

Horticulture Newsletter



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

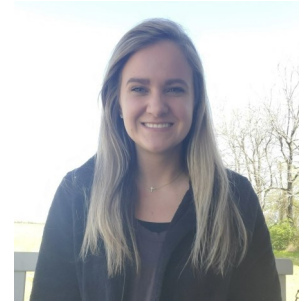
Cooperative Extension Service

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Mary Hank

Agent for Horticulture

Master Gardener Spotlight



Sally Wilkins

Master Gardener Historian

**SEPTEMBER
2023**

Inside this issue:

- Time To Plant Your Fall Garden
- Snakes! Learn More, Fear Less
- Toolbox Garden Series "Orchids". September 5th at 5PM
- How Can We Serve You? Kentucky Cooperative Survey
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Class of 1998



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Time To Plant Your Fall Garden

Source: Rick Durham, UK Extension Horticulture Specialist

As the summer warmth begins to wane, you don't have to bid farewell to the joys of cultivating your garden. This time between seasons offers a golden opportunity to plant a vibrant fall vegetable garden, promising an uninterrupted flow of produce throughout autumn. Alternating balmy days and brisk nights support a variety of cool-season vegetables for your family to enjoy.

Some of the best quality vegetables are produced during fall's warm days and cool nights. These environmental conditions add sugar to late-season sweet corn and cole crops, such as cauliflower and cabbage, and add crispness to carrots.

Fall vegetables harvested after early September consist of two types: the last succession plantings of warm-season crops, such as corn and bush beans, and cool-season crops that grow well during the cool fall days and withstand frost.

When planting a fall garden, group crops the same way you would in the spring; plant so taller plants don't shade out shorter ones. To encourage good germination, fill each seed furrow with water and let it soak in. Keep the soil moist until seeds have germinated. Be aware that cool nights slow growth, so plants take longer to mature in the fall than in the summer.



You may use polyethylene row covers to extend the growing season of frost-sensitive crops, such as tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. This helps trap heat from the soil and protect the crop from chilly night temperatures.

Often Kentucky experiences a period of mild weather after the first killing frost. If you protect frost-sensitive vegetables at critical times in the fall, you could extend the harvest season by several weeks.

Once these vegetables die due to lower temperatures, you may be able to plant cool-season crops in their place. Leafy greens like lettuce and spinach may grow into November or December under polyethylene row covers if outside temperatures do not drop below the teens. Be sure to allow for ventilation on sunny days to prevent overheating.



You may successfully seed or transplant the following vegetables now for fall harvest: beets, Bibb lettuce, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, endive, leaf lettuce, kale, mustard greens, spinach, snow peas and turnips.

For more information about horticultural topics or classes near you, contact the McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service.

Snakes! Learn More, Fear Less

Source: Matthew Springer, Assistant Extension Professor of Wildlife Management

Around Kentucky, a fascinating world often misunderstood by many unfolds—the world of snakes. Despite their infamous reputation, these creatures are far more complex and essential to the state's ecosystem than meets the eye. More than 30 snake species live in Kentucky, but only four possess venom, while the rest contribute to the intricate balance of nature.

Kentucky's diverse landscapes provide an ideal habitat for these often-maligned creatures. The venomous snakes, ranging from the secretive copperhead and Western cottonmouth, aka water moccasin, to the pygmy rattlesnake and the graceful timber rattlesnake, are vital to the state's environment. They often go unnoticed, keeping populations of mice and other rodents in check. Numerous non-venomous snakes such as the common garter snake and the North American black racer thrive throughout the state.

The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment offers a comprehensive website to help you identify and learn more about snakes you may encounter around your home or farm.

A user-friendly interface allows you to pinpoint snake species based on its geographic location and unique characteristics. A snake's head shape, body structure or color patterns all offer clues to help with identification. Whether you find a snake while hiking through the woods or exploring your own backyard, this platform will help you fight fear with information.

Photographs and descriptions offer a visual encyclopedia for both venomous and non-venomous species in the region. If you come in close contact with a venomous snake, use caution and respect. You may learn to appreciate them from a safe distance and admire them in their natural habitats.

The website details each snake's unique natural history and conservation status. With newfound knowledge, you may see snakes in a new, fresh light. *Visit the website at <https://kysnakes.ca.uky.edu/>.* For more information about Kentucky wildlife and other topics, contact the McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service.



<https://kysnakes.ca.uky.edu/>

Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Kentucky Snake Identification

HOME GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS » NON-VENOMOUS VENOMOUS SNAKE CHARACTERISTICS ID YOUR SNAKE

SNAKES OF KENTUCKY

About Kentucky Snake Identification

Snakes are perhaps the most maligned animals in Kentucky. Yet these animals have fascinating life histories, exhibit beautiful color patterns and play critical ecological roles in Kentucky's environment. Of the 33 snake species found in Kentucky, only four are venomous. Venomous snakes include the Copperhead, Western Cottonmouth (water moccasin), Timber Rattlesnake, and Pigmy Rattlesnake. While venomous snakes should be respected and approached with caution, most snakes encountered in Kentucky are harmless and beneficial because they eat mice and other rodents.

Website Goal

The goal of this website is to help educate Kentuckians about an interesting group of animals that are important to our natural heritage. Specifically, this website allows the user the ability to identify snakes that they may encounter while experiencing Kentucky's forests, prairies, wetlands, rivers and even their own backyards. We have tried to develop tools that will make the process of identification easy; however, we appreciate any suggestions or comments from the users. Snake species can be searched based on geographic region (i.e., where were you when you encountered the snake?) as well as other characteristics, such as shape of head or body or color and pattern. For a quick reference, we provide images and accounts of all the non-venomous and venomous snakes found in Kentucky. Although care must be taken approaching and identifying our four venomous snake species, we encourage Kentuckians to carefully observe snakes in their natural habitats; many of the characteristics we focus on can be observed from a safe distance. Take some time and



ORCHIDS

MASTER GARDENER

TOOLBOX SERIES

SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2023

5PM CST



Master Gardener, Norman Wallace, will be educating the public on all things Orchids. This event is open to the public.

Contact the McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service at (270)-554-9520 to learn more

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If inclement weather closes McCracken County Schools, programs are canceled

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KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



- Kentucky resident?
- At least 18 years old?
- Care about your community?



HOW CAN WE serve you??

Take our ten-minute survey to help us develop programs addressing needs in your community. Scan the code above or visit:

go.uky.edu/serveKY

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Lexington, KY 40506

Contact your local Extension Office for a paper copy of the survey.



Amazing Pancakes



- 1 cup self-rising flour
- ½ cup whole-wheat flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1 cup sweet potatoes, cooked and mashed
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup fat-free milk
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- Cooking spray

1. In a medium bowl, combine flours, sugar and cinnamon. Add ¼ cup nuts, optional.
2. In a separate medium bowl, mix sweet potatoes, eggs, milk, oil and vanilla.
3. Pour liquid mixture into the flour mixture and stir until the dry ingredients become wet. Be careful not to over stir.
4. Preheat a griddle or skillet over medium-high heat. Spray with cooking spray. Drop batter mixture onto the prepared griddle by heaping tablespoon. Cook until golden brown, turning once with a spatula when the surface begins to bubble. Continue

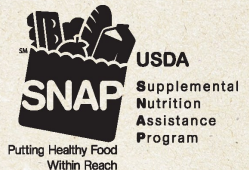
cooking until the other side is golden brown. Repeat process, making 12 pancakes.

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Makes 6 servings
Serving size: 2 pancakes
Cost per recipe: \$3.45
Cost per serving: \$0.58

Nutrition facts per serving:
260 calories; 8g total fat; 1.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 95mg cholesterol; 320mg sodium; 39g carbohydrate; 3g fiber; 10g sugar; 9g protein; 170% Daily Value of vitamin A; 10% Daily Value of vitamin C; 15% Daily Value of calcium; 10% Daily Value of iron.

**Nutrition facts do not include nuts*

Source: Brooke Jenkins-Howard, Curriculum Coordinator for Kentucky Nutrition Education Program, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service



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