

Weed It and Reap

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER



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College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service
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Flickering Fireflies Illuminate the Landscape

Michele Warmund, University of Missouri, Plant Science & Technology

The flickering of fireflies signals the beginning of warm summer nights. Although these common beetles evoke a sense of wonder in viewers, they are simply performing a luminescent courtship ritual that has evolved over millennia.

About 2,200 species of fireflies are known worldwide, with about 125 found in North America. The American Big Dipper firefly (*Photinus pyralis*) is the most commonly found species in Missouri (Figure 1). Adults of this firefly are about one-half inch long and have a red plate behind their head with a black spot in the center, a blackish brown body, and wing covers (elytra) outlined in yellow. The last section of the abdomen, which emits a flicker of light, is known as the lantern.

The glow of a firefly is produced when an organic substance called luciferin is oxidized in the presence of the luciferase enzyme, which releases energy as light. At dusk or during the early evening, Big Dipper firefly males display a J-shaped flash about every six seconds while hovering about two feet from the ground to attract a mate.

(Continued on pg. 2)

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(Continued from pg. 1, 10 Backyard Chicken Basics)

The female Big Dipper firefly lays her eggs, which also glow briefly, on the soil surface. After 18 to 25 days, the eggs hatch, and the larvae, with two light-producing organs, begin feeding on snails, slugs, and worms in organic matter or underground. The larval stage lasts one to two years before the luminescent pupal stage, which lasts only about 9 to 15 days.

Firefly numbers are diminishing in some areas where their habitat is shrinking or where light pollution occurs. To preserve fireflies in residential areas, leave a bit of vegetation, such as grass clippings or leaf litter in a small area, which will retain moisture and attract fireflies and their potential food sources. Minimize the use of pesticides and use them only when needed. Limit outdoor lighting or use a motion sensor to trigger the lights when fireflies are active. If needed, use red light bulbs as this color is less disturbing to fireflies. Then, sit back, relax, and enjoy their ethereal beauty as they perform their courtship flickering in the night.



Figure 1 Adult Big Dipper firefly found on ground vegetation. Photo courtesy of Katja Schulz at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Common_Eastern_Firefly_\(27858835340\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Common_Eastern_Firefly_(27858835340).jpg)

Franklin County Conservation District

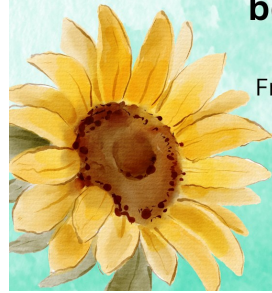
Backyard Conservation Program
Urban Cost Share Program

April 1, 2023 to August 1, 2023

Raised Garden Beds, Rain Barrels, Compost Bins, Pollinator Gardens and Beives

- First come, first serve
- Franklin County Residents only
- One application per household
- 50% cost share up to \$250 maximum

Must have approval before you begin project



Franklin County Conservation District
103 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-352-2701

Garden With Us!

Frankfort Community Gardens
Private Plot Program



10ft x 10ft private plots available

\$10/year plot "lease"

Access to tools and water

Education available for success

Plots available at Dolly Graham Park & Thorn Hill Education Center

To get your gardening adventure started to day contact us!

Email: cgnfrankfort@gmail.com

Facebook: CommonWealth Gardens



How to Help a Drought-Stressed Lawn

Kenneth Clayton, plant and soil sciences extension associate professor



Kentucky's been pretty dry the past few weeks. Even if we get a heavy rainfall in the near future, it won't completely alleviate drought symptoms.

When a lawn becomes excessively dry, the soil surface develops some water repellency that prevents water from soaking in during a quick, hard rain event.

Here are some things you can do to help your thirsty grass and hopefully avoid having to completely reseed your lawn.

1. Water every other day or every third day until good, soaking rains begin.
2. Apply about two-thirds of an inch of water each time. You can check this by probing the soil with a knife or screwdriver to determine if the soil is wet 2 to 3 inches deep.
3. Water in the early morning to help reduce diseases, remove dew and reduce evaporative water loss.
4. Water areas that have the earliest browning first. These are often on southern or western-facing slopes or areas with heavy clay soils, very compacted soil or rocks near the surface.
5. If possible, don't mow a drought-stricken yard until you can water it or you know a soaking rain

is on the way. Weeds are still growing and flowering during summer droughts. Wait for the rain, then mow off the weeds.

6. Don't apply herbicides during a summer drought. They won't work when weeds are suffering and can damage drought-stressed grass more than weeds.

7. Wait for a soaking rain before applying nitrogen to the lawn in the fall. Nitrogen can greatly improve a lawn's drought recovery.

For more information on caring for your lawn, contact the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service.

HAPPY



FATHER'S DAY

Identifying and Taming Poison Ivy

Shawn Wright, UK extension specialist

Poison ivy is a common perennial plant notorious for causing itchy rashes and allergic reactions in humans. It can be challenging to control due to its ability to spread rapidly and its resilience in various environments. With proper knowledge and effective strategies, you can manage and control poison ivy.

Learn how to identify poison ivy. It is a deciduous vine, shrub, and ground cover that typically grows in clusters of three leaflets, although leaf count may vary. Its leaves are glossy, oval-shaped, and may have serrated or smooth edges. The plant's color ranges from light green to reddish orange, depending on age and time of year.. Birds love the white, waxy poison ivy berries.

The pesky plant poses health risks through its oily resin called urushiol, which causes allergic reactions. Direct contact with any part of the plant—leaves, stems, roots or even the smoke from burning it—can trigger a rash, accompanied by itching, redness, swelling and blisters. The oil can remain on clothing, pets, or tools that touch it.. Avoid unprotected contact with poison ivy and take necessary precautions when attempting to control it. Responses may range from mild to severe depending on the person,



the amount of oil contacted, the method of contact (touching, inhalation from burning, etc.) and the time of year.

Here are some effective strategies for controlling poison ivy growth:

1. Wear protective clothing. When dealing with poison ivy, wear long sleeves, long pants, gloves and closed-toe shoes to minimize skin exposure. Eye protection and a hat may be necessary. Use disposable gloves and turn them inside out when removing them. You may need to use disposable garment such as those used by pesticide applicators, or make sure to wash clothing separately from other items to prevent urushiol transfer.

2. You can manually remove small infestations of poison ivy by digging up the roots with a garden trowel or gloved hands. Ensure you remove the entire plant, including the roots, to prevent regrowth.

3. For larger infestations or difficult-to-reach areas, you may find herbicides effective. These herbicides can be selective to broadleaf plants, or a non-selective herbicide such as those containing glyphosate. The use of glyphosate-based herbicide is recommended in late summer through fall when the plant is preparing for winter and sending reserves to the roots and the chemical is transported with it to kill the root. Carefully read and follow the instructions on the product label and consider using a targeted application method like a paintbrush to minimize damage to desirable plants in the same area.

4. Smothering it with a barrier. Try using layers of newspaper or cardboard covered with mulch or soil to block sunlight and prevent the plant from growing. Regularly monitor the covered area for any new sprouts. Unfortunately, poison ivy can travel as a vine for a considerable distance so this method will not usually be very effective.

5. Don't be afraid to call in a professional. In severe cases, or if you are unsure about dealing with poison ivy yourself, consider seeking

professional help from landscapers or pest control services experienced in poison ivy removal. Now that you've removed the pest, you want to prevent it from regrowing. Remain vigilant with a few preventative measures:

6. Regularly inspect your property for new poison ivy growth, especially in areas where it is known to thrive, such as fence lines, wooded areas, neglected corners, and areas where birds roost.

7. When you spot new poison ivy plants, promptly remove them using the methods mentioned earlier to prevent their spread.

Educate yourself and others about poison ivy identification and precautions to avoid contact. Knowledge will empower you to take proactive measures and prevent accidental exposure. Controlling poison ivy requires a combination of identification, protective measures, and effective removal strategies. By understanding the plant's characteristics and using appropriate methods, you can minimize the risks associated with poison ivy and regain control over your environment. Remember to prioritize safety and, when in doubt, seek professional assistance to ensure effective and long-lasting control. For more information about poison ivy and other topics, contact the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service



Volunteers Needed

No Experience Required

Kentucky's Office of the State Entomologist manages current invasive pests & monitors for new threats. Their new program & App allows volunteers to monitor for several invasive insects.

The Spotted Lanternfly was recently found in Cincinnati.

Early detection of invasive pests is key to deterring establishment.

If you have the willingness to learn and scout for invasive pests, please get involved! Use the QR code or contacts below.

For more information:
 Carl Harper carl.harper@uky.edu
 Seth Spinner seth.spinner@uky.edu
 Jonathan Larson jonathan.larson@uky.edu
 Julie Collins jlco241@uky.edu

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
 Entomology

Spotted Lanternfly nymph

Spongy Moth caterpillar



The Kentucky Solar Energy Society and their partners are organizing a group-purchasing campaign making it easier to go solar in the Frankfort area. **Solarize Frankfort** connects participants with pre-screened solar installers and provides access to bulk-purchase discounts (up to 15% off solar PV installations).

Our Partners



Who Is Eligible?

- Homeowners, small businesses, non-profits, places of worship
- Residents of Franklin County and surrounding counties (Anderson, Henry, Owen, Scott, Shelby, and Woodford)

Solarize Frankfort makes it easier to go solar by...

- Pre-screening your home to see if it is a good fit for solar.
- Connecting you with our vetted, experienced solar installation partners, *Pure Power Solar* or *Wilderness Trace Solar*.
- Providing a step-by-step walk-through of the installation process.

Go Solar!

- Reduce your energy bill!
- Lower your carbon footprint!
- Help the City of Frankfort meet its goal of 100% renewables by 2030!

To Enroll in *Solarize Frankfort* and receive a free solar assessment:

www.kyses.org/solarize

Solarize Frankfort's Solar Installation Partners



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MASTER GARDENER?

2023 MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

Hosted by Franklin & Woodford County

Scan the QR code to apply



Topics in this training program include:

- Basic botany, entomology, and plant pathology
- Growing better lawns with less effort
- Understanding how soils affect plant performance
- Proper care and maintenance of plants
- Fruit, flower, and vegetable gardening
- Diagnosing plant problems



Classes held every Thursday, August 24 - December 7, 2023

Location: Franklin & Woodford County Extension Offices

APPLICATIONS DEADLINE July 28, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Franklin County Extension
502-695-9035**

**Woodford County Extension
859-873-4601**

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior
notification.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Master Gardener Class Schedule 2023

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Readings:</u>
In Woodford County:		
August 24	Program Orientation	Introduction
August 31	Botany	Chapter 1 & 3
September 7	Soils & Composting	Chapter 4 & 5
September 14	Plant diseases and diagnostics	Chapters 6 & 7
September 21	Entomology	Chapter 8
September 28	IPM, Pesticides, Pesticide Safety	Chapters 9 & 10
October 5	Water Quality	Chapter 11
In Franklin County:		
October 12	Woody Plants & Pruning	Chapter 12
October 19	Perennials, Annuals, and Bulbs	Chapter 13
October 26	Turf	Chapter 15
November 2	Fruit	Chapter 16
November 9	Landscape Design	Chapter 17
November 16	Organic gardening	Chapter 18
November 23	**No Class - Holiday**	
November 30	Vegetables	Chapters 22
December 7	Final Exam (open book)	
December 14	Class Completion and Holiday Party (evening)	

Class time is 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, unless otherwise noted or announced. Classes will be held at the Franklin & Woodford County Extension Offices.

For any questions: Woodford Co. Office (859) 873-4601; Franklin Co. Office (502) 695-9035; Adam Leonberger, Horticulture Agent Cell (502) 695-9035, adam.leonberger@uky.edu

Class attendance is mandatory. Please let Adam know in advance about any special needs, absences, or tardies. Make up days can be scheduled with Adam. Additional 'help' and 'catch up' sessions will be scheduled as needed and will not be mandatory.

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



TUESDAYS FOR KIDS AT THE FARMERS MARKET

Farm 2 School Explorations

Grades K-6, 10-11 AM

Tuesdays (registration required)

bit.ly/45RTLEH

June 20 | June 27 | July 11 | July 18 | July 25



Plus More 4-H Fun

kids of all ages, 9-11 AM
just drop by these Tuesdays

June 13 | June 20 | July 11
July 18 | July 25 | August 1

SOUTH FRANKFORT FOOD SHARE

-DATES-

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



JOIN US TO ENJOY

a box of local produce,
cooking demonstrations,
free samples & recipes,
fun activities, and more!



Look for our
FCS agent on
June 13th
for a food
demonstration.

MAY 30
JUNE 13 · 27
JULY 11 · 25
AUG. 8 · 22
SEPT. 5 · 19
OCT. 3 · 17

Dolly Graham Park
225 River Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 382-1254

LEARN MORE &
ORDER AHEAD
fcmarket.org

SLIDING SCALE PRICING \$6 - SNAP/EBT \$30 - Market Value
\$12 - Limited Income \$40 - Food Justice

Farm City Field Day

The 63rd Franklin County Farm City Field Day is July 13th in the Bridgeport community off Evergreen Road. This year we have two host farms, Firmly Rooted Flowers and the Harrod Family Farm.

Firmly Rooted Flowers is a seasonal, specialty-cut flower farm operated by a 5th generation farm family. The Harrod Family Farm is a beef cattle operation of multiple families and generations as well.

Tours will start at 9:00 a.m. and run until lunch. Stops include cut flower production, heavy-use feed pad, tire waterers and the embryo-transfer process of artificial insemination. After our meal and short program, we will be offering an in-depth tour of the flower operation for those interested.

Please join us for an informative, educational day of fellowship. Tickets (required for the meal) are free and will be available soon.

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 13, 2023
9AM- 1PM

FARM CITY FIELD DAY

FARM HOSTS:

HARROD FARM - 645 EVERGREEN RD.

FIRMLY ROOTED FLOWERS - 650 EVERGREEN RD.

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Disabilities
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with prior
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Project Days

June 21 & July 5

Entomology and Forestry!

4-H'ers will be collecting, preserving and displaying their own entomology and forestry projects to share at the county fair.

15 spots available!

Ages 9-18

June 21st- Collection
July 5th - Display Creation

Interested? Contact the Franklin
 Co. Extension Office to register

at 502-695-9035

Cooperative Extension Service
 Agriculture and Natural Resources
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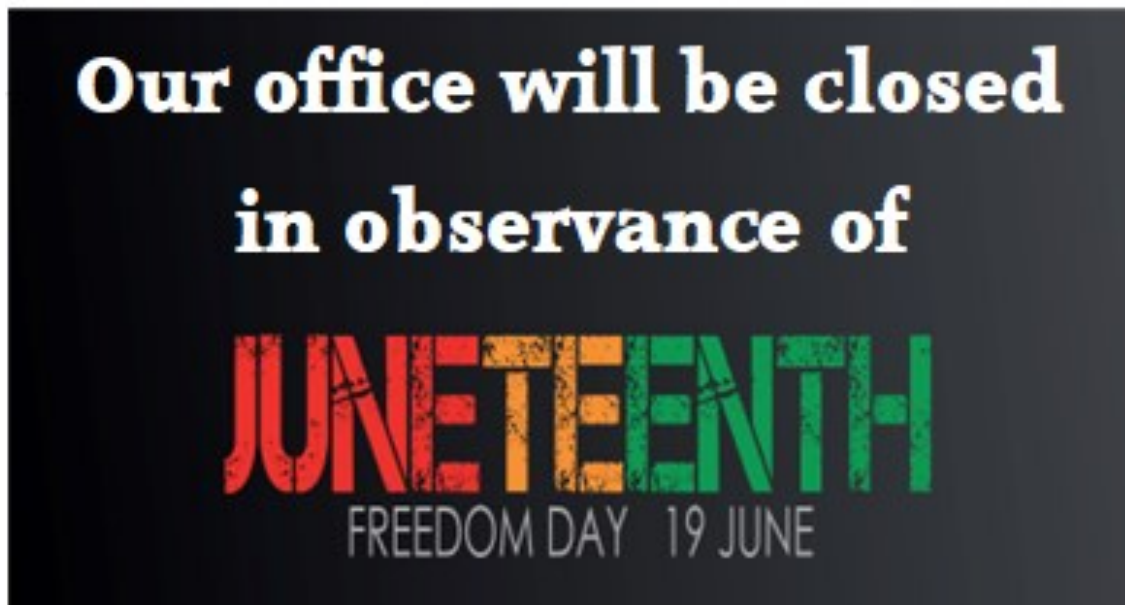
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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
 accommodated
 with prior notification.

UPCOMING EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSINGS





Apple Cranberry Waldorf Salad

1 cup chopped Granny Smith apple

1 cup chopped Red Delicious apple

1 cup diced celery

1 cup halved seedless green grapes

1 cup halved seedless red grapes

1½ cups dried cranberries

½ cup chopped walnuts

8 ounces non-fat vanilla yogurt

2 tablespoons honey

¼ teaspoon cinnamon

1. Combine chopped apples and diced celery and put in a medium sized bowl. Add grapes, cranberries, and walnuts to the mixture. Stir ingredients together.

2. In a separate bowl, add the yogurt, honey, and cinnamon. Stir together and pour over the fruit mixture. Cover and chill before serving.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 210 calories, 5 g fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 35 mg sodium, 41 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 34 g sugar, 3 g protein.

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




Adam Leonberger

