



**Cooperative Extension Service
Kenton County**
10990 Marshall Rd.
Covington, KY 41015
(859) 356-3155
Fax: (859) 356-0363
kenton.ca.uky.edu

Brandon Boege

Extension Agent for Horticulture

good to grow

Ag & Horticulture Newsletter

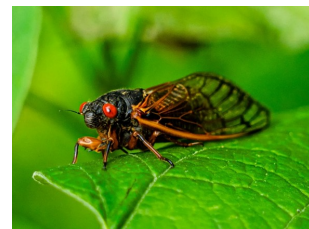
Spring Equinox 2025

Cicadas are Coming to Kenton County! Brood XIV 2025

Source: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/kentucky/article301852294.html>

What you need to know!

Brood XIV cicadas will be returning after a 17-year slumber and are expected to be found in Central Kentucky which includes Kenton County. According to Jonathan Larson, University of Kentucky entomologist, "the cicada emergence generally coincides with the blooming of irises in late spring, which in the Bluegrass region, reach their peak in the middle of May. When the soil becomes warm enough, typically about 68 degrees Fahrenheit at 6 inches deep, that's the cicada's cue to head for the surface." (Lexington Herald Leader)



They emerge over six weeks and many things will eat them, which are tasty treats.

"Female cicadas lay their eggs in trees through a process called flagging, during which they carve slits into the tree's bark to deposit their eggs. While mature trees can shrug off flagging well, Larson noted younger trees are more susceptible to damage by flagging. These can include young fruit trees you've recently planted in your backyard."

"We do encourage people to go online and start buying cicada netting, which is kind of like bird netting, but it has a smaller gauge to it," Larson said. "It prevents the cicadas from being able to lay their eggs. You would wrap this over the canopy of your small tree, and then you'd leave it on there, basically from when you first hear cicadas until about six weeks after that."

Tree Giveaway for Kenton County Residents

As in years past, we have offered free tree seedlings to Kenton County residents to celebrate Earth Day. On **April 19th, 2025**, we will be offering dormant, bare-root, **White Pine, Chestnut Oak, Black Gum, Buttonbush, Gray Dogwood, and White Oak tree seedlings.**

The quantities offered per household will be three seedlings of any kind, an extra tree of any kind if you can show us a photo of bush honeysuckle and Callery pear(s) that you have cut down, promoting good invasive plant management practices, and finally, a bonus White Oak seedling to support The White Oak Initiative.

You do not need to pre-register, and quantities are limited to first come first served. **Please bring proof ID for Kenton County residents.**

You will be able to pick up trees at:

Kenton County Cooperative Extension
10 AM—2 PM
109900 Marshall Road

or

Kenton County Covington Library
10 AM—2 PM
502 Scott Blvd.



Poison Hemlock



NOW is a great time to scout for Poison Hemlock and make plans to either spray or routinely cut back. This plant is poisonous if eaten by livestock and humans and is often found in undisturbed areas, roadsides, fields, and other areas that are not frequently mowed. It is a biennial – the very young plant emerges in the fall, overwinters as a flat rosette of ferny foliage which is what you will find now. In April, the plant will begin to produce the flower stalk that can get 10' tall. Look for the low ferny foliage. The stems will be mostly smooth but will have purple blotches on them. This differentiates them from Queen Anne's lace which emerges a little later and has hairy stems and no purple blotches.



Very soon, the plant will grow more leaves and begin to put up the flower stalk. Since the way this noxious weed spreads is by seed, your mission is to keep it from flowering and producing seed. The management tools available to homeowners now are to carefully dig the entire root out or to use a broadleaf herbicide containing 2,4-D or Triclopyr as an active ingredient. There are other herbicides that may be available to licensed applicators, see the attached publications



below. Make sure the product is labeled for use in the area you want to treat. Digging can expose you to the toxins in the plant, but wearing gloves and avoiding touching mouth, nose, and eyes during the process should protect you. However, sometimes soil disturbance can bring more weed seeds to an area favorable for germination so this may cause more problems.

Alternatively, you can begin a mowing routine from April through July. Cutting once will not prevent the flower stalk from emerging. In the spring after each cutting, the plant will try to put out a new one through mid-July or so. Once the plant no longer puts up a flower stalk, the plant will die back, including the root—so digging is not needed. Avoid cutting when it is very hot outside as the toxic compounds in the sap can be aerosolized.

If you have more questions about the management of poison hemlock or any weed, please contact your local County Extension office. Below are some relevant publications:

<https://news.ca.uky.edu/article/time-control-poison-hemlock>
<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/fnr/fnr-437-w.pdf>
<https://bygl.osu.edu/node/2111>



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Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
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Disabilities
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with prior notification.

Save Your Woody Plant Seedlings

Do you ever find tree seedlings popping up in your garden beds around your property? Maybe you'd like to keep them but don't have the space or are simply in the wrong place and could use a better home. Often, I find many maple seedlings popping up in the Spring, but occasionally I find Oaks, and Buckeyes, and very rarely a southern magnolia too. I'm always excited to see the surprise seedlings I find in my home garden. Currently, I'm raising a few oaks and a buckeye that popped up, but they will need a new home in the coming years before they outgrow the space.

This coming Earth Day in the spring of 2025, we will be providing an opportunity to all Kenton County and regional residents who would like to donate their unwanted woody tree and shrub species as part of our Earth Day tree giveaway weekend event.

If you have tree/shrub seedlings you'd like to donate, we ask that you bring them during the week of April 14 -18 leading up to our tree giveaway on April 19, 2025. If possible, please tag your plant and or let us know what species of plant it is and bring it during our office hours to our Marshall Road office. We ask that the plants are either beneficial or native to our region and are at least one foot in height, (no invasives please). The plants will be kept until the weekend when people will have the opportunity to take additional trees that they are looking for.

It is wise to tag the trees now that you will want to dig up in the Spring while you can identify them by their leaves as they will likely still be dormant in April. We are looking for hardwood species such as oak, hickory, walnut, etc. to be donated. If you have any questions, please contact the Kenton County Extension office and share this information with others who may be interested.



Requirements:

Please bring bareroot plants only, (no soil included), in a bag

Please do not bring any invasive plants that you are aware of. Beware of Callery/Bradford pears, bush honeysuckle, Russian olive, etc.

Be careful digging up seedlings and try to do it on the day of your donation so the roots can stay moist.

Bring plants that are at least a foot tall.

Bring to 10990 Marshall Road, Covington, KY 41015

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Eastern Tent Caterpillar: Threat to Plants and Horses

This pest of ornamental landscape plants is also a threat to pregnant mares. Between 1999 and 2001, many mares lost their young after ingesting the caterpillar in the spring. Eastern tent caterpillars are often found on wild cherry, apple and crabapple trees, hawthorn, maple, peach, pear and plum.

Monitor your trees for egg masses and the webbing that protects the larva from predators. The webbing of Eastern Tent Caterpillar can be found in the forks of branches and the caterpillars must leave the tent to feed. This is when they are damaging to the plant and to the mare if eaten. This year, the emergence of Eastern Tent Caterpillar has been delayed due to a colder than usual winter. They hatch around the time of forsythia bloom which is going on now. Check the host trees in your area.



If you find tents you can cut them out of the tree or remove them with a stick, hopefully catching the caterpillars at the same time or leaving them exposed. Spray the exposed caterpillars with Bt. The insecticide cannot reach the caterpillars inside the tent. You will find them feeding during the cool of the day – morning, evening, and night. They tend to stay in the tent when it is warmer. Catching them early is key to keeping the numbers low and protecting your plants and horses. If you have more questions, contact your County Extension. For more information, see the publications below.

<https://uknow.uky.edu/research/eastern-tent-caterpillar-update-protecting-horses-and-trees-amid-late-winter-conditions>

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/files/ef423.pdf>



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UPCOMING HORTICULTURE PROGRAMS

SPRING-SUMMER 2025

CALL (859) 356-3155 OR VISIT [KENTONCOUNTYEXTENSION.ORG](https://kentoncountyextension.org) TO REGISTER

GROWING SMALL FRUITS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

10 AM | MARSHALL RD

2 PM | KENTON LANDS

COVER CROPS FOR HOME GARDENS: LIMITATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

2 PM | MARSHALL RD

6 PM | KENTON LANDS

EARTH DAY TREE GIVEAWAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

10 AM - 2 PM | MARSHALL RD.

10 AM - 2 PM | COVINGTON LIBRARY

TREE WALK BOTANY HILLS

SATURDAY, MAY 17

10 AM | ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

GARDEN DESIGN COURSE

MAY 6, MAY 13, MAY 20, MAY 27

6 PM | KENTON LANDS

GARDENING FOR BIRDS: MAKING BIRD HOUSES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

2 PM | MARSHALL RD

6 PM | KENTON LANDS

SUMMER MEADOW FLORAL ARRANGING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

2 PM | MARSHALL RD BARN

6 PM | MARSHALL RD BARN

OVERWINTER HOUSEPLANTS AND HOW TO PRESERVE HERBS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

2 PM | MARSHALL RD

6 PM | KENTON LANDS

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BULL SOUNDNESS EXAM

Kenton County Fairgrounds

SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2025, STARTING 9:00 AM



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Please register by calling Boone County
Extension office at 859-586-6101 for your time

\$25.00/bull for NKY Cattle Association members
\$50.00/bull for non members

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Tree Seedling Giveaway

April 19, 2025

10 AM - 2 PM

Kenton County Covington Library

502 Scott Blvd.

Covington, KY 41011

10 AM - 2 PM

Kenton County Cooperative Extension office

10990 Marshall Rd.

Trees available on a first come first served basis:

White Pine
Chestnut Oak
Black Gum
Buttonbush
Gray Dogwood
White Oak

***Kenton County residents only**

***ID will be required for pick up**

***3 bare root tree seedlings per household**

***BONUS White Oak seedling**

***BONUS extra tree if you show us a photo of an invasive
Bradford/Callery pear tree you've cut down in your yard!**

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GET TO KNOW YOUR URBAN TREES IN THE BOTANY HILLS

Discover the urban trees of the Botany Hills neighborhood of
Covington on a guided walk with Brandon George and Patrick
Moore

Saturday, May 17, 2025

10:00 a.m.

**Meet at St. John's Congregational Church
1235 Hwy Ave, Covington, KY 41011**

Call 859-356-3155 or register on PACE



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CAMPBELL COUNTY FARM & LIVESTOCK EXPO

Saturday, 3 May 2025
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Alexandria Fairgrounds

Spring Vegetable Sauté

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/2 cup sweet onion (sliced)
- 1 garlic clove (finely chopped)
- 3 new potatoes (tiny, quartered)
- 3/4 cup carrot (sliced)
- 3/4 cup asparagus pieces
- 3/4 cup sugar snap peas, or green beans
- 1/2 cup radishes (quartered)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dill (dried)



Directions

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Heat the oil in a skillet. Cook the onion for 2 minutes, then add the garlic and cook another minute.
3. Stir in the potatoes and carrots. Cover, turn the heat to low, and cook until almost tender, about 4 minutes.
4. If the vegetables start to brown, add a tablespoon or two of water.
5. Now add the asparagus, peas, radishes, salt, pepper, and dill. Cook, stirring often, until just tender -- about 4 minutes more.
6. Serve immediately.



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10990 Marshall Road
Covington, KY 41015

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Farmer's Market Skillet Bake

$\frac{1}{2}$ small onion, finely chopped	2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided	4 medium sized tomatoes, sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced	1 medium summer squash, sliced	1 teaspoon salt
4-5 small red potatoes, sliced	1 medium zucchini, sliced	1 teaspoon pepper
1 tablespoon olive oil		5 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped, divided

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. **Prepare** onion, garlic and sliced potatoes (about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick). **Heat** olive oil over medium heat in a 10 or 12-inch oven safe skillet. **Add** onion, garlic, and potatoes to pan and **stir** to coat with oil. **Cook** over medium heat, **stirring** occasionally until golden brown and tender. **Add** 1 cup mozzarella cheese. In a bowl, **toss** together the squash, zucchini and tomatoes with salt, pepper, and half of the finely chopped basil. **Layer** squash

and tomato slices over the potato and cheese layer. **Top** with remaining mozzarella cheese. **Bake** 35 minutes or until vegetables are tender and cheese is melted. **Remove** skillet from oven and **top** with remaining basil.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 8 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 490 mg sodium, 24 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 10 g protein.



Plate it up!

