

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

February 2025

Cheyenne Lamb

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Happy February everyone! I am so excited to start another month with you all! If I have not met you yet, I am Cheyenne Lamb Montgomery County Horticulture agent. This is the first official horticulture newsletter so if you or someone you know would like to be on the mailing list please let me know. In this edition I will share some articles related to horticulture for the current month. I will also include flyers for upcoming programs locally and across the state. I hope to meet you soon!





Flowers with Feelings

Join our horticulture agent, Cheyenne Lamb on **Wednesday, February 12th at 12:00 p.m.** to learn about the meanings and feelings behind flowers.

Also just in time for Valentines Day we will be making bud vase arrangements.

Spots are limited!!!

Be sure to call the extension office to sign up!

This class will be held in the education center next to the extension office.

Montgomery County
Extension Office
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Mt. Sterling, KY 40353
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NEWSLETTER SIGN UP FORM

If you have received this newsletter you are already on the mailing list. If you would like to receive a digital edition in addition to or instead of the paper editions let me know on this form. You can drop this form off at the extension office, email me at cheyenne.lamb@uky.edu, or call us at 859-498-8741.

NAME

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PHONE NUMBER

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PLEASE MAKE A SELECTION

PAPER ONLY

DIGITAL ONLY

PAPER AND DIGITAL

(AN EMAIL ADDRESS HAS TO BE PROVIDED TO RECEIVE THE DIGITAL EDITIONS)

SIMPLE PRUNING TIPS FOR YOUR FRUIT TREES DURING THE DORMANT SEASON

All fruit trees must be pruned and trained to enhance fruit production, as the way the tree is shaped will impact fruit yield, fruit size and ripening. In Kentucky, the ideal time to prune fruit trees is in late winter or early spring.

Both newly planted and mature fruit trees must be pruned to maintain size and shape. Here are some easy tips:

- For young trees, pruning to a strong central leader with four to five lateral branches is most common.
- Heading cuts can be done on mature trees to control the tree's height; thinning cuts can open up the canopy and maximize sunlight and airflow. For older, overgrown trees that need heavier pruning, removing up to 1/3 of the larger branches over several years will help rejuvenate the tree.
- Pruning cuts should be made at the base of the branches, leaving a ¼" to ½" branch collar intact for proper healing. Dead and diseased shoots and limbs should be removed, as well as any shriveled or 'mummy' fruit remaining on the tree.
- Sharp pruners or loppers should be used to ensure clean cuts. Sanitize the tool blades between each cut with rubbing alcohol or a 10% bleach solution so as not to spread any disease that may be present.

For more information on pruning apple trees, visit the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/UKAgriculture>.

Pruning Central Leader Apple Trees (<https://bit.ly/48VR3IQ>) discusses trees that are pruned to the classic pyramid or oval shape.

Pruning Tall Spindle Apple Trees (<https://bit.ly/4bh85JA>) focuses on the high-density supported training system with trees planted on dwarf rootstocks, producing a crop as little as a year after planting.

For more information on horticulture success, contact your Montgomery County Extension office. Information provided to you by Cheyenne Lamb, Montgomery County Horticulture Agent. Source: Delia Scott, Department of Horticulture extension associate.

GETTING STARTED WITH COMPOSTING

Composting is a great way to add valuable organic matter to your soil while reducing the amount of yard and food waste that ends up in landfills. It's also something that is remarkably easy to do.

Compost is the result of a natural process where decaying organic substances, such as plants, are broken down by microorganisms. This produces a nutrient-rich, organic material that you can apply to your lawn or garden, much like you would a commercial fertilizer.

You can start a compost bin or pile in your backyard. You can purchase a bin or make one using inexpensive, leftover materials like pallets or chicken wire. The bin can be as big or small as you want, but for most rapid composting, a pile that is at least one yard tall, one yard wide and one yard long is best. Make sure to place your compost in an area that is flat and well-drained.

When the compost area is ready, collect yard waste and food scraps. Yard waste can include twigs, shrub trimmings, grass clippings, leftover straw and leaves. Most fruit, vegetable and grain scraps are compostable as are coffee grounds, herbs, nuts and egg shells. Avoid meat scraps, oils and dairy products. You need to have a mixture of "brown" material (dried leaves, straw, twigs, coffee grounds, even cardboard) and "green" materials (fresh grass clippings, vegetable scraps, other fresh plant materials) for the composting process to work.

Mix or turn the pile once a week to help speed the breakdown of organic materials. If the compost pile is extremely damp, turn it more often. If it is dry, add some water or fresh plant material. It can take four to six months to complete the composting process. You will know it's finished when the compost is dark brown, crumbly and smells like soil.

Compost can be used in the vegetable garden or spread around ornamental plants in the landscape, but be careful not to use too much. A one-inch layer of compost, worked into the top few inches of soil, will feed plants for several months.

More information on composting or other gardening tips is available at the Montgomery County Extension office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Information provided to you by Cheyenne Lamb, Montgomery County Horticulture Agent. Source: Rick Durham, Department of Horticulture extension professor.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service 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 expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

TURF AND LANDSCAPE SHORT COURSE

Register Now!

Scan the code with your phone

2025
**48th Annual
Kentucky Turf &
Landscape
Management Short
Course**

February 18-20, 2025
Hardin County Extension Center
111 Opportunity Way
Elizabethtown, KY

Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Kentucky
Horticulture
Council

Join us for the 2025 Short Course on February 18-20, 2025 with pesticide training and testing on Tuesday, Feb. 18th.

- 2 full days of all aspects of turfgrass management for lawns, golf courses, sports fields, and other applications
- CEUs will be available each day
- Great for anyone interested in turf, including, professionals, Extension agents, and homeowners
- Presentations by UK's turfgrass program, other university faculty, and industry reps

Pre-register by Feb. 14th to avoid higher on-site registration fees.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

<https://kyhortcouncil.org/2025-ky-turf-landscape-management-conference/>
Dakota@KyHortCouncil.org 859-490-0889