



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Bullitt County Extension Office
384 Halls Lane
Shepherdsville, KY 40165
502-543-2257
Email: bullitt.ext@uky.edu

Upcoming Classes

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES. TO RSVP, CALL 502-543-2257. SEE GARDENERS TOOLBOX ON PAGE 3 FOR CLASS DESCRIPTIONS.

*January 2023

Friday, 1/20: Winter Sowing, 6pm

*February 2023

Friday, 2/3: Landscape Design Part 1 of 5, 6pm
Friday, 2/24: Landscape Design Part 2 of 5, 6pm

*March 2023

Friday, 3/10: Landscape Design Part 3 of 5, 6pm
Thursday, 3/16: Oyster Mushroom Bucket Make & Take, 6pm
Friday, 3/31: Landscape Design Part 4 of 5, 6pm



Meetings

ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Master Gardeners' Assn. &
Horticulture Council
(1st Tuesday of each month)

- January 3rd, 6pm
- February 7th, 6pm
- March 7th, 6pm

Beekeepers' Association & Classes
(2nd Wednesday of each month)

- January 11th, 7pm: Feeding in Winter Months
- February 8th, 7pm: Beekeeping 101
- March 8th, 7pm: TBA

Connect with us on
Facebook!



January

Horticulture Newsletter

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News, events, and
extension programs in
Bullitt County





January Garden Calendar

BY ROSIE LERNER, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Yard

- Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Keep road and sidewalk salt away from plants. Construct a screen of burlap, if necessary, to keep salt spray off of plants.
- “Leaf” through nursery catalogs or visit websites and make plans for landscape and home orchard additions. Order plants early for best selection.
- Early spring-flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia, crabapple, flowering quince, and flowering dogwood can be forced for early indoor blooms by placing cut branches in water in a warm location (See following article.)

Garden

- Send for seed catalogs for the garden.
- Sketch your garden plans on paper, including what to grow, spacing, arrangement and number of plants needed.
- Order seeds and plants as early as possible for best selection.
- Wood ashes from the fireplace can be spread in the garden, but don’t overdo it. Wood ashes increase soil pH, and excess application can make some nutrients unavailable for plant uptake. Have soil tested to be certain of the pH before adding wood ash.

Home

- As houseplant growth slows, apply less fertilizer and water.
- If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west and south-facing windows. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement dark rooms.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.



Burlap cloth can be used in a number of ways to prevent salt injury on plants. Construct a screen of burlap, if necessary, to keep salt spray off of plants.



Need help designing a landscape plan? Let us help! Call our office to register for our five-part landscape design series, beginning in February.



Be sure to move houseplants closer to sunny exposures, such as south and west facing windows.

Five-Part Landscape Design Series

Participation in all classes required*

This course is broken into five parts, with each class building on the previous one. This course is intended to help you design and execute a landscape plan that is functional, practical and aesthetically pleasing. *Class schedule on back.*

Part 1—The first class begins with the tools of design, property mapping and scale drawing.

Part 2—This class focuses on needs assessment and property analysis. Landscape functionality and making the best of our properties features while meeting your needs.

Part 3—In the third class we look at design principles, color spectrum and techniques that can be utilized to maximize your landscape.

Part 4—Applying design principles, you will share landscape challenges, brain storm design ideas and learn more about your personal style.

Part 5—Participants will receive personalized packets of information based on their landscape needs to assist in finalizing their design projects.



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

Educational programs of KY 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, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Ask about our Master Gardener Program



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service



APPLY NOW!

The Bullitt County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program is now accepting applications!

Course topics may include:

- Botany
- Entomology
- Plant Pathology
- Soils & Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Lawn Care
- Tree & Shrub Care
- Fruit & Vegetable Gardening
- Organic Gardening

Designed to expand horticultural knowledge in the community through the use of trained volunteers, the program is taught through a hybrid of classroom lectures, labs, and demonstrations. Master Gardener volunteers help the extension service reach more residents with gardening information and resources.

- A Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Volunteer:**
- has an interest in any type of gardening, such as vegetable or ornamental
 - wants to teach others to garden
 - wants to enhance their communities and the environment with service-oriented projects
 - is trained by Cooperative Extension Service personnel
 - uses writing, photography, and other talents to benefit others

For more in-depth information about the program and requirements, visit <https://bullitt.co.uky.edu/contact/bullitt-county-master-gardeners> Or contact Lorilee Kunze at Lorilee.kunze@uky.edu or 502-543-2257

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Education programs of the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Kentucky are offered 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, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.



CONTACT US

Bullitt Co. Extension Horticulture Agent
Lorilee Kunze
lorilee.kunze@uky.edu



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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



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2023

Gardener's Toolbox

BULLITT CO. EXTENSION OFFICE
384 HALLS LANE
SHEPHERDSVILLE, KY 40165
502-543-2257

UPCOMING CLASSES

In order to have materials for each attendee, we ask you to **RSVP prior to all classes** by calling 502-543-2257. Classes may be cancelled if there are not enough participants registered.

**In case of inclement weather, when Bullitt County Schools are cancelled, our classes are cancelled.*

- **1/20, 6pm-Winter Sowing**
Join us for a winter sowing demonstration. Bring a translucent milk jug and we will provide seeds, soil, and supplemental materials.
- **2/3, 6pm-Landscape Design, Part 1**
See opposite page for full class description.
- **2/24, 6pm-Landscape Design, Part 2**
- **3/10, 6pm-Landscape Design, Part 3**
- **3/16, 6pm-Oyster Mushroom Bucket Make & Take**
Learn the basics of growing oyster mushrooms and inoculate your own bucket to take home. \$10 fee required.
- **3/31, 6pm-Landscape Design, Part 4**
- **4/14, 6pm-Landscape Design, Part 5**
- **4/29, 8am-Master Gardeners Plant & Art Sale**
- **5/19, 6pm-Essential Plants for Butterflies**
Learn about food plants required for healthy butterfly larvae and habitat.



MASTER GARDENERS' & HORTICULTURE COUNCIL

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm. All meetings open to the public.

BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm. All meetings open to the public.

BULLITT COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS'

PLANT & GARDEN ART SALE

Saturday, April 29th 2023

8a-2p

Bullitt Co. Extension Office
384 Halls Lane
Shepherdsville, KY 40165

Rain or Shine!

Hosting numerous vendors selling a wide variety of items: vegetables, herbs, flowers, bird houses, garden art & more!

All proceeds used by Master Gardeners for projects in the local community



For more information, call 502-543-2257

For a complete list of upcoming classes and events, visit the Bullitt Co. Extension website at: <https://bullitt.ca.uky.edu>



- **6/16, 6pm-Growing & Drying Herbs**

Learn the basics of growing, drying, and storing herbs. Craft and fill your own herb bottle to take home.

- **7/19, 6pm-Carnivorous Plants**

Learn about the life cycle and proper care of carnivorous plants.

- **8/4, 6pm-Growing Peppers & Making Hot**

Sauce

Learn the basics of growing hot peppers and how to craft your own hot sauce. Peppers & bottles will be provided.

- **9/22, 6pm-Cooking with Fall Vegetables**

Learn how to harvest, store, and cook with fall vegetables. Cooking demonstration and recipe tasting with Plate it Up Kentucky Proud recipes will be provided.

- **10/20, 6pm-Apple Tasting**

Embrace the fall season and join us in tasting a wide variety of apples to discover your favorite kind.

- **10/28, 10am-Community Seed Exchange**

Save the date and join us for a communal gathering and seed exchange. Bring your vegetable, annual, and perennial seeds to give away or trade with others. All garden enthusiasts welcome.

- **11/3, 6pm-Family Craft Night Make & Take**

Join us for a family movie night of snacks, hot chocolate, and Holiday crafting with natural items.

Forcing Cut Branches for Winter

BY ALEXIS AMORESE, EXTENSION HORTICULTURE AGENT, BOYLE COUNTY, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Cut branches forced into bloom can help add sunshine to those gloomy winter days and it is not hard to coax many into flower. Branches from cherry, plum, forsythia, quince and viburnums can be forced into blooming and used in arrangements. Spring flowering trees and shrubs can be forced into bloom once winter conditions in our gardens have satisfied their dormancy requirements. With proper conditioning in water, good light and proper temperatures, they will burst into flower 5 days to 2 weeks after cutting.

Some plants are quite easy to force into bloom such as forsythia, quince and pussy willow. Not all shrubs, however, are as easy. Those with late spring blooms such as viburnums, lilac and weigela, are far more difficult. They are best cut close to their regular flowering time. Cherries and plums are excellent forcing specimens, especially the old-fashioned purple leaf plum. Many plants can be forced 1-2 months before their normal flowering. You can start forcing as early as February for many of the earlier flowering selections and March works well for the later flowering species.

When winter arrives the flower buds are already formed on trees and shrubs. A period of dormancy is required before they will bloom. Plants differ in the amount of chilling, moisture, light and warm temperatures necessary to stimulate the spring flower buds. By February in most years, winter temperatures have satisfied the flower bud's dormancy requirement. After dormancy has been met, you can force branches by duplicating spring conditions.

Choose a mild day to cut branches and try to cut them during the warmest part of the day when buds are filled with moisture. Choose branches that are well budded and have interesting curves. Follow good pruning practices and prune to maintain the natural shape of the plant.

Allow the flowers to develop slowly to fully encourage large blooms with good color. First, mash the bottom inch or two of the stems with a hammer and place in water. Add a floral preservative or sugar with a drop of bleach. Change the water every few days over the forcing period. Leave the branches in a cool, dark spot until bud swell begins, then move them into a well-lit area to encourage the flower color to develop. Avoid placing the branches in direct sunlight. Water uptake through the stems should provide ample moisture preventing the branches from drying out unless the room is too warm. Cool temperatures allow buds to develop slowly and maintain flower color. When color appears in the bud it is time to arrange the branches in containers. Don't wait until the blossoms are fully opened.



Some suggested branches to force into flower are forsythia, crabapple, plums, cherry, and pussy willow. Pictured: Eastern Red Bud



By February, most branches can tolerate being cut. Choose branches that are well budded and have interesting curves.



Add a floral preservative or sugar with a drop of bleach and change the water every few days over the forcing period. Pictured: Flowering Quince

KYNEP Soup Recipes

Perfect for cold winter days (and nights). Serve with corn bread or crusty bread.

CHICKEN & DUMPLING SOUP



Ingredients

- 2/3 cups cooked chicken, cubed
- 4 carrots
- 3 stalks of celery
- 3 medium potatoes
- ½ yellow onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 (32 oz) boxes of low sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups frozen peas
- 1 (12 oz) package frozen dumplings
- Salt and pepper, optional

Directions

- Chop vegetables into bite sized cubes; chop onion and garlic finely.
- In a large soup pot, heat olive oil over medium-high heat and sauté the onion and garlic until tender.
- Add the carrots, celery and potatoes and stir for a few minutes, being careful not to burn them.
- Pour in the broth and bring to a boil. Add dumplings, a few at a time.
- Turn down heat and simmer for about 15 minutes, stirring often, until the vegetables have softened.
- Add chicken and raise heat to medium-low for 10 minutes.
- Add frozen peas during the last five minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

SLOW COOKER SANTA FE SOUP



Ingredients

- 4 thawed, boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 (7 oz) can chopped green chilies
- 1 (8 oz) bag frozen corn
- 1 (28 oz) can diced tomatoes, no salt added
- 1 (15 oz) can black beans
- 1 (14 oz) can or box vegetable broth, no salt added
- 1 (32 ounce) box low-sodium chicken broth
- 3 tablespoons low sodium chili seasoning mix

Directions

1. Place all ingredients in slow cooker and simmer on low for 6-8 hours or 3-4 hours on high.
2. Remove cooked chicken and shred with two forks.
3. Return chicken to soup, and it is ready-to-serve.

BROCCOLI POTATO SOUP

Ingredients

- 4 cups chopped broccoli, may use frozen
- 1 small chopped onion
- 4 cups low sodium chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 cup evaporated nonfat milk
- 1 ½ cups instant mashed potatoes, prepared with water
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ cup cheese, shredded cheddar or American

Directions

1. Mix broccoli, onion, and broth in large sauce pan.
2. Bring to a boil.
3. Lower heat. Cover and simmer about 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
4. Add milk to soup. Slowly stir in potatoes.
5. Cook and stir until bubbly and thickened.



Starting Seeds in Winter

LORI VOLL-WALLACE, PENN STATE EXTENSION

Many annual and perennial seeds require a cold period to germinate. You can provide a controlled cold environment for seedlings with these instructions.

What Is Winter Sowing?

When you consider how seeds germinate in nature, it makes sense to sow seeds the same way. In late summer, left to their own devices, seeds fall to the ground. They slowly get covered with leaves and other natural materials to begin their long winter in the soil. Exposure to cold temperatures and moist conditions breaks dormancy and the seeds germinate when temperatures increase in the spring.

Winter sowing is the process of planting seeds outdoors in a container during the winter months. The container remains outdoors until the seedlings emerge in the spring. The container protects the seeds from animals and harsh weather, but the exposure to colder temperatures breaks dormancy and the seeds germinate. The container also provides an ideal environment for germination in the spring.

What to Winter Sow?

Winter sowing is ideal for some annuals, perennials, and wildflowers. Check out a seed catalogue: most will have some sort of notation about a seed's germination requirements. Look for seeds that are described with the following terms: reseeds; colonizes; self-sows; hardy seeds; seedlings can withstand frost; sow outdoors in late autumn or early winter; sow outdoors in early spring while frosts may still occur; needs pre-chilling; requires stratification.

When to Winter Sow?

The best time to winter sow perennials and hardy annuals is generally December to March depending on the weather conditions in your area. These seeds require a consistent period of moist, cold temperatures before germination occurs in spring. Tender plants including annuals and vegetables can be sown later in spring (March or April) as they do not require a cold period in order to germinate.

What Are the Benefits of Winter Sowing?

When you direct sow in the ground, the seeds are at the mercy of Mother Nature. They can be washed out in downpours; eaten by critters, bugs, and birds; desiccate in the wind; or rot in the soil. Containerized seedlings stay more compact and do not need to be hardened off before planting in the garden. Winter sowing is ideal for those with limited indoor space for seed starting. No special lighting or equipment is required for germination.



Winter sowing is ideal for those with limited indoor space for seed starting. Containerized seedlings stay more compact and do not need to be hardened off before planting in the garden.



This method is best for cold-hardy seeds that require stratification such as broccoli, brussel sprouts, and other greens. Tender or warm loving seeds should be started later in Spring when risk of night frost is low.

Join us at the extension office on Friday, January 20th for our winter sowing class. Bring a milk jug and call 502-543-2257 to register.

Upcoming Events at the Bullitt Co. Extension Office

**Pre-registration required for all classes. Call 502-543-2257 for more information.*

Family & Consumer Sciences

- **BingoCize** every Tuesday & Thursday starting January 10th through March 30 at 1:00 PM

Agriculture

Basic of Smoking Meat Class Series

- Wednesday, January 18: Choosing your Equipment
- Wednesday, February 1: Choosing Your Meat
- Wednesday, February 15: Choosing Your Rubs & Seasonings

Beginning Farmer Class Series

- Tuesday, January 24: Spencer Co Extension Office, 6PM
- Tuesday, February 28: Bullitt Co Extension Office, 6PM
- Monday, February 13: Backyard Gardener to Market Gardener, 6PM

4-H

Monday, March 20: 4-H Communications Day at 6PM

July 3-7: Lake Cumberland 4-H Camp

Help us go green! Opt into receiving our E-newsletter



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