

Montgomery County

 Cooperative  
Extension Service

# HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

September 2025

*Cheyenne Lamb*

Cheyenne Lamb

CEA for Horticulture

106 E. Locust Street

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## FEATURED THIS MONTH:

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## GREETINGS FROM YOUR LOCAL HORTICULTURE AGENT



September is one of my favorite months in Kentucky. The mornings are cooler, the pace slows, and it feels like a natural time to pause and look ahead to fall. For gardeners, it's a season of opportunity—planting cool-season vegetables, refreshing lawns, dividing perennials, and tackling those late-season pests. Small steps now will set the stage for a smoother spring.

I look forward to connecting with you through our fall programs and encourage you to reach out anytime with questions or updates from your own garden or projects.

Keep an eye out for articles from me in the local paper and keep an ear out to hear me on the radio!

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Community and Economic Development

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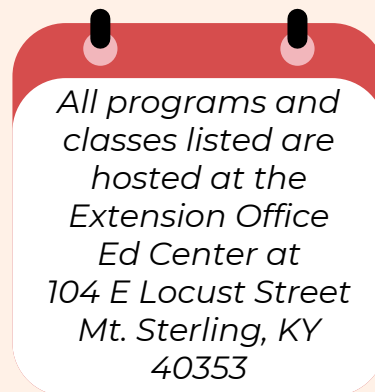
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Montgomery County 2025 Horticulture Upcoming Events

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# Composting

Join Horticulture agent, Cheyenne Lamb on  
Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
to learn about composting!

There will be a short presentation about  
composting and a demonstration on compost  
barrels.

Call the extension office at the number below to  
sign up!

Montgomery Co. Extension Education Center  
104 E. Locust Street  
Mt. Sterling, KY 40353  
(859) 498-8741



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# Soils

Join Horticulture agent, Cheyenne Lamb on  
Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.  
to learn about soils!

Topics will include soil profiles, soil testing, and  
soil amendments. After the presentation stick  
around to make a sweet treat with the knowledge  
you gain!

Call the extension office at the number below to  
sign up!

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# KENTUCKY MECHANICAL WEED CONTROL FIELD DAY

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION.  
REGISTRATION GOES THROUGH UK CENTER FOR CROP DIVERSIFICATION.



**MIDWEST**  
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC  
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



**Center for Crop  
Diversification**

*Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment*

## Kentucky Mechanical Weed Control Field Day

**UK HORTICULTURE  
RESEARCH FARM**

**LEXINGTON, KY**

**SEPT 23**

**8 AM-4 PM ET**





# INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT CORNER

This month the IPM Corner covers boxelder bugs. I have included fast facts from the publication “Boxelder Bugs” in this edition of Horticulture Happenings.

## Fast Facts

- Boxelder bugs are true bugs that are commonly found on fruit-bearing boxelder, maple, and ash trees.
- While boxelder bugs can be an annoying presence during peak months, they do not bite or sting humans or animals.
- There is also no evidence that boxelder bugs can transmit diseases.
- Boxelders do not have the potential to become a serious indoor pest as they rely on fruit-producing trees to reproduce.

The full publication can be found at  
<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/sites/entomology.ca.uky.edu/files/ef444b.pdf>

This University of Kentucky publication was written by Hannah Blevins, Graduate research assistant, Jonathan L. Larson, and Zach DeVries, Extension specialists. Information provided to you by Cheyenne Lamb, Montgomery County Horticulture Agent.

Feel free to get in touch with me at [cheyenne.lamb@uky.edu](mailto:cheyenne.lamb@uky.edu) or call me at (859) 417-7080 or stop by my office located at the Montgomery County Extension Office Annex building, 102 E. Locust Street, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353.



# PRODUCE PROFILE

This edition of “Horticulture Happenings” produce profile is sweet potatoes. I have included a few fun facts from the full fact sheet which can be found at the following web address <https://www.planeatmove.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/NEP232.pdf>.

## Fun & Useful Tidbits on Sweet Potato Gardening

- Sweet Potato Varieties for Kentucky Gardens:
  - Beauregard
  - Hernandez
  - O’Henry
  - Japanese/Murasaki
  - Covington
- Despite their name, sweet potatoes aren’t related to white potatoes! They belong to a different botanical family entirely
- Sweet potatoes are packed with vitamin A and vitamin C, making them a nutritious addition to your garden and dinner table
- You can grow sweet potatoes from “slips”—sprouts that form when a mature sweet potato is placed in moist soil. These slips can be started indoors a few weeks before the outdoor planting season
- Yields & Spacing
  - A 10-foot row can yield at least 10 pounds of sweet potatoes—great yield for small plots!
  - Plant slips 12 to 15 inches apart in rows about 36 inches wide to give the vines room to spread
- Expect your sweet potatoes to mature in 90 to 140 days, depending on the specific variety you grow
- Soil & Fertilizer Tips
  - Sweet potatoes thrive in loose, sandy soil with good drainage.
  - Mounding soil into hilled rows helps improve drainage and soil structure.
  - Getting a soil test from your county Extension agent is recommended—especially because too much nitrogen in summer can significantly reduce yields
- Keep the Soil Moist (But Not Too Wet)

### Authors

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Information provided to you by Cheyenne Lamb, Montgomery County Horticulture Agent.



# LET'S GET COOKING



## Baked Apples and Sweet Potatoes

**5** medium sweet potatoes  
**4** medium apples

**½ cup** margarine  
**½ cup** brown sugar  
**½ teaspoon** salt

**1 teaspoon** nutmeg  
**¼ cup** hot water  
**2 tablespoons** honey

- 1. Boil** potatoes in 2 inches of water until almost tender.
- 2. Cool** potatoes, peel and slice. **Peel**, core and slice apples.
- 3. Preheat** the oven to 400°F. **Grease** a casserole dish with a small amount of margarine.
- 4. Layer** potatoes on the bottom of the dish.

- 5. Add** a layer of apple slices.
- 6. Sprinkle** some sugar, salt, and tiny pieces of margarine over the apple layer.
- 7. Repeat** layers of potatoes, apples, sugar, salt and margarine.
- 8. Sprinkle** top with nutmeg.
- 9. Mix** the hot water and

honey together.

**10. Pour** over top of casserole.

**11. Bake** for 30 minutes.

**Yield:** 6, 1 cup servings.

**Nutrition Analysis:** 300 calories, 8 g fat, 59 g carbohydrate, 0 mg cholesterol, 320 mg sodium.

Source: USDA Food Stamp Nutrition Connection, Recipe finder. June, 2008.

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 under-ripe 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 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 1

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Source: USDA

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