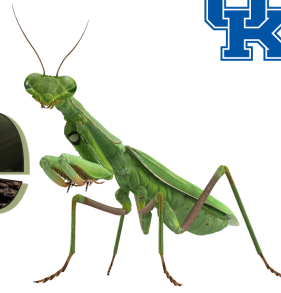


# Boone County Horticulture

## July-August 2024 Newsletter

 **Martin-Gatton**  
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Food and Environment  
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## Looking for a Hydrangea That Is a Consistent Performer?

By Joe Smith  
Boone County Extension  
Horticulture Technician

Why not try a great native hydrangea that is tough as nails in our area. The smooth leaf hydrangea or *Hydrangea arborescens* is a family of lacecap and mophead type hydrangeas that is hardy from USDA zone 4 to 9 and bloom on new wood. These smooth leaf hydrangeas can take full sun as well as shade conditions. Also this hydrangea is a great pollinator plant and best of all it is actually native to Kentucky.



It blooms consistently in late spring/early summer and will keep going through the summer into fall if the spent flowers are removed. Pruning can be done in early spring or fall to keep bloom size smaller and stems from flopping. Unlike the more finicky *Hydrangea macrophylla*, you don't have to necessarily worry about accidentally pruning off your flower buds or dealing with winter killed buds.

(Continued)

## Quick TIP

Don't water large, established trees up close to the trunk. Most of the feeder roots on trees are at least as far out as the branches, so water in the "dripline" area!

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The most commonly known cultivar is 'Annabelle' which combines the old-fashioned charm with the no-fuss maintenance and rock solid cold hardiness. Thanks to careful selection and breeding by professional growers the *Hydrangea arborescens* now comes in a wide variety of shapes, colors and sizes. There are now numerous choices for gardeners who would like to explore this foolproof hydrangea species.

The NCSU breeding program, for example, worked on smooth hydrangeas' size as well as flower color, resulting in the Invincibelle series with cultivars 'Wee White' ('NCHA5'), which tops out at only two feet tall and bears pale-pink, fading-to-white mopheads, and the slightly larger sized 'Ruby' ('NCHA3'), which blooms a dark rose color.

If flower size matters to you why not try the 'Incrediball' hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Abetwo') which sports massive white flowers and strong, upright stems that essentially looks like an 'Annabelle' on steroids

There are many new cultivars of smooth hydrangea coming out yearly, so if you have been frustrated with the more temperamental *Hydrangea macrophylla* types, why not try some of the newer cultivars of this beautiful, but super tough native shrub?



Start your fall garden now by planting broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, beets, carrots, collards, kohlrabi, and rutabaga, turnips, spinach, and snow peas (in August).

Quick  
TIP



## Japanese Beetles

*By Robert Brockman  
Boone County Extension Agent  
for Horticulture*

Every year, usually in early to mid July, comes the emergence of the Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*). They have an annual life cycle and are only present as adults for a couple of months in the summer. While causing massive damage, they are also mating and laying many eggs in late summer. Japanese beetles, as the name suggests, came from Japan and were first found in the United States in 1916.

Japanese beetles are polyphagous pests, meaning that they eat many different things. As larvae, they feed on the roots of grass and are one of the most common white grubs in the landscape. As adults, Japanese beetles will feed on flowers, leaves, and fruit of many different species of plants. Some of their favorite flowers include roses and hibiscus. Some of the leaves they like most include roses, raspberries, grape, linden, and crabapples.

Populations of Japanese beetles fluctuate greatly from year to year. While there may be huge numbers of them one year, the following year may just have moderate numbers. To combat these pesky beetles, many people purchase and use pheromone traps. These pheromone traps are incredibly effective at attracting Japanese beetles. Unfortunately, the traps seem to work too well! In outbreak years, the traps will not only bring in the beetles on your property, but from the properties all around you. Once the trap fills up, all of the remaining beetles tend to stay close to the trap, concentrating the defoliation in your yard.

Instead of using pheromone traps, spraying problem plants can quickly kill large numbers of beetles. If you do spray problem plants, make sure that there aren't any open flowers! Some people have success in manually picking beetles off plants and stepping on them. One last option is to simply do nothing. While Japanese beetle damage looks really bad, it rarely causes permanent damage to plants. Plants that may need protection are newly planted trees or herbaceous perennials.



*Picture: Karla Salp, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org*

Sharpen mower blades to help avoid torn grass blades, tip browning, poor vigor, and turf browning.

**Quick  
TIP**

## Kousa Dogwood

*By Robert Brockman  
Boone County Extension Agent  
for Horticulture*

The kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) is a versatile small flowering tree. It is a relative of our native flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) but is more disease resistant and tolerant of full sun and colder temperatures. One of the largest reasons the flowering dogwood fails in our area is due to being planted in full sun, which stresses the plant out and attracts the dogwood borer.

In addition to being versatile in the home landscape, the kousa dogwood also has attractive features for all seasons. It tends to flower about a month later than the flowering dogwood and holds onto its flowers longer. The flower color is almost always white, but a few cultivars have pink flowers. In the fall, it has red fruits with a unique shape. The leaves, similar to the flowering dogwood, have a nice maroon color in the fall. Once its leaves have dropped for the winter, its naturally exfoliating bark becomes apparent.



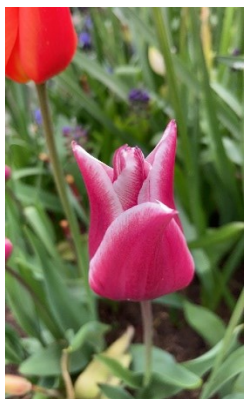
*Photo by Jim Robbins, NC Plant Toolbox*

Kousa dogwood can be found at many of our local garden centers. A few cultivars to look for include ‘Satomi’ (pink flowers), ‘Moonbeam’ (larger flowers), and ‘Samaritan’ (variegated leaves).

## Tulips and the Keukenhof, in the Netherlands

*By Kim Leavens  
Extension Master Gardener*

Tulips in the Netherlands in April—spring doesn’t get much better than that! The streets are lined with baskets of colorful tulips ... red, yellow, purple, white, pink.



*(Continued)*



There are common garden tulips, fluted and fringed tulips, double tulips, and multi-colored tulips. You can bike past fields of tulips, like I did, and enjoy the stunning tulip fields. But perhaps the most incredible way to see the tulips is at the Keukenhof in the Netherlands.

Billed as “the most beautiful spring garden in the world,” the Keukenhof does not disappoint. Keukenhof is located in the province of South Holland, in the Netherlands. This year, 2024, marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this spectacular garden. In 1949 it was established by flower exporters and bulb growers to exhibit their products available for export. The gardens opened to the public in 1950.



There are over 7 million flowering bulbs at the Keukenhof throughout its nearly 80 acres. Most of these are tulips, but there are also daffodils, lilies, and hyacinths, along with other perennials and bushes. Each year, from October through early December, gardeners plant the bulbs by hand. There are usually 3 bulbs planted in each hole or spot to maintain continuous blooming for the 8 weeks that the Keukenhof is open each year. After tulip season ends, all the flowers and bulbs are removed from the gardens.

There are dazzling displays of tulips throughout the Keukenhof gardens. In addition, there are 3 pavilions—the Orange Nassau, William-Alexander, and Beatrix—which house beautiful arrangements of tulips, lilies, roses, and orchids.

For a little bit of tulip history, it is important to note that tulips are not originally from Holland. They were first brought to Holland around 1600 from Persia. But with ideal growing conditions, the tulips have thrived. And Dutch tulips have become famous around the world.

For this article, all photographs were taken in the Netherlands and at the Keukenhof by Kim Leavens.



## How to Increase Your Vegetable Yield by Thirty Percent!

*By Melissa Pilcher  
Boone County Extension  
Horticulture Technician*

Have you ever wondered how to significantly increase your vegetable yield? The answer is to add a third growing season! Many vegetable gardeners in our area plant cool season crops such as broccoli, lettuce, kale, and spinach. And even more gardeners grow summer crops like tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and beans. But not everyone thinks about our third growing season.

Nurseries and big box stores woo us with row after row of luscious transplants early in the season but don't always have vegetable plants available in the hot summer months. Whether it's a supply and demand issue or a grower issue, it might not always be possible to find the transplants that you want to grow into the fall. But with some planning, you can have a bumper crop while your friends and neighbors have already closed shop for the season.

One way to extend the season is through succession planting. Use the maturation date on the seed packet to calculate backwards from the first frost date. Keep in mind that cool nights slow growth, so late summer plants will take longer to mature than those planted earlier in the season. You can plant seeds every few weeks and remove earlier plants as they produce less or are struggling due to insect damage or disease. Create furrows in the soil and fill them with water to saturate it before adding seeds to increase germination rates. Keep the soil moist until the seeds have sprouted.

Another option is to start cool season seeds indoors under grow lights to transplant into the garden in July and August. See the chart from the publication ID-128: Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky to see suggested dates for sowing seeds and transplants for fall harvest. The warm days and cool nights are the perfect growing conditions to increase sugar production, making sweet, crisp vegetables.

With a little planning you might find that fall is your new favorite growing season! If you have questions about growing your fall garden, contact us at 859-586-6101 or consult ID-128 (<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ID/ID128/ID128.pdf>) to learn more about growing vegetables in Kentucky, including how to use low tunnels and row covers to add a fourth growing season!

**Table 20.13.** Crops for the fall garden.

Vegetable	Date of Planting	Seeds	Transplants	Days to Maturity <sup>1</sup>	Date of Harvest
Beets	Jul - mid-Aug	x		70 - 75	Oct
Bibb lettuce	Jul - Aug	x	x	50 - 60	Sep - Oct
Broccoli	Jul - Aug		x	60 - 80	Sep - Nov
Brussels sprouts	Jun - Jul		x	70 - 80	Oct - Nov
Cabbage	late Jun - early Aug		x	60 - 70	Sep - Nov
Carrots	Jul - Aug	x		80 - 90	Nov
Cauliflower	late Jun - early Aug		x	70 - 80	Sep - Nov
Chinese cabbage	Jul - Aug	x	x	50 - 70	Sep - Nov
Collards	Jul - Aug	x		80 - 90	Oct - Nov
Endive	Jul - Aug	x	x	70 - 80	Sep - Nov
Green beans, bush	Jul - mid-Aug	x		60 - 65	Sep
Kale	Jul - Aug	x	x	70 - 80	Sep - Nov
Kohlrabi	Jul - Aug	x		60 - 70	Sep - Nov
Leaf lettuce	Jul - Aug - Sep	x	x	40 - 60	Sep - Oct
Mustard greens	Jul - Aug	x		50 - 60	Sep - Oct
Parsnips	June	x		90 - 100	Nov
Potatoes	mid-Jun	x		90 - 100	Oct
Radishes	Sep	x		30 - 40	Oct
Rutabaga	July - mid-Aug	x		80 - 90	Oct - Nov
Snow Peas	Aug	x		50 - 70	Oct
Spinach	Aug - Sep	x		50 - 60	Aug - Sep
Sweet corn	Jul	x		70 - 80	Sep
Turnips	Jul - Aug	x		50 - 60	Sep - Nov
Turnip greens	Jul - Aug	x		50 - 60	Sep - Nov

<sup>1</sup> Due to cool temperatures in the fall, a long time will be needed for certain crops to mature.



For More Information...

For more information or to register for any of our classes, visit our website at [boone.ca.uky.edu](http://boone.ca.uky.edu).  
Click "Online Class Registration" or call us at 859-586-6101.

# Upcoming Horticulture Events *Please Register!*

## What's Wrong with My Tomatoes!?

► July 9, 1:00-2:30pm  
*Boone County Enrichment Center*  
This class will focus on challenges that tomatoes are facing, as well as possible solutions.

## Don't Get Squashed!

► July 11, 1:00-3:00pm  
*Boone County Enrichment Center*  
Do you like summer squash but have a hard time either growing or consuming it? Join us for growing tips and delicious recipe ideas.

## Cut Flower Garden Walk

► July 16, 6:00-7:30pm  
*Boone County Nature Center Gardens*  
Join us as we walk and talk about the cut flower plots at the Boone County Nature Center Gardens.

## Flower Arranging for Beginners

► July 22, 6:00pm, *Boone County Nature Center Gardens*  
This will be a hands on program where you see our cut flower plots and work on making floral arrangements.

## Fall Vegetable Gardening

► August 1, 2:00-4:00pm  
*Boone County Enrichment Center*  
Your vegetable gardening doesn't have to end with the first frost. Learn how to extend your vegetable harvest into fall and winter.

## Growing Herbs Inside and Out

► August 13, 10-11:30am  
*Boone County Enrichment Center*  
Learn which herbs are perennials, biennials, or annuals and the best way to grow them indoors over the winter.

## Fall Lawn & Landscape Renovation

► August 21, 6:00-7:30pm  
Does your lawn and landscape need a fall facelift? Join us for some timely tips regarding fall renovation.



## Seed Saving 101

► September 5, 6:00-7:30pm  
*Boone County Enrichment Center*  
Are you interested in saving and storing your own seeds for future years? Come and learn the essentials!

## All About Hydrangeas

► September 11, 6:00-7:00pm  
*Boone County Enrichment Center*  
Do you love hydrangeas but have questions about growing them? Come and learn about different species and how/when to prune and care for them.

## Plant Rescue 101

► September 18, 1:00-2:30pm  
*Boone County Enrichment Center*  
How to (possibly) bring annuals inside to survive the winter

## Horticulture Council meeting

► September 19, 1:00-3:00pm  
*Boone County Enrichment Center*  
Have suggestions for horticulture classes or programs for 2025? Join us for a brainstorming session to help us better serve our community.

# Find us here...

## Extension Campus Location Key:

Virtual via Zoom, Must register to receive Zoom link 🏠  
**Extension Service office**, 6028 Camp Ernst Rd., Burlington  
**Enrichment Center**, 1824 Patrick Dr., Burlington  
**Farmers Market**, 1961 Burlington Pk., Burlington  
**Environmental and Nature Center**, 9101 Camp Ernst Rd., Union  
**Boone County Arboretum**, 9190 Camp Ernst Rd., Union; Register at: [www.bcarboretum.org/](http://www.bcarboretum.org/)

### Native Nuts

► September 19, 6:00-7:30pm

*Boone County Arboretum*

We will be going on a walk at the Boone County Arboretum to look at and talk about some of our native nut and fruit trees such as chestnuts, pecans, hickories, pawpaws, and persimmons.

### Fall Tree Planting

► October 9, 12-1:30pm

*Boone County Enrichment Center*

Learn about proper planting techniques for trees and shrubs. After the classroom portion of the program, we will go outside to plant a tree.

### Get a Jump Start on Your Spring Garden with Bulbs

► October 17, 10-11:30pm

*Boone County Enrichment Center*

How to plant bulbs in the fall to enjoy beautiful flowers in the spring.

### Foolproof Landscape Plants for Northern Kentucky

► November 4, 2:00-4:00pm

*Boone County Enrichment Center*

Learn about trees and shrubs adapted to difficult site conditions in Northern Kentucky such as clay soils, urban landscapes, drought, etc.



## Peach and Blueberry Crumble



### Ingredients:

- 1 (28 ounce) can peaches in juice, drained
- 1 ½ cups fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons softened unsalted butter

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Place peaches in a 10-inch cast iron skillet. Sprinkle blueberries on top of peaches. In a separate bowl, using a fork, mix together oats, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt with softened butter. Sprinkle oat crumble over top of peaches and blueberries. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes.

Servings: Makes 8 servings. Serving Size: 1 slice. Per serving: 150 calories; 5g total fat; 3g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 10mg cholesterol; 80mg sodium; 27g carbohydrate; 3g fiber; 18g sugar; 5g added sugar; 2g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 2% Daily Value of calcium; 6% Daily Value of iron; 4% Daily Value of potassium.

**Source:** <https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes/recipe/peach-and-blueberry-crumble/>  
Sarah Spears, Floyd County SNAP-Ed Assistant

For more information or if you have questions, contact us—we are here to help!

859-586-6101 • [boone.ca.uky.edu](http://boone.ca.uky.edu)

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