



# Horticulture Newsletter

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

**Cooperative Extension Service**

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*Mary Dosssett*

Agent for Horticulture



## MARCH 2024

*Inside this issue:*

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- Simple Pruning Tips for your Fruit Trees During the Dormant Season
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- McCracken County Seed Swap
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- Injury Prevention in the Garden
- Solar Eclipse Watch Party
- Gardening 101

## Master Gardener Spotlight

*Betty Thompson*



*Class of 2016*



### Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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with prior notification.

# Postharvest Disease Losses in Fruit & Vegetable Crops (PPFS-GEN-24)

Fruits and vegetables are often soft, perishable, and particularly susceptible to postharvest disease losses. Postharvest diseases can begin with infections in the field, during harvest, or in storage. Under moist or high humidity storage conditions, the infections can develop into molds, rots, or other decay. Even produce destined for fresh market can develop postharvest diseases during short-term storage.

This newly developed fact sheet discusses the sources of infections in fields, during harvest, and in storage. Preventive management recommendations are provided for each situation.

*Postharvest Disease Losses in Fruit & Vegetable Crops (PPFS-GEN-24)* is available online.

For publications on fruit and vegetable diseases, visit the UK Plant Pathology Extension Publications webpage.

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications>

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

University of Kentucky

College of Agriculture, Food & Environment

Extension Plant Pathology



Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

Plant Pathology Fact Sheet

PPFS-GEN-24

## Postharvest Disease Losses in Fruit & Vegetable Crops

Nicole Gauthier  
*Plant Pathology  
Extension Specialist*

Kim Leonberger  
*Plant Pathology  
Extension Associate*

Henry Smith  
*Plant Pathology  
Research Analyst*

### IMPORTANCE

Fruits and vegetables are often soft, perishable, and particularly susceptible to a range of damage during harvest and storage. Worldwide, postharvest losses are approximately \$150 billion or one-third of the world's food production. Individual growers can experience postharvest crop losses between 25% and 50% of fruit and vegetables. A significant percentage of postharvest losses are caused by plant diseases.

Postharvest diseases can begin before, during, or after harvest. Infection by disease-causing pathogens can occur in the field and/or through wounds during harvest. Under moist conditions or high humidity, these infections can develop into molds, rots, or other decay. Even produce destined for fresh market can develop postharvest diseases during short-term storage.

### INFECTION IN THE FIELD

Plant diseases such as fruit rots, leaf spots, and root rots can occur while plants are growing or while fruit are maturing (FIGURES 1A, 1B & 1C). Management of plant diseases throughout the season, particularly as produce develops, is the first step in preventing infections from transferring to storage.

Field infections can occur days or weeks before harvest. Infections can remain latent (dormant) until produce reaches a particular stage of maturity or until certain environmental conditions are reached. While severely diseased fruit are often culled and discarded during harvest, infected asymptomatic fruit may make their way into harvest bins.



FIGURE 1. PLANT DISEASES SUCH AS (A) CHOANEPHORA FRUIT ROT, (B) BOTRYTIS GRAY MOLD, AND (C) BITTER ROT CAN BEGIN IN THE FIELD OR GREENHOUSE AND ADVANCE IN STORAGE. [PHOTOS: KIMBERLY LEONBERGER (1A) & NICOLE GAUTHIER (1B & 1C), UK]



# Simple Pruning Tips For Your Fruit Trees During The Dormant Season

Source: Delia Scott, Department of Horticulture Extension Associate



All fruit trees must be pruned and trained to enhance fruit production, as the way the tree is shaped will impact fruit yield, fruit size and ripening. In Kentucky, the ideal time to prune fruit trees is in late winter or early spring.

Both newly planted and mature fruit trees must be pruned to maintain size and shape. Here are some easy tips:



- For young trees, pruning to a strong central leader with four to five lateral branches is most common.

- Heading cuts can be done on mature trees to control the tree's height; thinning cuts can open up the canopy and maximize sunlight and airflow. For older, overgrown trees that need heavier pruning, removing up to 1/3 of the larger branches over several years will help rejuvenate the tree.



- Pruning cuts should be made at the base of the branches, leaving a ¼" to ½" branch collar intact for proper healing. Dead and diseased shoots and limbs should be removed, as well as any shriveled or 'mummy' fruit remaining on the tree.

- Sharp pruners or loppers should be used to ensure clean cuts. Sanitize the tool blades between each cut with rubbing alcohol or a 10% bleach solution so as not to spread any disease that may be present.

Photos from pixabay.com

For more information on pruning apple trees, visit the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/user/UKAgriculture) at <https://www.youtube.com/user/UKAgriculture>.

[Pruning Central Leader Apple Trees \(https://bit.ly/48VR31Q\)](https://bit.ly/48VR31Q) discusses trees that are pruned to the classic pyramid or oval shape.

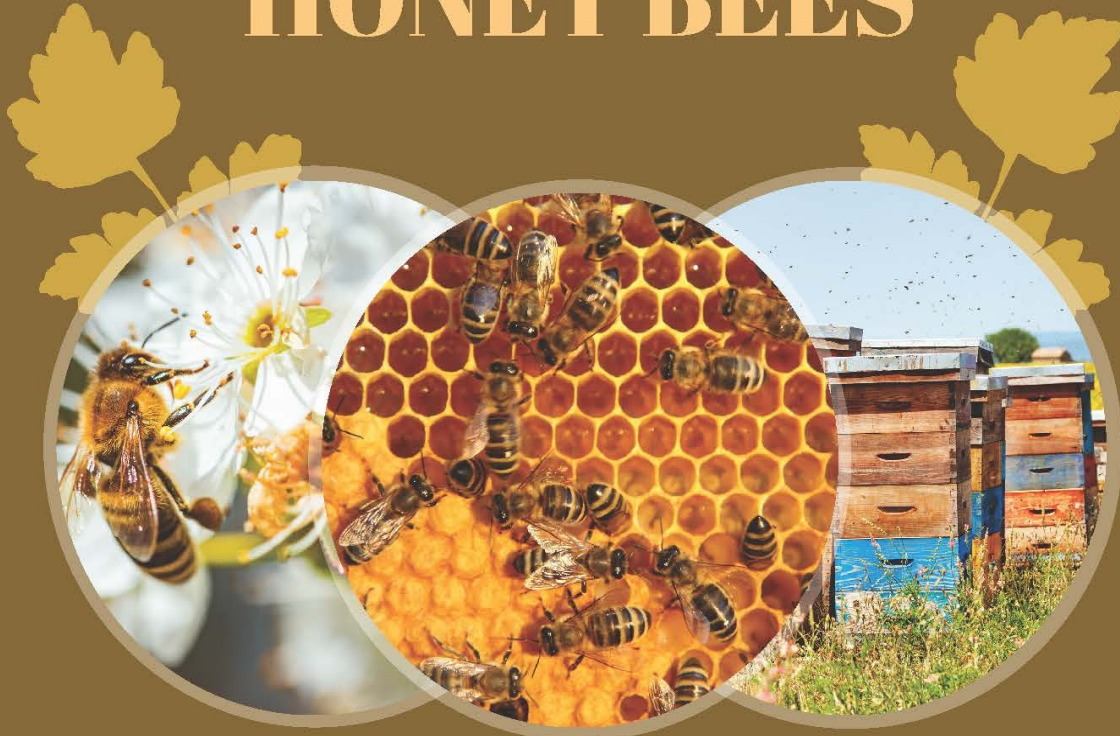


[Pruning Tall Spindle Apple Trees \(https://bit.ly/4bh85JA\)](https://bit.ly/4bh85JA) focuses on the high-density supported training system with trees planted on dwarf rootstocks, producing a crop as little as a year after planting.

For more information on horticulture success, contact your McCracken County Extension office.

MASTER GARDENER TOOLBOX

# HONEY BEES



Chuck Collins, owner of The Bee Barn, will be educating the public on all things honey bees!

**MARCH 5TH, 2024      5PM-6PM CST**

EXTENSION AGENT FOR  
HORTICULTURE

MARY DOSSETT  
MARY.DOSSETT@UKY.EDU

**MCCRACKEN COUNTY EXTENSION  
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## Kentucky State Horticultural Society Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting - March 7

The Kentucky State Horticulture Society Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting will be held at Stepping Stone Farm Market in Paris, KY on Thursday, March 7. This meeting is open to all those interested or involved in fruit production. Speakers will include UK Extension Specialists as well as local growers and industry specialists. A tour of Stepping Stone Farm will also be given. Lunch is available at cost on-site; pre-registration is required. Please see the following agenda for more details.

### Thursday, March 7

#### Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting at Stepping Stone Farm – Reed Valley Orchard

Meeting will be held at Stepping Stone Farm Market

Hosted by Brandon Barnett and Dana Reed

1674 Cynthiana Rd.

Paris, KY 40361

Orchard Website: <https://www.steppingstonefarmky.com/>



Photo by pixabay.com

#### Program

All times EDT

10:00 a.m. Registration

10:15 a.m. Tour of Stepping Stone Farm – *Brandon Barnett and Dana Reed*

11:30 a.m. Rust Diseases of Apple and Pear – *Nicole Gauthier*

12:00 p.m. **Lunch will be available at cost for those who preregister.**

**Please preregister for lunch to ensure that there is enough! Contact Delia Scott ([delia.scott@uky.edu](mailto:delia.scott@uky.edu) or 859-257-8605) by Tuesday, March 5**

12:30 p.m. When Secondary Pests are Your Primary Concern – *Ric Bessin*

1:00 p.m. Topics in Tree Fruit Production in 2024 – *Brent Arnoldussen*

1:30 p.m. Drone Demonstration for Pesticide Application – *Taylor Marret*

2:00 p.m. Grower Round Table Discussion – *Kevan Evans*

By Delia Scott, Horticulture Extension Associate



## Spinach and Mushroom Quiche

**1 tablespoon** olive oil  
**4 cups** chopped spinach  
**2 cups** chopped mushrooms  
**1/2 medium** yellow onion, chopped  
**1 teaspoon** crushed red pepper flakes  
**1/2 teaspoon** garlic powder

**8 large** eggs  
**1 cup** shredded Colby-Jack cheese  
**1 cup** skim milk  
**4 tablespoons** melted butter  
**2 (9-inch)** unbaked pie shells  
**4 tablespoons** grated parmesan cheese

**Preheat** oven to 400 degrees F.

In a medium skillet, **heat** the olive oil.

**Add** the spinach, mushrooms, onion, red pepper flakes, and garlic powder.

**Cook** over medium heat for 8 minutes.

In a mixing bowl, **beat** the eggs until smooth. **Stir** in the Colby-Jack cheese, milk, cooked mixture, and melted butter until evenly blended. **Divide** the mixture between the two uncooked pie crusts.

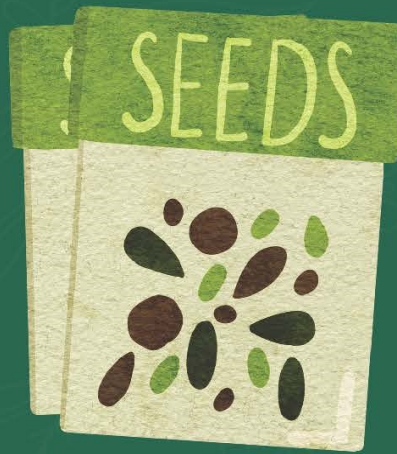
**Sprinkle** parmesan cheese on top. **Bake** in preheated oven for 15 minutes at 400 degrees F. **Reduce** the oven temperature to 350 degrees F and **bake** an additional

30 to 35 minutes. Quiche will be rich golden brown, and a knife inserted in the center will come out clean. **Cool** slightly before serving. **Serve** warm.

**Yield:** 12 servings; serving size is 1/6th of one quiche. Recipe makes two quiche.

**Nutritional Analysis:** 280 calories; 19g total fat; 9g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 150mg cholesterol; 330mg sodium; 19g carbohydrate; 0g dietary fiber; 2g total sugars; 0g added sugars; 9g protein; 6% DV Vitamin D; 10% DV Calcium; 6% DV Iron; 4% DV Potassium.

# McCracken County Seed Swap



**March 15th, 2024 | 4pm-6pm**

**McCracken County Extension Service  
2025 New Holt Rd.  
Paducah, Ky 42001**

Don't miss the opportunity to connect with fellow garden enthusiast! Bring as many seeds or seedlings with you and trade with others. There is no fee to attend and is open to the public. If you have any questions, please call the office.

(270) 554-9520

Mary.dossett@uky.edu

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Lexington, KY 40506



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# 2024 IPM Training School March 18

The 2024 Integrated Pest Management Training School meeting will take place on March 18. This year, the event will be held at the Warren County Extension Office, Bowling Green, KY. Several University of Kentucky Extension specialists and associates will discuss diverse topics on field crops, horticulture, and wildlife management in agricultural settings.

This event offers CEUs to pesticide applicators and certified crop advisers. Pesticide applicators will receive 4 and 3 CEUs for Category 1A when attending morning and afternoon sessions, respectively. Certified crop advisers will receive CEUs for soil and water management (1), IPM (2) and crop management (1) for the morning session. The afternoon program offers 2 CEUs for IPM and 1 CEU for crop management.

**Registration** for either morning or afternoon session is required to attend in person or online. Online registration is available at the UKREC website on the event tab here. [https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMufu2orDgtEtEWNfBtYMLujpYFVBnqL\\_BT#/registration](https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMufu2orDgtEtEWNfBtYMLujpYFVBnqL_BT#/registration)

By Zenaida Viloría, Entomology Research Analyst

University of Kentucky  
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture Food and Environment

**2024 IPM Training School**  
**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

## Program

**8:00 AM Registration**

### Field Crops

8:25 AM	Herbicide Resistance Screening in the Commonwealth of Kentucky	<i>Dr. Samuel Revolinski</i>
8:50 AM	Management of Important Soilborne Diseases of Soybean	<i>Dr. Carl Bradley</i>
9:15 AM	Cover Crops	<i>Dr. Lloyd Murdock</i>
9:40 AM	Keeping Cover Crops from Becoming a Pest Problem	<i>Dr. Chad Lee</i>
10:05 AM	Break	
10:20 AM	Herbicide Resistant Weed Control	<i>Dr. Travis Legleiter</i>
10:45 AM	Efficacy of Insecticides in Bt-and non-Bt field Corn and Problems Capturing Pest Moths	<i>Drs. Ric Bessin Raul T. Villanueva</i>
11:10 AM	The Agronomics and Economics of Various Nutrient Sources for Crop Production	<i>Dr. Edwin Ritchey</i>
11:35 AM	Application of Low-Cost GPS Technologies to Improve Input Use	<i>Dr. Chris Teutsch</i>

### Horticulture

1:00 PM	Understanding the Mildews – Downy versus Powdery	<i>Dr. Nicole Gauthier</i>
1:25 PM	Greenhouse Disease Management	<i>Ms. Arundathi Sharma</i>
1:50 PM	Cover Cropping in Vegetable Production Systems: Benefits, Challenges, and Considerations	<i>Dr. Rachel Rudolph</i>
2:15 PM	Break	
2:30 PM	Everything Old is New Again	<i>Dr. Shawn Wright</i>
2:55 PM	Impact of Invasive Species on IPM	<i>Dr. Jonathan Larson</i>
3:20 PM	Current and Future Wildlife Management Conflicts for the Mid-South	<i>Dr. Matt Springer</i>



	Pesticide Applicators CEUs	Certified Crop Adviser CEUs
Field Crops	Category 1A: 4	Soil & Water Management: 1 IPM: 2 Crop Management: 1
Horticulture	Category 1A: 3	IPM: 2 Crop Management: 1

Location	Contacts	
Warren County Extension Office 5162 Russellville Rd. Bowling Green, KY 42101	Zenaida Viloría zenaida.viloría@uky.edu (270) 365-7541 Ext. 21336	Ric Bessin r.bessin@uky.edu (859) 323-1120

# ZOOM WEBINAR: INJURY PREVENTION IN THE GARDEN

with Special Guest  
**Gabriela Murza**

Utah State Extension Assistant Professor  
of Health and Wellness



## LEARN ABOUT:

- Preventing common garden injuries
- Minimizing pain from repetitive movements
- Using proper posture
- Maximizing tool use
- Incorporating stretches

**MARCH 21st, 2024**  
**11AM-12:30PM EST**

**REGISTER HERE:** <https://ukfcs.net/RegistrationGardening>

**UK** Cooperative  
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Extension  
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Lexington, KY 40506



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# SOLAR ECLIPSE WATCH PARTY

April 8th, 2024

LIMITED ECLIPSE  
GLASSES  
AVAILABLE

IF INCLEMENT  
WEATHER, THE  
EVENT IS  
CANCELED

11AM - 3PM

ECLIPSE BEGINS 12:42PM  
TOTALITY 2:00PM-2:02PM

SCAN FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

**MCCRACKEN COUNTY  
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2025 NEW HOLT RD  
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# GARDENING 101



**PEST CONTROL**



**RAISED BEDS**



**ATTRACTING  
POLLINATORS**



**COMPANION  
PLANTING**



**IMPORTANT  
PLANTING DATES**



**APRIL 25TH, 2024  
5PM-6PM**

**LOCATION : MCCRACKEN COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE  
2025 NEW HOLT RD.  
PADUCAH, KY 42001  
(270) 554-9520**

**Want to start a garden but don't know where to start?  
Call our office to attend this informative session**

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