Horticulture Newsletter

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

Cooperative Extension Service
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Bud Qualk

Master Gardener President

Class of 2001

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Identifying and Taming Poison Ivy

Source: Shawn Wright, UK Extension Specialist

Poison ivy is a common perennial plant notorious for causing itchy rashes and allergic reactions in humans. It can be challenging to control due to its ability to spread rapidly and its resilience in various environments. With proper knowledge and effective strategies, you can manage and control poison ivy.

Learn how to identify poison ivy. It is a deciduous vine, shrub, and ground cover that typically grows in clusters of three leaflets, although leaf count may vary. Its leaves are glossy, oval-shaped, and may have serrated or smooth edges. The plant's color ranges from light green to reddish orange, depending on age and time of year. Birds love the white, waxy poison ivy berries.

The pesky plant poses health risks through its oily resin called urushiol, which causes allergic reactions. Direct contact with any part of the plant—leaves, stems, roots or even the smoke from burning it—can trigger a rash, accompanied by itching, redness, swelling and blisters. The oil can remain on clothing, pets, or tools that touch it. Avoid unprotected contact with poison ivy and take necessary precautions when attempting to control it. Reponses may range from mild to severe depending on the person, the amount of oil contacted, the method of contact (touching, inhalation from burning, etc.) and the time of year.

Here are some effective strategies for controlling poison ivy growth:

1. Wear protective clothing. When dealing with poison ivy, wear long sleeves, long pants, gloves and closed-toe shoes to minimize skin exposure. Eye protection and a hat may be necessary. Use disposable gloves and turn them inside out when removing them. You may need to use disposable garment such as those used by pesticide applicators, or make sure to wash clothing separately from other items to prevent urushiol transfer.
2. You can manually remove small infestations of poison ivy by digging up the roots with a garden trowel or gloved hands. Ensure you remove the entire plant, including the roots, to prevent regrowth.
3. For larger infestations or difficult-to-reach areas, you may find herbicides effective. These herbicides can be selective to broadleaf plants, or a non-selective herbicide such as those containing glyphosate. The use of glyphosate-based herbicide is recommended in late summer through fall when the plant is preparing for winter and sending reserves to the roots and the chemical is transported with it to kill the root. Carefully read and follow the instructions on the product label and consider using a targeted application method like a paintbrush to minimize damage to desirable plants in the same area.
4. Smothering it with a barrier. Try using layers of newspaper or cardboard covered with mulch or soil to block sunlight and prevent the plant from growing. Regularly monitor the covered area for any new sprouts. Unfortunately, poison ivy can travel as a vine for a considerable distance so this method will not usually be very effective.
5. Don’t be afraid to call in a professional. In severe cases, or if you are unsure about dealing with poison ivy yourself, consider seeking professional help from landscapers or pest control services experienced in poison ivy removal.

Now that you’ve removed the pest, you want to prevent it from regrowing. Remain vigilant with a few preventative measures:

1. Regularly inspect your property for new poison ivy growth, especially in areas where it is known to thrive, such as fence lines, wooded areas, neglected corners, and areas where birds roost.
2. When you spot new poison ivy plants, promptly remove them using the methods mentioned earlier to prevent their spread.
3. Educate yourself and others about poison ivy identification and precautions to avoid contact. Knowledge will empower you to take proactive measures and prevent accidental exposure.

Controlling poison ivy requires a combination of identification, protective measures, and effective removal strategies. By understanding the plant's characteristics and using appropriate methods, you can minimize the risks associated with poison ivy and regain control over your environment. Remember to prioritize safety and, when in doubt, seek professional assistance to ensure effective and long-lasting control.

For more information about poison ivy and other topics, contact the McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service.

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus

Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) can impact numerous vegetable crops in Kentucky. Beans, cucumbers, eggplants, lettuces, peppers, potatoes, and tomatoes, in addition to more than 150 other plant species, may become infected. Homegrown and commercial vegetables may become diseased, with plants produced in greenhouses and high tunnels often being more severely affected. Once plants become infected, no management strategies are available, thus preventative measures are critical to avoid losses.

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus Facts

- Symptoms may vary depending on the plant species affected. However, common symptoms include ringspots (Figure 1), lesions, bronzing, stunting, and wilting. Leaves and stems may show damage. Fruit also becomes infected, and may exhibit mottling (Figure 2), ringspots, and irregular growth. While only portions of plants may show symptoms, all plant parts are infected, including those that appear free of disease.
- TSWV is transmitted by multiple species of thrips, which introduce virus particles during feeding. Symptoms may not develop for 2 to 4 weeks after feeding has occurred.
- Tomato spotted wilt virus is caused by a viral pathogen

Figure 1*: TSWV infected plants may exhibit a variety of symptoms, including ringspots on leaves. (Photo: Paul Bachi, UK)*

Figure 2: *Fruit of TSWV infected plants may exhibit mottling. (Photo: Paul Bachi, UK*)

Management

Identification of TSWV is challenging. If TSWV is suspected, please contact a local county Extension office for additional information and guidance on sample submission and disease identification.

There are no chemical management options for virus diseases, including TSWV. Infected plants should be removed immediately and destroyed. Preventative practices are critical to limit infection and spread.

- Purchase certified disease-free seeds or transplants.
- Utilize disease resistant cultivars.
- Manage weeds in and near plantings.
- Manage thrips populations to limit the potential for disease introduction.
- Remove and destroy infected plants (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit) once disease has been confirmed.

Additional Resources

IPM Scouting Guide for Common Problems of High Tunnel and Greenhouse Crops in Kentucky (ID-235)
IPM Scouting Guide for Common Problems of Solanaceous Crops in Kentucky (ID-172)
Sustainable Disease Management of Solanaceous Crops in the Home Garden (PPFS-VG-21)
Home Vegetable Gardening (ID-128)
Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers (ID-36)

By: Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

How To Help A Drought-stressed Lawn

Source: Kenneth Clayton, Plant and Soil Sciences Extension Associate Professor

Kentucky's been pretty dry the past few weeks. Even if we get a heavy rainfall in the near future, it won't completely alleviate drought symptoms.

When a lawn becomes excessively dry, the soil surface develops some water repellency that prevents water from soaking in during a quick, hard rain event.

Here are some things you can do to help your thirsty grass and hopefully avoid having to completely reseed your lawn.

1. Water every other day or every third day until good, soaking rains begin.
2. Apply about two-thirds of an inch of water each time. You can check this by probing the soil with a knife or screwdriver to determine if the soil is wet 2 to 3 inches deep.
3. Water in the early morning to help reduce diseases, remove dew and reduce evaporative water loss.
4. Water areas that have the earliest browning first. These are often on southern or western-facing slopes or areas with heavy clay soils, very compacted soil or rocks near the surface.
5. If possible, don't mow a drought-stricken yard until you can water it or you know a soaking rain is on the way. Weeds are still growing and flowering during summer droughts. Wait for the rain, then mow off the weeds.
6. Don't apply herbicides during a summer drought. They won't work when weeds are suffering and can damage drought-stressed grass more than weeds.
7. Wait for a soaking rain before applying nitrogen to the lawn in the fall. Nitrogen can greatly improve a lawn's drought recovery.

Photo from https://pixabay.com/

For more information on caring for your lawn, contact the McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service.

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McCracken County Extension Master Gardeners
present
the ***8th Annual Herb Appeal*** as a
Fundraiser for the education of the gardening public.

Kentucky Extension Master Gardener

Enjoy a delicious luncheon featuring the herb of the year 2023.
Menu created by Master Gardeners

In Memory of Sherry Dorris,
always bright as a sunflower.

8th ANNUAL

"Herb Appeal"

A SUMMER SAMPLER

hear featured speaker

Ginny Hutson, Owner of Frenchtown Station

"Frenchtown Urban Garden"

Only 78 seats available
Advance registration required-
$25.00 per person

Call the Extension Office
(270) 554-9520 for information

NOON Luncheon
Doors Open @ 11:00 a.m.
Speaker @ 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, July 27, 2023

McCracken County Extension Office
2025 New Holt Road

SHOP in the GARDEN GOODIES store

Checks Only ----- Are accepted at the Extension Office. Make checks payable to MCEMG.

Mary Hank, Advisor
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Blackberry Peach Crumble

2 cups fresh blackberries

2 cups peeled and sliced fresh peaches or 1 (16 ounce) bag frozen peach slices, thawed

1 teaspoon grated lemon peel

2 tablespoons cornstarch

⅓ cup, plus **½ cup** packed brown sugar

½ cup all-purpose flour

½ cup chopped blanched almonds, (optional)

¼ teaspoon salt

6 tablespoons butter, cut into pieces

Combine blackberries, peaches, lemon peel, cornstarch and ⅓ cup brown sugar in a large bowl.

Pour ingredients into a lightly greased 8 inch baking dish.

Mix together flour, almonds, salt, and remaining ½ cup brown sugar. With pastry blender or two knives, cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse meal.

Sprinkle flour mixture over fruit.

Bake in a pre-heated 400° F oven for 30 minutes.

Cool 10 minutes prior to serving.

Yield: 8, ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: *270 calories, 14 g fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 135 mg sodium, 35 g carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 3 g fiber. Without almonds: 220 calories, 9 g fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 135 mg sodium, 35 g carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 3 g fiber.*

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

Kentucky Proud.

Kentucky Blackberries

SEASON: June to September

NUTRITION FACTS: A one-half cup serving of raw berries contains 35 calories, has zero fat, and is a good source of potassium, vitamin C, and fiber.

SELECTION: Look for plump fruit that is uniform in color and appears fresh. Berries should be free of stems or leaves. Avoid fruit that is moldy, crushed, bruised, or contains extra moisture.

STORAGE: Store unwashed and covered berries in the refrigerator. Use within two days.

PREPARATION: Handle all berries gently. Wash berries by covering them with water and gently lifting the berries out. Remove any stems and drain on a single layer of paper towels. Blackberries are delicious cooked, which intensifies the flavor, or eaten fresh as a snack or in a salad.

PRESERVING: Berries may be preserved by canning or freezing, or made into jellies or jam. For more information, contact your local County Extension Office.

Source: www.fruitandveggiesmatter.gov

BLACKBERRIES

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Nutrition and Food Science students

June 2010

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

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