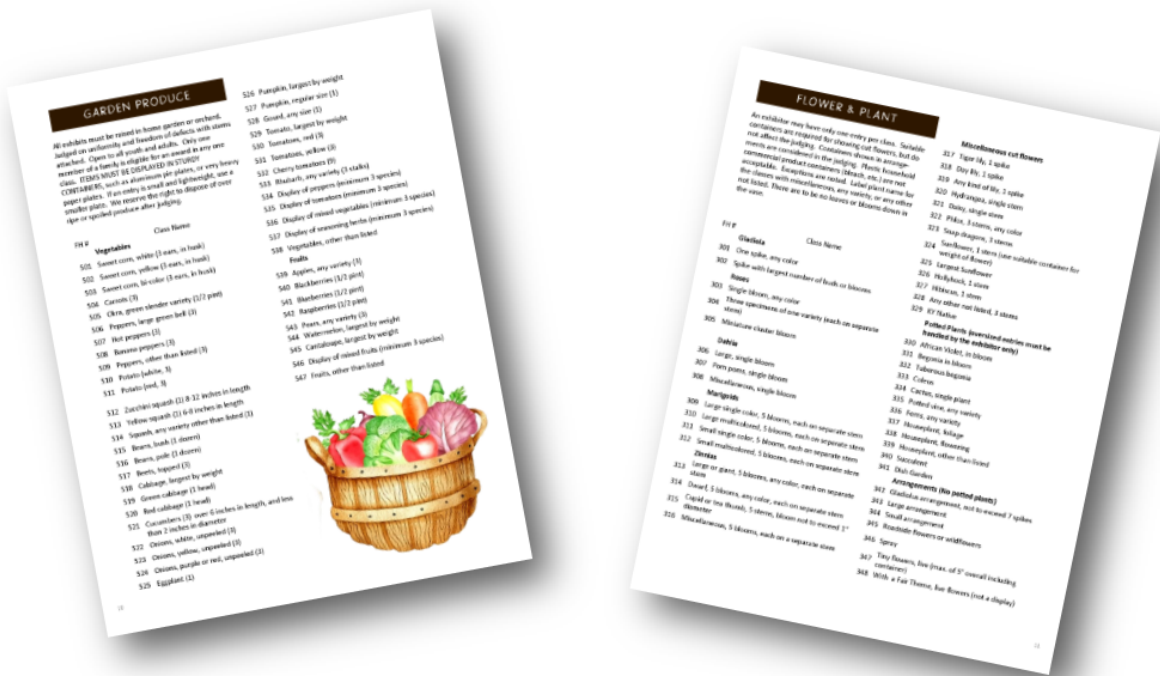



Fort Harrod
Beekeeping Club

Mercer County Floral Hall



Did you know there is 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://mercer.ca.uky.edu/countyfair>

FREE ENTRY

SATURDAY JUNE 3RD
9:00AM TO 1:00PM

KIDS DAY AT THE MARKET

FOOD TRUCKS, CRAFTS, MUSIC, FIRE TRUCK, GAMES, BOUNCE HOUSE, DOOR PRIZES, MARKET VENDORS, AND MORE!

MUSIC BY BRITTANY CONOVER, FACE PAINTING, CRAFTS WITH THE ARTS COUNCIL, BOUNCE HOUSE & GAMES WITH HARRODSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

THE STABLE BUILDING
560 LINDEN AVE

Check out our Facebook page for available items at the market!

MercerCountyFarmersMarket

Saturdays—9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesdays—2:00-5:00pm (Wednesday markets start June 7)

Mercer County Public Library
Lunch & Learn:
Vegetables from A to Z

Thursday, June 8 at 12:00pm



Bring your lunch and join us for a presentation on growing veggies! Jessica Bessin, Mercer County Extension Agent for horticulture, will teach us all about vegetables that grow well here in KY. We will work our way through the alphabet of commonly grown vegetables in our area and share tips on how to get the best production out of them.

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

Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club

June 26

Meeting begins at 6:30.

We will meet at the Extension Office, then head to Tim Sheehan's honey barn for an extraction demo with the club equipment.

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

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://mercerfairky.fairentry.com>

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

