Cooperative Extension Service | Horticulture

SCOTT COUNTY
MAY-JUNE 2025

Growing Gardeners May & JUNE

Cooperative Extension Service
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EASTERN TENT CATERPILLARS

Look for Them Now in a Tree Near You

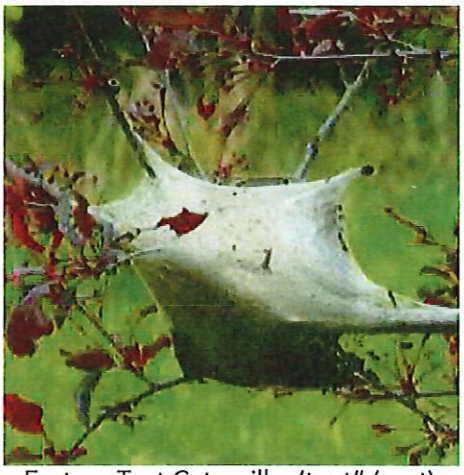
Look for information on Cicadas on page 7

The eastern tent caterpillar (Malacosoma americanum) is a North American pest known for its fluctuating populations and periodic outbreaks. Larvae cause defoliation and create unsightly silken nests, primarily on wild cherry, apple, and crabapple trees, as well as others like maple and peach. While these caterpillars can severely defoliate trees, the trees usually recover. The nests, located in tree limb crotches, can be large and unsightly. Wandering caterpillars may appear on various surfaces, but they don't cause additional damage. Mature larvae are often resistant to insecticides, and their nests can be mistaken for fall webworm nests, which are found at branch ends. The caterpillar overwinters as an egg mass containing 150 to 400 eggs, covered in a shiny black material.

By Ric Bessin, UK Entomology

For more detailed information, click on links below

https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef449 or
https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/files/ef424pdf



Eastern Tent Caterpillar 'tent" (nest); UK Photo; Ric Bessin

Eastern Tent Caterpillar ; UK Photo; Ric Bessin

Eastern Tent Caterpillar Egg Case; UK Photo; Ric Bessin

Eastern Tent Caterpillar Adult Moth; UK Photo; Ric Bessin

IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH

Proven Winners Annual Flowers to Plant Now:

• Marigolds, petunias, impatiens, zinnias, and begonias thrive in Kentucky's warming temperatures right now and with a little care, bloom all summer long. Take a look at the proven winner new varities for 2025 that you can find at local stores or online now. These selections put a new spin on old favorites.

Annual of the Year: *Supertunia Mini Vista Yellow Petunia*
Masses of citron yellow, self-cleaning, small flowers all season. One of the most vigorous mini petunias grown. Thrives in both warm and cool weather. Blooms best in 6+ hours of sun. Grows 6-12" tall, spreads 18-24".

The *"Fireball" Marigold is a dwarf French Marigold* known for its vibrant, multi-colored blooms. Growing to 10-12 inches tall and 6-8 inches wide, it's perfect for containers and garden borders. It flowers from spring to frost, transitioning from red to bronze, deep orange, and dark gold.

The *Rockapulco Appleblossom Impatien* has strong growth, perfect shape and gorgeous double-flowered rose-like blossoms. Soft pink flowers appear prolifically from spring to frost without deadheading over a canopy of fresh green, mounded foliage. Continuous Bloom or Rebloomer, Disease Resistant, Long Blooming, Deadheading Not Necessary

Proven Winners Website: https://www.provenwinners.com

Why Proven Winners?

Proven Winners is a plant company, who along with a group of nationwide volunteers, selects and promotes plants known for their superior performance, ease of care, and vibrant appearance. These plants are rigorously tested and chosen for their ability to thrive in various conditions, often exhibiting qualities like disease resistance, heat tolerance, and long-blooming periods.

Key characteristics of Proven Winners plants are. . .

Proven Performance:
They have been extensively tested in different locations and climates to ensure reliability.

Ease of Care:
They are designed to be relatively low-maintenance, requiring less attention and effort than many other plants.

Exceptional Color and Blooms:
Many are known for their abundant and long-lasting blooms, adding visual appeal to gardens.

Health and Vigorous Growth:
They are selected for their robust health and ability to thrive, often exhibiting strong growth habits.

Disease and Pest Resistance:
Many varieties are bred for resistance to common diseases and pests, reducing the need for chemical treatments.

Look for these Perennials in Bloom Now:





Left to right: Iris, peonies, columbine, salvia , and coneflowers should be showing their colors now.
Tip: Deadhead spent flowers to encourage more blooms and maintain garden neatness.

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Ask the Diagnositician: Maple Leaf Diseases

The UK Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab has received numerous maple samples with spotted and blighted leaves recently, as well as calls and emails from Extension agents asking, "What's going on with the maples?" Three foliar diseases of maple have been consistently diagnosed: leaf blister, anthracnose, and Phyllosticta leaf spot. Leaf blister appears to be the most common maple disease this spring (Figure 1). The initial symptom appearance was earlier than in previous years by approximately two weeks.

Figure 1. Leaf blister on maple (Photo: Julie Beale, UK)

Cool, wet weather during leaf emergence favors most foliar fungal diseases of shade trees. Symptoms of these diseases can be confusing due to their similar appearance, and many times, more than one disease is present in the same sample.

The occurrence of a given disease varies from year to year, and a peak year of maple leaf blister, for example, may be followed by a year or two with very limited disease. Diseased leaves may drop prematurely, but later-emerging leaves will likely avoid infection, and in the case of leaf blister, chances are high that the disease will not be as severe next year unless spring weather follows a similar pattern. Fortunately, these foliar fungal diseases do not damage a maple tree's overall health. If residential clients want to help reduce the risk of disease next year, simply raking up and discarding fallen leaves could be beneficial.

By Julie Beale, Plant Disease Diagnostician/Director, and Sara Long, Assistant Plant Disease Diagnostician

Three factors must be present at the same time for a plant disease to occur. If any one of the three is missing, plant disease does not occur. The factors are:
A susceptible host
A virulent pathogen (one that can cause disease), and A favorable environment

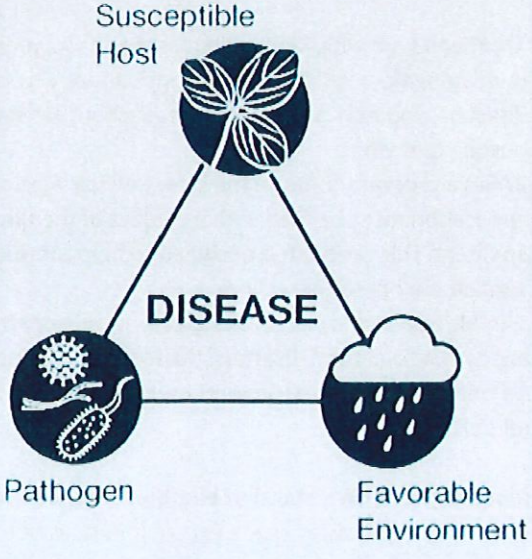
Bourbon Brood of periodical cicadas ready to sing this spring in Kentucky

Periodical cicadas have appeared in Western Kentucky counties over the past few years, but the largest emergence area for 2025 will occur across most of Central and Eastern Kentucky.

Research

double click this white box then click on link that appears for for the latest on Cicadas

Jonathan Larson, assistant extension entomology professor, Department of Entomology at UK Martin-Gatton CAFE stated, "Cicadas are not harmful to humans, pets or wildlife, ...they do not bite or sting....they do not swarm and cause massive plant damage. Adults...feed on sap with little impact to the plant. Local wildlife, such as snakes, foxes & turkeys, will benefit from the extra protein provided by the cicadas."



Commercial Fruit Crop News

by Daniel Becker, UK Extension Associate

Much of Kentucky experienced historic amounts of rainfall during the first week of April. Most of this rainfall was concentrated in the western and central areas of the state. Major and moderate river flooding was widespread and lasted for several weeks thereafter.

I have heard reports of growers with crop losses due to winter injury of blackberries, peaches, and some grapes. Much of this injury is due to the minimums experienced around January 20-22 when temperatures dropped into the negative single digits and below in certain areas (Figure 2). The coldest conditions occurred in the central and northern parts of the state and this was where most of the damage occurred. Symptoms were likely exacerbated due to the warm and dry conditions the previous autumn. Extended warm weather inhibits proper hardening of perennial plants while drought increases stress heading into dormancy. Stressed and declining plants are often more susceptible to winter injury. Several frosts and freezes during bloom also led to further losses.

We did not get as cold at the western end of the state, and fortunately I have not heard from any growers reporting of winter injury to their crops. However, I have heard several growers mention that pollination during bloom was lower than expected. Apple trees, particularly, were noted as having plenty of flowers but fewer fruits developing from them. Most of this is due to the weather. Except for late March when blooms first opened, much of April was noticeably cool, cloudy, and windy. Conditions such as these restrict honeybee flight, as they do not like to venture out of the hive when temperatures during the day are in the 50's and below. This has also led to an interesting situation with a protracted bloom and uneven fruit development. I have noticed that there are some large fruits on trees, many which are medium-sized (10-15 mm in diameter), along with a fair number of open blooms still present at the end of the month. A thinner spray probably won't do much to the larger fruits but hopefully it will drop some of the medium-sized fruits and plenty of the ones that have just set.

Dr. Shawn Wright, horticulture extension specialist, has relayed that a new herbicide premix of active ingredients *flumioxazin* and *rimsulfuron* has become available and is currently registered for use in the state. Valent is the manufacturer of this product, and the trade name is *Chateau® Complete*. Use this link to view a specimen label for this herbicide. It is a water dispersible granule and is best used in sprayers with tank agitation. The inclusion of *rimsulfuron* (a.i. in Matrix herbicide) provides contact and preemergence control of grasses and broadleaf weeds, including glyphosate resistant marestail. Labeled crops include pome and stone fruits, tree nuts, blueberries and grapes. According to Shawn, "the improved management of marestail will be a good fit for some of our growers. Grape growers in particular have had trouble in the past with marestail control."

USDA Disaster Assistance Available for Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers

by Tara Vaughn, Extension Associate, Horticulture

Our hearts are with Kentuckians as many all over Kentucky begin to recover from the recent weather events. Losses have been seen in unimaginable ways, including in agriculture. If you are an orchardist or nursery tree grower and have experienced losses due to the natural disasters, you may be eligible for cost-share assistance through the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines.

TAP is a program through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) which covers the crop but not the plants or trees in some cases. For TAP, an application must be filed within 90 days of the disaster event or within 90 days of the date when the loss of the trees, bushes, or vines is apparent. This program is designed to help producers recover from natural disaster events to ensure long-term viability of their agricultural operations.

Eligible applicants will be orchardists or nursery tree growers who produce annual crops for commercial purposes and have suffered losses due to natural disasters. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are not eligible. Growers must be able to provide verifiable documentation of the losses and of costs associated with replanting or rehabilitation.

Mortality loss on a stand of eligible trees, bushes, or vines is based on:

- Each eligible disaster event, except for losses due to plant disease
- For plant disease, the time period is determined by the FSA for which the stand is infected

(continued next page)

USDA Disaster Assistance Available for Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers
Mortality loss continued

- The loss must not have been preventable through reasonable and available measures
- The loss must be visible and obvious to the FSA representative

If loss is no longer visible, FSA may accept other loss evidence and will determine whether that other evidence substantiates that an eligible loss due to natural disaster occurred

- In some cases, FSA may require information from a qualified expert to determine extent of loss in the case of plant disease or insect infestation

To qualify for TAP, eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- Have suffered more than 15% mortality rate (adjusted for normal mortality due to a natural disaster
- Have owned the eligible trees, bushes, and vines when the natural disaster occurred (not required to own the land on which the owned trees, bushes, and vines are planted)
- Replace eligible tree, bushes, and vines within 12 months from the date the TAP application is approved

If these eligibility requirements are met, TAP provides cost-share assistance of 65% of the actual cost of replanting destroyed trees, bushes, and vines and 50% of the actual cost of rehabilitation of damaged trees, bushes, and vines. Limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and beginning farmers may be eligible for up to 75% cost share. For more detailed enrollment instructions and to apply, you must visit your local FSA office and talk with an FSA representative.

Apple Scab Picking on Kentucky Apple and Crabapple Trees

Apple scab is the most consistently serious disease of homegrown apple and flowering crabapple in Kentucky. The most noticeable losses on apple result from reduced fruit quality and from premature drop of infected fruit. Scab also causes a general weakening of the host when leaves are shed prematurely. Summer defoliation of flowering crabapple due to scab invariably results in fewer flowers the next spring. Resistant cultivars and fungicides are available; however, sanitation is a critical step in prevention and management.

Apple Scab Facts

- Caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis*.
- The apple scab fungus overwinters in fallen leaves.
- Leaf symptoms begin as olive-green to brown spots (lesions) with indefinite, feathery margins on upper and/or lower surfaces. As the disease progresses, lesions become more distinct, develop a greenish-black, velvety growth, and then thicken and bulge upward.
- Infected fruit develops symptoms similar to those on leaves. Older lesions turn dark brown to black, develop a corky ("scabby") appearance, and frequently become cracked as the fruit enlarges. If infections occur on young fruit, uneven growth near "scabs" may cause the fruit to be deformed.
- Heavily infected leaves and fruit may drop prematurely.
- Hosts include apple, crabapple, hawthorn, and mountain ash.
- Primary infection occurs during periods of continuous leaf wetness from bud break until 2 to 4 weeks after petal fall.
- apple scab using fungicides please see Backyard Apple Disease & Pest Management Using Cultural Practices (with Low Spray, No Spray & Organic Options).
- Commercial growers should refer to Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide for recommended fungicides.

By Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

Additional Information

- **Apple Scab (PPFS-FR-T-13): http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-frt-13.pdf**
- **Fruit, Orchard, and Vineyard Sanitation (PPFS-GEN-05): http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfsgen-05.pdf**
- **Disease and Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in Kentucky including Organic Alternatives (ID-21): http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id21**

Fire Blight Symptoms Now Visible on Fruit Crops

Fire blight is the most important disease of apple and pear in Kentucky. Symptoms may now be visible; however, initial infections occurred at bloom. The pathogen survives winter in dead, dying, and diseased wood and in cankers. Removal of these pathogen sources can reduce spread of fire blight and should be completed in late winter while the pathogen is dormant.

Figure 1: Apple flower clusters infected with fire blight. (Photo: Nicole Gauthier, UK)

- Early symptoms include wilt of flower cluster and blossom death (Figure 1). Disease spreads to shoots or branches where tips wilt and rapidly die (blight) to form a characteristic 'shepherd's crook' (Figure 2). Dark brown, sunken cankers (stem lesions) develop and expand to girdle branches, resulting in branch death (Figure 3).
- Potential hosts include apples, pears, and several landscape woody ornamentals in the rose family.
- Primary infection occurs at bloom and may continue through petal fall or until shoot elongation ends.
- Rainy conditions, periods of high humidity, and temperatures between 65-70°F favor disease development.
- Caused by the bacteria *Erwinia amylovora*.
- Bacterial cells overwinter in dead, dying, and diseased wood

Figure 2: Rapid shoot death from fire blight may result in a 'shepherd's crook' appearance. (Photo: Nicole Gauthier, UK)

Figure 3: Dark brown, shrunken cankers develop and expand to girdle branches. (Photo: Nicole Gauthier, UK)

By Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

Management Options

- Select varieties that are tolerant or resistant to fire blight.
- Maintain plant health with proper nutrition and irrigation practices.
- Prune to increase air flow through the plant canopy.
- Remove infected plant tissues during winter when plants and pathogens are dormant. Do not prune when trees are wet. Burn, bury, or otherwise dispose of diseased material.
- Bactericides should be applied preventatively. Once infection occurs, sprays are not effective. Homeowners can apply copper during dormancy to reduce overwintering inoculum. Additional bactericides available for commercial growers are presented in the Commercial Fruit Pest Management Guide (ID-232). Always follow label directions when utilizing bactericides.
- Fire blight risk throughout the season can be determined by the disease development models available through the UK Ag Weather Center website.

OLLAS:
THE ANCIENT GARDEN HACK YOUR TOMATOES WILL THANK YOU FOR

By Porshe Beyde, Scott County Extension Master Apprentice Gardener Volunteer

If you've ever lost a plant to a hot summer stretch or just forgotten to water, you're not alone. But what if I told you that 4,000 years ago, someone figured out a ridiculously simple, effective way to keep plants happy, and that it still works like magic today?

Meet the olla (pronounced "oy-yah"), a true blast from the past. Ollas originated thousands of years ago, popping up in various arid regions like North Africa, the Middle East, and Central and South America. The idea is ingeniously simple: bury a porous, unglazed clay pot in the ground, fill it with water, and let nature do the rest.

This olla was made in the 1880s by Juana Ortega Muñoz, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo's expert potters, in an ancestral style. Photo: Bulluck Museum, Texas.

The water seeps slowly through the pot's walls, directly hydrating plant roots with minimal evaporation or waste. No hoses. No timers. No guilt. Imagine your plants sending out tiny root arms like they're reaching for a drink. When they sense moisture, they grow toward it. The olla provides a steady trickle of hydration: just enough to quench their thirst without drowning them. It's like a self-serve water bar for your plants. Just refill it every few days, and your garden's good to go.

Traditional type olla (although modern) next to a tomatoe plant

In a world of smart sprinklers and complicated irrigation systems, ollas are charmingly simple. Ollas use up to 70% less water than surface watering. Less water is wasted through evaporation at the surface level during summer heat, and we eliminate the risk of damaging precious foliage with overhead watering.

Ollas are low maintenance and can be topped off every few days. No daily watering is needed! Making them perfect for forgetful gardeners. (No judgment here; I'm in that club.)

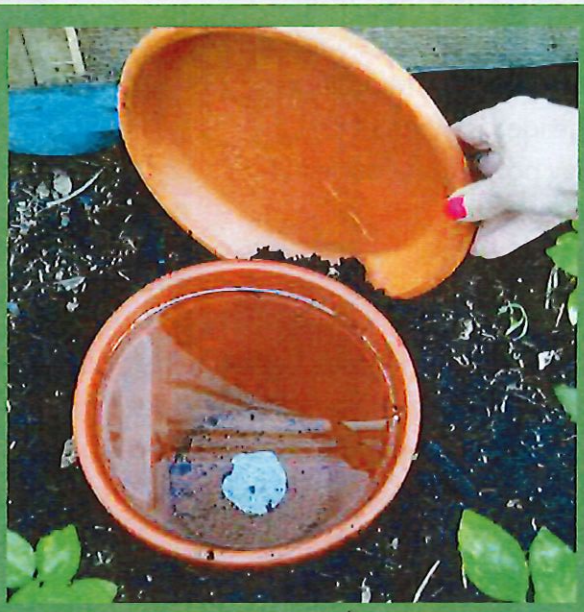
You can buy fancy ollas online or make your own with two unglazed terracotta pots, some waterproof glue or silicone caulking, and a little DIY spirit. Bonus points if you decorate them with paint or patterns for extra flair!

Ollas work beautifully in backyard raised beds, container gardens, and even community plots. And because they're buried underground, they don't clutter up your garden aesthetic or invite as many mosquitoes as open water.

Some gardeners pair them with companion planting, placing water-loving veggies (like tomatoes and peppers) close to the pot while giving drought-tolerant plants a bit more space.

Ready to Try One? Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just dipping your trowel in the soil, ollas are a fun and functional addition to your garden.

A Little DIY Spirit!
Easy to make with an unglazed terracotta saucer (to cover) and an unglazed terracotta pot some waterproof glue, silicone caulking, or even a round marble or pebble to fit in the drain hole and



READY TO TRY ONE?

Photo by Lovely Greens; https://lovelygreens.com/how-to-make-diy-ollas-low-tech-self-watering-systems-for-plants/

Adding Mulch . . . to the ground surface helps retain soil moisture

Best to bury your Olla first and then plant your transplants.

Strawberry Green Tea

13 cups water
13 green tea bags, regular size
1 pound fresh strawberries
1 cup honey
1 lemon, optional

1. **Wash** strawberries and remove the tops.
2. **Chop** the berries with a hand chopper in a large pot.
3. **Add** water to the chopped berries and bring to a boil, stirring occasionally.
4. **Remove** from heat and let mixture cool for 5 minutes.
5. **Add** tea bags and submerge. Steep tea for 2 to 3 minutes.
6. **Strain** the tea through a mesh strainer or cheesecloth lined colander into a 1 gallon pitcher.
7. **Add** honey and stir until dissolved.
8. **Chill** and serve.
9. **Garnish** with a lemon slice or a fresh strawberry if desired.

Yield: 16, 8 ounce servings.

Nutrition Analysis: *70 calories, 0 g fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 5 mg sodium, 19 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 17 g sugar, 0 g protein. 30% Daily Value for vitamin C.*

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

Plate it up! Kentucky Proud

Fresh Strawberries are in season! So, whether it be for Mother's Day, Father's Day or any old day, try this refershing twist on green tea

Kentucky Strawberries

SEASON: May through June

NUTRITION FACTS: Strawberries are low in calories and high in nutrients. One cup contains 55 calories. They are a great source of vitamin C and also contain vitamin A, iron, fiber and folic acid.

SELECTION: Choose fully ripened, bright red berries. Berries should be plump and have a natural shine and bright green, fresh –looking caps.

STORAGE: Store in the refrigerator, covered, unwashed, and with the cap on. Do not crowd. Use berries within two to three days.

HANDLING: Handle gently. Never remove the caps before washing.
Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

To Wash: Cover berries in cold water and gently lift out of the water to drain. Dry by placing in a single layer on paper towels. After washing, remove the caps if necessary. Give the cap a gentle twist or use the point of a sharp paring knife.

Serve whole, sliced, fresh or cooked.

STRAWBERRIES
Kentucky Proud Project
County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Nutrition and Food Science students
March 2012

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

SCOTT COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO THE

Scott County Cooperative Extension
Horticulture Program

Kentucky Extension Master Gardener

Ward Hall Garden Party

SUNDAY | JUNE 8 2025 | 1:00 - 5:00

1782 Frankfort Pike, Georgetown, Ky. 40324

$10 HOUSE TOUR

ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE FREE

See you there

PARTICIPATE IN VINTAGE GAMES
FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS
WATCH A VINTAGE BASEBALL GAME
TOUR THE GARDENS
TAKE A TREE WALK
SEE THE ATTIRE OF THE TIME
CREATE FLOWER CRAFTS
BROWSE VENDORS BOOTHS
TOUR THE HOUSE $10

PRESENTED BY THE
SCOTT COUNTY EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER
VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION