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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

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March 4	Grow Appalachia Gardening Series Extension Office 5:00pm
March 5	Beekeepers Association Meeting Extension Office 6:00pm
March 5	*Maple Sugar Workshop (CAIP Education Eligible) Magoffin County Extension Office 5:30pm
March 7	*Safe Cattle Working Workshop (CAIP Education Eligible) Magoffin County Extension Office 5:30pm
March 18	Grafting Fruit Trees Workshop—See Flyer Extension Office 5:00pm
March 21	Farmer's Market Meeting Extension Office 6:00pm
March 25	Grafting Fruit Trees Workshop—See Flyer Extension Office 5:00pm
March 28	*Backyard Poultry Basics (CAIP Education Eligible) Magoffin County Extension Office 5:30pm
April 1	Grow Appalachia Gardening Series Extension Office 5:00pm
April 2	Beekeepers Association Meeting Extension Office 6:00pm
April 11	County Extension Council/District Board Meetings Extension Office 5:30pm



Chad Allen
Chad Allen

County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources

****Please call the Floyd County Extension Office to register for the Maple Sugar Workshop, Safe Cattle Working Workshop, and the Backyard Poultry Basics Workshop. (606) 886-2668***

Cooperative Extension Service

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Family and Consumer Sciences
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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Hello,

My name is Chad Allen, I am the new County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Floyd County. I was born, raised and currently live in Perry County. I graduated from Alice Lloyd college with a bachelor's in arts in education and a Bachelors in Science from Morehead State University in Agriculture. I also have a master's degree from Union College in Administration and Leadership. I am transitioning from Meade Tractor where I was the territory sales manager with John Deere over 14 counties in Eastern Kentucky on Equipment for the last 5 and a half years. Previously, I have worked as a store manger with tractor supply, in the coal business and, was in school administration as an athletic director. I own a small farm that currently raises 35 brood cows and a few head of goats. I have previously owned and operated 50 bee hives and extracted honey for retail sale. I have had the opportunity to be involved in many organizations and was elected to The Soil Conservation Board in Perry County as well as the Extension Council Chairman and Ag Council Chairman, I also sat on the 4H Council. I have also served as the secretary/treasure of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association. My greatest accomplishment in my life is my 9-year-old daughter, Addison. She not only makes me the proudest father you will find but, she is also my best friend. I am excited to be in Floyd County and look forward to meeting everyone and being able to assist in any way I can for the farmers within Floyd County.



Farmers! Have you renewed your farm license plates yet? We ask you to make the \$10 donation when you go to the Floyd County Clerk's office on each tag you renew. It's an excellent way for our agricultural community to support the youth of Floyd County and help fund 4-H programs that make a lasting difference for our kids.

Certified Seed a Good Investment

Buying certified seed is one of the few investments that give you a guaranteed high rate of return.

Red clover is one example. College of Agriculture research on improved and common varieties consistently shows that certified seed produce higher-yielding, longer-lasting stands. Certified red clover seed can return three to five tons more hay over the life of the stand. These stands persist up to 30 months, compared to 15 to 20 months for those planted to common seed.

Alfalfa variety trials also support the value of investing in certified seed. Any of the top five certified varieties will produce three-fourths of a ton higher yield per acre annually than a common variety.

Certified seed may cost up to twice as much as common varieties. However, certified seed are worth the added expense because yield is where you get the extra return on investment.

Planning your seed orders well in advance is another way to gain the most from your investment. It enables you to get the varieties you want and make the best deal on seed.

Before you contact seed dealers, review university and seed company variety trials and compile a short list of varieties you want to plant. Get in touch with seed dealers early to ensure that you get the seed varieties and quantities you need. Also ask dealers about discounts for ordering early and other price incentives.

For more information, contact me at the U.K. Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office.



What to Do In March & April

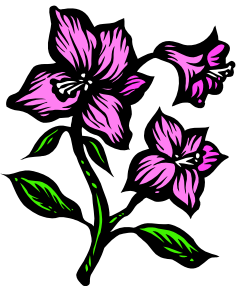
These are a few suggestions that may help you and your plants during this time period. I will divide the suggestion into groups, so you can refer back to them.

-Herbaceous plants -

- (1) Cannas for early flowering can be started in boxes or large pots in a warm cellar or enclosed porch. Cut canna rhizomes into pieces, each containing two or three points or eyes. Plant them in a soil mixture containing adequate sand for good drainage. Wait until a week after the average last date of frost, normally May 1, to plant in the garden.
- (2) When leaves of spring-flowering bulbs emerge, apply a complete fertilizer to ensure quality blooms. Remove the bulb foliage only after it dies naturally.
- (3) Tuberous begonias and caladiums can still be started indoors in early March. Set roots in pots or shallow boxes of rich soil (1/3 sand, 1/3 peat, and 1/3 loam). Cover with 1 inch of mixture. Keep the pots moist, not wet, and in good light at 65 degrees F. Transplant to larger pots in 6 weeks and set outside after all danger of frost.
- (4) If a few consecutive warm days have caused your bulbs to nose out from under protective mulch, plan to thicken the mulch layer to prevent freezing by exposure.
- (5) Start warm-season annual flower seeds indoors during March and early April. Provide plenty of light.
- (6) When buying transplants, choose plants with a compact, bushy form and bright-green leaves. Young, healthy plants with no flowers or flower buds will adapt easily and overcome the shock of planting fast.



-Woody Ornamentals-



- (1) Potted azaleas, available through Easter, will flower for two to three weeks, if the soil is kept slightly moist. Display in a cool (60 degrees F) bright location and remove withered flowers.
- (2) Once new growth begins on trees and shrubs, cut back winter killed twigs to living green wood.
- (3) When choosing a location for new shrubs and trees, remember spots that are sunny in the garden now may be shady in spring or summer. Ornamentals, such as azaleas, camellias, and dogwood prefer shade.
- (4) Hedges can receive the first pruning this month. As you prune, be sure to leave the base of the plant wider than the top. This allows sunlight to get to the bottom of the plant, creating a full, dense hedge.
- (5) Trees that bleed, such as birch and maple, should not be pruned until after their leaves are fully developed.

-Lawns-

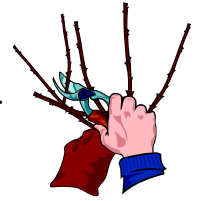
- (1) In March, begin mowing as soon as possible to remove uneven growth. Continue mowing (at least weekly during April and May) at about 2-2 1/2 inches height. Never allow grass to get higher than 4-5 inches.
- (2) In April, if dandelions, plantains, clover, chickweed, henbit, etc. are present, apply broadleaf weed herbicide.
- (3) If crabgrass was a problem the previous year, April is a good time to apply a granular crabgrass pre-emergence herbicide without fertilizer. Distribute with rotary spreader.



Continued from page 2

-Fruits-

- (1) Order rootstock prior to pruning fruit trees if you would like to graft new trees.
- (2) Examine your fruit trees. Early spring is the time for using dormant oil. Do not spray dormant oil when temperature is below 40 degrees F, or likely to drop below it within 24 hours.
- (3) Prune and train fruit trees. It is best to finish just before full bloom or a little earlier.
- (4) Keep all your pruning equipment clean and in good working condition.



-Houseplants-



- (1) Turn and prune houseplants regularly to keep them shapely. Pinch back new growth to promote bushy plants.
- (2) Check all houseplants closely for insect infestations. Quarantine gift plants until you determine they aren't harboring pests.
- (3) Over-watering indoor plants encourages root rot. Water when the soil is dry to the touch.
- (4) Remember, some indoor plants require more sunlight than others, arrange them accordingly.
- (5) Be aware of how temperature and humidity can affect your house plants.

-Vegetables-

- (1) During the next few months, home gardeners will begin to plow, cultivate, plant, and care for their vegetable gardens. Keep in mind, what it takes to have a successful garden and strive to reach it. Your efforts will be rewarded.



-Other items-



- (1) Clean and sterilize your tools, pots, and any other items that you use around your plants.
- (2) Gather information on the plants that you intend on planting. Learn about their care, you will have a healthier and nice-looking garden for your efforts.

Additional information can be received from the U.K. Cooperative Extension Service - Floyd County Office.

Cicadas



Some of you may have heard about our upcoming and unwanted visitor of the cicadas. These appear on a 17-year cycle and the early summer (approx. May 2025) we will see their return. These will appear in some of the western Ky counties this summer, but our visitors will happen in another year. Through recommendations from our horticulture specialist, Dr. Shawn Wright has suggested that we don't need to put specific fruit crops (blueberries, brambles, apples, pears, peaches, etc.) in the ground until fall of 2025. The reason for this is that the individual cicada female can lay up to 600 eggs. They prefer pencil size limbs which are the exact size of these fruits. The eggs grow and within that process they kill the branch from that spot out. This is where the growth of these plants is happening, so they survive but have limited growth that year. My advice would be to put your fruit plants in pots and keep transplanting in bigger pots until they can find their permanent home in the ground in the fall of 2025. Upon their approval bird netting would be a good idea for protection. A lot of time goes into reaping the benefits of these fruits and I want you to be as successful as possible.

Spring Mowing Most Important of Yearlong Lawn Duties

It's difficult to envision mowing your lawn this spring when frost or snow greets you nearly every morning. Yet that first spring mowing, usually in late March, begins your most important annual lawn duties.

The first mowing makes the lawn look spring-like and very attractive. Subsequent regular mowing hardens the grass for drought and heat stresses later on.

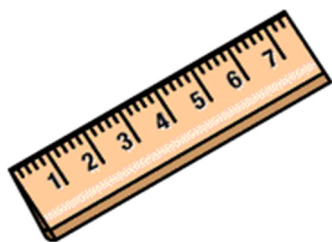
So, when the first clump of grass grows above the mowing height, mow, even if a lot of the yard doesn't need to be mowed yet.

Not all grasses start growing at the same time. Grass on northern slopes, or in heavy clay soil, will start growing several days later than normal. Grass that wasn't fertilized in the fall or early spring also has a delayed growth.

Following recommendations for mowing height and frequency will make your lawn-care duties easier and result in a more attractive yard.

If your mower has a fixed, all-year height, set it at 2.5 inches.

However, if you can easily vary the height, set it at 1.5 to 2 inches for the first several times you mow this spring. The shorter mowing height will help remove a lot of the winter-burned, brown leaves. And by exposing more dark green growth, it will transfigure your lawn into the most uniform, attractive in the neighborhood. Move the height up to 2.5 inches after you mow the grass several times.



To protect your grass from summer heat and drought injury, raise the mower height to 3 or 3.5 inches. However, remember that high grass, especially tall fescue, tends to fall over and mat down during hot summer weather causing increased summer disease problems. In the fall, lower the mowing height to 2.5 inches.

For the winter, you might want to lower it again to 1.5 to 2 inches. This shorter height improves the turf's winter and early spring color.

Never let grass go through the winter at a height of 4 or more inches, because it will mat down and become diseased.

Generally speaking, mow often enough to remove no more than one-third to one-half of the grass height. If your mower is set for 2 inches, mow again when grass height reaches approximately 3 inches. Be sure not to scalp the lawn by mowing off most of the green leaves.

For tall fescue lawns, a rule of thumb is to mow at five-day intervals during the spring, and at seven-day intervals the rest of the year. If you have a Kentucky bluegrass lawn, a seven-day interval usually is sufficient at a 2.5-inch mowing height. You probably can extend that interval during hot, dry weather.

Don't mow by the calendar. Instead, watch the grass grow, and mow frequently enough to remove no more than one-third to one-half of grass height.

The source of this article was Gregg Munshaw, UK Turf Science Extension Specialist. For more information on lawn care, contact me at the UK Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office.



Take Preventive Measures to Control Fruit Diseases

Late winter and early spring are critical times to control fruit diseases by preventing early infections. Once a disease appears, it's often too late or too hard to overcome, so prevention is an effective, inexpensive disease control measure.

To prevent disease in newly-planted fruits, use only disease-free nursery stock and provide good soil drainage to reduce the threat of root rot. Select disease-resistant strawberry varieties. When planting apples, plant scab-immune trees, select varieties with fire blight tolerance, and avoid rootstocks that are susceptible to collar rot and fire blight.

Pruning is another way to control diseases in your fruits. Prune your apples, stone fruits, grapes, blueberries, and brambles to remove cankered, diseased and dead twigs, branches and canes. Also thin out excessive twigs, branches and canes to allow more air and light penetration as a disease-prevention practice. Always remove and destroy all pruned materials from your fruit plantings.

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Sanitation is yet another disease preventive practice. To reduce the likelihood of fruit rot diseases, remove and destroy the previous season's mummies from trees and the ground. Rake and destroy all fallen leaves from the previous season or use a power mower to chop these leaves into tiny pieces. Also remove and destroy all abandoned and unsprayed apple, pear, or stone fruit trees near your orchard. Clear out nearby trees and branches that could shade your fruit plantings.

In your fruits, put a maximum/minimum thermometer and rain gauge or other weather instruments to help you monitor diseases and take timely preventive actions.

Applying late dormant sprays should be a part of your disease management plan. Before apple trees reach less than one-half inch green tip, spray fixed copper fungicides to suppress fire blight. If buds on your peach trees have begun to swell, it's too late to spray for peach leaf curl. If you've had serious problems with raspberry canker diseases, apply liquid lime-sulfur at bud break but before shoots are three-fourths inch long.

For best results when using any agricultural chemical, always follow the manufacturer's instructions. And don't forget to be sure your sprayers are properly calibrated.

There are specific times, related to weather conditions, extent of the disease outbreak and other factors, when you can get the best disease control without wasting fungicides or unnecessarily using them. Many of these "windows of opportunity" involve Integrated Pest Management. IPM is a common-sense approach to disease control, involving a variety of management strategies ranging from plant selection to the type and frequency of pesticide use.

For more information on disease control and recommendations, consult the UK College of Agriculture Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide (ID-232) or Disease and Insect Control Program for Home-Grown Fruit in Kentucky (ID-21). These publications are available from the U.K. Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office.



Winter Preparation Gives Gardeners a Jump on Spring

As winter draws to a close, it is time for vegetable and flower gardeners to start preparing for the spring planting season, said Rick Durham, associate extension professor for consumer horticulture at the University of Kentucky.

The vegetable growing season is fast approaching for some areas of the state. Gardeners can plant peas as early as late February in western Kentucky, and they can plant cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, spinach greens and onions as early as mid March, he said. Central Kentucky gardeners can start planting peas in early March and Eastern-area gardeners can begin planting in mid March.

One of the things vegetable gardeners can do during the late winter is to have their soil tested. If the soil test indicates a nutrient is lacking, gardeners can add it to the soil. This is especially true if a pH change is needed. Nitrogen, which is the most commonly needed nutrient, is an exception to late winter nutrient application. It should be added just before or during planting, he said.

Late winter and early spring are also the time to incorporate organic matter into gardens, which enhances the soil's productivity, Durham said.



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Organic matter can be obtained from either commercially available sources that include composted manure and other composted products, such as leaf mold, or compost produced by gardeners since the last growing season. Gardeners should apply compost up to two to three inches deep in their garden and then work it into the soil until it reaches 10 to 12 inches in depth.

Gardeners should also remove debris from their beds to prevent potential pest problems in the spring.

“Debris can serve as an over-wintering place for pests, both insects and diseases,” Durham said. “Insects and their eggs can be hidden in the debris, and the diseases can produce spores once they begin growing again, which can infest gardens.”

Those with flower gardens may already be seeing signs of spring as bulbs, such as tulips and daffodils, start to send up shoots. Many other garden perennials will begin showing signs of growth soon.

“As the plants begin to grow, if you mulched a lot in the fall, pull the mulch back around the crown of the perennial,” Durham said. “If you didn’t mulch in the fall, you should mulch this spring.”

Unlike perennials, most annuals shouldn’t be planted until after Derby Day, or the first of May, to prevent damage from a late spring freeze.

For more information on these topics, contact the U.K. Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office.



Get Jump-Start on Farm Equipment Maintenance

It may feel like spring will never truly arrive, but it will. It’s a good idea to go ahead and get started on your farm equipment maintenance. Doing the repairs now can save time and aggravation later.

If you need to order parts, go ahead and do it to reduce the likelihood of delays during the critical spring days ahead.

When you check equipment, pay particular attention to rubber components, as these will sometimes become brittle and cracked during the winter.

Check implements for broken, missing or worn parts you may need to replace. Go over the machinery and tighten bolts, nuts and cap screws. Pump fresh grease into fittings to remove any condensation that may have formed in the winter. Apply touch up paint to any rusted or scratched areas.

On planters make sure moveable parts are not stuck. Also check for wear and replace any overly worn parts.

Electrical problems can lead to time-consuming breakdowns. Now is the time to check for loose connections, frayed or broken wires and repair broken gauges, lights and switches.

Remember to include sprayer maintenance in your late winter cleaning tasks, ensuring that your spray equipment is ready for the planting season; it could save you time and money.

If you take care of sprayer maintenance prior to the hectic growing season, it can prevent time-consuming equipment breakdowns, higher chemical costs, reduced pesticide effectiveness and potential crop damage. Rinse out the sprayer to remove any dirt that accumulated over the winter. Check the pump and nozzles for excessive wear and be sure the pump is operating at full capacity. Inspect sprayer lines for leaks.

Clean filter screens and replace worn ones in the sprayer and in tractors. You’ll need to ensure they are not restricting air flow. Replace fuel filters as they age and become clogged.

Be sure to consult your operator’s manual on tractors and other equipment for additional maintenance instructions.

For more information on farm maintenance practices, contact me at the UK Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office. The source of this article was Tim Stombaugh, UK Agricultural Engineer.



Prepare Your Garden for April Showers

There is no surer sign of spring than blooming gardens and flowerbeds, but what happens behind-the-scenes to get them to that point?

Much of the work goes in before you even break the soil. Before you dig in, it's important to choose the proper site, plan what you will be growing, and prepare the soil to yield the best possible results. A garden is nothing without a good foundation, making it extra important to choose the correct site.

Temperature is a large factor for optimal garden growth, so avoid low areas and spots bounded on the lower side by a solid fence or dense trees. These tend to create cooler temperatures longer into the spring, unlike the fast-warming tendencies of a southern or southeastern exposure. Convenience is key, so make sure to choose a site accessible to your house with enough access to water. Finding a balance between watering your plants and drowning them is vital. Choose a well-drained area, one that typically does not hold water for a day or more after rainfall. If poorly drained soil is dominant in your area, consider a raised bed garden.



Once you select a site, it's important to have a plan for its layout. Have a general idea of what vegetables or plants you wish to grow in the garden. Some, like tomatoes, peppers, or broccoli, may be available as transplants from local stores, but others will require purchasing seed. Every family has different dietary wants and needs, so knowing how much of each vegetable to grow is important. Your family may be satisfied with two plants of beans, but you may need 12 tomato plants. Knowing your requirements and putting that into consideration when planning your site is helpful.

The size of your garden is also a factor; in smaller areas, vegetables like peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers produce well, but others may not. You are bound to the ground, so plan accordingly.

It is important to remember that the soil nurtures the plants, so you need to nurture the soil. Effective gardens are not formed naturally; they take a great deal of alteration to create. If there is surface grass on the site, remove it, turn it over with a shovel, or plow the area several weeks before planting. Once you've cleared the space, you can begin attending to the soil quality. Organic matter goes a long way in helping the fertility of the soil. Add 1-2 inches of compost, composted manure, peat moss, humus, or other organic matter to the surface of the soil, working to a depth of 6-10 inches. If you are considering adding fresh manure, avoid doing so within 120 days of crop harvest.

Soil testing can provide valuable information about your garden site. Contact your county extension office if you are interested in more information about soil testing.

For more information on garden preparation and soil testing, contact me at the UK Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office. The source of this article was Richard Durham, UK Horticulture Specialist.

Time to Prune

Believe it or not, spring really is on the way. After a long, cold winter, many homeowners begin to turn their attention to their landscape. The winter months can be damaging to trees and shrubs. To ensure healthy spring plants, homeowners may want to prune the trees and shrubs around their home. But you shouldn't just prune for the sake of pruning; make sure you have a valid reason.



Pruning during the late winter months allows you to remove damage caused by winter winds and precipitation. Pruning also is a way to remove diseased, crowded or hazardous branches. When pruning trees, the size of the tree should not be reduced too much in one season. Limit the pruning amount to one-fourth of the tree's volume. Start by thinning out branches by cutting them off close to the tree's trunk or a large limb.

Leave the base of the branch, known as the collar, intact. Cutting the collar will prevent the plant from growing over the wound caused from pruning. Pruning in this manner allows for a healthy tree that is more open to sunlight and air movement. If the branch is cut back only part way, there will likely be a crowded regrowth of new branches where the cut was made. Do not seal or paint the wounds resulting from pruning, because this will only delay the tree's healing process.

Spring-flowering shrubs may need rejuvenation pruning, and the best time for that is right after they flower. If you prune a shrub before it blooms, you remove buds too soon and don't get an opportunity enjoy those blooms. When you prune after blooming, you can still enjoy the flowers and the plant can recover, grow, and produce more buds for flowers next spring.

For rejuvenation pruning you remove one-third of the shrub's oldest growth. You need to select the thickest, darkest and unhealthiest stems or branches and cut them back. You should cut back stems to soil level and branches to the point of intersection with the shrub's main trunk. This ensures that only the youngest, most productive wood (that which produces the most and best flowers) remains a part of the shrub. During early spring you can also prune shrubs that will bloom during the summer months.

Pruning is not limited to a certain time of year. You can prune at any time if you notice damaged branches and limbs. The process is invigorating for the plants in a home landscape so you shouldn't necessarily think of pruning just as a means of size control.

If you have a plant that has grown out-of-bounds, pruning may not be the answer – you may need to consider replacing the plant with one that will reach a smaller size at maturity.

Trees and shrubs to prune in late winter/early spring while still dormant:

- Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)
- Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)
- Flowering plum (*Prunus blireana*)
- Golden rain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)
- Hydrangea, Peegee (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora')
- Potentilla (*Potentilla fruticosa*)
- Spirea (except bridal wreath) (*Spirea japonica*)
- Butterfly bush (*Buddleia Davidii*)
- Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Glossy abelia (*Abelia x grandiflora*)
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissiam*)
- Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Wisteria (*Wisteria* species)

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Trees and Shrubs to prune in late spring/summer, after bloom

- Azalea (Rhododendron species)
- Bridal wreath spirea (Spirea x vanhouttei)
- Forsythia (forsythia x intermedia)
- Hydrangea, Bigleaf (Hydrangea macrophylla)
- Magnolia (Magnolia species and cultivars)
- Mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia)
- Serviceberry (Amelanchier x grandiflora)
- Weigela (Weigela florida)
- Beauty bush (Kolkwitzia amabilis)
- Flowering crabapple (Malus species)
- Hawthorn (Crataegus species and cultivars)
- Lilac (Syringa vulgaris)
- Mock orange (Philadelphus coronarius)
- Rhododendron (Rhododendron species)
- Slender deutzia (deutzia gracilis)

The Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service offers publications that can answer many of your pruning and other gardening and landscape questions. For more information, contact me at the UK Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office. The sources of this article was Rick Durham, Horticulture Specialist.

Composting Basics

Composting is a great way to add valuable organic matter to your soil while reducing the amount of yard and food waste that ends up in landfills. It's also something that nearly everyone can do.

Compost is the result of a natural process where decaying organic substances, such as plants, are broken down by microorganisms. This produces a nutrient-rich, organic material that you can apply to your lawn or garden, much like you would a commercial fertilizer.

You can start a compost bin or pile in your backyard. You can purchase a bin or make one using inexpensive, leftover materials like pallets or chicken wire. The bin can be as big or small as you want, but for most rapid composting, a pile that is at least 1-yard tall and 1-yard wide and 1-yard long is best. Make sure you place your compost in an area that is flat and well-drained.

Once you have defined a compost area, collect yard waste and food scraps. Yard waste includes twigs, shrub trimmings, grass clippings, leftover straw, and leaves. Most fruit, vegetable and grain scraps are compostable as are coffee grounds, herbs, nuts and eggshells. Avoid meat scraps, oils, and dairy products.

Remember, you need to have a mixture of "brown" material (dried leaves, straw, twigs, coffee grounds, even cardboard) and "green" materials (fresh grass clippings, vegetable scraps, other fresh plant materials) for the composting process to work. Mix or turn the pile once a week to help speed the breakdown of organic materials. If the compost pile is extremely damp, turn it more often. If it is dry, add some water or fresh plant material. It can take four to six months to complete the composting process. You will know it's finished when the compost is dark brown, crumbly and smells like soil.

Compost can be used in the vegetable garden or spread around ornamental plants in the landscape but be careful not to use too much. A 1-inch layer of compost, worked into the top few inches of soil, will feed plants for several months.

The source of this article was Rick Durham, UK Extension Professor. More information on composting or other gardening tips is available at the Floyd County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.





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Prestonsburg, KY 41653
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Grafting Fruit Trees Apples & Pears

**Floyd County Extension Office
Monday, March 18, 2024 5:00pm
AND**

**Floyd County Extension Office
Monday, March 25, 2024 5:00pm**

MUST REGISTER!!

A hands-on demonstration will be given on how to graft apple and pear trees. We will have a limited supply of rootstock on hand so that you can try your hand at making a graft.

We will also be discussing the basics of training and pruning your young fruit trees.

Please call Chad Allen or Sarah Lewis at 886-2668 to register.

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