

# The Boyle County Thymes



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

## March Quick Tips & GDD

By the time you are reading this newsletter we will have had well over 100 Growing Degree Days (GDD)! What are GDDs? They are heat units, used to estimate the growth and development of certain crops and pests during the growing season. They can be used retrospectively to calculate the current growth stage of a crop, or to help forecast the date that a crop will reach a predetermined growth stage. You can find out how many GDD's for your county on UKAg's website [http://weather.uky.edu/php/kyc\\_dd.php](http://weather.uky.edu/php/kyc_dd.php)

1

Feed bulbs a balanced fertilizer now to promote nice blooms next year. Do not cut leaves down after flowering. Let them die down naturally.

2

DO NOT work wet soil, only work when crumbly. Squeeze a handful of soil into a ball. Drop it from waist height. If it breaks apart then your soil can be worked.

3

Seeds of hardy annuals such as larkspur, bachelor's buttons, Shirley and California poppies should be direct sown in the garden now.

4

Spray peach trees with a fungicide for the control of peach leaf curl diseases. See publication. HO-57 for more info on peaches.

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# Great Groups

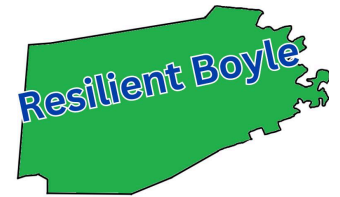
We work with so many wonderful organizations in Boyle Co. and I realized that I don't brag on them nearly enough for all the incredible work they do. So here it is, several I'm sure you've heard of but some might be new to you. I encourage you to reach out to any of these organizations to get involved and take advantage of all they have to offer!

- **CREEC - Clarks Run Environmental Education Corporation**



- Clark's Run Environmental Education Corporation (CREEC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing Clark's Run as a community resource for Boyle County. CREEC is an all-volunteer organization that formed in 2005 to improve the Clark's Run watershed by enhancing water quality and educating the public. One of the bigger events we do with CREEC is Boyle County's Earth/Arbor Day celebration. Over the years this group has spearheaded that effort along with many cleanups along local streams and plantings of riparian buffers. If you are passionate about Boyle County's local environment this is a great organization to be apart of!

- **Resilient Boyle**



- Mission: To inspire Boyle County to engage in education and actions toward a healthy climate and sustainable future. Our History: A group of concerned Boyle County citizens came together in late 2022, to address the current and future effects of global climate change from a local perspective. I've been fortunate to have been a part of this group since the beginning and I can say I learned a lot about what is happening around the county in relation to climate resiliency and natural disasters. They've already done some great work towards helping local residents and businesses adapt solar energy.

- **Boyle Co. Farmers Market**

- I'm sure everyone knows about our wonderful farmers market and I'm so proud of all they've accomplished over the years. It truly has become a one-stop shop for groceries and other great local items. I hope you'll visit every Saturday May - October at Constitution Square, and on rain days, find them here at the Extension Office!



- **Boyle Co. Library**

- Here's your reminder that Boyle Co. has the best library. Have you seen all the great events they offer? Kids to adults there's much more than books and I'm confident I speak for everyone at our office when I say we are lucky to be able to work with them as regularly as we do!





# Moles

Moles! As snow melts and yards begin to be inspected, you may begin to notice the all too familiar and unwelcome mole tunnels that will cause consternation with the first mowing in a few weeks. We tend to not pay much attention until those pesky critters show up in our yard.

From a research-based perspective, Purdue Extension generally recommends one of two methods of mole control as being most effective. Most other methods would be considered either inconsistent or ineffective. No matter what method is chosen, **100% control may be an unreasonable expectation.**

Trapping remains the most reliable method of mole control. However, it does take practice, patience, persistence, and perhaps a bit of luck. I often describe it as both an art and a science. Mole traps are available at several local retailers. Harpoon traps, scissor traps, and choker traps are available. The harpoon trap has the trigger placed on the soil surface over a slightly depressed mole run.



When triggered, spikes impale the mole vertically down. Scissor traps are placed in the mole run. A trigger in the middle of the trap enables the capture of the mole via scissor-like jaws whether he advances or retreats. Also called a choker loop trap, the choker trap captures and chokes the offending mole when the trigger is activated. Choose a well-used mole run to set one or more traps. In general, multiple traps will increase your chances of success. Of course, one advantage of trapping is that you know when you've been successful!

Until a few years ago, most mole baits had provided inconsistent results. However, a product introduced in recent years has shown effectiveness. It mimics a favorite food of moles: earthworms. When the poison gel-type "worm" is placed inside a mole run, the mole consumes the poison worm and later dies. The product contains the active ingredient bromethalin. Be sure to read and follow all label directions, and heed precautions, especially regarding curious pets. Several brand names now offer this product. The best results are usually obtained during the cold weather months when insect activity is at its lowest.

**A common misconception about mole control suggests that if you control grubs, you'll take care of the moles.** Grubs make up only a portion of the mole's diet, which also includes earthworms and other soil animals. Moles may not move far from a treated lawn and may periodically re-invade the area in search of food or a mate.

Moles do have some redeeming qualities. They eat many soil insects, some of which are pests, including grubs, termites, and slugs. And they aerate the soil, allowing deeper air and water penetration into the soil profile. Of course, these aren't the first things you think of when you have mole runs in your yard.

**↑  
THIS**

Source: John E. Woodmansee, Purdue Extension

# Upcoming Classes and News

You MUST call the BCEO to register for free classes.  
Classes are subject to cancel if there are no signups.

## Backyard Homesteading Series

### • **Fiber Shearing and Spinning - April 6th**

- Join us for a fiber animal shearing demonstration. Learn how to shear sheep and other fiber animals. Leading the demonstration is Michael Young, Foggy Bottom Farm. This is a FREE demonstration.

### • **Field to Fork: Turkey - May 21st 6pm**

- Join us for Turkey Processing! Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife will show you how to process a turkey after a successful hunt. You can also try various healthy turkey recipes. The instructor for this class is Becky Bloomfield, Field to Fork Program Coordinator. Class is limited to 20 participants.

### • **Cook Wild KY: Fish - May 23rd 12pm**

- Join us for a hands on cooking class where we will try some fish recipes! Call 236-4484 to register for this FREE class. This class is subject to cancel if a 5 person minimum is not met.

### • **Cheese Making - June 15th 9am-12pm**

- Join us for a hands on cheese making workshop where you will make fresh ricotta cheese. Call 236-4484 to register for this FREE class. This class is subject to cancel if a 5 person minimum is not met.

### • **Food Preservation - July 13th & 20th 10am**

- July 13th: Water Bath Canning - This hands on canning class will cover high acid foods that can be safely canned using the boiling water bath canning method. Requires 5 person minimum. Please call.
- July 20th: Pressure Canning - Hands on canning class will cover low acid foods that can be safely

canned using the pressure canning method. Requires 5 person minimum. Please call.

### • **Natural Dyes - August 7th 6pm**

- We will explore the world of natural dyes and plants you can grow yourself to use in dye baths. Learn about basic mordants, the difference between animal and plant fibers and how to get the most color out of plants in your yard!

### • **Cook Wild KY - September 24th 6pm**

- Come learn about the Cook Wild KY program and gain confidence in cooking wild game sourced here in Kentucky. Observe a food demonstration on cooking wild game. Enjoy samples of Cook Wild recipes. Collect Cook Wild recipe cards for your own collection. Requires 5 person minimum. Please call.

### • **Alternative Composting - Oct 16th 6pm**

- Don't have space for a traditional compost pile or bin? No worries! We will talk about alternative styles of composting that can be done on any scale including worm-composting and a Japanese style of composting called Bokashi.

### • **Maple Syrup - November 7th 6pm**

- Join us for an introduction to maple syrup production. Learn how to identify maples on your property, tapping trees, making syrup. Requires 5 person minimum. Please call.





Boyle and Mercer County Extension Offices

# Keeping Bees 2.0

Classes begin at 5:00pm

All classes will be held at the Boyle County Extension Office.

**March 11—How To Catch A Swarm with Dan Stoltzfus**

**April 11—Planting For Pollinators with Shannon Trimboli**

**May 21—Going Through A Bee Hive**

**June 17—How To Extract Honey**

Attend all four classes and get a free honeybee friendly plant!



College of Agriculture,  
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**RSVP to Boyle Office at  
859-236-4484**

### Cooperative Extension Service

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

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.





# FORT HARROD GARDEN GROUP

**Fort Harrod Garden Group meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am.**

If you would like to receive a text message about meeting times, locations, and volunteer opportunities please contact Mercer County Extension Office at 859-734-4378 or email [Jessica.Bessin@uky.edu](mailto:Jessica.Bessin@uky.edu). **To attend a field trip, you must have attended two previous club meetings. Limited transportation will be available and you must RSVP in advance.**

3/27—Boyle Office—Soil Testing

4/24—Wilson's Nursery

5/29—Mercer Office—Cucurbits

6/26—Plant Propagation Field Trip

July—No meeting

8/28—Mercer Office—Native Fruits & Shrubs

9/25—Boyle Office—Flower Arranging

10/30—Mercer Office—Hardy Annual Flowers



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# The Spring Garden

The spring garden contains cool-season crops that are planted and harvested from late winter to late spring. The seed of some of these crops can be planted directly in the garden soil, while others will need to be started in a greenhouse or other suitable growing area and then transplanted to the garden.

Spring garden plants grow best with relatively cool air temperatures (50° to 65°F) and are raised either for their leaves, stems or flower buds. Peas are grown for their immature fruits. These crops produce their vegetative growth during spring's short, cool days. If they are planted too late in the spring, summer heat reduces their quality by forcing some to flower and form seeds (bolt), and others to develop off flavors, bitterness, poor texture and low yields.

Avoid these problems by planting spring vegetables as soon as the soil can be worked in the spring since light frost will not injure them. Plant either seeds or transplants, allowing the vegetables to reach edible maturity before hot summer days arrive.

Plant as soon as the soil is workable and dry enough so it does not form wet clods. Do not work the soil when it is wet. Doing so can ruin the texture for several years. Wait for the best conditions no matter how much the planting bug is nibbling at your fingers.

Do not use organic mulches in early spring. Rather, let as much sunlight as possible reach the soil to warm it. After May 1, you can use mulches to conserve soil moisture and help prevent weeds.

Plant spring garden crops together so that you can plant fall vegetables in the same area later. When "double cropping," do not plant closely related vegetables in the same rows because of possible disease and insect carryover from the spring crop.

Source: Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky, ID-128.

**Table 20.11.** Crops for the spring garden.

Vegetable	Seeds	Transplants	Days to Maturity <sup>1</sup>
Beets	x		55-60
Bibb lettuce	x	x	60-80
Broccoli		x	40-90
Brussels sprouts		x	80-90
Cabbage		x	60-100
Carrots	x		60-80
Cauliflower		x	50-100
Celery		x	100-130
Chinese cabbage	x	x	43-75
Collards	x		75-90
Endive	x	x	60-90
Kale	x	x	50-60
Kohlrabi	x		50-70
Leaf lettuce	x	x	40-50
Mustard greens	x		35-60
Onions <sup>2</sup>	x	x	40-120
Peas	x		60-80
Potatoes <sup>3</sup>			90-140
Radishes	x		20-30
Spinach	x		40-70
Swiss chard	x	x	55-60
Turnips	x		40-60
Turnip greens	x		30-50

<sup>1</sup> Days given are for the early to late varieties.

<sup>2</sup> Onions are also available in sets.

<sup>3</sup> Potatoes are available as seed pieces.

## Roasted Beet and Orange Salad

- **3 medium** fresh beets (about 1 pound)
- **4 medium** navel oranges, peeled and sectioned
- **4 ounces** crumbled feta cheese
- **1/2 cup** chopped walnuts (optional)
- **1/4 cup** minced fresh mint

### *Orange Vinaigrette:*

- **2 tablespoons** olive oil
- **1 teaspoon** grated orange zest
- **2 tablespoons** orange juice
- **1/2 tablespoon** apple cider vinegar
- **1 teaspoon** honey
- **1 teaspoon** Dijon mustard
- **1/2 teaspoon** salt
- **1/4 teaspoon** pepper

**Preheat** oven to 425 degrees F. **Wash** hands with warm soap and water, **scrubbing** for at least 20 seconds. **Scrub** beets and **trim** tops to 1 inch. **Wrap** in foil; **place** on a baking sheet. **Bake** 50 to 60 minutes or until tender. **Remove** foil; **cool** completely. **Peel** beets and **chop** into bite-sized pieces. In a small bowl, **whisk** oil, orange zest, orange juice, vinegar, honey, mustard, salt, and pepper until blended. In a large bowl, **combine** cooked beets and orange sections. **Add** the vinaigrette and **toss** gently to coat. **Spoon** mixture on serving plate and **top** with feta cheese, walnuts, and fresh mint.

**Yield:** 4 servings. **Serving size:** 1/4 of recipe.

**Nutrition Analysis:** 330 calories, 23g total fat, 6g saturated fat, 25mg cholesterol, 510mg sodium, 27g total carbohydrate, 5g fiber, 18g total sugars, 1g added sugars, 8g protein, 0% DV vitamin D, 15% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 10% DV potassium.



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the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or

US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

## Trowel & Error: Spring Cover Crop

Last newsletter we talked about calculating the amount of cover crop (CC) you need for an area but this spring I want to remind you that cover cropping is not just for fall planting. In fact, spring and summer are one of my favorite times to put down CC. Why you ask? Well, sometimes you just aren't ready to plant your garden yet but you don't want the weeds to grow up. Or, you only plan to have a spring & fall garden so you want to spend the summer creating good soil for your future garden plants, while still giving the bees some good nutrition.

For spring planting try: Lacy phacelia (a pollinator favorite), field peas (nitrogen fixers) and hairy vetch



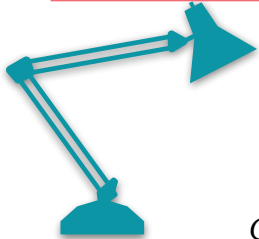
Lacy Phacelia



Sunn Hemp

For summer planting try: Buckwheat (a bee favorite), millet, cowpeas, sunn hemp (lots of biomass)

Feel free to mix and match CC within each season to best suit your needs. For example, if you need a lot of biomass, sunn hemp gets very tall and you can mix it with cowpeas for nitrogen fixation!



## Plant Spotlight

### Swamp Leather - Flower

*Clematis crispa*, commonly known as Blue Jasmine or Swamp Leather-Flower. *C. crispa* is listed as "Threatened" by the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves and is only known from the four western counties along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers – Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman and Fulton. It occurs in a few counties across the rivers in southern Illinois and western Missouri and becomes more common as you head into the southern states.



As its name implies, this native clematis likes to grow in wetlands, floodplains and swamps. In addition to enjoying getting its feet wet, *C. crispa* prefers a bright location and is usually found competing for sunlight along with all the other vine species that like to grow in swampy conditions. The stems of this herbaceous vine grow to a length of 6- 10 feet and the plants die back to ground level each winter.



Source: Bob Dunlap, KY Native Plant Society

