

Pay Dirt

HORTICULTURE
January 2024

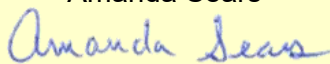


Hello Horticulturalists!

It's hard to believe it's 2024! There were a lot of challenges this past year: the extreme cold, the hail storm and drought.

We never know what the future holds, but hang in there, we're all in it together!

Amanda Sears



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Visit <https://madison.ca.uky.edu/> and click on "Program Areas" and then "Horticulture"

Horticulture Survey

I would love to have your thoughts and feedback!

Please fill out the survey at the link below about the horticulture program here at the Madison County Extension Office. It is only 10 questions and shouldn't take long to complete.

https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kQvyex6i8kmBnw

If you would prefer a paper survey, call our office at 859-623-4072 and we will send you one.

Seed Swap

Monday, March 4th at 12 noon to 1:30 pm

Interested in learning more about saving seeds? This program will discuss the basics of the seed saving process and be followed by a seed swap.



If you have seeds to share, bring them. But if you don't have any seeds, that's OK! There should be plenty to share. Acceptable seeds to bring include those you have saved from open pollinated varieties of plants or any unused seed from packets. If you have questions, let me

know (amanda.sears@uky.edu).

Call 859-623-4072 if you plan to attend so we will know how many handouts to prepare. Everyone is welcome!

Farm Machinery Show Bus Trip

Interested in going to the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville this February? Want a ride to the show? On Thursday February 15, a bus will leave Ag Credit at 7:30AM and return at 4 pm. The cost is \$10 a person.

Attendees can pre-pay at Ag Credit. Bottled water, soft drinks and snacks will be provided on the bus. Special thanks to Madison County Farm Bureau, Madison County Beef Cattle Association, Central KY Ag Credit and Madison County Soil Conservation District for sponsoring!

Please call the Madison County Extension Office at 859-623-4072 to register soon!

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Farmers' Market Update

Madison County Farmers' Market

To see updates on what the market is doing, check their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/MadisonKYFarmersMarket>

Berea Farmers' Market

The Berea Farmer's Market is at its winter location at 207 N Broadway in Old Town Berea next to the skating rink. Winter hours are 10 am to 1 pm. Check their Facebook page for updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/bereafarmersmarket>



Things to Consider When Purchasing Compost

Compost is a great addition to your garden and landscape. When purchasing compost, be sure to inspect it closely for quality.

Look for trash debris such as plastic, metal or glass. Also look for undecomposed materials such as leaves, stems, seeds, chunks of bark or eggshells.

In addition to looking for trash debris, also assess the texture of the material. The compost should appear light and fluffy, not damp or wet. Compost should not have an off-odor, such as a strong ammonia-like smell or the smell of rotting food. While finished quality compost may contain worms, it should not be covered in flies or maggots. Finished compost has a rich, sweet, earthy smell.

If purchasing compost from a farm, you may want to ask if the feedstock material in the compost was collected from other producers or if it's from their own farming operations. If your vendor isn't knowledgeable about the source of the material, you can ask if they have conducted a plant assay to ensure the safety of using the material on broadleaf plants, like tomatoes. Some herbicides can carry over in the manure, compost, hay, or grass clippings used to create the compost. Unfortunately, this carry over can have detrimental effects to a wide range of vegetables and flowers.



Gardeners can also do a simple assay test at home before adding compost to the garden. A method developed by Washington State University suggests filling three three-inch pots with potting soil, then filling three more pots with a mixture of two parts compost and one part potting soil, marking the pots accordingly. Then plant three pea or bean seeds per pot, putting the pots in a sunny, warm location, keeping them well watered and capturing

water that drains through the pots to prevent contamination of soil in other pots. Once the seedlings have three sets of leaves, compare the plants growing in the compost mix with the plants growing in the potting mix (the control group). If the plants growing in the compost mix display unusual cupping, thickening or distortion of leaves, there may be herbicide contamination in the compost.

For more information, go to:

<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/purchasing-compost-tip-sheet>

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/crop-production/soil/herbicide-carryover-hay-manure-compost-grass-clippings>