



Hello Gardeners! It's been a while! I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer, it has gone by quickly! My summer has been extra special this year. I've been enjoying the newest addition to our family, Miss Magnolia Lynn Bessin, who arrived at the end of April. This summer I have been working part-time, returning right in time for county fair. We had a fantastic turn out in the flower and plant section and saw an increase all Floral Hall items. I am starting to get ready for fall programing and have some fun events/classes planned! Looking forward to seeing everyone at horticulture and other Extension events!

Happy Gardening!

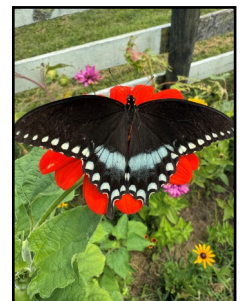


Jessica Bessin,
Mercer County Extension Agent for Horticulture

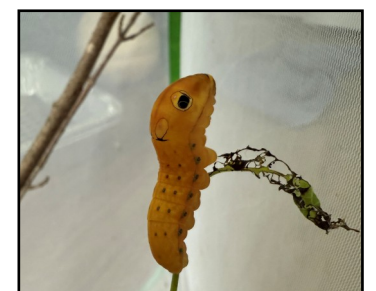


The Many Faces Of The Spicebush Swallowtail

This summer my children and I have enjoyed checking our spice bush everyday. Spicebush is a great native plant that has tiny yellow flowers in the early spring and spectacular yellow foliage. It gets its name from the aromatic spicy scent you get when you crush the leaves and stems. Besides pulling a leaf off here and there to smell their cinnamon-like leaves, we were on the search for Spicebush Caterpillars. These caterpillars primarily feed on spicebush, as its name says, and sassafras. They are easy to find, as they hide in shelters made by using silk to fold a leaf around them.



I would say these caterpillars are the reigning kings/queens of mimicry. After hatching, these tiny caterpillars look like a bird dropping. As they feed and grow, they shed their skin and suddenly look like a snake! Predators are definitely not going to mess with them. Once they are close to pupating, they turn a bright yellow-orange. Finally, they go through their metamorphosis in a green or brown cocoon and camouflage themselves. Adults are large black butterflies with iridescent blue (females) or green (males) on their hind wings.



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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification



Summer Garden Lasagna

5 medium zucchini	8 ounces plain Greek yogurt	1 medium yellow onion, diced ¼ inch	10 ounces fresh spinach (24 ounce) jar spaghetti sauce
2 yellow summer squash	2 cups low fat cottage cheese	¼ cup fresh chives, chopped	8 ounces shredded mozzarella cheese
3 tablespoons olive oil	½ cup chopped fresh basil	2 garlic cloves, pressed	Garnish with fresh basil leaves
2 large eggplants, sliced ½ inch	2 teaspoons salt		

Thinly **slice** zucchini and summer squash ¼ inch thick and **toss** with 1 tablespoon olive oil and 1 teaspoon salt. **Roast** in oven at 400 degrees F for 20 minutes, turn slices after 10 minutes. **Slice** eggplants, **toss** with 1 tablespoon olive oil; **place** on baking sheet. **Roast** in oven at 400 degrees F for 20 minutes, turn slices after 10 minutes. If needed, place under boiler for 5 minutes to reduce excess moisture. **Mix** together yogurt, cottage cheese, fresh basil, 1 teaspoon salt, diced onion and chives. **Sauté** garlic in remaining olive oil until golden. **Add** spinach to pan and **cook** until wilted. **Spoon** half of roasted zucchini, squash, and sautéed garlic into a greased 9-by-11 inch baking dish. **Coat** evenly with half of the cottage cheese and yogurt mixture. **Place** an even layer of eggplants on cottage cheese mixture. **Spread** a layer of spaghetti sauce on eggplants and sprinkle with mozzarella cheese. **Repeat** process for one more layer. **Bake** at 425 degrees F for 40 to 45 minutes. **Sprinkle** with chopped basil and cheese for garnish. **Yield:** 10, 1 cup servings. **Nutritional Analysis:** 240 calories, 10 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 840 mg sodium, 20 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 7 g sugars, 17 g protein.



Harrodsburg Tree Board

Would you like to see the gateways to your city more picturesque? Would you like to see more shade on the avenues of town? Do you love trees? Consider joining the Harrodsburg Tree Board! We are a volunteer group organized by city ordinance with the goal of making Harrodsburg/Mercer County a beautiful place to live, work, and play.

If you are interested, please fill out this survey or call Jessica at the Mercer Extension Office at 859-734-4378 by September 12.

<https://tinyurl.com/treeboard25>





Seed Saving

September 9 10:00am

Join us as we share tips and tricks for successfully saving seeds.

RSVP to 859-734-4378

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



GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST

If you plan to participate, please let us know by noon on October 3.

Drop off is between 10:00am-12:00pm on Saturday, October 4.

RSVP to 859-734-4378

On October 4 at 1:00pm, the winner will be announced and presented a trophy for the largest pumpkin in the Fort Harrod Area.

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330



Plants for Fall Color

October 7 10:00am

Join as we share information on plants that will bring pops of color to your landscape this fall. A few lucky participants will go home with their own stunning fall plants.

RSVP by October 3rd 859-734-4378

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

Just Like Us, Vegetables Don’t Like Extreme Heat!

We have had some really hot stretches this summer and sporadic rain. Even if you have been able to irrigate your garden, you might have noticed some weird or sparse vegetables. When temperatures reach above 90 degrees Fahrenheit vegetable crops don’t perform well.

A classic sign of a heat-stressed vegetable plants is the lack of the vegetables themselves. Flowers will start to drop when temperatures stay over 70 degrees Fahrenheit at night, especially with tomatoes. With cucurbits, when temperatures are high they will produce more male flowers than female, thus reducing the fruit that is produced. Pollination also decreases with higher temps, as bees are less active in the extreme heat.

One frequent question I have received this summer is why are my tomatoes not turning red? Optimum temperature for tomatoes to ripen is 65-77 degrees Fahrenheit. Once temperatures go over 85 degrees Fahrenheit tomatoes will remain green until temperatures decrease.

Unfortunately, there isn't much to be done when it comes to dealing with these extreme temperature swings. Mulching and providing sufficient water, while waiting for temperatures to go back down, is always helpful.



Perfect tomatoes that won’t ripen!

Horticulture Class Reminders



Starting this spring, you have the option to receive a text message reminder about upcoming horticulture classes. Use the QR or the link below to sign up for our remind system. After calling the Extension Office to RSVP for one of our horticulture classes, you will receive a text message reminding you the class is happening, if you need to bring any additional supplies, or if we must cancel due to inclement weather. Stay in the loop with everything that is happening with the horticulture program! www.remind.com/join/mcehp



Mark Those Calendars!!

Mercer County AG Field Day-September 4th

See insert for more details.

Fort Harrod Garden Club-September 8th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM

This month we are visiting one of our native plant producers in Mercer County. RSVP to reserve your spot in the Extension Van by calling 859-734-4378 by September 5th.

Seed Saving-September 9th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM

Harrodsburg Tree Board Meeting– September 15th, Mercer County Extension Office 5:00 PM

County Extension Council Meeting-September 22nd, Mercer County Extension Office 6:00 PM

KY Mechanical Weed Control Field Day-September 23rd, UK Horticulture Research Farm 8:00 AM– 4:00 PM

Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club-September 29th, Mercer County Extension Office 6:30 PM

This month the bee club will be joined by KY State Apiarist Amanda Skidmore! Make sure to check out the Fort Harrod Beekeeping Facebook page for all the latest updates and announcements!

Giant Pumpkin Contest-October 4th, Mercer County Extension Office

See above flyer for more details.

Harvest Home and Table Fair-October 4th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM– 4:00 PM

Be on the lookout for out for our mailing on this event! We can’t wait to see everyone's wonderful fall themed items!

Plants for Fall Color-October 7th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM

See above flyer for more details.



Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club



SEPT 23
8 AM - 4 PM EST

-KY Farmer, Midwest Mechanical
Weed Control Field Day



**Rain Date – September 11th*

Nathan Hahn, Unity Farms Owner

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Science
4-33 Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

NO national program of bilingual education that can be used as a model for other schools and states is available on the basis of a nationwide sample of rural, urban, religious, public and private schools. *Interstate, Gender Minority and Gender Programs* is a national survey of information, news, research, programs and activities of rural, urban, religious, public and private schools. The 1972 survey is available with a public access program. Information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Maryland, The Library of The University of Maryland, and Maryland Center for Cooperative Education. TV 1010-1010.




University of Kentucky
 College of Agriculture,
 Food and Environment

Enjoy some shade, cool drinks, & good food for all. In addition, several agricultural businesses will have displays in the vendor area.

Mercer Co Extension Service
859-734-4378

RSVP

**Please call 859-734-4378
to register
by September 2nd.
It is important that we know how
many are planning to attend.
THANK YOU!**

Mercer County Farm Bureau Federation
 Mercer County Conservation District
 Mercer County Cooperative Extension Service
 Central KY Ag Credit
 Farm Credit Mid-America

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Science
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

NO national program of bilingual education that can be used as a model for other schools and states is available on the basis of a nationwide sample of rural, urban, religious, public and private, primary, intermediate, secondary and college programs in several states. *Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, 1994, 1, 1-14.



