

Horticulture Newsletter

UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

Cooperative Extension Service

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Agent for Horticulture

JUNE

2024

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Master Gardener Spotlight

Laurie Salvacion

Secretary



Class of 2022



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Watch for Trips in High Tunnels

There have been several reports of thrips on high tunnel vegetables this past week. As thrips feed on developing tissues in the bud of the seedlings, infested plants often display distorted new growth emerging from the growing point. Ideally, producers should be scouting for the signs of thrips and other insect pests at least once a week in their high tunnels.

Damage & Scouting

Thrips are extremely small and difficult to see (Figure 1) even when on the surface of the leaf, but in the case of vegetable transplants, they are often hidden in the buds. As thrips feed in the bud with their piercing-sucking mouthparts, they damage the tissue. As a result, the new leaves emerging from the bud can be severely distorted (Figure 2).



Figure 1. Thrips damage and their waste material (tar spots) on leaves (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK).

Figure 2. Thrips damage buds, causing irregular new growth (Photo: Annette Heisdorffer)



So, when scouting for thrips, examine plants and look for the evidence of their feeding damage (distorted tissues) rather than for the tiny thrips themselves. Once you find the damage, examine the area to see if thrips are still active since the damage remains long after the thrips may have disappeared. To do this, tap a few plants over an index card to dislodge thrips; they are easier to see as they move on the card (Figure 3).

Management

In terms of sprays for thrips for vegetables and vegetable transplants, page 102 of *Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (ID-36) breaks out the insecticides for thrips that can be used on fruiting vegetables in the greenhouse or high tunnel. For crops grown in the greenhouse or high tunnel, producers need to select a product with a pre-harvest (PHI) interval that fits their picking schedule. PHIs for high tunnel tomato miticides range from 0 to 7 days.

Figure 3. Tapping plant parts over an index card to dislodge tiny thrips is a simple scouting tool (Ric Bessin, UK)



By Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist

Bagging Fruit for Disease & Insect Management

In Kentucky, pest management in home orchards can be challenging, and fungicide and insecticide applications are often necessary for management of certain pests. Fruit bagging, however, can eliminate certain sprays by physically protecting fruit during development. This method can be used by backyard fruit growers and small-scale commercial producers. Bagging takes just 30 seconds per fruit or fruit cluster.

Crops such as apples, peaches, and grapes are ideal candidates for bagging. This method is commonly used for apple to decrease damage from diseases such as apple scab, sooty blotch/fly speck, and fruit rots and from insects such as insects such as stink bugs, codling moth, plum curculio, San Jose scale, and rosy apple aphid. The following provides how-to information for bagging fruit.

Steps to Fruit Bagging

1. Fruit should be bagged when they are in the early development stage.
 - Apples: Cover fruit with bags when fruit are approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter.
 - Peaches: Cover fruit with bags when fruit are approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter.
 - Grapes: Cover fruit with bags when grapes are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter.
2. Thin fruit to one fruit per cluster prior to applying the bag.
3. An insecticide spray should be used prior to bagging.
4. Cover individual fruit with bag type of choice and attach around the branch or stem.
5. Oriental and Clemson have a slit for attaching around the branch or stem, while paper lunch bags can be cut similarly. These bags should be pleated together and secured with a wire or twist tie. Plastic freezer bags should be zipped closed and secured with staples.
6. Clemson and paper bags should be removed from apples and peaches three weeks before harvest so fruit color properly. Oriental fruit bags have a double layer. The outer paper layer should be removed three weeks before harvest, while inner waxed paper layer should be left until harvest. Bags may remain on grape clusters until harvest.

Types of Fruit Bags

Several types of bags can be used to protect fruit from diseases and insects.

- Oriental fruit bags (Japanese fruit bags) (Figure 1) – These commercially available bags feature a double layer of paper and waxed paper, a pre-cut slit at the top, and a built-in wire. The approximate cost is \$0.35 per bag.
- Clemson Fruit Bags™ (Figure 2) – These bags are made of a single layer of paper, and they have a pre-cut slit and built in wire. The approximate cost is \$0.10 per bag.
- Plastic freezer bags (Figure 3) – This method uses plastic freezer bags with the bottom corners cut off to allow for condensation drainage. Freezer bags are more resilient than storage bags. The approximate cost is \$0.10 per bag.
- Paper lunch bags (Figure 4) – This method uses white or brown paper lunch bags cut to 5 to 6 inches in length with a 2 to 3 inch slit cut down one side. Twist ties are used to secure bags. The approximate cost is \$0.05 per bag.



Figure 1: Oriental Fruit Bag with outer layer intact.
(Photo: Kim Leonberger, UK)



Figure 2: Clemson Fruit Bag. (Photo: Clemson Fruit Bags User Guide, Clemson University)



Figure 3: Plastic freezer bag with corners cut for drainage.
(Photo: Kim Leonberger, UK)




Figure 4: Paper lunch bag modified for fruit bagging.
(Photo: Kim Leonberger, UK)

Additional Information

- Bagging Apples: Alternative Pest Management for Hobbyists (ENTFACT-218)
- 2018 Fruit and Vegetable Research Report (PR-757) – Page 12

By Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist, and Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist




Bacon and Tomato Dip

<p>1 cup fat free sour cream</p> <p>1 cup low fat mayonnaise</p> <p>2 large tomatoes, diced, reserve excess juice</p>	<p>4 slices bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled</p> <p>1 teaspoon garlic powder</p>
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<p>1. Combine all ingredients.</p> <p>2. Add reserved tomato juice until dip reaches desired consistency.</p> <p>3. Serve with fresh vegetables or reduced fat crackers.</p>	<p>Yield: 16, 2 tablespoon servings.</p> <p>Nutrition Analysis: 50 calories; 3 g fat; 1 g saturated fat; 5 mg cholesterol; 160 mg sodium; 6 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 1 g protein.</p>
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Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.



IPM Scouting Guides for Common Problems of Vegetable Crops

Scouting and monitoring crops to determine potential problems before they result in serious economic loss is key to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. University of Kentucky Extension Specialists in Plant Pathology, Entomology, and Horticulture have collaborated to create IPM guides for several vegetable crops.

These guides have been designed to aid in the identification of common problems encountered in Kentucky field production, as well as in greenhouse and high tunnel systems. Diseases, insects, abiotic disorders, and chemical injuries are discussed. Descriptions are accompanied by one or more color images, as well as brief management comments

Following are the IPM guides in this series; all are available online.

An IPM Scouting Guide for Common Problems of...

Cole Crops (ID-216)
Cucurbit Crops (ID-91)
Greenhouse and High Tunnel Vegetable Crops (ID-235)
Legume Vegetables (ID-227)
Solanceous Crops (ID-172)
Sweet Corn (ID-184)

For additional publications on vegetable crop diseases, visit the UK Plant Pathology Extension Publications webpage.

By Cheryl Kaiser, Plant Pathology Extension Support, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

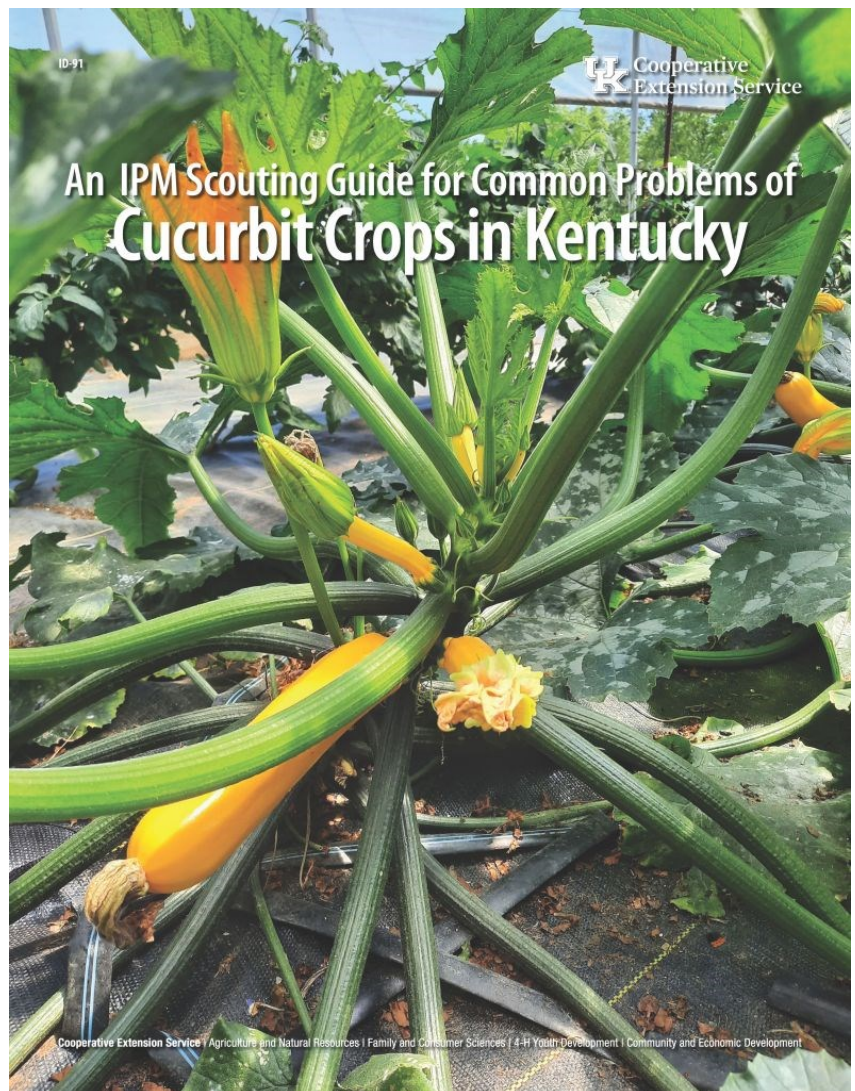


Figure 1. One of the six vegetable IPM scouting guides developed by UK Extension Specialists pertains to common problems of cucurbit crops.

Hanging by a Thread

Dead, curled leaves dangling by fungal “threads” are typical of a disease called thread blight. This disease is more common in eastern Kentucky, where sites are more prone to heavy fog or lack morning sun. Thread blight has been observed on apple, cherry, and viburnum, and it can also affect cotoneaster, dogwood, gooseberry, and rose. Unlike fire blight, which kills branch tips, thread blight begins on interior portions of trees (Figure 1).

Thread Blight Facts

- Caused by the fungus *Corticium stevensii* (formerly *Ceratobasidium stevensii*).
- Infected leaves wilt, turn brown, and remain attached to branches by a network of fungal strands (rhizomorphs).
- Silvery-tan rhizomorphs (aggregation of thread-like fungal structures) and tan to brown sclerotia (fungal overwintering structure) develop on the surface of branches (Figure 2) and fruit.
- Disease is favored by moist, shady conditions.
- Generally not a problem in well-managed apple orchards where a fungicide program is followed.



Figure 1. Thread blight kills foliage mid-branch; note how leaves at the branch tip are still alive. (Photo: John Hartman, UK)



Figure 2. Tan fungal threads (rhizomorphs) and sclerotia (arrows) on branches are diagnostic for this disease. (Photo: John Hartman, UK)

Management Options

To prevent thread blight

- Selectively prune branches to improve air circulation and sunlight penetration within the canopy.
- Follow a preventative fungicide spray program. Thread blight can be managed with fungicides beginning in mid-June when the fungus becomes active; studies have shown that Merivon, Pristine, and Topsin-M can help reduce disease incidence and severity when used as preventatives.
- Avoid planting apple and susceptible landscape plants in low lying, shaded locations.

When thread blight is present

- Once established in an orchard, thread blight can be difficult to eliminate due to long term survival of the sclerotia.
- Where disease occurrences are minimal, prune and destroy infected branches.

By Cheryl Kaiser,
Plant Pathology Extension Support, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Program 2024

 Cooperative
Extension Service



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

Mary Dossett

Mary Dossett,
Horticulture Agent

WHERE? DATES? TIME?

Classes are held on Thursday evenings at the
McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service
August 1st to October 31st
5:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

What does the program require?

- 1) a one-time **\$100.00 registration fee** to cover materials used and given in class.
- 2) Submitting information for **background check**.
- 3) Reading assignments and homework questions covering key ideas in horticulture.
- 4) Volunteer hours of 40 the first year, then 40 each year thereafter.
- 5) Written exam.

What does the program provide?

The Master Gardener training program provides more than 40 hours of classroom and hands-on instruction in horticulture and related areas.

Class instructors include Extension specialists, agents and other guest speakers.

Class topics include:

Botany
Entomology
Plant Pathology
Soils and Fertility
Volunteering
Pesticide use and safety

Plus sections from:

Annuals and Perennials
Fruit Production
Tree and Shrub Care
Landscape Design
Lawn Care
Native Plants

HOW DO I ENROLL?

By calling **(270) 554-9520**

**Cooperative
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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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Lexington, KY 40506



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accommodated
with prior notification.

WHAT IS THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM?

The Extension Master Gardener program provides horticulture training in exchange for volunteer work. The program is a great way to gain horticultural knowledge and share your expertise in your community.

You will meet other gardeners, share gardening experiences, get connected to community, and be associated with a well-respected national program.

The Extension Master Gardener program is offered through local Cooperative Extension Service offices. Cooperative Extension is an outreach unit of Kentucky's Land-Grant universities—the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University.

The Cooperative Extension Service and Extension Master Gardeners use and provide research-based recommendations to clients.

2024 Master Gardener Training Schedule 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Aug 1, Orientation / Weed Management

Aug 8, Botany / MG Plant Swap

Aug 15, Plant ID / Plant Propagation

Aug 22, Home Fruit

Aug 29, Woody Ornamentals

Sept 5, Pesticides and Safety / IPM

Sept 12, Entomology

Sept 19, Plant Pathology

Sept 26, Annual and Perennial Flowers

Oct 3, Soils and Fertility

Oct 10, Vegetables and Composting

Oct 17, VPM / Wildlife

Oct 24, Lawn Care

Oct 31, Review and Final Exam



McCracken County Master Gardener Association

Once you've enrolled in Master Gardener training you may choose to join the *McCracken County Master Gardener Association*.

Association members share gardening knowledge, present and attend educational seminars, tour gardens & horticulture businesses and work together on volunteer projects.

Master Gardeners meet at 6:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Annual dues are \$15.00, payable January 1st–March 30th.

While training to become a Master Gardener, you are welcome to sit in the monthly meetings to see if you are interested in joining the association.

Commonly Ask Questions

What qualifications do I need to become a McCracken County Master Gardener Association member?

You would need to be someone who:

Loves gardening!

Wants to help and teach others.

Likes to give back to the community.

Completes the Master Gardener Class.

Completes the yearly volunteer hour requirements.

And likes to have a lot of fun!

HOW DO I ENROLL IN THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM?

By calling the McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service
2025 New Holt Road
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 554-9520

If you have additional questions ask for Mary Dossett, Agent for Horticulture.

McCracken County
Extension Service

Horticulture Walking Club

Meets : Every Wednesday (May 8th– July 31st)
Time : 11AM-12PM
Location : Greenway Trail
*Meet at Skate park entrance

Call our office at
(270) 554-9520 to
sign up!

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MASTER GARDENER TOOLBOX

GARRETT FARMS TOUR



Join the Master Gardeners at Garrett Farms. Danny & Mariana Garrett will be giving a tour of their family farm and educating the public on what they are currently growing. The program will be at their farm. Please dress accordingly and arrive early. We will meet at their farm store.

RSVP by calling our office. [270] 554-9520

JUNE 4TH, 2024 5PM-6PM CST

EXTENSION AGENT FOR HORTICULTURE

MARY DOSSETT
MARY.DOSSETT@UKY.EDU

GARRETT FARMS
3855 HARDMONEY RD
PADUCAH, KY 42003

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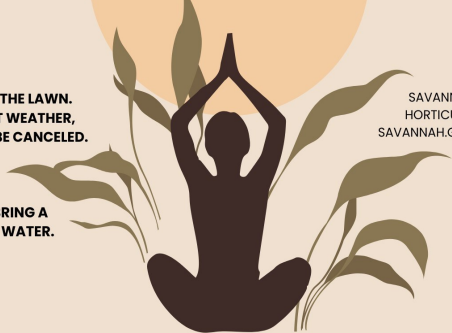
GROUNDING YOGA

INSTRUCTED BY SIERRA IRWIN

OUTSIDE ON THE LAWN.
IF INCLEMENT WEATHER,
SESSION WILL BE CANCELED.

SAVANNAH GILBERT
HORTICULTURE ASST.
SAVANNAH.GILBERT@UKY.EDU

PLEASE BRING A
MAT AND WATER.



APRIL 9 MAY 14 JUNE 11
11:00 – 12:00

LIMITED SPACE. PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING (270)554-9520

PAT & JIM BROCKENBOROUGH ROTARY HEALTH PARK

LOCATED AT 14TH AND MADISON
IN THE HISTORIC FOUNTAIN AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD



Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact us for more information.



Carson Park Fairgrounds
June 25th – 29th, 2024

McCracken County Fair Exhibit
Categories and Rules
Link below

<https://mccracken.ca.uky.edu/2024-mccracken-county-fair-exhibit-categories-rules>