

FALL OF 2022

THE GIFTED GARDENER

Horticulture Newsletter from Nelson County Extension



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Plant Spring Flowering Bulbs Now

BY DR. ROBERT ANDERSON

Spring flowering bulbs are an important part of the landscape in Kentucky. Crocus and daffodils tell us that spring is on its way and red tulips are a Derby Day tradition. These flowers are recognized by most people but there are many other spring flowering bulbs that can be used around your home. Hundreds of different kinds of flower bulbs are available for fall planting. You may obtain them from mail-order bulb companies, and garden centers. Generally, spring flowering bulbs do very well the first spring after they are planted. Yet, many home gardeners want the bulbs to come back year after year or naturalize in their home landscape.

Well-drained sites are essential. The soil pH should be 6.0 to 7.0. Bulbs will not do well in heavy clay soils, so poor soils should be amended with compost, peat moss, or other organic matter. Plan to plant spring flowering bulbs between October 15 and Thanksgiving. Start by cultivating and cleaning the planting site. Small-sized bulbs (about 1 inch) should be planted in holes 5 inches deep and 1 to 4 inches apart. Large bulbs (2 inches or more) should be planted in holes 8 inches deep and 4 to 8 inches apart. These planting depths will help protect the bulbs from frost, animals and physical damage.

Thoroughly loosen the soil under the bulbs and mix in one handful of bone meal per square foot (1 oz/sq ft). Place bulbs upright in the hole (generally pointed side up) and cover bulbs with half of the soil removed from the hole. Water the bulbs thoroughly and replace the remaining soil. Fertilize the soil surface with 10-10-10 (N-P-K) at a rate of 3 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet. Cover the bed with 2 to 3 inches of mulch and water thoroughly again. If the fall weather is dry, water the area as needed. [Read More....](#)

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Plant Division for a Grander Garden

BY ROBBIE SMITH

If you are a plant-a-holic like me you can incorporate one of many techniques of plant propagation to build a bigger garden while reducing your cost and increasing the health of your plants.

There are many techniques for increasing your number of plants at little or no cost. You could take cuttings, produce new plants from layering, collect seeds and sow, graft new onto old or dig and divide. This last technique is the one we will focus on for this article. Let's see what [Propagating Plants around the Home](#) has to say on the subject (HO-67)



"Plants with a multi-stemmed or clumping growth habit, offshoots, or fleshy underground storage structures like bulbs, rhizomes, tubers, corms, and tuberous roots and stems can be propagated by division. Such plants include daylilies, bulbous plants, bearded iris, peonies, and lirioppe. Division involves cutting large clumps into smaller sections, making sure that each clump has enough stems, leaves, roots, and buds to survive transplanting. Every two or three years plants can be dug, divided, and replanted into a larger area. Some plants can be pulled apart, but most must be cut. Transplant separated clumps at the same depth they were growing originally. Division of iris and daylilies is usually done in mid- to late August, while most other plants are divided during the plant's dormant period (late fall, early spring)." It is not uncommon to turn one plant into twenty or thirty new plants. Plants that you can share or expand your garden.



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Pollinator Habitat 101

THIS PROGRAM IS BEING
PRESENTED BY THE OHIO
STATE UNIVERSITY

All session can be viewed at the Nelson County
Extension Office 10:00am EST.

October 14, 2022

Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware
Pollinators' Best Hope: A New Approach to
Pollinator Habitat That Starts in Your Yard

October 21, 2022

Harland Patch, Penn State University
Creating Pollinator Gardens: the Role of
Plant Choice and Design

October 28, 2022

Heather Holm, Author and
Biologist Creating and
Managing Habitat for Native
Bees



November 4, 2022

Matthew Shepherd, The Xerces
Society for Invertebrate
Conservation
Deciding To Create A Pollinator
Garden Is The Easy Step -- What To
Do Next?

November 11, 2022

Shana Byrd, The Dawes Arboretum
Getting Started with Wildflower
Patches, Flower Strips, and
Meadows

For more
information or
to register call
348 9204



Each session will last
approximately 60 minutes plus
questions. If you prefer to
watch from home Register at
the QR code to the left.
Otherwise arrive at our office
by 9:45 am. All webinars will
be recorded and posted on the
Bee Lab website.

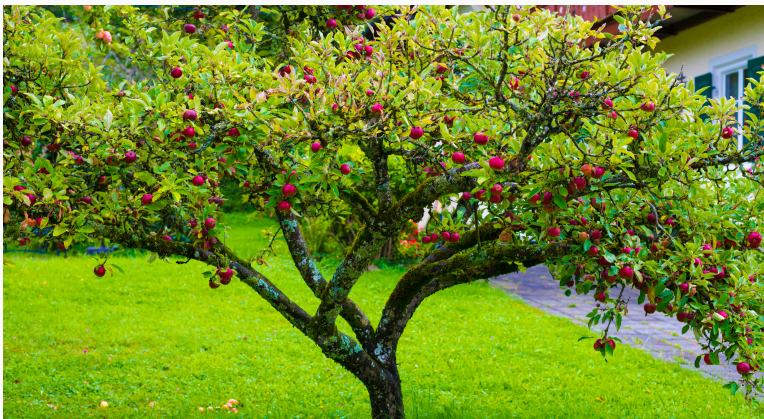
This program is funded in part
by a USDA/NIFA Integrated
Pest Management Pollinator
Health grant.



Fruit Orchards Need to Start With Thought

BY ROBBIE SMITH

It seems to me that every new homeowner has the desire to have an orchard as part of their new venture. From my many years of experience, less than 5% are successful after just a couple of years. There are many reasons a new orchard will fail. Poor soil quality, bad site situation, terrible plant selection, and lack of plant maintenance are just a few. Preparation and planning are a necessity for success. For example, many will make an impulse purchase at the store and plop it in the ground and feel satisfied they now have an orchard. The problem is that most of the trees we encounter at the garden centers are not well suited for our environment, and we are expecting an unsuitable plant to be productive in a poor-quality soil.



So with all said above, a soil test should be first on your agenda of things to get done. Next, use the resources I'll list below for a selection of varieties for our area. You will need to commit to protecting plants from insects and disease with spray applications (which can be organic or conventional) There are a few fruits (blueberry and blackberry, paw paw, persimmon) that we can grow organically in this state but getting a good start for the plants will be imperative. Another consideration is site selection for the plants. Not only should there be water in close proximity but the elevation should be adequate to prevent frost loss. The following links can help make you an orchardist extraordinaire:

- [University of Kentucky Horticulture Fruit Home Page](#)
- [Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Fruit Chapter](#)
- [Fertility Guidelines for Home Fruit & Nut Plantings](#)

FRUIT VARIETIES FOR KENTUCKY HOME ORCHARDS

DISEASE RESISTANT APPLE VARIETIES	CEDAR RUST	SCAB	FIRE BLIGHT	POWDERY MILDEW
Redfree	●	●		
Liberty	●	●	●	●
Pixie Crunch		●		
Grimes Golden	●		●	
Crunch a Bunch		●	●	
Spartan	●	●	●	●
Enterprise	●	●	●	●

BLACKBERRY (THORNLESS)	BLUEBERRY
Triple Crown	Duke
Apache	Patriot
Ouachita	Bluejay
Osage	Bluecrop
PrimeArk 45	Chandler
	Ozarkblue
	Nelson
	Darrow
	Elliot

PEACH	PEAR
Redhaven	Summercrisp
White Lady	Harvest Queen
Coralstar	Sunrise
Contender	Blake's Pride
Blushingstar	Potomac
Encore	Keiffer

GRAPE
Neptune
Jupiter
Mars
Sunbelt
Steuben
Norton
Diamond





What Says the Woolly Bear About Winter?

BY DR. JOHNATHAN LARSON

Now that summer is winding down, things like pumpkin spice, Halloween costumes, and hoodies may start appearing. Conversations may also start to turn toward predictions regarding the upcoming winter. A quick Google search reveals that there seems to be a negative anticipation about the 2022-2023 winter season, with some outlets predicting colder than average temperatures and possibly even higher than average amounts of snowfall. Though only time will tell if these models and predictions come true, others may turn to an unexpected meteorologist when prognosticating about the winter: the humble woolly bear caterpillar.



Figure 2: Woolly bear caterpillars are known for a black and brown banding pattern to their “fur.” Folk wisdom tells us that these hairs may help when predicting winter weather.

(Photo: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org)

The woolly bear is also known as a woolly worm as a larva. They are a part of a group of moths known as “tiger moths.” The specific weather predicting species is *Pyrrharctia Isabella*, also known as the Isabella tiger moth. The adult form of the moth is a pale orange/light brown when the wings are closed. There can be broken black dots and lines on the wings as well. This species exhibits sexual dimorphism, which can be seen when the wings are open for flight. Isabella tiger moth females have slightly rosy hindwings, while males have pale orange hindwings.

The larval form is undoubtedly the more famous stage of their life cycle. They overwinter as caterpillars and can be found first in the spring. These winter warriors will pupate and become adults, laying eggs that will hatch into the next generation of caterpillars, which are seen as summer ends. While they are hairy throughout their lives, they don’t develop the thicker furry coat with bands of black and orange until almost completely grown. The larval stage is known to feed on a variety of plants, including grasses and clover, as well as sunflowers, milkweed, corn, maples, and birches. They aren’t normally considered a significant pest though.

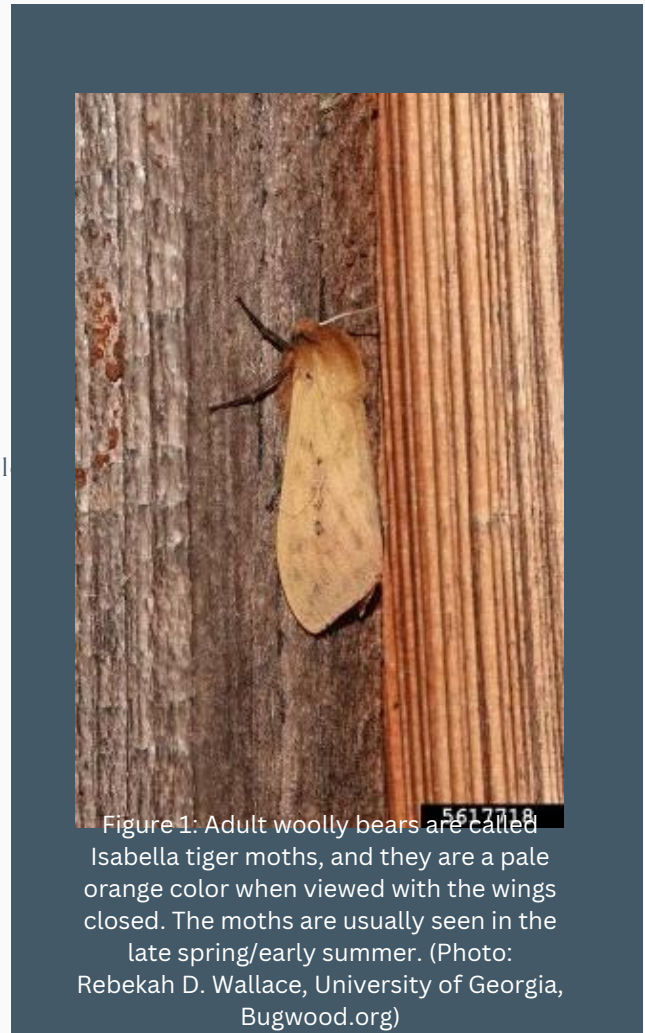


Figure 1: Adult woolly bears are called Isabella tiger moths, and they are a pale orange color when viewed with the wings closed. The moths are usually seen in the late spring/early summer. (Photo: Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org)

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What Says the Woolly Bear about Winter?

Continued from page 4

When they pupate, the hairs from their body are incorporated into a cocoon that helps protect the pupal form. If you have ever looked under a log and found what looks like a webby hairball, it could have been a woolly bear inside there developing into an adult moth.

Folk wisdom holds that the woolly bear can be an indicator for upcoming winter weather when caterpillars are found in the autumn. There are two methods of prediction that can be employed. In the first, looking at the caterpillars for the relative amount of black hair versus orange hair will demonstrate how drastic winter might be. The more black hair compared to orange, the worse winter will be. A more analytical version of this folk wisdom is that the 13 body segments of the caterpillar represent the 13 weeks of winter. Looking at where black versus orange appears can tell when winter will be at its worst on the calendar.

Others believe that the direction the caterpillars are crawling can predict the weather. If they are heading south, then Old Man Winter has the worst in store for us.

It may not surprise anyone to hear that this particular method of winter foretelling has been found inaccurate. No correlation has been found between caterpillar color form and the severity of winter. Woolly bears can be highly variable in their coloration, not only year-from-year but caterpillar-to-caterpillar. Even though they won't be hired by the Weather Channel anytime soon, woolly bears do have a unique connection to winter. As mentioned before, the caterpillar is the overwintering stage of this moth species. This is fairly unique as many moths would overwinter as an egg or as a pupa, both inactive life stages that can safely hide away from chilly temps. Woolly bears survive the winter by finding an out-of-the-way spot to hide from cold air temperatures. Further, they produce glycerol, an antifreeze-like chemical, which can allow them to be supercooled to subzero temperatures for extended periods of time and still survive. So, even if they can't tell us how cold the upcoming months may be, they will be prepared for the worst!

In Kentucky, we can celebrate this unique and beloved caterpillar at the Woolly Worm Festival, held in Lee County on October 21-23 this year. If you go, be sure to check out the woolly worm race!

Simple Steps for Taking a Soil Sample

Randomness and Quantity are Key



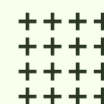
- Choose the Sample Area
The area will depend on how many individual treatments you will want to apply. Therefore if you want to treat the front lawn differently than the back you should make samples for each area.



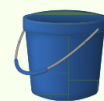
- Gather Your Equipment
To take a good sample you will need a spade or soil probe, a plastic bucket, and a clean paper bag



- Sample Depth
On average a soil sample should be from a profile of 4 to 6 inches in depth. If you are using a spade only the center inch column of soil should be collected.



- Random Sampling
Within the area you wish to sample randomly select between 8 and 10 locations to pull a sample. Being random ensures a better snapshot of the entirety of the area.



- Mix Well
Mix well in a plastic bucket and bring to the extension office about a pint of soil from each area to be tested.

Thanks to the Nelson County Soil Conservation District Soil Testing is:





Spotted Lanternfly on the Move North of Kentucky

By Dr. Johnathan Larson

The spotted lanternfly (aka SLF) is a serious invasive insect pest native to East Asia and was first found in SE Pennsylvania in 2014. Since that initial discovery, it has spread to many counties in Pennsylvania, as well as into Virginia, New Jersey, Ohio, Delaware, New York, Connecticut, Maryland, and West Virginia. Last year, in 2021, a population of SLF was discovered in southern Indiana in Switzerland County. The infestation was only about three miles from the border of Kentucky.

While this pest has still not been confirmed in Kentucky, it has been on the move in states north of us. Indiana has recently confirmed a population in Huntington County, and before that, a new find occurred in Oakland County, Michigan. These are in addition to movements in other states like Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New York. Kentuckians can help to make sure this invasive sapsucker hasn't snuck into the state by looking out for the different life stages and damage created by the pest. SLF is very distinctive in appearance: the adult is about an inch long, with strikingly patterned forewings that mix spots with stripes. The back wings are contrasting red, black, and white. The immature stages are black with white spots and develop red patches as they age. They are a type of planthopper, are capable of jumping, and can be quite fast.

This pest is also known to feed on more than 70 other plant species. This includes specialty crops (like grapes and hops), trees (such as maple and black walnut amongst other hardwoods), and fruit crops. Their preferred host for a portion of their life cycle is the tree of heaven (another non-native/invasive species).

SLF is a true bug, part of the order Hemiptera, and it feeds using piercing-sucking mouthparts. As these bugs feed, they excrete honeydew, a sugary fecal material that accumulates on nearby plants and surfaces and can attract black sooty mold issues. Honeydew can also be slippery for people and unfortunately can attract stinging insects looking to feed on it. Another unique problem is that beekeepers near SLF infestations report that their bees will forage so heavily on the honeydew that they end up with honey made from SLF fecal material rather than nectar. [Read More](#)

Spotted lanternfly lookalikes

While SLF is unique looking, there are some insects that resemble it!

Some moth species have similar looking under-wings. They will be fuzzy and lack the other designs SLF has.



Ornate bella moth

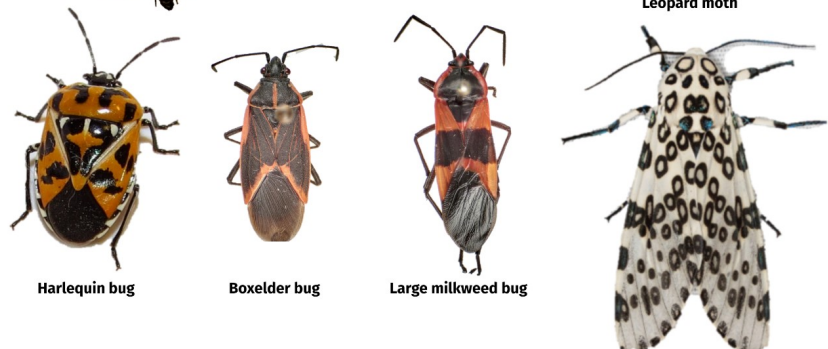
White lined sphinx moth

Pink underwing moth

Ailanthus webworm moth



Other insects may have spots or stripes but not quite the same mixture as the SLF.



Harlequin bug

Boxelder bug

Large milkweed bug

Leopard moth

[For more pictures and information click this link](#)

Weed Control in Kentucky Bluegrass and Tall Fescue Lawns

ADAPTED FROM AGR-208

The best defense against weed problems in home lawns is a healthy and dense lawn. In thick lawns, weed seeds may not germinate because light may never reach the soil surface. A thick lawn is competitive with weeds, keeping them from growing and reproducing. Developing a healthy and dense lawn comes from using cultural practices such as proper grass species and cultivar selection, proper mowing heights and fertilization, and other good management practices. The need for herbicides to control weeds in home lawns can be greatly reduced if the lawn is well maintained. There are instances, however, when weeds escape and more aggressive control tactics are necessary. Even in wellmaintained lawns, weeds can become a problem. Some weeds adapt to lawn management practices, and diseased or drought-stressed lawns can result in thin turf and create openings for weed germination. Control tactics can include herbicide applications or physical removal of the weeds. In small areas, or if the weed infestation is not severe, physical removal is the control method of choice. However, an herbicide application can provide the lawn a better chance of successfully competing with weeds

The first step if you decide to use an herbicide is to know your weeds. What species are you trying to control, and what are their life cycles? For example, knowing you are trying to control smooth crabgrass and that it typically germinates in early to mid-April in Kentucky gives you a target window to apply an herbicide that kills this grass as its seeds begin to germinate. Knowing the life cycle also allows for the best timing of herbicide applications on young weed seedlings. For all weeds, herbicide treatment when the weeds are young will result in the easiest and best opportunity for control using the least amount of herbicide. Some herbicides are packaged with a fertilizer as a “weed and feed” product. These products should be avoided in the spring for cool-season lawns, which are composed of tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, and perennial ryegrass. In Kentucky it is recommended that fertilizer should not be applied to these lawns in the spring. Spring and summer fertilizer applications lead to increased lawn disease and weed infestations. The best time of year to fertilize cool-season lawns is in the fall. [Read more...](#)

Common Turf Weeds And The Herbicides That Control Them

Always read and follow the label directions

WARM SEASON ANNUAL GRASSES
Crabgrass
Foxtail
Goose Grass

BENEFIN + TRIFLURALIN, DITHIOPYR, PENDIMETHALIN, PRODIAMINE, SIDURON

PERENNIAL GRASSY WEEDS
Bermudagrass
Nimblewill
Johnsongrass
Quackgrass

MESOTRIONE, TOPRAMEZONE, QUINCLORAC

GRASS-LIKE WEEDS
Yellow Nutsedge

BENTAZONE, HALOSULFUROL

WINTER BROADLEAVED WEEDS
Chickweed
Dandelion
Ground ivy
Henbit
Speedwell
Thistles
White clover

2,4-D, 2,4-D + DICAMBA, 2,4-D + MECOPROP, 2,4-D + DICAMBA + MECOPROP, MESOTRIONE

SUMMER BROADLEAVED WEEDS
ANNUAL LESPEDEZA
BLACK MEDIC
CARPETWEED
GROUND IVY
KNOTWEED
PLANTAINS
SPURGE
WHITE CLOVER
WILD VIOLET
YELLOW WOODSORREL

2,4-D 2,4-D + DICAMBA, 2,4-D + DICHLORPROP, 2,4-D + MECOPROP, 2,4-D + DICAMBA + MECOPROP, QUINCLORAC, SULFENTRAZONE, TRICLOPYR