

# Weed It and Reap

## FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Getting Started with Composting

Source: Rick Durham, Extension Professor

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 is remarkably easy to 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 one yard tall, one yard wide and one yard long is best. Make sure to place your compost in an area that is flat and well-drained.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

<b>GETTING STARTED WITH COMPOSTING.....</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>UPCOMING HORT EVENTS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>GERMINATING SEEDS AND TRANSPLANTING.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FREE SOIL SAMPLE COUPON SPONSORED BY FCCD .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NEOPESTALOTIOPSIS DISEASE IN STRAWBERRY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2025 BLUEGRASS BEEKEEPING SCHOOL .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>HOOK AND COOK.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>FCCD URBAN COST SHARE PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>KY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT 2025.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>HOW DO TREES USE WATER ..</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>FIESTA POTATOES.....</b>	<b>16</b>

*(Continued from pg. 1, Getting Started With Composting.)*

When the compost area is ready, collect yard waste and food scraps. Yard waste can include twigs, shrub trimmings, grass clippings, leftover straw and leaves. Most fruit, vegetable and grain scraps are compostable as are coffee grounds, herbs, nuts and egg shells. Avoid meat scraps, oils and dairy products. 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 one-inch layer of compost, worked into the top few inches of soil, will feed plants for several months



**The 2025 Recipe & Cook Wild calendars are now available!  
Visit the Franklin County Extension Office to pick up your free copy.**



# UPCOMING HORTICULTURE EVENTS



# 2025

# 30

## CAEMG LUNCH & LEARN- WINTER SOWING

JANUARY

12:00 PM

101 LAKEVIEW COURT



# 19

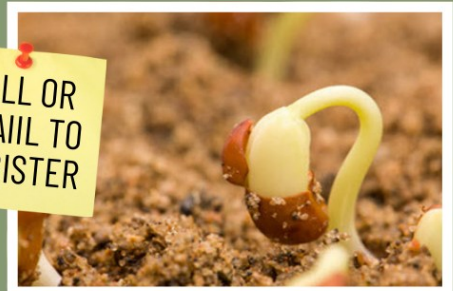
## SEED STARTING WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY

6:00 PM

101 LAKEVIEW COURT

CALL OR EMAIL TO REGISTER



# 22

## SEED SWAP



FEBRUARY

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PAUL SAWYER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
319 WAPPING ST



502-695-9035

franklin.ca.uky.edu

### 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

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

# Germinating Seeds and Transplanting

Source: Jack Buxton, Associate Professor Emeritus of Floriculture

Starting plants from seed early and transplanting them to the garden is a time-honored, economical and rewarding gardening tradition. Germinating seed at home increases the options for fall planting, when garden centers have stopped carrying a full array of plants, and it allows the home gardener to use saved seeds from unusual or favorite varieties that might be unavailable or hard to find. You will need to plan ahead to time germination correctly, assemble basic equipment, and devote a small amount of time to maintaining proper conditions for your seed beds.

Germinate seeds. A commercially packaged medium is convenient, and most transplants can be grown in the same formulation. The container you use to germinate should be 2-3 inches deep, with drainage holes in the bottom. Moisten the medium and fill to within a half-inch of the top. Sow seeds in rows or scatter uniformly, at a rate of 10-20 seeds per

square inch. Cover with a layer of medium. (Very small seeds, such as petunia, remain uncovered.) The seed packet will state whether the seeds require light or dark conditions for germination. Select a location where the temperature ranges from 70-80 degrees, but refer to the seed packet for specific instructions. Maintain a constant moisture level and sterile conditions. After germination, seedlings require light, either natural or artificial.

Transplant seedlings. Within a few weeks, seedlings should be moved to larger containers to allow room for growth. Fertilize once, following instructions on container. A water-soluble houseplant fertilizer can be used. Maintain ideal temperatures and water levels to promote highest growth rates. Plan ahead to time your transplanting to the first frost-free date in your area, which can vary from late April to mid to late May. Seeds that germinate in six to 10 days usually are ready to be transplanted outside in five to eight weeks. Plants that take 10-20 days are usually ready for the garden in eight to 14 weeks.





Franklin County Conservation District  
 103 Lakeview Court  
 Frankfort, KY 40601  
 Phone: (502) 352-2701

**UK** Cooperative Extension Service  
 Franklin County  
 101 Lakeview Court  
 Frankfort, KY 40601-8750  
 502-695-9035  
 franklin.ca.uky.edu

# FREE SOIL SAMPLE COUPON

## Sponsored By:

# Franklin County Conservation District

January 1- April 30, 2025, the Franklin County Conservation District is sponsoring 10 FREE soil tests.

Bring this coupon in with your soil sample(s) and receive FREE BASIC SOIL TESTING.

Redeemable only at the FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE located at 101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort KY. (502) 695-9035 <https://franklin.ca.uky.edu>

For information on how to take a soil sample:  
[www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/agr/agr16/agr16.pdf](http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/agr/agr16/agr16.pdf)

**LIMIT 10 (ten) FREE SAMPLES per PERSON**  
**Coupon available for Franklin County or Frankfort Residents or Farms located in Franklin County.**  
**NO COMMERCIAL SAMPLES WITH THIS OFFER**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

	Sample Number Office Use Only	Date Submitted		Sample Number Office Use Only	Date Submitted
1			6		
2			7		
3			8		
4			9		
5			10		

Staff \_\_\_\_\_



# NEOPESTALOTIOPSIS DISEASE IN STRAWBERRY:

## *A New Reality for Kentucky Growers*

FEBRUARY 6, 2025  
6:00 - 7:30 PM (EST)  
WEBINAR VIA ZOOM  
REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/4IF6KTC](https://bit.ly/4if6ktc)



### Agenda:

6:00 pm - Managing Neo-pest Disease with Dr. Nicole Gauthier  
6:45 pm - Starting Your Own Disease-free Plugs with Dr. Shawn Wright  
Q&A session will follow presentations



COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION PROGRAM

# 2025 BLUEGRASS BEEKEEPING SCHOOL

## WHEN:

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

## WHERE:

Kentucky State  
University

## REGISTRATION:

Register at:

[https://beeschool.eventsmart.com/  
events/bluegrass-beekeeping-  
school-2025/](https://beeschool.eventsmart.com/events/bluegrass-beekeeping-school-2025/)



**\$35 for admission  
lunch included**

**For more info and a list of classes  
go to [bluegrassbeekeepers.com](http://bluegrassbeekeepers.com)**

## 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

Learn more about this program here



# HOOK and COOK

Learn the basics of fishing, including rod and reel setup, fish cleaning and how to cook fish.

Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office,  
101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Frankfort, KY  
March 3rd  
March 10th  
March 17th



Scan here to register using the camera on your smart device

More Info: [Easton.Copley@ky.gov](mailto:Easton.Copley@ky.gov) or 502-330-1411



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4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.





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



**HIKE! EXPLORE! LEARN!**

# **OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP**



**Get together with friends and  
learn outdoor survival skills!  
Scan below for the  
application!**



**MAY 2-3, 2025  
STARTS AT 1 PM  
\$100 PER PERSON  
REGISTER WITH YOUR  
COUNTY 4-H AGENT**

**LAKE CUMBERLAND 4-H CAMP  
17500 KY-196  
NANCY, KY 42544**

**OPEN FOR KIDS AGED 13 AND UP.  
THE TEAM OF SKILLED PROFESSIONALS ENSURE  
ALL KIDS ARE SAFE 24/7.**

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notificati

# Franklin County Conservation District

BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
Urban Cost Share Program

**January 1, 2025 to June 1, 2025**

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

- 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

fccd103@gmail.com

502-695-9035



# Has the severe weather impacted your agricultural production?

Please contact the Franklin County Extension Office with any weather related issues with your feeding/ watering of livestock, greenhouse collapses/freezing, etc.

Cooperative Extension Service

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4-H Youth Development  
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## Ky. Conservation Committee Legislative Summit 2025

Sunday, January 26th at Ky. State University

1:00-5:00 PM , 400 East Main St, Frankfort, KSU Extension Building Room 238

A conference on critical statewide environmental issues plus KCC Annual Meeting, open to all!



# KY Farm Launch Beginning Farmer Training Program

Our 9-month, in-person program includes weekly in-depth workshops in program 'tracks', including the following topics:



Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment



## Vegetable + Small Fruits Track:

Skills to sustainably produce and market a variety of vegetables + small fruit, including:

- Crop Planning
- Soil Health, Compost, + Crop Rotation
- Transplant Production
- Irrigation Management and Fertigation
- Soils + Fertility Management
- Cover Crops + Living Mulch Systems
- Tillage + Cultivation
- Plasticulture + Bare Ground Production
- Biointensive Production Systems
- Seedling + Transplanting
- Season Extension + Greenhouse Basics
- Weed Identification and Management
- Insect Identification and Management
- Beekeeping 101 and Pollinator Resources
- Disease Management
- Pesticide Management
- Harvest Management
- Post-Harvest Handling + Cold Storage
- Processing + Value-Added Products
- Marketing + Customer Retention
- You-Pick and Agritourism
- ...and more!

## Farm Business + Management – All Tracks:

- Business Plan Development
- Market Channel Development + Relationship Building
- Management + Operations Plans
- Understanding Profit/Loss, Cash Flow, + Balance Sheets
- Food Safety Considerations + Certifications
- Record Keeping + Farm Income Taxes
- Farm Insurance + Risk Management
- ...and more!

## Diversified Livestock Track:

Skills to sustainably raise small beef cattle herds, sheep, goats, + small flock poultry

- Pasture + Forage Evaluation
- Fencing
- Feed Mixing + Ration Development
- Nutrient Management
- Livestock Guardian Dogs
- Stocking for Single- + Multi-Species
- Meat Processing Basics
- Livestock Anatomy
- Parasite Management
- Lambing/Kidding
- Hoof Trimming
- Grading + Quality Assurance
- Genetics + Selection
- Finishing, Processing, + Marketing
- Mobile Coop Construction
- Egg Handling + Safety
- ...and more!

## Interested?

Visit our website for  
more details + application:  
<https://bfrdp.ca.uky.edu/>



Application due February 1st

# Did you know? The Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office is powered by the Sun!

## FINANCIALS

INSTALLED COST  
**\$165,000**

FEDERAL "DIRECT PAY" INCENTIVE  
**\$66,000**

FINAL COST TO EXTENSION  
**\$99,000**

ANNUAL UTILITY BILL SAVINGS  
**\$10,000 (ESTIMATED)**

10 YEARS TO PAY OFF INVESTMENT

CUMULATIVE UTILITY BILL SAVINGS AFTER 25 YEARS  
**\$245,000**

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Avoided Carbon Emissions per year

**86,000**

Avoided Sulfur Dioxide Emissions: 50 pounds per year

Avoided Nitrous Oxide Emissions: 36 pounds per year

## SOLAR ARRAY

**98%**

Annual Solar Contribution to Building's Net Electricity Use

Roof-mounted, Grid-tied with Battery Backup

**164** SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PANELS

**30+ YEARS** Equipment Operational Life

Annual Solar Energy Production

**87,000 kWh per year**

Capacity: **68.9 KW (DC)**

Solar Panels Manufactured in Washington State

## BATTERY

**54 kWh**

Energy Storage Capacity to serve critical loads

BATTERY MODEL  
Tesla Powerwall

**4**

Number of Tesla Powerwall's

BATTERY CHEMISTRY  
Lithium Iron Phosphate

Maximum Discharge Power per Battery: 11.5 KW

Batteries Manufactured in Nevada



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Project Installed by **Daily Green Power**  
Elizabethtown, Kentucky  
SYSTEM INSTALLED **September 2024**

Kentucky Division of Conservation, Protecting the Forest Together, 2024



# HOW DO TREES USE WATER?



By: Lindsey Purcell, lapurcel@purdue.edu

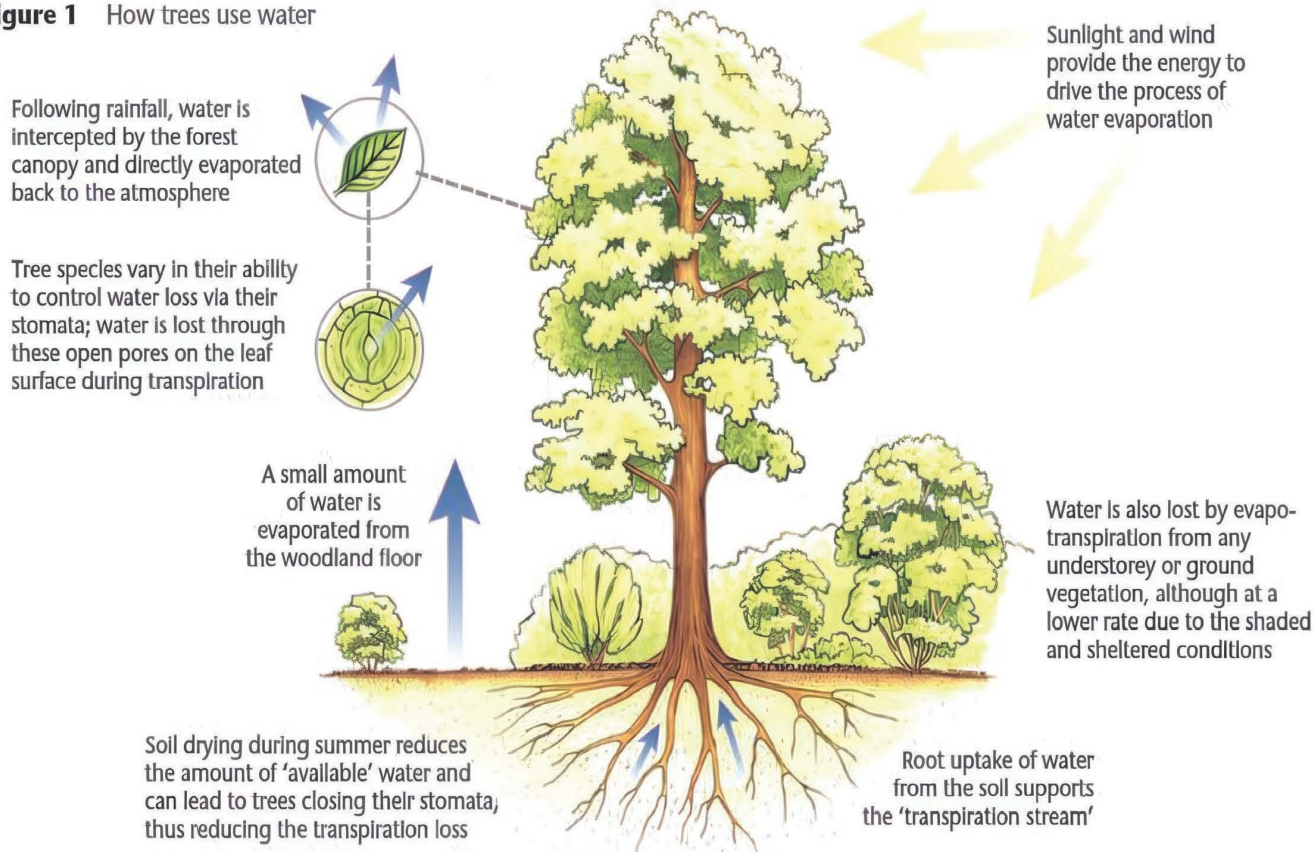
Water covers approximately 71% of Earth’s surface, yet only 3% of the 326 million cubic miles of water on the planet is suitable for growing crops, such as trees. It can be said that water is the single most limiting ecological factor in tree growth and survival. It is a vital “nutrient” that must be available in adequate supply or plants decline and eventually die.

**TREES RELEASE NEARLY 95% OF THE WATER THEY ABSORB.**

Trees use or lose water by two separate processes. First, water is taken up by tree roots from the soil and evaporated through the pores or stomata on the surface of leaves. Transpiration is a physiological process responding to soil and atmospheric factors. It is a passive movement of water through the tree system which allows columns of water to move great heights. Water movement through a tree is controlled by the tug-of-war between water availability and water movement in soil versus water loss from leaves. For

*(Continued on next page)*

**Figure 1** How trees use water



PROTECTING THE FOREST *TOGETHER*

*(Continued from previous page)*

example, water movement in a ring porous tree like a red oak is 92 ft/hr, in a diffuse porous tree like a basswood is 11 ft/hr, and for a pine tree is 6 ft/hr. Trees can absorb between 10 and 150 gallons of water daily, yet of all the water absorbed by plants, less than 5% remains in the plant for growth. They rely on available water in the soil to “rehydrate” during the nighttime hours, replacing the water loss during the daytime hours.



*Leaves intercept water to help with stormwater management and cooling.*

The second process is the interception of water by the surfaces of leaves, branches and trunks during rainfall, and its following evaporation. Together, these two processes are often referred to as evapotranspiration. Both transpiration and evaporation are strongly affected by the

amount of sunlight, the temperature and humidity of the air, as well as wind speed as trees turn water into mist when it releases nearly 95% of the water it absorbs.

Just why does a tree need water? Well, nearly every plant process such as photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration rely on water to function properly. Water is an essential element as important if not more than other nutrients because it is required to put all our other elements into a form usable by the plant. Almost all essential elements are ionic forms dissolved in water, giving them the ability to move to stems, branches, and leaves for energy.

The goal of proper tree management is to prevent or reduce the impacts of water loss. If adequate soil moisture is available, water loss will go unnoticed as it is replaced naturally. Typically, we experience prolonged dry periods without rain, resulting in drought. Drought conditions are the result of long periods of time without natural rainfall. During dry conditions, soil moisture content is reduced to the point where tree roots can no longer pull the water molecules from the soil. This results in responses from the plant such as wilting, early fall color, scorching and other symptoms. Anytime there is a week without significant rainfall of at least one inch, most likely trees will need some assistance from us to supply the much-needed water for a healthy tree.

**FORESTRY FUN FACTS!**



There are approximately **73,000** different tree species known to science globally.



**THE KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE**

is a unique native tree to the central part of the country. It grows large pods that contain toxic seeds when raw, but when roasted can serve as a coffee bean alternative!



## Fiesta Potatoes

<b>8</b> small to medium russet potatoes, peeled and diced	<b>1</b> medium onion, chopped	parsley, chopped
<b>1</b> green bell pepper, chopped	<b>1</b> cup Mexican blend cheese, shredded	<b>1 tablespoon</b> dried basil, crushed
<b>1</b> red bell pepper, chopped	<b>½</b> cup margarine, melted	<b>¾</b> <b>teaspoon</b> salt
	<b>½</b> cup low-fat milk	<b>¼</b> <b>teaspoon</b> black pepper
	<b>2</b> <b>tablespoons</b> fresh	

**Preheat** oven to 350 degrees F. **Place** the potatoes, bell peppers and onion in a medium pan and cover with water. **Place** over high heat and bring to a **boil**. **Reduce** heat and **simmer** 12-15 minutes, or until vegetables are tender. **Drain** the vegetables and **place** in a mixing bowl. **Stir** in the cheese, margarine, milk and seasonings until combined. **Spread** the mixture in a

9-by-13-inch baking pan that has been sprayed with a non-stick coating. **Bake** for about 20 minutes or until bubbly.

**Yield:** 12, ½ cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 200 calories, 9 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 370 mg sodium, 24 g carbohydrates, 3 g fiber, 3 g sugar, 9 g protein.



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

<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>

  
Adam Leonberger

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