

## September, 2022

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#### Webinars:

September 28: 10:00 a.m. CT. UK Forestry Degree, Wildlife Sounds, Forestry Basics. Register at fromthewoodstoday.com!

September 28, 11:30 a.m. CT Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays, All About Bluebirds. Register at Kentuckyhortnews.com! College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service Lyon County Extension Service Lyon County Extension Service | PO Box 36, 231 Main St.| Eddyville, KY 42038 | P: 270-388-2341 | F: 270-388-4627|

# Lyon County Extension Fall Garden News

Dear Gardener,

There are several horticulture classes and programs included in this newsletter, check them out! If you are interested please register by calling 270-388-2341.

Most registrations are at our office, however, the Senior Citizens Garden Club sign-up is at the Lyon County Senior Citizens Building.

A Master Gardener



class for volunteers will start on October 18. Classes will be on Tuesday mornings but will not meet over the holidays (Thanksgiving through New Years)

We are also starting a Junior Master Gardener Club with a meeting for those that are interested after school on Monday, October 24.

Our target age is 3-5 grades but older youth with a passion for gardening can be junior leaders in the group. We will discuss at the meeting what time is best for future meetings—after school or evening.

There is a Native Tree Giveaway for tornado victims on Saturday, October 15. Please share information with Lyon County tornado victims that you know. In addition, if you remove one of these invasive plants: Bradford pear, burning bush, winter creeper, we will let you select a replacement tree while supplies last. A photo is required for proof.

A Master Naturalist Class will be held on three Friday and Saturday's, one in May, one in the summer and one fall. These volunteers can do their hours with other organizations that are registered with the University of Kentucky, such as Friends of Land Between the Lakes or Kentucky Nature Preserves. If you are interested let us know!

Jusan M. Fox

Susan Fox Lyon County Extension Agent For ANR

# Watering in a Drought

Rick Durham, extension specialist, consumer horticulture

When the weather heats up with no sign of rain, gardeners hook up the water hose to give their thirsty landscapes a drink. It seems like a simple enough task, but there are some tips to help you get the most from your efforts.

Plants benefit more from occasional heavy watering than from frequent

shallow watering. Water equal to about 1-inch of rain penetrates the soil to a depth of about 6 inches which is enough to sustain most plants for a week. Light watering generally wets the soil to a depth of only an inch or less. This top inch of soil may hold some of the plant's roots, but it will dry very rapidly. That means the water is not available to the plant for very long. It is much more effective to water less frequently and more thoroughly. During hot weather, some plants will wilt toward the end of the day – this is normal even if the soil has enough moisture. Look at plants in the morning for signs of drought stress (wilting, cupping of leaves, rolling of grass blades) and apply water when these signs are present. Wait until the next morning if you only see these signs at night.

When you need to water your landscape, use a hose attachment to apply water to the base of the plant. A nozzle with multiple settings breaks the water into finer droplets that soak more easily into the soil. Apply water for several minutes before moving the hose to the next area. You can check with a hand spade to see how far down the soil has gotten moist. Try to apply enough water to soak to a depth of 6 inches. Soaker or drip hoses also are an efficient and effective way to water large areas. Plan to run this type of irrigation system for several hours to accomplish a thorough watering.

Morning is the best time to take care of any overhead watering. This gives wet foliage a chance to dry in the sun. Flowers, leaves and stems that stay wet for several hours can have a higher incidence of disease.

Tree feeder

roots are like

## **Dry Season Effect on Woody Plants**

Susan Fox, Extension Agent for ANR

Ninety percent of feeder roots on trees and *big pancakes!* shrubs are in the top 12-15 inches of soil and can extend

far past the dripline of a plant. We know this because it is common to come across what seems like a root from nowhere when trying to plant in a garden. Under hot, dry conditions these roots can become permanently damaged and unable to take up water. Plants will wilt, show leaf scorching, leaf drop, root hairs will become suberized (waxy) with reduced ability to take up water and branches may die as the tree resizes the canopy to be proportional to the root mass. Drought conditions stress plants and make them more susceptible to insect and diseases, winter injury and loss of next years growth through winter kill of buds that fail to completely harden for the winter.

Deep watering, 1 1/2 to 2 inches of water, every two weeks will generally suffice for well-established plants. For those planted 5 years or less water every 5-10 days. Water loving plants may require 3 inches of water. Water loving trees include birches, alders, poplars tulip trees, pin oaks and silver maples. Watering at the trunk will not provide water to the feeder roots. To prevent damage to these roots watering a broad area that covers at least to the drip line is needed. Be sure not to overwater. Excessive water in heavy clay soils can lead to root diseases. For additional information on the effect of drought look online for ID-89 How Dry Seasons Affect Wood Plants or call us for a copy.









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