



Where did the month of July go?! We had another fantastic county fair this year, with lots of great entries. Now we are starting to gear up for the Kentucky State Fair, which is open August 15th-25th. If you haven't started your fall garden, now is the time to do it, even though it still feels like summer.

Happy Gardening!

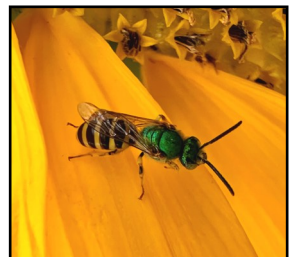
*Jessica Bessin*

Jessica Bessin,  
Mercer County Extension Agent for Horticulture



### Butterfly Gardens, Not Just For Butterflies

When we make butterfly gardens, we are obviously planning for butterflies and maybe some other pollinators as well. The honeybee, the bumblebee, and maybe a ladybug or two. These gardens can attract numerous other insects as well. In Kentucky, there are just under 200 native bee species, and that does not include the honeybee. They come in all colors and sizes, often unnoticed, but play a very important role in our ecosystem.



One that has caught my eye in my own pollinator garden this past month has been the striped sweat bee. These bees have been covering my sunflowers and other pollinator friendly plants. The striped sweat bee is part of the family Halictidae. Most halictid bees are shiny black, metallic green, or metallic blue. They get labeled sweat bees, at times landing on people to gather sweat droplets. The bees will sometimes sting while they are doing this, but only if they are swatted or startled.

They make their nest in the ground and are solitary insects. This means it is one female taking care of her nest, and similar to other solitary bees they are non-aggressive. Unlike our honey and bumble bees who are social insects and display aggressive behavior protecting their nest. In recent years, scientists have discovered some Kentucky halictid bee species are starting to show an intermediate social behavior: several individual bees create nests near one another but do not work together.

Many of these native bees, like the green sweat bee, nest underground, but others nest in twigs and plant stems. To encourage nesting in your yard, you can make your own "bee hotel". You can make your own by using hollow plant stems or bamboo, cutting them to fit into a container tightly, and placing it in a protected area outside. Native bees will lay their eggs in. Another option is to purchase the one of many native bee houses that are available online.

### NOTICE

Public Notification of Procedure for Filing a Complaint:

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### Fresh Corn Salad

5 ears of fresh corn	½ teaspoon salt
½ cup diced red onion	½ teaspoon black pepper
3 tablespoons cider vinegar	½ cup freshly chopped basil
3 tablespoons olive oil	


**Shuck** and remove silks from corn. In a large pot of boiling water, cook the corn for 4 minutes. Drain. Cool by immersing in ice water. When corn has cooled, cut the kernels off the cob.

**Toss** the kernels in a large bowl with the red onion. Combine vinegar, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Pour over corn and gently toss.

**Chill** to allow flavors to blend. Just before serving, add fresh basil.

**Yield:** 10, ½ cup servings.

**Nutritional Analysis:** 70 calories, 5 g fat, 101 mg sodium, 10 g carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 1 g fiber.



### Summer Corn and Couscous Salad


3 ears sweet corn, shucked and washed	1 cup garbanzo beans (chick peas), drained and rinsed	tomatoes, washed and halved
1 cup low-sodium chicken broth	1 medium cucumber, washed, quartered and diced	½ cup feta cheese
1 cup uncooked couscous	1 ½ cups cherry	¼ cup chopped sweet onion

**Dressing:** 3 tablespoons olive oil, 3 tablespoons lemon juice, 1 teaspoon dried oregano, ¼ teaspoon ground cumin, ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper

**Boil** corn for 6-9 minutes or until tender. **Drain** corn and immediately place in ice water. **Drain** ice water and **pat** corn dry; using a sharp knife **cut** the corn kernels from the cobs. In a separate saucepan, bring broth to a **boil** and **stir** in couscous. **Remove** couscous from heat, cover and let **stand** 5-10 minutes. **Fluff** couscous with a fork and set aside to cool. In a large bowl, **combine** the beans, cucumber, tomatoes, cheese, onion and parsley. **Add** couscous and corn to the vegetables. In a small bowl, **whisk** together the dressing ingredients. **Pour** over the couscous mixture; **toss** to coat. **Serve** chilled.

**Yield:** 9, 1 cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 200 calories, 7 g fat, 1.5 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 250 mg sodium, 28 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 5 g sugar, 7 g protein



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

### Time For A Haircut

Are your hanging baskets looking a little worn out? Starting to look leggy and yellow? It's time to give them a hair cut! Get out your pruners and trim a couple of inches off the hanging baskets you bought this spring. This works great for petunias and million bells. After the hair cut, water them well with a soluble fertilizer. Continue to water with a fertilizer mixture at least every other week. I have had success cutting my petunia baskets back at the beginning of August and they return to full bloom by mid-September. Just remember to keep them well watered as we continue with these hot temperatures thorough August. If the soil is too dry and the water runs off the top, submerge your plant until the soil becomes saturated. Enjoy your hanging baskets until the first frost! The top picture to the right was take on September 13th and the bottom photo was take on October 14th.



*Thank you to everyone who made the 2024 Mercer County Fair a success! All volunteers, participants, exhibitors, judges, and attendees are a vital part of our community. Floral Hall and Livestock Shows have been a constant through the years, and we couldn't do it without a LOT of cooperation. This year we had 110 Exhibitors, 676 Entries, and gave away \$2,098 in premiums! See you next year at the 2024 Fair!*

## Floral Hall Follow-Up Meeting

### August 26 at 4:00pm



The Mercer County Fair and Floral Hall just ended so it's time to plan for next year! Do you have any suggestions for Floral Hall? Let us know how we can make your experience even better! This is an open meeting, everyone is welcome.

## FORT HARROD GARDEN GROUP

### Native Trees, Fruits, and Shrubs



All future Fort Harrod Garden Club Meetings will take place at Mercer County Extension Office.

## August 28

### 10:00am

This month with will have a guest speaker, Laura Greenfield of Oakland Farms. She will share about native plants and her business.



1007 Lexington Road—Harrodsburg, KY 40330  
859-734-4378



## Monarch Madness



September 19  
10:00am and 5:00pm

Join us as we discuss monarch biology, the monarch watch program, and how you can create your own haven for monarchs and other pollinators! If available, take home your own common milkweed seed to add to your garden.



**RSVP to**  
**859-734-4378**  
**by September 17**



1007 Lexington Road  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330



### Mark Those Calendars!!

- Kentucky State Fair— August 15th-25th, Louisville KY**
- Fort Harrod Garden Club— August 28th, Mercer County Extension Office**

See insert above for more details.

- Floral Hall Follow Wrap Up Meeting—August 26th 4:00 PM**
- Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club—August 26th, Mercer County Extension Office 6:30 PM**


See insert for more details. Make sure to check out the Fort Harrod Beekeeping Facebook page for all the latest updates and announcements!

- Honey Bees 101—September 12th, Mercer County Public Library 12:00 PM**
- Mercer County Ag Field Day—September 12th**

More info to follow in September's newsletter

- Monarch Butterflies—September 19th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM**

See insert above for more details.



Fort Harrod  
BeeKeeping Club