



Knott Co Extension
149 Parks Br
PO Box 462
Hindman, KY 41822
P: 606-785-5329
cconway@uky.edu

Chad Conway, Knott Co CEA/ANR

Chad Conway

Tips for March & April

These are a few suggestions that may help you and your plants during this time period. I will divide the suggestion into groups, so you can refer back to them.

Herbaceous plants

(1) Cannas for early flowering can be started in boxes or large pots in a warm cellar or enclosed porch. Cut canna rhizomes into pieces, each containing two or three points. Plant them in a soil mixture containing adequate sand for good drainage. Wait until a week after the average last date of frost, normally May 1, to plant in the garden.

(2) When leaves of spring-flowering bulbs emerge, apply a complete fertilizer to ensure quality blooms. Remove the bulb foliage only after it dies

(3) Tuberous begonias and caladiums can still be started indoors in early March. Set roots in pots

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or shallow boxes of rich soil (1/3 sand, 1/3 peat, and 1/3 loam). Cover with 1 inch of mixture. Keep the pots moist, not wet, and in good light at 65 degrees F. Transplant to larger pots in 6 weeks and set outside after all danger of frost.

(4) If a few consecutive warm days have caused your bulbs to nose out from under protective mulch, plan to thicken the mulch layer to prevent freezing by exposure

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(5) Start warm-season annual flower and vegetable seeds indoors during March and early April. Provide plenty of light.

(6) When buying transplants, choose plants with a compact, bushy form and bright-green leaves. Young, healthy plants with no flowers or flower buds will adapt easily and overcome the shock of planting fast.

Woody Ornamentals

(1) Potted azaleas, available through Easter, will flower for two to three weeks, if the soil is kept slightly moist. Display in a cool (60 degrees F) bright location, and remove withered flowers.

(2) Once new growth begins on trees and shrubs, cut back winter killed twigs to living green wood.

(3) When choosing a location for new shrubs and trees, remember spots that are sunny in the garden now may be shady in spring or summer. Ornamentals, such as azaleas, camellias, and dogwood prefer shade.

When buying transplants, choose plants with a compact, bushy form and bright-green leaves.

(4) Hedges can receive the first pruning this month. As you prune, be sure to leave the base of the plant wider than the top. This allows sunlight to get to the bottom of the plant, creating a full, dense hedge.

Trees that bleed, such as birch and maple, should not be pruned until after their leaves are fully developed.

Lawns

(1) In March, begin mowing as soon as possible to remove uneven growth. Continue mowing (at least weekly during April and May) at about 2-2.5 inches in height. Never allow grass to get higher than 4-5 inches.

(2) In April, if dandelions, plantains, clover, chickweed, henbit, etc. are present, apply broadleaf weed herbicide.



MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS



KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Eligible Investment Areas:

- Agricultural Diversification*
- Large Animal - Small Animal*
- Farm Infrastructure*
- Fencing & On-Farm Water*
- Forage & Grain Improvement*
- Innovative Ag. Systems*
- On-Farm Energy*
- Poultry & Other Fowl*
- Technology & Leadership Development*
- Value Added & Marketing*

Administered by
Knott County Soil Conservation District
 PO Box 296
 Hindman, KY 41822
 (606) 785-0113

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Knott County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm investments.

Application Period:

March 11th through April 1st 2024

No applications will be accepted before March 11th or after April 1st

Application Availability:

You may pick up an application at our office located at 63 Dukes Branch Hindman, Ky or call the number below to have an application emailed or mailed to you.

For More Information:

Contact Katrina Conley at (606) 785-0113 or email: knottconservation@tvscable.com

All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria




MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SPRING MEETING



MORGAN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

THURSDAY MARCH 21 | 6:30PM

"Ask the Vets" - Dr. Philip Prater & Dr. David Fugate, will be on hand to answer your questions and provide tips for beef herd health in East Kentucky. Free meal.

REGISTER at (606) 743-3292 or email sfannin@uky.edu



SUCCESSFUL GARDENING WORKSHOP

**Tuesday,
March 26, 2024**

1:00 pm or 6:00 pm

*Knott County Extension Office/
Main Building Meeting Room*

**AT THE COMPLETION OF
THIS WORKSHOP, KNOTT
CO RESIDENTS WHO
REGISTER WILL RECEIVE THE
FOLLOWING SEEDS...**

- **Honey Select Corn**
- **Dasher II Cucumbers**
- **Volunteer White Half-Runners**



To Register or For More Information Contact:

**Chad Conway, ANR Agent
cconway@uky.edu | (606) 785-5329**

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Spring Has Sprung; Time to Mow Your Lawn

The smell of fresh cut grass wafting through the neighborhood is one of the surest signs of spring. You should already be thinking about lawn care since it's time to clip the grass for the first time. Your most important annual lawn duties begin with that first mowing.

The first mowing makes the lawn look spring-like and attractive and can improve the aesthetics and value of your property. Subsequent regular mowing hardens the grass for drought and heat stresses that may occur 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.

Not all grasses start growing at the same time. 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 two and one-half inches. However, if you can easily vary the height, set it at 1.5 to two 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.

Exposing more dark green growth will transfigure your lawn into the most uniform, attractive one 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, when summer arrives raise the mower height to 3 or 3.5 inches. However, remember that extra high grass, especially tall fescue, tends to fall over and mat down during hot summer weather causing increased summer disease problems.

Once you get the mowing under way, you should 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 mowing height of 2.5 inches. That interval can probably be expanded during hot, dry weather.

Source: Greg Munshaw



Gardeners Get a Jump on Spring

As winter draws to a close, it is time for vegetable and flower gardeners to start preparing for the spring planting season, said Rick Durham, associate extension professor for consumer horticulture at the University of Kentucky.

The vegetable growing season is fast approaching for some areas of the state. Gardeners can plant peas as early as late February in western Kentucky, and they can plant cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, spinach greens and onions as early as mid March, he said. Central Kentucky gardeners can start planting peas in early March and Eastern-area gardeners can begin planting in mid March.

One of the things vegetable gardeners can do during the late winter is to have their soil tested. If the soil test indicates a nutrient is lacking, gardeners can add it to the soil. This is especially true if a pH change is needed. Nitrogen, which is the most commonly needed nutrient, is an exception to late winter nutrient application. It should be added just before or during planting, he said.

Late winter and early spring is also the time to incorporate organic matter into gardens, which enhances the soil's productivity, Durham said. Organic matter can be obtained from either commercially available sources that include composted manure and other composted products, such as leaf mold, or compost produced by gardeners since the last growing season. Gardeners should apply compost up to two to three inches deep in their garden and then work it into the soil until it reaches 10 to 12 inches in depth. Gardeners should also remove debris from their beds to prevent potential pest problems.

UPCOMING DATES

March 12th 1 pm & 6 pm	<u>Fruit Tree Pruning & Grafting Workshop</u>
March 12th	<u>Berry Plant Orders Due</u>
March 12th 1 pm & 6 pm	<u>Fruit Tree Pruning and Grafting Workshop</u>
March 11-April 1	<u>County Ag Investment Program Application Period</u>
March 21st @ 6:30 pm	<u>MCA Meeting at Morgan County Extension</u>
March 26th @ 1 pm & 6 pm	<u>Successful Gardening Class</u>
March 28th @5:30 pm	<u>Grow Appalachia Seed Swap @HSS</u>
March 30th @10 am	<u>Bee-Keeping School @ Perry CES</u>
April 1st @ 5:00 pm	<u>Knott County Extension Council Mtg</u>



2024 WORKSHOPS

ALL WORKSHOPS BEGIN AT 5:30PM IN THE GREAT HALL
LOCATED IN THE MULLINS CENTER AT 51 CENTER STREET, HINDMAN, KY



HINDMAN.ORG/GROWAPP

FEBRUARY 22 GARDEN PLANNING

MARCH 28* SEED SWAP & SHOWER

APRIL 30 PLANTING A GARDEN

MAY 30* HEART HEALTHY COOKING

JUNE 27* WILDLIFE CONTROL

JULY 18 FOOD PRESERVATION

AUGUST 22 FALL CROPS

SEPTEMBER 26 SEED SAVING

OCTOBER 24 COMPOSTING

NOVEMBER 21 CELEBRATION


FOR MORE INFO: REBECKA FUGATE, FOODWAYS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

*STAY FOR A SQUARE DANCE
FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP!


(606) 785-5475 | REBECKA@HINDMAN.ORG



BEE-KEEPING SCHOOL


Saturday, March 30th

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Perry Co. Extension Office

606-436-2044

Limited to 60 people

Lunch will be provided,
call our office to
register!

- **TIM SHEEHAN:**

An accomplished beekeeper and KSBA Board member, Tim is recognized for his success in beekeeping and environmental contributions with the Forestry Depth Program. *Session Topic - Swarm Controls and Making Splits @ 10:00 a.m.*

- **JESSICA MAYES**

Current President of KSBA and a former Beekeeper of the Year, Jessica is a prominent advocate for beekeeping in Eastern Kentucky. Recognized for her dedication, she played a crucial role in helping beekeepers recover after the 2022 flood. *Session Topic - Beekeeping, the Second Year @ 11:00 a.m.*

- **LARRY YOUNG**

Current Vice President of KSBA and President of the Clark and Powell County Beekeepers Association, Larry possesses over 50 years of experience as a commercial beekeeper.

Session Topic - Honeybee Pest and Diseases & Nutrition @12:30 p.m.

- **DR. SHAWN WRIGHT**

An Extension Horticultural Specialist at RCARS, Dr. Wright is a dedicated beekeeper with a strong horticulture background. As an integral part of beekeeping in Eastern Kentucky, he's committed to educating and supporting fellow beekeepers. *Session Topic - Honeybee Biology. @ 1:30 p.m.*

- **JAMES AND ROBETTA BAKER**

In their second year as commercial beekeepers, James and Robetta are committed to expanding their enterprise. Drawing from their experiences, their session on offers valuable insights for beginners.

Session Topic - First Year Beekeeping Mistakes & What You Don't Need @2:30 p.m.

Prevent Winter Damage from Moles and Voles

A common misconception is that moles and voles, those burrowing pests that destroy our lawns and gardens, take a break in the winter to hibernate. Nothing is further from the truth. In winter, moles and voles simply dig deeper to escape the cold, while continuing to eat with a ravenous appetite. We tend not to go out as much in the winter, therefore we do not see their signature tunnels, hills, and holes, which are occasionally covered by snow. You can avoid surprises in your lawn this spring by preventing winter damage with a few precautionary measures.

You can purchase traps, repellents, and baits to help control mole problems. If you used mole repellents during the summer, continue to use them into winter. Stopping the use of repellents can leave your lawn and garden vulnerable to mole activity. If you see signs of damage in the winter, you should begin repellent applications immediately.

The effectiveness of repellents for voles, which are sometimes called meadow mice, is not proven. When dealing with only a few voles, trapping might be the best option. Use ordinary mousetraps baited with peanut butter or apple. The traps must be placed in the runs and then covered with boards to be effective.

If you are unsure about mole and vole signs or control measures, you can seek professional help from a trusted pest control company. A pest control professional will notice signs of mole and vole activity and can apply any necessary treatments throughout the year if a problem is found.

Next fall, take proactive measures to prevent moles and voles as winter approaches. Avoid overwatering your garden or lawn with sprinklers and irrigation, which makes the soil moist and loose. Wet soil makes it easier for the moles and voles to move around while providing moles with an abundance of their main food source, earthworms, and grubs.

Another preventive measure is not to mulch too early in the fall. Mulch is a great way to protect plants from plummeting temperatures and helps retain moisture, but it also provides attractive homes for voles. Wait to mulch until a couple of weeks after the first frost. It might convince a vole to take cover for the winter someplace else. Physical barriers in your beds and around trees can protect them from mole and vole damage as well.

Source: Ray Tackett, UK Extension Horticulture Agent





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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024
11:00 AM

KNOTT COUNTY EXTENSION

GRASS SEED GIVEAWAY

Sponsored by: Knott County Soil
 Conservation District and
 Knott County Extension Service

For more information contact:
 Knott County Soil Conservation District
 (606) 785-0113



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