

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

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April, 2018

Before I begin this month's newsletter, I wanted to pass along some dates of upcoming events that you may be interested in.



We will be conducting a Fruit Disease and Insect Control Workshop on **Thursday, April 12, 2018** at the Perry County Extension Office. The workshop will begin at 10:00 A.M. Dr. Nicole Ward Gauthier, UK Horticulture Plant Pathologist and Dr. Ricardo Bessin, UK Extension Entomologist, will conduct the workshop. The Perry County Conservation District is helping sponsor this workshop and will be giving everyone who attends two blueberry plants and a mulberry tree. **You must attend to receive the plants.** Pre-registration is also required for this workshop. Please register before **Thursday, April 5, 2018** by calling the Perry County Extension Office. The workshop is almost full so call quick if you want to attend.

Along this same line, we are going to have a High Tunnel Workshop on

**Wednesday
April 18, 2018**

beginning at 10:00A.M. The workshop will be held at the

Holliday Farm in Rowdy, KY. If you have interest in getting a High Tunnel, you need to attend this workshop. See enclosed flyer for more information. I have room for 3 riders in my truck. If you would like a ride, give me a call to reserve your seat.

**Cooperative
Extension Service**
Perry County
933 Perry Park Road
Hazard, KY 41701
(606) 436-2044
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The Perry County Beekeepers Association will have the Kentucky State University Autoclave at the Perry County Extension Office on **Tuesday, April 17, 2018** from 3:00P.M. to 7:00P.M. The Autoclave is used to sterilize old hive bodies and frames that you want to put back into production. There is no charge for this service. The Autoclave can handle 20 deep body hives and it will sterilize them in around 30 minutes. You can sterilize frames with wax in them but you will not be able to use the wax again. It will be melted out and discarded because of the possible risk of pesticide contamination.

If you are interested, just show up anytime between 3:00P.M. and 7:00P.M. You can leave your hive bodies and pick them up later that day. Be sure to put your name on them somewhere.

Also, if you do plan to bring hives, please call the Perry County Extension Office and tell us when and how many hives you will be bringing. This will help us with scheduling and avoid you having to wait. (See enclosed flyer)



If you ordered plants through the Extension Office, I should have them in our office on **Thursday, April 5th**. You may want to call first before coming just to make sure they are in.

If you didn't get a chance to place an order and need some plants, I do have a few extra Blackberry, Raspberry, Asparagus and Onions plants. I also have a few blueberry plants left. If you would like any of the plants, call the Extension Office at 436-2044.

If you are interested in becoming a Perry County Farmers' Market vendor, get an application at 420 Main Street, Hazard, KY 41701 or contact Emily Whitaker

perrycountyfarmersmarket@gmail.com or call (571) 217-5913. The more the merrier. Don't know if you realize it but last year vendors sold over \$55,000.00 in goods and many days we had

customer count over 200. The market will open Saturdays in May with bedding plants, gardening supplies, and whatever is growing ... greens for sure!



Let the lawn mowing season begin! I know it's difficult to envision mowing your lawn this spring when frost or snow greets you nearly every morning. Yet that first spring mowing, usually in late March, begins your most important annual lawn duties.

The first mowing makes the lawn look spring-like and very attractive. Subsequent regular mowing hardens the grass for drought and heat stresses later on. So when the first clump of grass grows above the mowing height, mow, even if a lot of the yard doesn't need to be mowed yet. My lawn needed mowed the first of March.

Not all grasses start growing at the same time. Grass on northern slopes, or in heavy clay soil, will start growing several days later than normal. Grass that wasn't fertilized in the fall or early spring also has a delayed growth.

Following recommendations for mowing height and frequency will make your lawn-care duties easier and result in a more attractive yard.

If your mower has a fixed, all-year height, set it at 2.5 inches.

However, if you can easily vary the height, set it at 1.5 to 2 inches for the first several times you mow this spring.

The shorter mowing height will help remove a lot of the winter-burned, brown leaves. And by exposing more dark green growth, it will transfigure your lawn into the most uniform, attractive in the neighborhood. Move the height up to 2.5 inches after you mow the grass several times.

To protect your grass from summer heat and drought injury, raise the mower height to 3 or 3.5 inches. However, remember that high grass, especially tall fescue, tends to fall over and mat down during hot summer weather causing increased summer disease problems. In the fall, lower the mowing height to 2.5 inches.

For the winter, you might want to lower it again to 1.5 to 2 inches. This shorter height improves the turf's winter and early spring color.

Never let grass go through the winter at a height of 4 or more inches, because it will mat down and become diseased.

Generally speaking, mow often enough to remove no more than one-third to one-half of the grass height. If your mower is set for 2 inches, mow again when grass height reaches approximately 3 inches. Be sure not to scalp the lawn by mowing off most of the green leaves.



For tall fescue lawns, a rule of thumb is to mow at five-day intervals during the spring, and at seven-day intervals the rest of the year. If you have a Kentucky bluegrass lawn, a seven-day interval

usually is sufficient at a 2.5-inch mowing height. You probably can extend that interval during hot, dry weather. Don't mow by the calendar. Instead, watch the grass grow, and mow frequently enough to remove no more than one-third to one-half of grass height.



If you have been having problems with broadleaf weeds and crabgrass in your lawn, now is the time to do something about that. Most broadleaf weeds such as, dandelions, chickweed, plantain, ground ivy, etc. can be controlled with a post-emergence broadleaf weed control herbicide such as 2,4-D or dicamba (Banvel). These herbicides should be applied now until May. One or two applications should do the trick. Also spot treatment of weeds is better than applying a herbicide to the entire lawn. Crabgrass can be controlled by using a pre-emergence herbicide now or waiting until June and July and apply a post-emergence herbicide such as MSMA. I prefer the pre-emergence approach. But by applying pre-emergence crabgrass control now, it will most likely prevent any grass seed that you have sown this spring from germinating.

For more information on lawn care, contact the Perry County Cooperative Extension Service.