

February 2025



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Woodford Horticulture Update



Agent Note



Hello Woodford Countians!

I'm Delia Scott, the new Extension Agent for Horticulture. Although I'm new to Woodford County, I have been in Extension for a while, most recently as an Extension Associate in the UK Dept. of Horticulture. I'm delighted to be here and am looking forward to meeting many of you soon, either out in the community, or at one of our many events and programs that are coming up this spring. Please see the Calendar of Upcoming Events on page 4 for what's going on! As always, if there are any classes or programs you would like to see, please reach out! My email is delia.scott@uky.edu. We are here to help you succeed and are always just a phone call or email away.

Only 57 days until Spring!

Delia Scott, CEA for Horticulture

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INVASIVE PLANTS

PUBLICATIONS

Key features include:

- **Species profiles:** Clear descriptions and images to help with identification
- **Control strategies:** Step-by-step recommendations, from manual removal to chemical treatments
- **Regional relevance:** Focused on the invasive plants most common to Kentucky and neighboring states

New field guide offers tools to combat Kentucky's invasive plants

Source: Ellen Crocker, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources assistant professor

The University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources has released a Field Guide to Kentucky's Invasive Plants, a comprehensive resource aimed at helping landowners, conservationists and forestry professionals identify and manage invasive plant species across the state.

This guide provides detailed profiles of the most prevalent invasive trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and herbaceous plants that threaten Kentucky's ecosystems. Each species is presented with full-color photographs, information about its origins, distribution, threats to native biodiversity and effective control methods. From the hardy callery pear to the pervasive kudzu vine, the guide highlights the threats these species pose to forests, fields and waterways.

The book also emphasizes practical management techniques, offering guidance on hand removal, herbicide application and integrated approaches tailored to site-specific conditions. Special attention is given to balancing ecological health with practical land management goals, ensuring that users can address invasive species responsibly and effectively.

The Field Guide draws on a wealth of expertise from contributors across specific regions, including the board members of the Kentucky Invasive Plant Council. It builds on an earlier pocket guide with updated content and new species profiles, reflecting the evolving landscape of invasive plant management.

Whether you're a landowner grappling with autumn olive or a forest manager tackling multiflora rose, this guide serves as a practical reference for maintaining healthy ecosystems. As invasive plants spread, these resources are critical in equipping communities with the knowledge and tools to protect their natural heritage.

To obtain your field guide visit <https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/articles/for177-field-guide-kentuckys-invasive-plants> or contact the Woodford County Extension office.

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.

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

Pruning Central Leader Apple Trees (<https://bit.ly/48VR3IQ>) discusses trees that are pruned to the classic pyramid or oval shape.

Pruning Tall Spindle Apple Trees (<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 the Woodford County Extension office.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

March

15

**Spring Gardening Workshop
at the Woodford County
Extension Office**

April

1

**Woodford Co. Monarch Waystation
Grant Application opens**

April

26

**Earth Day Tree Giveaway at
Falling Springs Park**

May

10

**Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale
at Falling Springs Park**

**Register
Now!**

2025

48th Annual Kentucky Turf & Landscape Management Short Course

February 18-20, 2025

Hardin County Extension Center
111 Opportunity Way
Elizabethtown, KY



Check out these fun and informative
research-based podcasts:



Hort Culture is a podcast about
the production, marketing, and
joy of planting seeds and
helping them grow.
[https://ccd.uky.edu/hort-
culture-podcast](https://ccd.uky.edu/hort-culture-podcast)



Arthro-Pod is a podcast dedicated
to examining insects through both
a scientific and cultural lens.
<https://arthro-pod.blogspot.com/>

Garden Calendar Quick Tips: February

- Bring branches of early blooming spring shrubs indoors for forcing. Good candidates are Forsythia, Flowering Quince, Flowering Cherries, and early blooming Magnolias.
- Have your soil tested now for spring gardens. Check out the Woodford Co. Extension website for more information.
(<https://woodford.ca.uky.edu/program-areas/horticulture/submitting-plant-soil-samples>)
- Now is the time to start cool-season vegetable seedlings indoors. Wait until late March to start quick crops like tomatoes.
- Plan to rotate crops in this year's vegetable garden. You want to avoid not only growing the same plant in last year's location but any related plant from that family. Ideally try to set up a four-year rotation for each family and plot (for example, grow other unrelated crops for three years before you plant tomatoes in the same location again). This can make a significant difference in the amount of disease pressure.
- Prune large shade trees now. If late in the month, some bleeding (sap) may occur. This is no cause for concern.
- Plan to prune fruit trees this month. A day with temperatures above 40 degrees will allow you to spray them with dormant oil, which will take care of many overwintering insect pests.
- Shop local garden stores now for the best selection of seeds.
- Complete any mail orders for seeds as newer varieties will sell out quickly! Select varieties with disease resistance where possible.
- The spring window for seeding lawns is mid-February through mid-March.

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