Horticulture

SCOTT COUNTY FEBRUARY 2025



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https://scott.ca.uky.edu/horticulture

Sharon P. Flynt

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Agent for Horticulture

Not Mice, not Moles . . . VOLES

If you see a nice chubby little animal that resembles a hamster scurrying across the snow on your lawn, you probably have a vole. Voles are compact rodents with stocky bodies, short legs, and short tails. Their eyes are small, and their ears are partially hidden. They usually are grayish-brown, though several color variations exist. An adult vole is usually 3.5 to 5 inches in body length (5-7 inches, including the tail).

Voles are a type of field mouse that takes cover in deep mulch, approximately four inches and deeper. They feed on roots, crowns, and above-ground wood. of their target plant. Other evidence may include damage at base of your tree or shrub. Examine the trunk of your shrub or tree close to the ground and look for irregularly spaced gnaw marks. For underground damage, you may notice dead or browning branches and plant. However this type of damage may not be noticed until spring thaw. Vole damage is fairly common on arborvitae, cherry laurel, azalea, boxwood, junipers, fruit trees, and blueberries, so check all your plantings.

Snow cover can provide shelter for voles that tunnel on the surface of lawns. The tunneling becomes evident when the snow melts. After snow melts, you may notice multiple golf ball-sized holes spaced closely together. Runways for the animals, feces, and potentially browning and/or loss of grass from vole consumption may also be visible. Luckily, voles are easier to eliminate than moles because of their smaller size. They can be controlled with regular mouse traps baited with oats and peanut butter. Place traps at one fourth to one third of the total number of burrow openings you find. Cover traps with cardboard to prevent birds and other animals from accessing them. Check them daily and continue trapping until no animals are caught for three consecutive days. by Sharon Flynt, Agent for Horticulture



Size comparison to a womens size 8 boot track. Photo by J. VanRiper, 01/2025 Compared to large front feetof moles, voles feet are small and more mouse-like in comparison. Photo by J. VanRiper 01/2025



Voles can cause extensive damage to orchards and woody landscape plants in the winter when they girdle the bark from the lower trunks (arborvitae in photo) Photo by University of Maryland Extension



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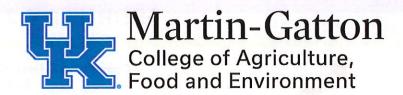
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Join us for a tea party Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

at the Scott County Cooperative Extension Office 1130 Cinncinnati Road, Georgetown, Kentucky



You don't have to be a Master Gardener to attend Registration deadline February 7th - Cost \$20

Turn in the form below to the Extension Office with your \$20 exact cash (no change can be given) or a check made out to Scott Co. Master Gardener Association. We cannot hold a spot for you without payment. Everyone will receive a "Make Your Own Tea" packet.



Please, One Registration Per Form Form needs to accompany payment



Name:

Phone:

Email:

Cash or Check

Don't forget your hat!

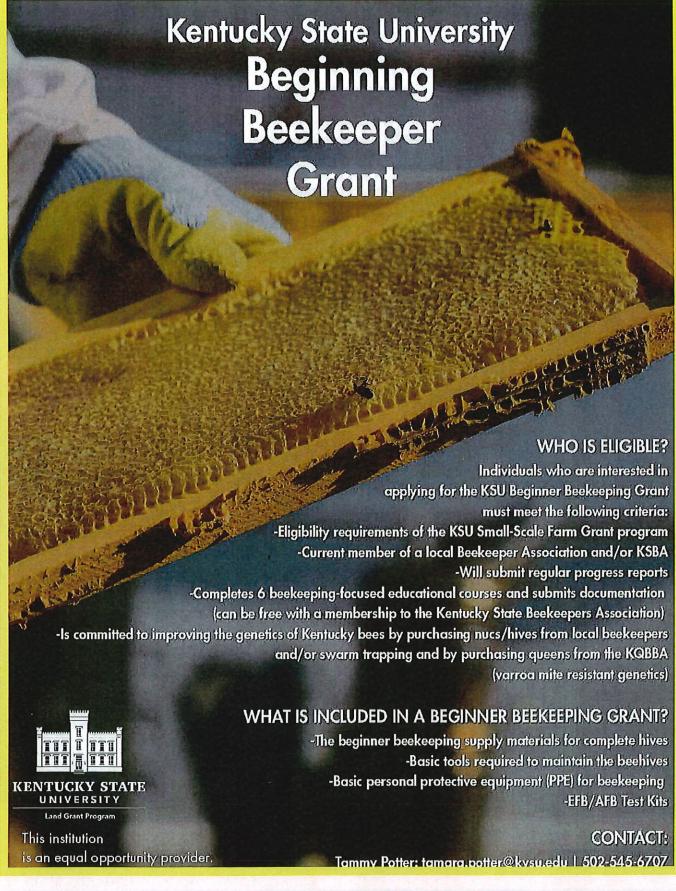
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2025 BLUEGRASS BEEKEEPING SCHOOL

WHEN: March 8, 2025 8:30AM-5PM EST

REGISTRATION:

Register at:

https://beeschool.eventsmart.com/ events/bluegrass-beekeepingschool-2025/



\$35 for admission lunch included

For more info and a list of classes go to <u>bluegrassbeekeepers.com</u>

WHERE: Kentucky State University

GUEST PRESENTER



Michelle Flenniken, PhD

Dept of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, Montana State University



Class Offerings

Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced Beekeeping

Doors open at 8:00AM for registration, donuts, and coffee

Hosted by:

Bluegrass Beekeepers Association Capital City Beekeepers & Kentucky State University



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

1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

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.











Kentucky Apples

SEASON: Early summer through December.

NUTRITION FACTS: A medium size apple, about 2 to 2½ inches round, has about 75 calories and provides bulk in the diet, which helps the body digest food. The apple is low in sodium and high in potassium, making it a great natural snack.

SELECTION: Look for firm, crisp, well-colored fruit. Avoid those with shriveled skins, bruises, worm holes, and decayed spots. Always handle apples gently to avoid causing bruises, blemishes, or other defects.

STORAGE: Use those with bruises or skin breaks as soon as possible. Apples that are slightly underripe should be stored in a cool place to ripen. Once ripe, apples will keep a week or longer stored in the refrigerator vegetable drawer or in a plastic bag.

PREPARATION: Raw apples will darken when the cut surface is exposed to the air. Protect cut or peeled apples from darkening by mixing with ascorbic acid **Source:** www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

such as lemon or orange juice. Only work with about five apples at a time to prevent darkening. Mix 1 teaspoon ascorbic acid with 3 tablespoons of water. Toss gently with apple slices. Apples may be preserved by several methods: freezing, drying, or canning. Please contact your county Extension office for more information.

VARIETIES: More than 2,500 varieties are found in the United States. The following are easily available and popular in Kentucky: Lodi, Red Delicious, Rome, Winesap, Gala, Jonathan, Cortland, and Golden Delicious.

APPLES

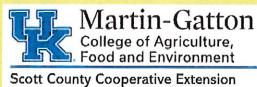
Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Nutrition and

Food Science students September 2011

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit www.ca.uky.edu/fcs. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE





Scott County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Program





Scott County Public Library

104 Bradford Place, Georgetown

Scott County Cooperative Extension Office

1130 Cincinnati Road, Georgetown, Kentucky

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