

# Weed It and Reap

## FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



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## Get Your Home Garden Off To A Good Start

Source: Rachel Rudolph, UK horticulture extension specialist

Springtime in Kentucky is the perfect time to get outside and start your home garden. A few tasks will help you have a successful season.

Planning your garden on paper before you begin allows you to visualize the plants you want to grow and when they will be ready to harvest.

Next, select a good gardening site. Plan a site in full sun, relatively level, well-drained, close to a water source and dries quickly from morning dew. You may need to get a soil test to best prepare the soil. Add fertilizer according to soil test results.

Remember to only plan a garden as large as you can easily maintain. Beginning gardeners often overplant and fail because they can't keep up with the required tasks. You must manage weeds and pests and apply water so your plants will be ready to harvest on time.

A few other important tips:

1. Grow vegetables that will produce the maximum amount of food in your available space.
2. Plant during the correct season for the crop.
3. Choose varieties recommended for Kentucky.

***(Continued on pg. 2)***

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*(Continued from pg. 1, Get Your Home Garden Off To A Good Start)*

4. Harvest vegetables at their proper stage of maturity. Consider how you will store them if you don't use them right away.

Consult the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Home Vegetable Gardening publication ID-128, available online at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id128/id128.pdf>.

For more information about gardening or other horticulture topics, contact the Franklin Cooperative Extension Service.



## Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners'

Saturday, April 29th

9am - 2pm

Lakeview Park  
(Farm Bureau  
Pavilion)

118 Park Avenue  
Frankfort, KY

# Plant Market

Tomatoes, peppers,  
herbs, perennials  
and MORE!

SAVE THE  
DATE!!!



Kentucky Extension  
Master Gardener  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
University of Kentucky



## Franklin County Farm Service Agency is Accepting Emergency Conservation Program Applications

(Versailles, KY), April 5, 2023- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director CED Jimmy Chambers today announced that Franklin County is accepting applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to address damages from the Severe Storms that occurred on March 3rd, 2023. **ECP Signup will begin on April 10th, 2023, and end on June 9th, 2023.**

The Approved ECP practices under this authorization includes List Eligible practices:

EC1 Removing Debris from Farmland; EC3 Replace/Restoring Permanent Fencing

ECP assists producers with the recovery cost to restore the agricultural land to pre-disaster conditions. Approved ECP applicants may receive up to 75 percent of the cost of approved restoration activity. Limited resource socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers may receive up to 90 percent cost share.

“Dealing with natural disasters is never easy, especially when you have to consider the health and safety of livestock, but it’s important for producers to call our office before they take any action,” said Chambers.

Producers with damages from such events must apply for assistance prior to beginning reconstructive work. FSA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and environmental compliance review process is required to be completed before any actions are taken. Submitting an application after reconstructive work has been completed may not qualify for ECP.

FSA County Committees will evaluate applications based on an on-site inspection for the damaged land, taking into consideration the type and extent of the damage. As on-site inspection does not guarantee that cost-share funding will be provided.

The 2018 Farm bill increased the payment limitation for ECP to \$500,000 per Disaster. The use of ECP funds is limited to activities to return the land to the relative pre-disaster condition. Conservation Concerns that were present on the land prior to the disaster are not eligible for ECP assistance.

For More information on ECP, Please **Contact the Franklin County FSA Office at 859-873-3411 Extension 2 or visit [Farmers.gov/recover](https://Farmers.gov/recover).**



## The Gall of the Oak Wasps

By Joyce Fry, Capital Area Extension Master Gardener

While strolling down our driveway recently, I happened upon several marble-sized, round, smooth, brown vegetative balls attached to twigs (Photo 1). I knew these to be galls, which the plant produces in response to an insect laying its egg in twig. I was more curious than that. Inquiring minds want to know what kind of insect produced these galls? What species of tree was involved? Were the insect larvae inside? How do galls form? My quest to satisfy my curiosity began.



(Photo 1)

The obvious first task was to break open one of the galls, which was harder than I expected, but a chef's knife broke it in two, without damage to its contents. In the middle of the gall amid a series of woody-lined chambers was a smaller tan sphere (Photo 2). A pocketknife easily sliced it open, to reveal a tiny white larva. Using iNaturalist, I concluded that the gall protected the larva of a Round Bullet Gall Wasp, *Disholcaspis quercusglobulus*. As the species name implies, this gall can be found on oaks (*Quercus* sp.) and is round, like a globe. This wasp is in the Cynipidae family and is just one of hundreds of gall wasp species that infest oaks. The good news is that the galls are commensalism i.e., the wasp uses the tree's resources, but does not harm or help the tree. I learned that these gall wasp species produce two generations each year, one the product of a

mating pair, and one produced [parthenogenically](#) (the female can produce offspring asexually).



(Photo 2)

So, how do galls associated with wasp form? The egg is laid through the phloem and is in contact with the cambium, the growth layer. The egg or the feeding larva triggers a reaction in the meristematic (undifferentiated) cells of the tree to produce the gall. This reaction occurs with all gall-producing insects and their hosts, as the insect releases various hormones that can turn the genes of the host vegetation on and off. The purpose of the gall is to protect the developing insect. Some galls can provide additional protection by producing sugary nectar, which attracts hornet wasps, yellow-jackets, mud-daubers and carpenter ants in the fall (Photo 3). The presence of these stinging or biting insects are thought to thwart predators.



(Photo 3)

Joe Boggs, OSU Extension©



Depending upon the season, there are two different types of galls produced throughout the year. The galls that I found on the ground were in various states; some bore a tiny hole, presumably from which a female wasp emerged last fall, around late October, or early November. That’s when only female parthenogenically-produced wasps emerge. They are clones of their mother. The gall that I described breaking into above, still contained a larva (or pupa) inside of the smaller sphere.

After the female wasp emerges from the gall in the fall, the female must soon choose a dormant leaf bud to lay a single egg per bud before her death. In response to the egg, the tree produces a leaf gall. The resulting wasp be a male or female, which emerge in mid- to late spring. This complex reproductive cycle is repeated when the spring-hatched, mated female wasps choose an oak twig on which to lay an egg.

My pursuit to unravel this “mystery” (to me) hasn’t ended here. Now I must find leaf galls (the next generation of bullet gall wasps) and the adult wasps. The latter may be difficult to detect, as they are not particularly obvious, being dark brown and stubby bodied with a round abdomen. If I succeed, you may hear more about these fascinating insects. Happy Spring!

*Are you a mom-to-be & Medicaid recipient?*  
**Ask us about FreshRX!**  
 Fresh RX provides \$24 of free produce each week to qualifying moms!

Sign up now at [www.fcmarket.org/fresh-rx](http://www.fcmarket.org/fresh-rx)  
**Questions? Contact us!**  
 Call (502) 382-1254 or email [vista@franklincountyfarmersmarket.org](mailto:vista@franklincountyfarmersmarket.org)

**EARTH DAY**  
**Celebration**  
**Saturday, April 22**  
 10 am - 1 pm  
**Ward Oates Amphitheater**  
 learn • create • share  
 love the planet!

**Together Frankfort**  
[togetherfrankfort.org](http://togetherfrankfort.org)

In case of rain we'll see you next year!

**Franklin County Conservation District**

Backyard Conservation Program  
 Urban Cost Share Program  
**April 1, 2023 to August 1, 2023**

Raised Garden Beds, Rain Barrels, Compost Bins, Pollinator Gardens and Behives

- First come, first serve
- Franklin County Residents only
- One application per household
- 50% cost share up to \$250 maximum

**Must have approval before you begin project**

Franklin County Conservation District  
 103 Lakeview Court  
 Frankfort, KY 40601  
 502-352-2701



# Reforest Frankfort 2023

Join us for a day of FREE EARTH FRIENDLY EDUCATION!



Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm  
1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601



April 15, 2023 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information, contact [acunningham@frankfort.ky.gov](mailto:acunningham@frankfort.ky.gov) | (502) 875-8575



**Not a pet friendly event. Service Dogs Only.**



# Garden With Us!

## Frankfort Community Gardens Private Plot Program



10ft x 10ft private plots available

\$10/year plot "lease"

Access to tools and water

Education available for success

Plots available at Dolly Graham Park  
& Thorn Hill Education Center

To get your gardening adventure started to day contact us!

Email: [cgnfrankfort@gmail.com](mailto:cgnfrankfort@gmail.com)

Facebook: CommonWealth Gardens





The Kentucky Solar Energy Society and their partners are organizing a group-purchasing campaign making it easier to go solar in the Frankfort area. **Solarize Frankfort** connects participants with pre-screened solar installers and provides access to bulk-purchase discounts (up to 15% off solar PV installations).

### Our Partners

#### Who Is Eligible?

- Homeowners, small businesses, non-profits, places of worship
- Residents of Franklin County and surrounding counties (Anderson, Henry, Owen, Scott, Shelby, and Woodford)



#### Solarize Frankfort makes it easier to go solar by...

- Pre-screening your home to see if it is a good fit for solar.
- Connecting you with our vetted, experienced solar installation partners, *Pure Power Solar* or *Wilderness Trace Solar*.
- Providing a step-by-step walk-through of the installation process.



#### Go Solar!

- Reduce your energy bill!
- Lower your carbon footprint!
- Help the City of Frankfort meet its goal of 100% renewables by 2030!



To Enroll in *Solarize Frankfort* and receive a free solar assessment:

[www.kyses.org/solarize](http://www.kyses.org/solarize)



**Solarize Frankfort's Solar Installation Partners**







# County Compost Giveaway



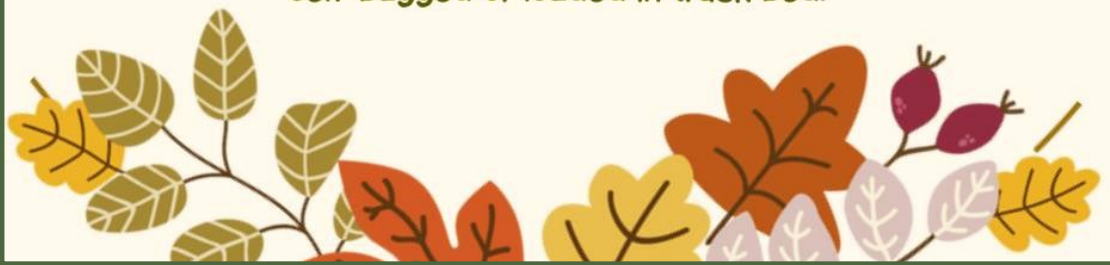
April 7 & 28

8 Am to Noon

100 Lewis Ferry Rd



\*Participants are required to sign a waiver. Compost can be self-bagged or loaded in truck bed.\*







# Community Gardens WORKSHOPS



## COMPOSTING 101

February 25th @ 10am  
Location: Thornhill Education Center



## STARTING TRANSPLANTS INDOORS

March 11th @ 10am  
Location: Thornhill Education Center



## GROWING YOUR OWN MUSHROOMS

April 22th @ 10am  
Location: Thornhill Education Center



## POLLINATOR GARDENS

May 13th @ 10am  
Location: Dolly Graham Park/Fantasy Forest



## CONTAINER GARDENING

May 20th @ 10am  
Location: Thornhill Education Center



Commonwealth  
Gardens



FOLLOW US:



Thornhill Education Center  
700 Leslie Ave., Frankfort, KY  
Dolly Graham Park  
125-199 Logan St, Frankfort, KY

CONTACT US:

CGNFRANKFORT@GMAIL.COM  
<https://franklincenterforinnovation.com/thorn-hill-garden-1>





KENTUCKY STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Land Grant Program

# THIRD THURSDAY THING

Topics: Farmers Markets  
and Water Quality

April 20, 2023 | 10 AM EDT

Join us in person at the Harold R. Benson Research & Demonstration Farm or online!



1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601



[youtube.com/kysuag/live](https://youtube.com/kysuag/live)





## Carrot Cake Smoothie

- **1 medium** frozen ripe banana
- **2 medium** carrots, chopped
- **1/2 cup** canned-in-juice pineapple tidbits, drained
- **1/4 cup** low-fat vanilla yogurt
- **1/2 cup** nonfat milk
- **4-5** ice cubes
- **Dash** cinnamon (optional)
- **1/2 teaspoon** vanilla extract (optional)

**Wash** hands with soap and warm water, **scrubbing** for at least 20 seconds. **Rinse** carrots under cool running water and scrub with a clean vegetable brush to remove any dirt before chopping. **Add** banana, carrot, pineapple, yogurt, milk, ice, and cinnamon and vanilla (if using) to a blender, and **blend** until smooth. If needed, **add** more milk to encourage blending. **Refrigerate** leftovers.

**Yield:** 2, 1.5 cup servings. **Nutrition Analysis:** 160 calories, 1g total fat, 0g saturated fat, 5mg cholesterol, 90mg sodium, 36g total carbohydrate, 4g fiber, 26g total sugars, 2g added sugars, 5g protein, 6% DV vitamin D, 10% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 15% DV potassium.



## Spring Harvest Salad

<b>5 cups</b> torn spring leaf lettuce	<b>Dressing:</b> <b>4 teaspoons</b> lemon juice	<b>2 teaspoons</b> Kentucky honey
<b>2½ cups</b> spinach leaves	<b>2½ tablespoons</b> olive oil	<b>½ teaspoon</b> salt
<b>1½ cups</b> sliced strawberries	<b>1 tablespoon</b> balsamic vinegar	<b>¼ cup</b> feta cheese crumbles
<b>1 cup</b> fresh blueberries	<b>1½ teaspoons</b> Dijon mustard	<b>½ cup</b> unsalted sliced almonds
<b>½ cup</b> thinly sliced green onions		

- Combine** leaf lettuce and spinach leaves with sliced strawberries, blueberries and green onion in a large salad bowl.
- Prepare** dressing by whisking together the lemon juice, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, Dijon mustard, honey and salt; **pour** over lettuce mixture and toss to coat.
- Sprinkle** salad with feta cheese and sliced almonds.
- Serve** immediately.

**Yield:** 8, 1 cup servings.  
**Nutrition Analysis:** 130 calories, 9g fat, 1.5g sat fat, 240mg sodium, 12g carbohydrates, 3g fiber, 7g sugar, 3g protein.

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



  
Adam Leonberger

