Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

The Hoe Truth Newsletter

Helping You Grow! Inside this Issue November 2024

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Houseplant Insect Control

Many houseplants enjoy time outdoors during the summer. However, it's a tough world out there and more than a few plants develop insect or mite infestations while they are basking in the summer sun. A few weeks indoors can allow pests to increase while the plants adjust to indoor conditions and symptoms become more apparent.

Common culprits include aphids, mealybugs, scales, spider mites, thrips, and soil-dwelling fungus gnats. Pressure washing, hand picking, and pruning are among the quickest and easiest ways to deal with some problems, others require a long-term approach.

Your options, and the likelihood of a happy outcome, depend in great part upon the resilience of the plant and the type of pest that is involved. Plants suspected of being infested should be isolated from other plants to reduce the chances of an expanded infestation. Inspect them carefully to determine if an insect or mite is causing the problem and identify it or get help from your county extension office.

In some cases, and insecticide may be the best way to bring an infestation under control. Products with the following active ingredients (and example brand names) are labeled for a variety of houseplant pests: bifenthrin, cyfluthrin (Bayer Rose & Flower Insect Killer Ready-to-use, permethrin (Eight, pyrethrins (Spectracide Bug Stop for gardens), Insecticidal soap (Garden Safe Brand Insecticidal Soap), and neem (Bon-Neem).

Submitted by Lee Townsend and Mike Potter, Extension Entomology Specialist's, University of Kentucky, Department of Entomology.

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development

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Plant of The Month Metamorphosa Japanese Maple



An Acer palmatum, commonly called Japanese maple, Metamorphosa has an upright, outwardly spreading, arching habit and a moderate growth rate. This Japanese maple ranges in size depending on growing conditions, ranging in height between 5 feet and 13 feet and ranging in width between 3 feet and 10 feet, with largest size occurring in optimal conditions. Acer Metamorphosa is a perfect specimen plant, adding delicate texture and kaleidoscopic color to the landscape, and it fits nicely in a small garden or in a large container.

Horticulture Webinars, FREE!

Webinar Wednesdays

12:30pm EST/11:30am CST

Registration link:

https://tinyurl.com/UKYHortWebWed21





Cover Crops For Kentucky Gardens

It has been a hard year in the garden. The heat and drought left our plants looking pitiful for most of the summer. If you feel like the time has come to put the garden to bed for the season, why not plant a cover crop? Cover crops can add organic matter to the soil, reduce soil erosion, aid in weed

suppression, and help to maintain the integrity of the soil.

There are several types of green manures to choose from. They can be broken down into two categories: legume and grass. Grasses tend to be more easily established than legumes. However, legumes, such as clover and vetch, can actually add nitrogen to the soil. In the chart below there are some of the best cover crops for Kentucky gardens.

Planting a cover crop is as easy as getting your garden ready for any other plant. As soon as you get room in your garden, remove the plant debris. This will help cut down on disease in the garden next year. Rake the area smooth. Broadcast the seed according to the rates on the seed bag. Lightly rake again and water the area with your hose or sprinkler with a light mist.

In spring, till or plow the cover crop under. You should do this at least three weeks before planting in order to allow time for the organic matter to decompose. If the cover crop has gotten too tall to turn under easily, mow first. Do not allow your cover to go to seed! This will only lead to weed problems.

Cover Crop	Time	Grass or	Pros	Cons	Seeding Rate
	of Seeding	Legume			per 1000 sq ft
Rye	Sept Nov.	Grass	Excellent cover, ear- ly spring growth	If not killed early enough in spring can lead to too much top growth	3-4 lbs
Wheat	Sept Oct.	Grass	Easy to manage	Not as hardy as rye	3 lbs
Annual Ryegrass	Aug Sept.	Grass	Produces good thick growth in fall	May die in cold weather	1 lb
Hairy Vetch	Aug Sept.	Legume	Easy to establish and winter hardy	May volunteer where it is not wanted	1 lb

Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

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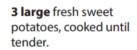


https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountyKentucky4H/

Washington County Extension Updates each Tuesday Morning at 8:30 AM On WLSK 100.9 FM And Extension Tips Daily After Farm Report

Recipe of The Month

Sweet Potato Crisp



8 ounces reduced fat cream cheese, softened

1 cup brown sugar, divided

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

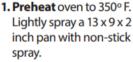
2 medium apples, chopped

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

²/₃ cup quick cooking

3 tablespoons butter

1/4 cup chopped pecans



- 2. Mash sweet potatoes. Add cream cheese, 3/3 cup brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Mix until smooth.
- 3. Spread sweet potato mixture evenly into pan.
- 4. Top sweet potatoes

with chopped apples.

- 5. In a small bowl. combine flour, oats, and ⅓ cup brown sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbles. Stir in pecans.
- Sprinkle mixture over apples.
- 7. Bake uncovered for 35-40 minutes or until

and fruit is tender. Yield: 16, 3/4 cup servings.

topping is golden brown

Nutritional Analysis:

240 calories, 6 q fat, 3 q sat fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 200 mg sodium, 44 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 20 g sugar, 4 g protein.



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

