

July & August 2025

# NEWSLETTER

## Mason County Horticulture Insights

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**Join Our Next  
Community Event!**

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Plant Diversification

Local Master Gardeners

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Horticulture Webinar Wednesday

### Note From The Agent

As summer heats up, stay safe outdoors. Workers in construction, agriculture, and landscaping are at higher risk of overheating.

**\*\*Signs\*\*:**

Early: Heavy sweating, thirst.

Warning: Dizziness, fatigue.

Severe: Confusion, nausea, rapid heartbeat.

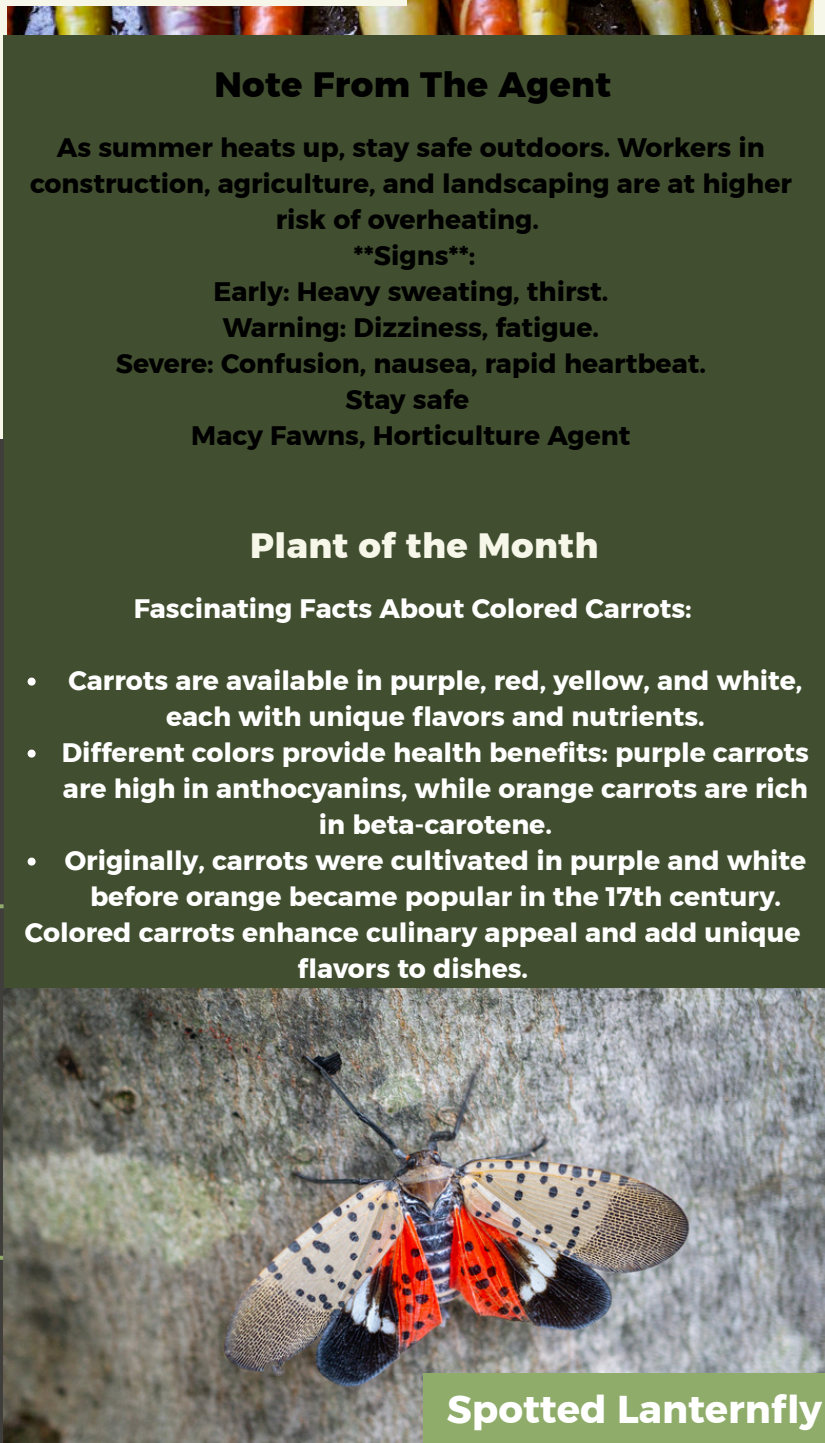
Stay safe

Macy Fawns, Horticulture Agent

### Plant of the Month

**Fascinating Facts About Colored Carrots:**

- Carrots are available in purple, red, yellow, and white, each with unique flavors and nutrients.
- Different colors provide health benefits: purple carrots are high in anthocyanins, while orange carrots are rich in beta-carotene.
- Originally, carrots were cultivated in purple and white before orange became popular in the 17th century. Colored carrots enhance culinary appeal and add unique flavors to dishes.



**Spotted Lanternfly**

# *Timely Tips*

JULY & AUGUST



## *Shrubs & Trees*

- Monitor evergreens for spider mite damage. Drought stressed plants are particularly at risk. If you see signs of browning shake the branch over a white surface, if you see tiny moving red specks you likely have mites. Minor infestations can be treated with a daily spray from the hose. Larger problems may need chemical control.

## *Flowers*

- Divide bearded irises, if needed through September.
- Deadhead: annuals and some perennials to help promote growth. Deadhead chrysanthemums back every few weeks until mid July.
- Roses: Keep removing dying blooms from roses to encourage new foliage and flower growth.

## *Vegetables*



- Start seed broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower for a fall harvest.
- Weed out gardens to help with disease control and so plants will not have to compete with weeds.
- When watering, try to avoid wetting foliage or watering late in the evening as both can promote disease.





# Make your home garden thrive The five benefits of plant diversity

*Source: Rick Durham, University of Kentucky Department of Horticulture professor at the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment*

A home garden filled with a variety of plants is not just beautiful—it's smart! Having different types of plants growing together can help gardeners enjoy fresh food much of the year, help manage pests, promote pollinators and even improve the soil.

Let's explore why a diverse garden is a great idea.

**Seasonal Harvests: Fresh Food for Much of the Year**

One of the best reasons to plant a mix of vegetables, fruits and herbs is that different plants grow best in different seasons. Some plants, like lettuce and spinach, thrive in cool weather and can be harvested in spring and fall.

Others, like tomatoes and peppers, love the heat and grow best in summer. By planting a variety of crops, gardeners can enjoy fresh food throughout the year instead of just one season.

**Intercropping: Making the Most of Space**

Intercropping involves planting different vegetables side by side to take advantage of the different times of maturity, heights, spread or rooting depths. A classic example of intercropping involves corn, beans and squash. A few weeks after sowing corn seeds, you plant pole beans close to the corn rows to use the corn stalks for support. The squash is a vining plant and will spread between the rows of corn and beans. As another example, you can set tomato transplants between lettuce plants; the lettuce matures and is harvested before the tomato plants grow very large.

**Natural Disease and Pest Control: Creating Healthier Plants**

A diverse garden can also help keep insect pests under control. When a garden has only one type of plant, insects that like that plant can quickly take over. But when there are many different plants, pests have a harder time finding their favorite food. Beneficial insects such as natural pest predators may be attracted to different plants in the garden.

Just like insects, plant diseases spread more easily when there is only one type of plant in a garden. If a disease attacks one plant, it can quickly spread to all the others of the same kind. But in a diverse garden, diseases have a harder time spreading because different plants have different levels of resistance. This helps keep the garden healthy and productive.

Gardeners should also consider rearranging the placement of similar plants from year to year to prevent insect and disease build-up in the soil.

**More Pollinators: Helping Bees and Butterflies**

A garden with many types of flowers and vegetables attracts helpful insects like bees and butterflies. These pollinators help plants produce fruit and seeds by spreading pollen from flower to flower. Without pollinators, many fruits and vegetables wouldn't grow well. By planting a mix of flowers and food plants, gardeners can support pollinators and enjoy bigger harvests.

**Better Soil Health: Building Stronger Plants**

Different plants use different nutrients from the soil. If a garden only has one type of plant, the soil can lose important nutrients quickly. However, when a variety of plants grow together, they help balance the nutrients they take from the soil. Some plants, like beans and peas, even add nitrogen back into the soil, making it healthier for future crops.

A home garden with a variety of plants is stronger, healthier and more productive. By planting different crops, gardeners can enjoy fresh food much of the year, reduce pests naturally, improve soil health, attract pollinators, and prevent diseases. Whether growing vegetables, herbs or flowers, diversity makes a garden better in every way.

So, next time you plan your garden, think about adding a mix of plants—it's a simple way to make your garden thrive!





Cooperative  
Extension Service

Mason County

NATURAL DYE CREATIONS

**FREE**

# Explore Nature's Colors Together

JULY 24TH 12:30PM TO 4:00 PM



## *Hands-on Dyeing Workshop*

Join us for an **eco-friendly**, hands-on experience in creating beautiful dyes from plants. Unleash your **creativity** as you learn sustainable techniques for dyeing scarves or bags using nature's vibrant colors!

Call (606) 564-6808 to RSVP  
Limited Spots

Mason County Cooperative Extension  
800 US Highway 68  
Maysville, KY 41056

Cooperative  
Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Programs information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.



# Discover the Magic OF MONARCH BUTTERFLIES



Join Us for an Enchanting Program  
with Our Local Master Gardener  
Are you fascinated by the beauty  
and grace of monarch butterflies?

Do you want to learn how to  
support these majestic creatures  
and their incredible journey? Then  
come and join us for a special  
program led by our esteemed  
local Master Gardener

**FREE**

**AUG 4TH  
4:00 P.M.  
MASON COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

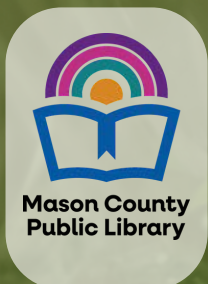


# Learn How to Grow Microgreens

LEARN TO GROW FRESH  
MICROGREENS FROM A LOCAL  
MASTER GARDENER

September 2nd at 4:00 PM

Call the Mason County Library at  
(606)-564-3286 to RSVP  
218 E. Third Street,  
Maysville, KY 41056



**Cooperative  
Extension Service**

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

**MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT**

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
upon request





# 4TH ANNUAL CARNIVAL

**FREE!**

**FREE!**

**JULY 25TH 10:00AM - 1:00PM**

**LOCATED AT WASHINGTON PARK, MAYSVILLE, KY**

**INFLATABLES - VENDORS - FACE PAINTING**

**FOOD AND POPCORN - MUSIC - GIVEAWAYS**

**ROBERTSON  
COUNTY**  
Health Care Facility

 **Licking Valley  
community  
Action**  
PROGRAM  
Helping People. Changing Lives.

*Maysville*  
NURSING AND REHABILITATION FACILITY



Local Update

# FROM THE MASTER GARDENERS

## MASTER GARDENERS

Updated the front landscaping of the Extension office  
Thank you you for all your hard work!!



## MCDC MASTER GARDNER

A volunteer project that the MCDC Master Gardner program chose to do was make flower arrangements for resident at Maysville Nursing Home.



HE WAS SO PROUD!!!





## Italian Chicken Summer Squash

# Recipe :

### Ingredients:

- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 yellow bell pepper, diced
- 1 sweet onion, diced
- 2 large tomatoes, diced
- 3-4 garlic cloves, finely diced
- 3 medium summer squash, sliced crosswise
- 1 cup whole grain rotini pasta, uncooked
- 1¼ pounds boneless skinless chicken breast
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons dried Italian seasoning
- ½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper, to taste

### Directions:

1. Slice squash into ¼ inch pieces.
2. Combine all vegetables, with garlic in a bowl. Set aside.
3. Cook pasta according to package directions.
4. Cut chicken into bite size pieces.
5. Spray large nonstick skillet with cooking spray; heat to medium.
6. Add chicken; cook 6 minutes or until no longer pink, stirring occasionally.
7. Add vegetable mixture to the skillet.
8. Add tomato sauce and dried Italian seasoning.
9. Stir well. Increase heat, cover and bring to a boil.
10. Reduce heat to medium; cook 10 minutes or until summer squash is tender, stirring occasionally.
11. Stir cooked pasta into chicken/vegetable mixture.
12. Sprinkle with cheese.
13. Season as needed.

Source: Plate it up! Kentucky Proud Project.

### Tips

200 calories, 4.5g fat, 2g saturated fat, 50mg cholesterol, 300mg sodium, 19g carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 8g sugars, 20g protein.






Mason County

800 US HWY 68

Maysville, KY 41056

*Return Service Requested*



  
**Horticulture  
Webinar  
Wednesdays**

12:30pm ET/11:30 am CT

[www.ukyhortnews.com](http://www.ukyhortnews.com)



# JULY CLASSES

**Wednesdays**

**12:30 p.m. ET/ 11:30 a.m. CT**

**July 2**

**VACATION!** Enjoy your garden! (no class)

**July 9**

**Refuge Lawns**

**July 16**

**Gardening as We Age**

**July 23**

**Ornamental Grasses**

**July 30**

**tba**

**You must register  
before the class.**

**[https://uky.zoom.us  
/meeting/register/G  
GG90fZFRpuQFgalh8  
EF9g](https://uky.zoom.us/j/meeting/register/GGG90fZFRpuQFgalh8EF9g)**

**Click on the classes  
you want to attend.**

**You will get an email  
with the class link.**

**Register Here:**

**<https://uky.zoom.us/j/meeting/register/GGG90fZFRpu>**