



UK Cooperative Extension Service

# Clark County Horticulture Newsletter

From the Ground Up!

Clark County Extension Service • 1400 Fortune Drive • Winchester, KY 40391 • 859-744-4682 • [clark.ext@uky.edu](mailto:clark.ext@uky.edu) • <http://clark.ca.uky.edu/>

April 2024

## A Word from the Agent...



Happy April everyone! I hope everyone has been enjoying the good weather days when we have them! April is going to be a good month, I just know it! I mean, April 7<sup>th</sup> is National No Housework Day, so that one is DEFINITELY getting celebrated at my house!

As we work on getting our cool season veggie crops planted, our landscape beds mulched and ready for the season, and our lawns mowed for the first or third times, do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions. I've been getting lots of questions, and it makes me happy! I love being able to help with your horticulture needs. So keep them coming peoples!

Carrie Spry

Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture  
[carrie.spry@uky.edu](mailto:carrie.spry@uky.edu)



Check out the upcoming Growing Herbs Class flyer in this newsletter.

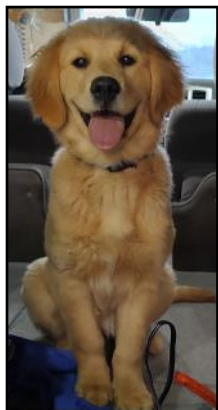
Be on the lookout in future newsletters and our Facebook page for information on other classes being planned for this year (i.e. Herbs, Succulents, Plant Propagation, and more!)

**Clark / Powell**  
**Beekeepers Association Meeting**

**Monday, April 8**  
**6:30 pm**

**Clark County Extension Service**  
1400 Fortune Drive  
Winchester, Kentucky

~ POT-LUCK MEAL ~



**April 11th**  
is  
**National Pet Day!**

Pictured is Miss Mable Spry!

## CHECK US OUT!

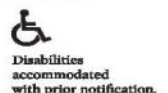


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## Vegetable gardener's calendar for Central Kentucky

I: Start seeds indoors M: Move transplants to garden O: Start seeds outdoors

Jan. 25	I	Onions
Feb. 11	I	Brussels sprouts
Feb. 25	I	Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, lettuce, Chinese cabbage
Mar. 11	O	Spinach, mustard, beets, peas, edible podded peas
Mar. 25	M	Cabbage, kohlrabi
	O	Asparagus and rhubarb (crowns), beets, carrots, collards, kale, mustard, spinach, peas, edible podded peas, early potato seed pieces, radishes, turnips, green onions, onion sets, endive
	I	Peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, sweet potato slips. Dig and divide any 4-year-old rhubarb plants. Fertilize asparagus and rhubarb with 1 lb 5-10-10 per 100 sq ft.
April 11	M	Broccoli, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, Swiss chard, onions from seeds
	O	Mustard, spinach, radishes, lettuce, Swiss chard
April 15	I	Muskmelons, watermelons, squash
	O	Sweet corn, beets, carrots, mustard, spinach, radishes, lettuce
May 11	O	Sweet corn, mustard, radishes, lettuce
May 17	O	Green beans, lima beans
	M	Tomatoes, muskmelons, watermelons, squash
June 11	O	Sweet corn
	M	Sweet potatoes
June 25	O	Sweet corn, late potatoes, summer squash, bush beans, lettuce, parsnips, beets, carrots
July 11	O	Sweet corn (early maturing variety), carrots, beets
July 20	O	Sow seeds of fall cole crops in a nursery area
July 25	O	Sweet corn (early maturing variety), kale, mustard, turnips, summer squash
Aug. 11	M	Transplant fall cole crops to permanent location between now and Aug. 15
	O	Peas, edible podded peas, bush beans, radishes, beets, mustard. Divide old rhubarb or plant crowns if not done in spring.
Aug. 25	O	Radishes, spinach, turnips, turnip greens, beets, mustard, lettuce, endive
Sept. 11	O	Radishes, spinach, mustard
Sept. 25	O	Radishes, mustard, turnips, turnip greens
Oct. 11	O	Radishes
Oct. 25	O	Sow sets of Egyptian tree or multiplier onions. Harvest carrots before heavy freeze.
Nov. 11	O	Dig parsnips and store at 32-40°F, or mulch parsnips heavily in the ground



### Successfully Transplanting Vegetables

By: Carrie Spry, County Horticulture Agent

With springtime finally here, we turn our attention to the vegetable garden. Getting your transplants up and growing will give you some delicious homegrown produce in the months to come.

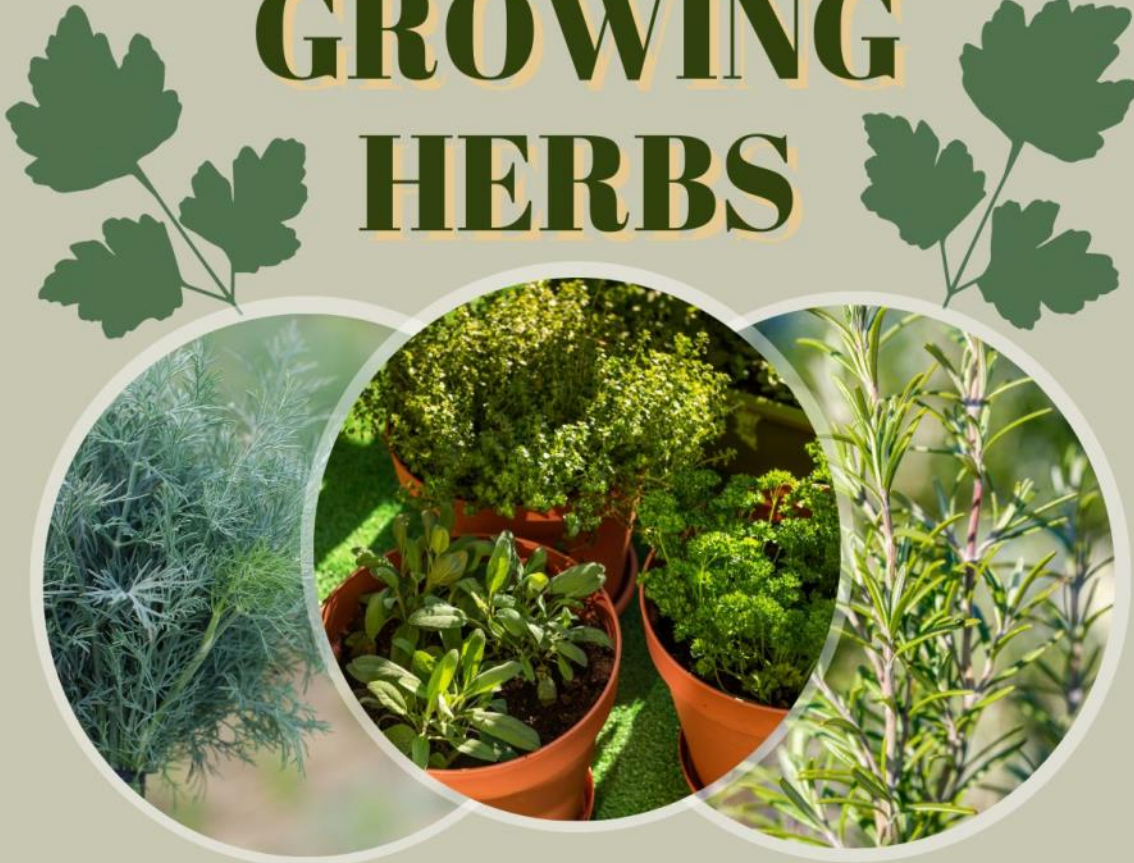
Transplanting gives a plant more space to develop, but it will temporarily stop growth, not stimulate it. Therefore, for successful transplanting, try to interrupt plant growth as little as possible.

Whether you grow your own transplants or purchase them, these eight steps can ensure successful transplanting into the garden.

- 1) Transplant on a shady day in late afternoon or in early evening to prevent wilting.
- 2) Ensure transplants are well watered and their roots are thoroughly damp an hour or two before setting them in the garden.
- 3) Handle the plants carefully. Avoid disturbing the roots. Try removing plants from their containers by knocking them out in an inverted position rather than tugging on the plants. Plants growing in peat pots may be planted with the pot intact.
- 4) Dig a hole large enough to hold the roots. Set the plants to the lowest leaf at recommended spacings. Press soil firmly around the roots.
- 5) Pour 1 cup of a solution of soluble plant food and water mixed according to the label's directions.
- 6) Put more soil around each plant, but leave a slight depression for water to collect. Break off any exposed parts of peat pots so that they will not act as wicks and pull water out of the soil.
- 7) Shade the plants for a few days after transplanting on a very hot day by putting newspapers or cardboard on their south sides or cover them with a woven cotton fabric such as cheese cloth.
- 8) Water the plants every 2-3 days during the next week.

For more gardening tips, contact the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service at 859-744-4682.

# GROWING HERBS





Herb gardening can be one of the most rewarding experiences. Whether grown in ground or in containers, everyone can be successful at herb gardening. While there are many herbs that can be used for many purposes, this class will have a stronger focus on culinary herbs.

CARRIE SPRY,  
Horticulture Agent,  
will cover all the basics  
from getting started to  
proper maintenance,  
along with tips and tricks  
to get the best results.

**Tuesday, April 30**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Clark County Extension Service**

Registered participants will receive an  
assortment of seeds and a plant to take  
home and grow on their own.

SHONDA JOHNSTON,  
Family and Consumer  
Sciences Agent,  
will cover which culinary  
herbs are going to be  
the most useful.

To Register:  859-744-4682  [cynthia.carr@uky.edu](mailto:cynthia.carr@uky.edu)

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Time to Think About . . . TERMITES!



By: Carrie Spry, *Clark County Horticulture Agent*

Springtime, with its warmer temperatures and more abundant rainfall, is typically when many winged termites emerge inside homes and other structures. Termites swarm from the colony to disperse, fall to the ground, find mates and start new colonies in the soil.

From now through May, you might see swarms of winged termites, called swarmers, inside your home, signaling an infestation that can cause extensive and costly damage. Since swarmers are attracted to light, you often see them, or their shed wings, around windows, doors and light fixtures.

We also see winged ants in the springtime. By examining the insect you can learn whether it's a termite or an ant. Termites have straight antennae; ants have elbowed antennae. Also, termites have uniform waists; ants have constricted waists between body regions. Termites have two pair of wings of equal size. Ants also have two pair of wings, but the forewings are longer than the hind wings.

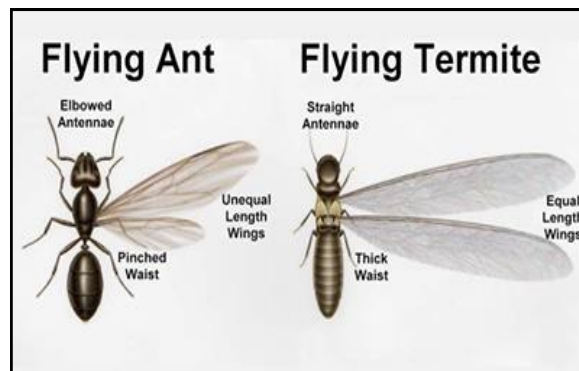
Other signs of a termite infestation are pencil-thin mud "tubes" on inside and outside surfaces such as foundation walls, piers, sills and floor joists. Termites make these mud tunnels to travel between underground colonies and your home. Another sign of an infestation is damaged wood hollowed out along the grain with dried bits of mud or soil lining the feeding galleries.

Termite feeding, and resulting damage, can remain undetected in exposed wood because the outer surface usually is left intact.

You can reduce the risk of a termite attack by following these suggestions:

- Store wood off of the ground.
- Keep moisture from accumulating near the foundation.
- Reduce humidity in crawl spaces.
- Store firewood, lumber or other wood debris away from the foundation.
- Don't store wood in the crawl space.
- Sparingly use decorative wood chips and mulch.
- Consider having your home treated by a professional pest control firm.

Many infestations result from direct contact between structural wood and the soil, which gives termites access to food, moisture, shelter and provides a hidden entry into your home. Make sure to have at least 6 inches between the ground level and wood siding, porch steps, latticework, door or window frames, posts and similar wooden elements. Contrary to popular belief, pressure-treated wood isn't immune to infestation because termites will enter through cut ends or cracks and build tunnels over the surface to susceptible wood above.



Since termites are attracted to moisture, they are more likely to enter a structure when soil next to the foundation consistently is moist. So, divert water away from the foundation with properly functioning gutters,

downspouts and splash blocks. Repair leaking faucets, water pipes and air conditioning units. Adjust the soil grade next to the foundation so that surface water drains away from the building, and adjust lawn sprinklers and irrigation systems to minimize water pooling near the foundation.

Reduce humidity in crawl spaces by providing adequate ventilation. Don't allow shrubbery and other vegetation to grow over vents; it will inhibit cross-ventilation. You can reduce crawl space moisture by installing four to six milliliter polyethylene sheeting over about 75 percent of the soil surface.

Firewood, lumber and other wood debris stored against the foundation or in crawl

- Continued from previous page

spaces, attract termites and provide a food source. This practice also gives termites a hidden entry into the home and allows them to bypass any existing termiticide soil barrier.

Cellulose - containing materials including mulch and wood chips attract termites. Use these materials sparingly, especially when you have other conditions conducive to termite problems. Never allow mulch to touch wood siding, door frames, or window frames. Consider using crushed stone or pea gravel instead. These materials are less attractive to termites and can reduce other pests such as millipedes, pillbugs, earwings, and crickets.

The best way to prevent termite infestations is to have your home treated by a professional pest control firm.

There are two general categories of termite treatment, liquids and baits. Liquid treatments are intended to provide an effective, long-lasting chemical barrier, which termites cannot breach, around and beneath your home. Termite baits are installed in plastic stations below the ground in the yard and occasionally indoors. Foraging termites consume the bait and share it with their

nest-mates, resulting in a gradual decline in termite numbers.

What should you look for when choosing a pest control firm?

The firm should be licensed by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Membership in the Kentucky Pest Control Association and/or National Pest Control Association suggests the company is an established firm with access to the technical and training information necessary to correctly do the job. Consider calling at least two to three companies and asking for references.

Avoid pest control firms that pressure you into immediately signing a contract with "specials" or scare tactics.

Termiticides are extensively tested for adverse effects. Based on current research, registered termiticides present no significant hazard to humans, pets or the environment when applied according to label directions.

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*For more information on termites and other pests, contact the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service at 859-744-4682.*



## Hellebores

*Submitted by Alexis Sheffield, Agent for Horticulture, Boyle Co. Cooperative Extension Service*

A plant that flowers in winter has a head start in making it onto any plants lover's list. This perennial is one that can grow in Kentucky gardens from the knobs and bluegrass to Ohio River, making it a plant for all regions, over a wide range of climates. Despite its common name, Lenten Rose is not a garden rose at all.

Native to Asia minor and Eurasia, the Lenten Rose is considered by plant people around the world as an easy-to-grow, winter or early-spring flowering evergreen herbaceous plant that is exquisite in flower and foliage. The large bell-shaped white to purple flowers hang down; some call it drooping. The flowers used to be described as white- to rose- speckled, but breeders have made dramatic strides in very recent years to provide a diversity of colors

including dark purple, almost black, red and even yellow. The blooms average 3-4 inches wide and have a relatively long bloom duration of 8-10 weeks. Hardy to zones 4-9; hellebores grow 15-18 inches tall.

*Helleborus x hybridus* like partial to full shade and a moist alkaline soil, but are tolerant of soil environment and can tolerate a brief drought. Pruning to remove the winter-tattered foliage just before bloom in February to provide a better show for the emerging flowers is recommended.

*Helleborus x hybridus* does produce seed that can result in numerous plants under and around the original plant that require removal if they are not the same as the original. Seed is a form of propagation of Hellebores, but division will help ensure a desired hybrid is reproduced exactly as the mother plant.

Not only are Lenten Roses lovely in appearance, they are both deer and vole resistant. However, you might see some damage to these attractive plants if slugs are known to invade your garden in early spring.

It is recommended to amend your planting area with compost to help provide the moist, well-drained soil Lenten Roses love. Annually, mulch with organic matter such as hardwood bark or leaf compost. Once the plants are established they are drought tolerant and relatively low maintenance.



# Gus'

# QUICK TIPS

# for

# APRIL april

- 1 If you haven't trimmed back ornamental grasses and perennials, do so now.
- 2 Remove flower stalks from bulbs. Apply fertilizer and make sure to leave the foliage to die back naturally. The leaves provide food for next year's flowers.
- 3 Continue planting trees and shrubs this month.
- 4 You can begin trimming evergreens now through late summer. However, pruning after the spring flush of growth will result in less re-growth.
- 5 Add organic matter to flower beds and garden plots. Incorporate into the soil where possible.
- 6 Edge beds for a crisp, clean look. This will also keep creeping weeds from encroaching as rapidly.
- 7 Apply new mulch to beds as needed. Total mulch depth should not exceed 3-4" and a 2" layer is usually sufficient. Be sure to keep mulch away from tree trunks and bases of shrubs though.
- 8 If you have a spray program for fruit trees, begin spraying after flower petals drop. As always, follow the labeled directions very carefully. Better yet, plant fruit trees with natural disease resistance.
- 9 Sharpen mower blades. Clean cuts make for a healthier, more attractive lawn.
- 10 Crabgrass preventer should be applied by the middle of the month or when the forsythia are blooming.
- 11 If you start seedlings indoors, gradually toughen them up with brief trips outdoors on nice days. Start with short times in a shady spot at first because they sunburn easily.



## What's Cooking?



## Asparagus Tomato Salad

**1 pound** of fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces  
**1** small zucchini, halved and cut into 1/4 inch slices  
**3 tablespoons** olive oil  
**2 tablespoons** red wine vinegar  
**1** garlic clove, minced

**1/4 teaspoon** seasoned salt  
**1/4 teaspoon** honey mustard  
**1 cup** cherry or grape tomatoes, halved  
**1/4 cup** sliced green onions  
**1/4 cup** shredded fresh mozzarella cheese  
**1/4 cup** minced fresh parsley

**Place** the asparagus and zucchini in a steamer basket. **Place** in a saucepan over 1 inch of boiling water. **Cover** and **steam** for 2 minutes. **Rinse** in cold water. In large bowl, **whisk together** olive oil, red wine vinegar, garlic, seasoned salt and honey mustard. **Pour** over asparagus mixture; **toss** to coat. **Toss** in

tomatoes and green onions. **Sprinkle** with mozzarella cheese and parsley.

**Yield:** 6 servings

**Nutritional Analysis:**

110 calories, 7 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 35 mg sodium, 5 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 3 g sugar, 4 g protein.



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