



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service
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Horticulture Newsletter

**APRIL
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How to Dye Easter Eggs

Step 1: How to hard boil your eggs before you begin

- Remove eggs from the refrigerator a few minutes before game time and let them warm to room temperature. This will prevent them from cracking.
- Fill your pot with just the right amount of water—enough to fully cover the top of your egg.
- Gently drop your eggs into a pot of water that is already boiling.
- Cook it to your preference: four minutes will give you a soft-boiled egg, eight minutes will be when the yolk has just about set, and fourteen minutes you'll have a crumbly hard-boiled yolk.
- Move your eggs from the boiling water directly into an ice water bath



Step. 2: How to prepare the dye

- Mix ½ cup boiling water, 1 teaspoon white vinegar, and food color in a mixing bowl. You may need to experiment with the number of drops needed

Step 3 : Dye and Design

- Dip your eggs in dye using a slotted spoon, wire egg holder, or tongs
- Let the eggs sit for about five minutes to soak up the color



FUN FACT: Save your boiled water for your plants! When you boil eggs, the shells emit calcium, phosphorus, sulfur, and potassium into water which are essential in plant growth! Just make sure to let the water cool down before applying!

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Agriculture and Natural Resources
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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Invasive Insect Species Closer to Kentucky Border

By Jordan Strickler

LEXINGTON, Ky., (March 8, 2023) -- Kentucky residents should be on the lookout for an invasive bug with the potential to disrupt multiple industries. People have observed the spotted lanternfly close to the Kentucky border in Ohio and Indiana. If the insect enters the commonwealth, it can impact wine, apples, Christmas trees, hops and Kentucky's sizable forest industries.

"Spotted lanternflies feed on over 70 different host plants and could really wreck a number of small commodities we have in the state," said Jonathan Larson, entomology assistant professor. "They also feed on hardwood trees, so once they get in people's yards, their numbers can just explode. It kind of becomes a quality-of-life issue. Some people in Pennsylvania, where the lanternflies were first discovered in 2014, don't even want to go outside anymore. There's so many of these bugs jumping and flying around on their property."

While feeding, the spotted lanternfly excretes a sugary substance called honeydew. When large lanternfly populations establish themselves, the insects create so much honeydew that black sooty mold thrives, negatively impacting other vegetation. This honeydew also attracts stinging insects, who feed on the sugary material. Even though the impacts of infestation in diverse woodlands and natural areas are not as straightforward as in more uniform agricultural and landscape settings, the extra strain the bug puts on trees' resources may worsen tree stress.

"The spotted lanternfly can really devastate plant health, so if someone sees something they suspect is a lanternfly they either need to catch it or take a picture," Larson said. "Other insects in the state can resemble the spotted lanternfly, so we must verify the insect first."

Stripes and spots adorn an adult's front wings, while the back wings are a brilliant red, contrasting with the rest of the body's white, black and khaki coloring. If spotted lanternflies appear in Kentucky and stay relatively contained, Larson said professionals may be able to locally eradicate the insects to prevent their spread and establishment. Treating potential host trees with insecticides and eradicating Tree-of-Heaven and other preferred hosts will help with containment. Early detection increases the chances of controlling the insect's spread.

The invasive Tree-of-Heaven is one of the insects' favorite hosts. The fast-growing tree thrives in both urban and woodland settings, out-competing native species and tolerating a wide range of environmental conditions. It commonly affects disturbed urban areas, roadsides and railroad tracks, also invading natural areas, particularly after harvests in wooded areas, where its papery wind-borne seeds can quickly colonize and form dense stands.

"If the spotted lanternfly makes it into Kentucky, it could lead to restrictions on the movement of goods such as lumber, the need for quarantines and even the requirement of permits to travel or move goods out of infested areas," Larson said. "All of this could have economic or quality-of-life repercussions for Kentuckians living in infested areas."

To learn more about spotted lanternflies, visit <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef465>. Kentuckians who think they spot a spotted lanternfly, please send pictures to the UK Department of Entomology at reportapest@uky.edu.

Writer: Jordan Strickler, jstrickler@uky.edu

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, through its land-grant mission, reaches across the commonwealth with teaching, research and extension to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.

The media contact for this story is Jonathan Larson and can be reached at jonathan.larson@uky.edu.

Tree-of-Heaven link https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/tree_of_heaven



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.
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 McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service.



Spring Harvest Salad

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

1. **Combine** leaf lettuce and spinach leaves with sliced strawberries, blueberries and green onion in a large salad bowl.
2. **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.
3. **Sprinkle** salad with feta cheese and sliced almonds.
4. **Serve** immediately.

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

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



Bradford Pear Bounty Program Combats Invasive Kentucky Trees

By Jordan Strickler

FRANKFORT, Ky., (March 14, 2023) -- Kentucky property owners looking to rid their yards of invasive and troublesome Bradford pear trees may find help through the Bradford Pear Bounty Program. The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, in partnership with the Remove Invasives Partnership of Franklin County and other local organizations, hosts the event to provide land owners an opportunity to exchange their Bradford pears for free young native replacement trees.

Bradford pear trees are popular landscape trees throughout Kentucky due to their glossy foliage and beautiful flowers. However, the trees are problematic due to their weak branches, short life expectancy and invasive offspring, the Callery pear. These invasive trees have spread throughout the state, causing damage to natural habitats and pushing out native plant species.

“Originally, the Bradford pear was hailed as this ideal tree,” said Ellen Crocker, assistant professor in the UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. “But now we are aware of its shortcomings, like its invasiveness and potential to drop branches and cause problems.”

The Bradford Pear Bounty Program attempts to combat these intrusive trees and restore native habitats throughout the state. Property owners who cut down their Bradford pears can receive free young native replacement trees, including species such as redbud, serviceberry and dogwood. Tree experts will help landowners select the best replacement trees for their property.

Property owners must cut down their Bradford pears to participate in the program and provide a photo documenting the cut trees. The program takes place March 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. EDT at the Franklin County extension office and is open to all Kentucky property owners.

“The Bradford Pear Bounty Program is an opportunity to take action against invasive trees and promote the growth of native species,” Crocker said. “If you have a Callery pear in your yard, this is a great excuse to upgrade it to something better.”

To learn more and register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/franklin-co-bradford-pear-bounty-program-tree-exchange-tickets-264911697017>.

To learn more about the Remove Invasives Partnership of Franklin County visit: <https://ripfc.net/>.

Writer: Jordan Strickler, jstrickler@uky.edu

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Once a popular ornamental tree, Bradford pears are now considered invasive. Photo by Ellen Crocker, UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources



NO HOLDS | LIMITED QUANTITIES

APRIL 6 | 12 PM - 5 PM

APRIL 7 | 9 AM - 1 PM

ANNUAL FREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

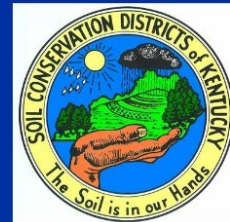
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EXPECTED VARIETIES:
WHITE OAK | BLACK WALNUT | WHITE PINE

DAILY GIVEAWAY UNTIL SUPPLIES RUN OUT



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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



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Homebased Microprocessing Workshop



Monday, April 17th, 2023

9:30am-2:30pm

McCracken County Cooperative Extension

2025 New Holt Rd., Paducah, Ky



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Cooperative Extension Service

For more information & to register:

ukfcs.net/HBM

You must register at the link above ukfcs.net/HBM

or call (270)554-9520

Join our workshop!
Homebased
microprocessors are
farmers who grow and
harvest produce to use in
their value-added products.

Homebased
microprocessors are
required to grow a
predominant ingredient in
the products they make.
The first step to becoming
certified as a homebased
microprocessor is to attend
a Homebased

Microprocessor (HBM)
workshop presented by the
University of Kentucky.

The cost of the workshop is
\$50.00.

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